

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 2.00pm.

Present: PROVOST BRIAN BOYD, DEPUTE PROVOST LINDA CLARK, Councillors CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, SERENA COWDY, LYNNE DEVINE, HEATHER DORAN, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, MARK MCDONALD, IAN MCLAREN, GEORGE MEECHAN, LLOYD MELVILLE, GAVIN NICOL, LOUISE NICOL, JILL SCOTT, MARTIN SHEPHERD, LOIS SPEED, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

PROVOST BOYD, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of the business, the Provost welcomed members and officers to the first hybrid meeting of Angus Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Fairweather, Ronnie Proctor MBE and Tommy Stewart.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

There were no declarations of interest or statements of transparency made.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

(i) Minute of Council Meeting

(a) Angus Council

The minute of meeting of Angus Council of 9 February 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(ii) Minutes of Committees

(b) Development Management Review Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Management Review Committee of 31 January 2023 was submitted and noted.

(c) Scrutiny and Audit Committee

The minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 31 January 2023 was submitted and noted.

(d) Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 7 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

(e) Development Standards Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Standards Committee of 14 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

(f) Children and Learning Committee

The minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 14 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

(g) Civic Licensing Committee

The minute of meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee of 16 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

(h) Communities Committee

The minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 21 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

(i) Development Management Review Committee

The minute of meeting of the Development Management Review Committee of 23 February 2023 was submitted and noted.

4. ANGUS ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT 2020 TO 2022

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 9 March 2023, there was submitted Report No 77/23 by the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Adult Protection Committee (AAPC) Biennial Report for 2020 to 2022, approved by AAPC on 7 December 2022 and the Angus Chief Officers Group on 23 January 2023.

The Biennial Report of Angus Adult Protection Committee for the period April 2020 to March 2022 presented the work undertaken in Angus individually, and in partnership, to deliver national, Tayside and local adult protection outcomes to improve the lives of vulnerable adults.

The Report indicated that over the preceding four year period adult protection referrals were consistently circa 400 per annum. The period April 2020 to March 2021, saw a 79% year on year increase in the number of adult protection referrals to 728.

The Strategic Plan for AAPC for 2020/23 continued to be based on the overarching strategic goals. Work would continue to increase public awareness in Angus of Adult Protection issues, in line with the priorities of Protecting People Angus and to further integrate the work of the AAPC into the wider Public Protection Partnerships by sharing priorities, maximising opportunity for joint working and minimising duplication.

Mr Ewen West, Independent Chair of the Angus Adult Protection Committee highlighted the positive Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection in Angus Report, and provided an overview of the key areas of the Report including the ongoing and future impact of COVID-19; the challenges and areas for improvement in relation to service user involvement and participation; and workload pressures on multi agency workforce. He confirmed that whilst there had been a slight decrease in referrals, referral numbers were still significantly high and work would continue to be progressed to drive forward areas of improvement to support and improve the lives of vulnerable adults.

The Council, having welcomed the Report and the work of the Angus Adult Protection Committee, resolved to note the contents of the Angus Adult Protection Committee Biennial Report 2020 to 2022, outlined as an Appendix to the Report.

At this point in the meeting (2.29pm) Councillor Fotheringham left the meeting due to connection issues. The Council resolved to adjourn for 5 minutes to allow officers to establish if Councillor Fotheringham could re-join the meeting.

Councillor Fotheringham left the meeting at this stage.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2023/24

There was submitted Report No 89/23 by the Director of Finance seeking members approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council for financial year 2023/24. The production of a Treasury Management Strategy Statement for the forthcoming financial year was a requirement of the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Following questions from members, and having heard from the Director of Finance, the Council resolved: -

- (i) to approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the Treasury Indicators detailed in Appendix A – Annex D (Tables 2, 3 and 4) to the Report.

At this point in the meeting (2.46pm) Councillor Shepherd left the meeting.

6. LOCAL AUTHORITY COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY (LACER) FUNDING - PROPOSAL FOR USE OF UNALLOCATED BALANCE OF FUNDING

There was submitted Report No 90/23 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth which provided an update on projects funded using Local Authority Covid-19 Economic Recovery (LACER) funding and sought member agreement to use the remaining Scottish Government LACER funding to extend the Heatwell Angus Home Energy Support Programme. The Report also sought approval to vire £100k from the previously agreed allocation of £150k from the Targeted Free Bus Transport Scheme to the Heatwell Angus Home Energy Support Programme.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and it was noted that a sum of £100,000 of LACER funding remained unallocated and the proposals outlined in Table 2 of the Report would support the lowest-income households, particularly families, with the increased cost of living and increased income people have to spend in the local economy.

Discussion took place and a number of members questioned the low uptake in relation to the Targeted Free Bus Transport.

Thereafter, the Council resolved:

- (i) to note the brief update on progress with previously approved projects using LACER funding set out in Appendix 1 of the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed use of the remaining uncommitted LACER funding of £100k and £16k of unspent monies from Round 1 of the Heatwell Angus Home Energy Support Programme to create and fund Round 2 of the scheme as set out in Table 2 Proposal 1 of the Report;
- (iii) to approve the virement of £100k from the current underspend on the allocation for the Targeted Free Bus Transport Scheme to increase the proposed budget for the Heatwell Angus Home Energy Support Programme to create and fund Round 2 of the scheme as set out in Proposal 2 in Table 2 of the Report;
- (iv) to approve the continuation of the Targeted Free Bus Transport Scheme Pilot for a further 6 months during the period March-August 2023, reducing the budget by £100K and utilising the remaining £49.95K of funding; and
- (v) to note that a future report would be brought to members in September 2023 to provide a further update on progress with these schemes.

7. THE 2023 UCI CYCLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – GRAN FONDO TIME TRIAL

There was submitted Report No 91/23 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment advising members on proposals for the Gran Fondo Time Trial event to be held in Angus on Monday 7 August 2023 as part of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, which was an 11-day international event taking place across Scotland. Members were asked to agree to host the event in Angus and the provisional route along the A92 dual carriageway between Arbroath and Dundee.

The Director of Infrastructure and Environment introduced the Report and responded to members questions.

The Council resolved:

- (i) to agree to jointly host the Gran Fondo Time Trial event with Dundee City Council on Monday 7 August 2023 as part of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships;
- (ii) to agree the provisional route for the event, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report, and authorised the Director of Infrastructure and Environment to agree the final route; and
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, to execute the delivery agreement and necessary documentation in respect of the project on behalf of Angus Council.

8. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

There was submitted Report No 92/23 by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services setting out a Timetable of Meetings for the period August 2023 – June 2024.

In addition to the meetings shown in Appendix 1 to the Report it would be necessary to arrange a Special Meeting of the Council to set the 2024/25 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax and a Special Meeting of the Communities Committee to set the 2024/25 Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Rents. The timing of these meetings could not be confirmed at the moment because they relied on publication of information by Scottish Government, the timing of which was uncertain.

Members also noted that the Governance Members and Officers Working Group would be reviewing the timetable of meetings and terms of reference for Council/Committees as part of their remit and an update would be provided to Council on this.

The Council agreed to approve the Timetable of Meetings covering the period August 2023 - June 2024, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.