

## ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 2.00pm.

**Present:** Councillors MARK MCDONALD, KENNY BRAES, BETH WHITESIDE, SERENA COWDY, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAN McLAREN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, GAVIN NICOL, JILL SCOTT, BRIAN BOYD AND TOMMY STEWART.

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

### 1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors David Cheape, Ronnie Proctor MBE and Martin Shepherd, with Councillors Beth Whiteside, Gavin Nicol and Brian Boyd substituting, respectively.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

Councillor Scott made a statement of transparency in relation to item 4 Report 47/24 as on occasions, she volunteered at the Caledonian Railway, Brechin.

### 3. MINUTES

#### (a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 January 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

#### (b) Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the minute of the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee meeting of 11 December 2023, a copy of which is appended hereto (**APPENDIX I**); and
- (ii) to approve the Review of Annual Charges at Arbroath Harbour for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, as endorsed by the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee on 11 December 2023, and attached to that minute as Appendix I.

### 4. PLACE PROSPERITY PROGRAMME: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDED PROJECTS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2023, there was submitted Report No 47/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth which provided an update on projects approved or deferred under the Place Prosperity Programme funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Funding in Angus in September 2023. The Report asked members to agree a further deferral of a decision on Arbroath Community Centre until the feasibility study was completed and to carry forward the amount ringfenced at the moment for this project into 2024/25.

The Report indicated that on 9 November 2023 the UK Government Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had provided an update to local authorities on the approach to the management of Year 2 (2023/24) underspends advising that these could be retained. The impact of this meant that funds would no longer remain at risk if not spent by March 2024 and existing committed project funds could be carried forward to 2024/25.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and responded to members questions.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the updated position on the Arbroath Community Centre project and agreed that consideration of funding for this project be further deferred until completion of the feasibility study by the local community in March 2024 and to carry forward the proposed amount of UK Shared Prosperity funding of £200,000 to 2024/25;
- (ii) to not proceed with the allocation of £143,540 from 2023/24 UK Shared Prosperity Funding to the Angus Alive Signal Tower project, as previously approved by committee;
- (iii) to re-allocate and award £108,500 of the 2023/24 UK Shared Prosperity funding detailed at (ii) above to Brechin Station Footbridge and access improvements;
- (iv) to carry forward the remaining £35,040 of the 2023/24 UK Shared Prosperity funding detailed at (ii) above to be included in the 2024/25 allocation; and
- (v) to approve that the sum of £143,540 be committed from the 2024/25 UK Shared Prosperity Funding for the Angus Alive Signal Tower Museum project, subject to Angus Alive complying with all pre-conditions of the grant offer by no later than 31 March 2024.

## **5. CLIMATE CHANGE / NET ZERO / BIODIVERSITY ONE OFF INVESTMENT FUND**

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 23 May 2023, there was submitted Report No 48/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of applications recommended for approval by the officer panel, from the one-off Climate Change / Net Zero / Biodiversity fund and asking members to note that a further Report would be submitted to this Committee setting out recommendations for use of the remaining funding.

The Report indicated that fifteen projects in total were submitted for consideration, six biodiversity and nine climate change/net zero focussed. Many delivered both climate and biodiversity benefits. A summary was provided in section 5.1 of the Report including the funding ask and further detail, including a summary description on all the projects as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

It was reported that the applications were scored using the criteria outlined in section 4.4 of the Report and the assessment panel represented a broad range of council services with relevant skills and expertise. Scoring had been carried out by individual officers and scores were weighted and combined. Final scores and recommendations were included in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Service Leader – Planning & Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and responded to questions from Councillors Devine, Duff, Stewart and Whiteside regarding the projects.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to approve the initial phase of projects totalling £166,850 recommended by the officer assessment panel for funding from the £262,500 biodiversity fund;
- (ii) to approve the initial phase of projects totalling £458,500 recommended by the officer assessment panel for funding from the £487,500 climate change/net zero fund;
- (iii) to amalgamate the remaining balance of £95,650 from the biodiversity fund and £29,000 from the climate change/net zero fund; and
- (iv) to note that a further report would be submitted to this Committee to recommend projects for the use of the remaining balance of £124,650.