

ANGUS COUNCIL

2 NOVEMBER 2023

STORM BABET DELEGATION

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks authorisation from Angus Council to earmark £0.250 million of the Council's uncommitted General Fund balance for costs associated with the Council's initial response to Storm Babet, and to delegate decision-making regarding those financial resources to the Chief Executive..

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Agree to the earmarking of £0.250 million of the Council's uncommitted General Fund balance for costs associated with the Council's initial response to Storm Babet;
- (ii) Delegate authority for determining use of this earmarked sum to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Director of Finance.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

Caring for our Place

- Protect and enhance our natural and built environment;
- Enable inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities across Angus;
- Make our local services accessible;
- Improve connectivity in and around Angus.

3. BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Members will be aware of Storm Babet which impacted upon the Angus area from 20th October onwards. Angus Council officers are still responding to the impact of the storm and processes and procedures are being established to aid recovery and allow the assessment of the storm's financial impact.
- 3.2 There will undoubtedly be significant revenue and capital costs for the Council once these are able to be assessed in full and these will be reported to members in due course.
- 3.3 There are, however, immediate costs requiring to be incurred by the Council outwith normal budgets e.g. emergency centre, hotel accommodation, food supplies, etc., and the possible need to supplement staffing levels on a temporary basis (in addition to diversion from other duties).
- 3.4 The only additional resource currently delegated to officers, outwith service budgets, is the £0.285 million 2023/24 Provision for Additional Burdens delegated to the Director of Finance, with £0.269 million of this currently uncommitted. There is concern that this sum may not be sufficient to meet the additional costs of the Council's initial response needs. An additional delegation to the Chief Executive is being sought, to avoid a risk of delay in meeting immediate response needs while committee approval is sought to incur expenditure.
- 3.5 It is proposed that £0.250 million of uncommitted General Fund Reserves is earmarked for costs associated with the Council's initial response to Storm Babet. It is proposed that authority for use of this earmarked sum is delegated to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Director of Finance. If all, or part, of this sum is ultimately not required for the stated purpose it would be returned to the Council's uncommitted General Fund balance. Including the Provision for Additional Burdens, this would provide a total resource of £0.519 million. The costs

arising from the Storm and the use of funds on a delegated basis to address it will be reported to members as part of the normal budget monitoring reports to the Policy & Resources Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Following audit of the Council's 2022/23 annual accounts, the confirmed uncommitted General Fund balance is £2.522 million at 1 April 2023. It is proposed to earmark £0.250 million of this leaving £2.272 million uncommitted.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has been completed and a full EIA is not required as this report does not directly impact on people.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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