

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 2.00 pm.

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

Councillor WHITESIDE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Julie Bell and Gavin Nicol, with Councillors Lynne Devine and Craig Fotheringham substituting respectively.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Speed declared an interest in Item 12 as she had family members who used these services. She indicated that she would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 August 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2022/23

There was submitted Report No 341/22 by the Director of Finance apprising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 August 2022 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with five months (41.67 per cent) of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 in the Report were low, at 16.8 per cent on a gross basis and 22.0 per cent on a net basis respectively. Up to 10 per cent of annual capital spend could come through as accruals at the year end. The value of work completed up to 31 March 2023 would be assessed as part of the year end process and expenditure accrued accordingly, hence the reason why spend could increase significantly in the final month of the year. It should also be noted that work was ongoing on a number of significant projects for which no payment had yet been made by virtue of the phasing of such projects. For information purposes, the 2021/22 actual spend outturn was 74.5 per cent (gross) and 71.7 per cent (net). The projected net expenditure of £25.930 million (reflected in Table 2 in the Report) would be indicatively funded from the sources detailed in Table 3 in the Report.

The Committee agreed to note the expenditure to date and projected outturn position on the General Fund capital programme as per Tables 1 and 2 in the Report and the accompanying capital monitoring statement, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

5. REVENUE MONITORING 2022/23 AND RENEWAL & REPAIR FUND POSITION 2022/23

There was submitted Report No 342/22 by the Director of Finance providing revenue performance information for the Committee to consider.

The Report detailed the latest projected year-end position for each main Council service area, gave a brief explanation of significant variances and provided an update on expenditure funded through the Council's Renewal and Repair Funds. The position within the Report was based upon actual spend and income information as at 31 August 2022.

Having heard the Director of Finance highlight the significant financial challenges the Council was facing, the Committee agreed:

- i) to note the contents of the Report, in particular the comment on the Financial Implications section regarding the projected year end position;
- ii) to note that significant further work was required and underway to fully assess the financial effect of the pay deal proposals and the impact of the energy cap on the Council's budget;
- iii) to note the intention to bring a separate Report on the implications of the pay deal proposals and how they would be funded in the next cycle;
- iv) to note the intention to bring a Report to members in the next cycle seeking approval to de-commit resources currently set aside in the Council's General Fund Reserve for specific projects and purposes in order to free up funds to help address the projected overspend in the Council's budget; and
- v) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position.

6. GLEN CLOVA PROJECT EVALUATION

There was submitted Report No 343/22 by the Director of Children, Families and Justice presenting the findings of the independent evaluation of outcomes achieved by the Glen Clova Project.

The Report indicated that the project offered early help to women aged 16 and over who may be at risk of entering formal criminal justice processes, were pregnant or had children and needed support, or were experiencing the effects of trauma, abuse, mental health or substance issues and who wanted to engage with support to recover.

Glen Clova had been established in 2019 using temporary additional funding from Angus Council to test whether extending supports to women at an earlier stage would generate positive benefit to individual women, their children and the wider community. Funding was initially provided for 3 years from 2019 and latterly extended to enable continuation of the service pending evaluation to the end of March 2023.

Having heard a number of members commend the project, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the findings of the independent evaluation report of the Glen Clova Project and service information at Appendix 1 and 2, and acknowledge the successes and impacts reported within;
- (ii) to instruct the Director of Children, Families and Justice to develop costed proposals for embedding the learning from this successful pilot project into wider service provision; and
- (iii) to note that any proposal to extend additional Council funding beyond the current financial year would be addressed through the Council's 2023/24 budget process.

7. JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SHARED SERVICES

There was submitted Report No 343/22 by the Director of Children, Families and Justice providing information in relation to Justice Social Work Shared Services.

The Report indicated that Dundee City Council hosted the Tay Project, a specialist service providing assessment and programme intervention for those convicted of sexual offences, as a requirement of the Court. This was delivered on a pan-Tayside basis, with grant contributions from Perth and Kinross and Angus Councils. The purpose of the Report was to provide an update and seek approval to continue funding this service.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the payments to Dundee City Council as detailed at section 5 of the Report and delegate authority to the Director of Children, Families and Justice, to execute the agreement and any other necessary documentation in relation to the Tay Project, on behalf of the Council;

- (ii) to endorse proposals to continue to pursue partnership approaches with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils to deliver key justice social work services;
- (iii) to note the partnership arrangement in place for the delivery of a Custody Assessment and Referral Service pilot project; and
- (iv) to note the intent of the Angus Council Justice Social Work Service to apply to become a Caledonian System delivery site when Scottish Government opened the fund for applications.

8. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 – ANNUAL REPORT

There was submitted Report No 345/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services asking the Committee to note that Officers had reviewed the Policy and Guidelines on the Use of Covert Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources and Surveillance Through Social Media Policy and to determine that no amendments were required to the said Policy and Guidelines.

Having heard from a number of members seeking information on the reason Housing Team had not made use of covert surveillance for addressing noise nuisance/neighbourhood disturbances, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) Determine that no amendments were required to:-
 - a) the Policy and Guidelines on the Use of Covert Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources annexed as Appendix 1 to this report; and
 - b) the Surveillance through Social Media Policy annexed as Appendix 2 to this report;
- (ii) delegate authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to make minor amendments to the Policies referred to at (i) and (ii) above in light of future legislative changes, best practice, Scottish Government Codes of Practice and Guidance from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office:
- (iii) to note that the Policies referred to at (i) and (ii) above would be presented to this Committee annually for approval; and
- (iv) that Officers provide information to members on the reasons the Housing Team had not made use of covert surveillance for addressing noise nuisance/neighbourhood disturbances.

9. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT

There was submitted Report No 346/22 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services presenting the Council's statutory annual procurement report under section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and recommending that the Annual Report was now published, and the necessary return made to Scottish Ministers.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the Angus Council Procurement Annual Report 2021/22 which was annexed as Appendix 1 to this Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to publish the Annual Report on the Council's website and to provide the necessary return on the Annual Report to Scottish Ministers in line with Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (iii) to note the current position in terms of staff recruitment and future key targets for procurement.

10. 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.

11. ESTATES SERVICES CONSULTANCY 2023-2027 PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

There was submitted Report No 347/22 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment seeking authority for the proposed procurement where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limit.

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

Councillor Speed, having declared an interest at Item 2 above, left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

12. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – PROCUREMENT OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES UNDER SDS OPTION 3

There was submitted Report No 348/22 by the Chief Integration Officer outlining the procurement strategy for the procurement relating to the Provision of Home and Community-Based Care and Support Services Under Self Directed Support (SDS) Option 3 in line with the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Commissioning Plan and seeking authority for its implementation.

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