

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors BETH WHITESIDE, KENNY BRAES, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, BRIAN BOYD, SERENA COWDY, BILL DUFF, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, MARK McDONALD, IAN McLAREN, GEORGE MEECHAN, GAVIN NICOL, LOIS SPEED and CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM.

Councillor WHITESIDE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Derek Wann with Councillor Craig Fotheringham substituting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

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

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 30 January 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed, in terms of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of Items 11-17 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.

5. NON-DOMESTIC RATES APPEAL SUB-COMMITTEE

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 February 2021, members were requested to note that an Appeals Sub-Committee to consider appeals in relation to Non-domestic Rates had been established. The Convener and Vice-Convener had been appointed to that Sub-Committee and there was a requirement to appoint a third member.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Greig to the Non-Domestic Rates Appeal Sub-Committee as the third member.

6. COMMON GOOD FUNDS REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 AND PROVISIONAL BUDGETS 2025/26 & 2026/27

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 2 May 2023, there was submitted Joint Report No 84/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment and the Director of Finance setting out the annual Common Good Funds budget which also included indicative budgets of income and expenditure, including asset maintenance schedules, and projections for the following two years.

The Report detailed the proposed 2024/25 revenue budget for all Common Good funds and provided an estimate for each Common Good funds revenue balance as at 31 March 2024 through to 31 March 2027, given all known commitments

The forecasted 2023/24 budget included any previously unutilised budget to date and commitments approved by Committee.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the audited Common Good Funds revenue balances at 31 March 2023, as detailed within Appendix A to the Report;
- (ii) to note the estimated Common Good Funds revenue balances at 31 March 2024, given the previously approved projects budget commitments, as detailed within Appendix A to the Report;
- (iii) to approve the Common Good Fund's budget for 2024/25, including the 2024/25 budget bids, both as detailed within Appendices A and C to the Report, and to note the provisional revenue balances as at 31 March 2025;
- (iv) to approve the 2024/25 Common Good budget bid for: Forfar CCTV energy installations £800 pa for a three year duration, as detailed within Appendix C to the Report;
- (v) to note the Common Good Funds provisional revenue budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27, and the estimated revenue balances for financial years ending 31 March 2026 and 2027 respectively, as detailed within Appendix A to the Report;
- (vi) to note the current three year asset maintenance schedule for the various Common Good properties, as detailed within Appendix B to the Report; and
- (vii) to note the decommitting of £20,000 previously approved asset maintenance budget for Brechin Municipal Buildings.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY (LACER) FUNDING

With reference to Article 14 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 7 September 2023, there was submitted Report No 85/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth providing an update on projects funded using Scottish Government Local Authority Covid19 Economic Recovery (LACER) funding.

The Report also advised that the remaining £70,000 from the project 'Town Centres Economic Growth - Support for Local Economic Recovery', had been used to offer discretionary grants to support Angus businesses who continued to recover from the impacts of Storm Babet.

Following a number of questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the update on progress with previously approved projects using Scottish Government LACER funding as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to note the remaining £70,000 for the project 'Town Centres Economic Growth - Support for Local Economic Recovery', had and would be used to offer grants to support Angus businesses who continued to recover from the impacts of Storm Babet;
- (iii) to note the Angus Council LACER funding update provided in Section 4.2, and
- (iv) to note that a future Report would be brought to members to provide a further update on progress with the schemes.

8. SHARED APPRENTICE LIMITED - CESSATION OF SCHEME

There was submitted Report No 86/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth advising members of the Scottish Government Report on the review of the Shared Apprentice Limited scheme criteria and subsequent letter confirming their decision that SAL would cease as of 31 March 2024.

Having heard members express disappointment that the Scheme would cease, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the findings of the Scottish Government review into the criteria the Shared Apprentice Limited was working to; and

- (ii) to note the closure of Shared Apprentice Ltd in accordance with the Scottish Government decision as of 31 March 2024.

9. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT 2022/2023

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 25 October 2022, there was submitted Report No 87/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change 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.

Following a number of questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Angus Council Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 which was annexed as Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, or her representative, 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.

10. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 8 September 2022, there was submitted Report No 75/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth presenting the Angus Community Planning Partnership Annual Performance Report 2022/23 and the work delivered by the Angus Community Planning Partnership for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 including the Our Bright Futures Report, the 2023-2025 action plan and the Community Learning and Development Plan 2022/23 and updated action plan.

The Report indicated that the Partnership had done a lot of work over the past 18 months to align local strategies and plans with the Community Plan for partners and services. A summary of the key highlights was also provided in Section 5.2 of the Report.

Following questions and comments, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Community Planning Annual Performance Report for 2022/23;
- (ii) to note the Our Bright Futures Report and Action Plan provided in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 to the Report;
- (iii) to note the Community Learning and Development Plan as detailed in Appendix 5 to the Report.
- (iv) to approve the use of £175,000, which was part of a one-off top up of £275,000 LACER funds agreed by Angus Council as part of the in the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budgets, for delivery of the Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2023-25; and
- (v) to delegate authority to the Depute Chief Executive as Chair of the Our Bright Futures Group to determine and approve the distribution and use of the funds for projects which would deliver the outcomes of the Our Bright Futures Action Plan 2023-25.

11. APPROVAL OF LEASE – FORFAR SAILING CLUB

There was submitted Report No 88/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment seeking approval of a long term lease of Common Good land at Forfar Loch Country Park subject to the completion of a formal consultation and legal process as set out in the Report.

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

12. RESTENNETH LANDFILL SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 7 March 2023, there was submitted Report No 89/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment advising members of progress regarding the agreement to lease land at Restenneth landfill site for the development of a solar farm, and seeking approval to proceed with the land lease.

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

13. PROCUREMENT REPORT FOR ELECTRICITY AND WATER/WASTEWATER UTILITIES CONTRACT SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of this Committee of 15 July 2019, there was submitted Report No 90/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment seeking approval to continue with the current arrangements in place for the supply of electricity and water/wastewater and to permit Scottish Procurement to procure electricity and water/wastewater frameworks on behalf of Angus Council through a national contract.

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

14. IT NETWORK EQUIPMENT - PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

There was submitted Report No 91/24 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement & IT and Business Support seeking approval 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.

15. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT - COMMUNITY WELLBEING CENTRE SUPPORT SERVICES AND EXTENSIONS TO CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH CONTRACTS

There was submitted Report No 92/24 by the Chief Integration Officer outlining the procurement strategy relating to support services for a Community Wellbeing Centre in Angus on behalf of Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP)'s Strategic Commissioning Plan and sought authority for its implementation.

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

16. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT - PUBLIC TO PUBLIC CO-OPERATION CONTRACT FOR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ANGUS

With reference to Article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 15 August 2019, there was submitted Report No 93/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning seeking approval to award a public-to-public co-operation contract for the provision of a speech and language therapy service for children and young people in Angus.

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

17. PROCUREMENT OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONVEYANCE CONTRACTS 2024

There was submitted Joint Report No 94/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and the Director of Infrastructure and Environment seeking approval for the procurement of school conveyance contracts that were due for renewal and 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.