

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 30 August 2022 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors BETH WHITESIDE, KENNY BRAES, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, DAVID CHEAPE, SERENA COWDY, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, IAN MCLAREN, GAVIN NICOL, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED and DEREK WANN

Councillor WHITESIDE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 21 June 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONAL CARE SERVICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of Angus Council of 28 October 2021, there was submitted Report No 219/22 by the Chief Executive requesting that the Chief Executive be given a delegation to respond to the Calls for Views on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group.

The Report indicated that The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill had been introduced to Parliament on 20 June 2022 and the Bill had been published on 21 June 2022.

The Bill provided for:

- a charter of rights and responsibilities for social care, with a robust complaints and redress process; and
- a power to transfer accountability for a range of services, including adult social care and social work services to the Scottish Ministers, subject to Parliamentary approval; and

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note that the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill was at Stage 1;
- (ii) to note the content of the Calls for Views on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill as detailed in Appendix A to the Report; and
- (iii) to authorise the Chief Executive to submit the Angus Council agreed response by 2 September 2022 following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group.

5. ELECTED MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

There was submitted Report No 220/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services asking the Committee to approve the Elected Members Development Strategy, annexed as Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Report indicated that elected members played a vital role in determining the strategic direction of Angus Council. Members also supported the Council by embedding the Council's

values and helping achieve its corporate priorities. The Elected Member Development Strategy would provide a flexible approach to learning and development which met the collective and individual development needs of Members over the term of the Council. It also provided members with an outline of development activities open to them which would support them in their role as Elected Members.

The Committee agreed to approve the Elected Members Development Strategy, annexed as Appendix 1 to the Report.

6. CHANGE PROGRAMME UPDATE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 October 2021, there was submitted Report No 221/22 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform providing a progress update in relation to the Council's Change Programme, relating to the 3-year planning period (2022/23 to 2024/25).

The Report indicated that a significant review of the Change Programme had been undertaken during the period September 2021 to February 2022 as part of the preparation process for the Council's budget setting where the new baseline position had been agreed for the forthcoming financial year. The Report was therefore now focussed on reporting from that agreed baseline position set out in the Finance & Change Plan 2022 – 2025, which was agreed by the Council at its budget setting meeting on 3 March 2022 (Report 55/22 Appendix 2 refers). This included a savings target of £6,801,000 for 2022/23 within an overall savings target total of £20,110,000 over the 3-year period including 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The Committee agreed to note the progress update in relation to the Council's current Change Programme (2022/23 to 2024/25), along with the summary included in Appendix 1 to the Report.

7. COMMON GOOD REGISTER

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 222/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services providing an update on the compilation of, and consultation on, a publicly accessible register of Common Good property assets for the Angus burghs for which the Council inherited Common Good assets.

The Report indicated that a publicly accessible register and associated consultation was required under Part 8 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Report also provides an update on the appointment of a solicitor to undertake the necessary checks in relation to the common good burghs to ensure that a robust list was compiled prior to publication.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the difficulties in progressing with the consultation on the Common Good Register for Arbroath;
- (ii) to note the steps now being taken to progress this; and
- (iii) to note the proposals in relation to the other Burghs.

8. PROCUREMENT UPDATE

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 March 2022, there was submitted Report No 223/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services providing Committee with an update on the Council's Procurement & Commissioning Service, including advising on future priorities for the service. The Report also provided details of resourcing matters, including efficiency changes to the Tayside Procurement Consortium model.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the progress made within the Procurement & Commissioning Service and its priorities and direction within Angus Council going forward;

- (ii) to note the intention to create a separate set of Contract Standing Orders to accompany the Council's Financial Regulations, to be undertaken as part of the Governance Review;
- (iii) to note the efficiency changes in the delivery of joint procurement services led by Tayside Procurement Consortium (TPC); and
- (iv) to note that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services had consulted with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the non-Administration on the Annual Procurement Report for 2019/20 and said report had now been submitted to the Scottish Government.

9. RURAL COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING 2022/23

There was submitted Joint Report No 224/22 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform and the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth asking members to note a successful bid to the Scottish Government Rural Communities Test of Change Fund by Angus Council on behalf of an Interim Rural Steering Group (Report Ref: 267/21) which was currently in the process of applying to Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

The Interim Rural Steering Group had requested that Angus Council act as Accountable Body for the period of the fund to 31 March 2023 or until they were granted charitable status, whichever was sooner. The structure of the new Angus Rural Partnership Board would allow for one permanent Angus Council representative.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to note a successful bid to the Scottish Government Rural Communities Test of Change Fund by Angus Council on behalf of an Interim Rural Steering Group;
- (ii) to approve Angus Council acting as Accountable Body for the period of the fund until 31 March 2023 or until the Interim Rural Steering Group was formally established, whichever was sooner;
- (iii) to delegate authority to the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform to accept the grant offer; and
- (iv) to approve the appointment of the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to the Board of the Angus Rural Partnership.

10. PREPARATION OF 2023/24 GENERAL FUND REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS

There was submitted Report 225/22 by the Director of Finance informing members of the current position in relation to the 2023/24 Revenue & Capital Budget preparation process, identifying the main stages of the budget timeline and seeking approval of the proposed strategy/approach for the 2023/24 budget process.

The Committee agreed:

- i) to approve the broad strategy and approach to the budget preparation as set out in Section 5 of the Report;
- ii) to approve the budget timeline as set out in Appendix A to the Report;
- iii) to approve the revised arrangements for the PBSG as set out in section 5.3 of the Report; and
- iv) to note that the final sign off of the Council's Revenue & Capital Budgets would take place in February/March 2023, in line with previous practice.

11. 2022/23 FINAL REVENUE BUDGET DOCUMENTS

There was submitted Report No 226/22 by the Director of Finance seeking Committee approval to publish the 2022/23 Final Revenue Budget Volume on the Council's website.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) to note the amendments to the 2022/23 Revenue Support Grant and updates on Corporate revenue budgets as detailed in section 5 of the Report and approve the publication of the final budget volume on the Council's website; and
- (b) to note that one-off adjustments to 2022/23 revenue budgets due to the impacts of inflation, etc. would be subject to a separate report to Council.

12. 2022/23 FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET – GENERAL FUND

There was submitted Report No 227/22 by the Director of Finance presenting to members the updated 2021/2026 General Fund Capital Plan, incorporating the 2022/23 capital monitoring budget. The Report also asked for approval of additional funding for the Lochside Leisure Centre Demolition project.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) to note the contents of the Report and that there remained a degree of uncertainty around the financial impact the current market volatility was having on the capital programme which may continue for some time to come;
- (b) to note the update regarding the Lochside Leisure Centre Demolition project and approve the additional funding required for this project based on tenders received as set out in Section 6 of the Report;
- (c) to approve the contents of the updated 2021/2026 General Fund Capital Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (d) to note that the 2022/23 capital budget represented the Council's approved budget for General Fund capital monitoring purposes.

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 28(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items so as to avoid the disclosure of information which was exempt in terms of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, paragraphs 8 and 9.

14. LAND AND PROPERTY SALE, BRENT AVENUE, FORTIES ROAD, MONTROSE

There was submitted Report No 228/22 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth relating to the sale of property and land at Forties Road, Montrose.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report

15. CONTRACT FOR INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES SUPPORT

There was submitted Report No 229/22 by the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform requesting approval for a contract exemption with regard to the provision of IT and general support to the Internal Audit Service for the period covering 2022/23.

The Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the Report.