

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 21 March 2024 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, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, JILL SCOTT, LOIS SPEED, TOMMY STEWART, DEREK WANN and BETH WHITESIDE.

PROVOST BOYD, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Martin Shepherd.

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

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

3. **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

(a) **Angus Council (Requisitioned)**

The minute of meeting of Angus Council (Requisitioned) of 5 December 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(b) **Angus Council**

The minute of meeting of Angus Council of 14 December 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

(c) **Special Angus Council**

The minute of meeting of the Special Angus Council of 20 February 2024 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. **ANGUS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of the meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee of 23 January 2024, there was submitted Report No 18/24 by the Chief Executive presenting the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership (AVAWP) Annual Report for April 2022 to March 2023.

The Report indicated that AVAWP was a multi-agency strategic forum where leaders recognised that gender power dynamics were present in everyday life, with gender inequality giving rise to abuse, harassment and violence which must be acknowledged and addressed across the whole system in Scotland. AVAWP partners worked together to challenge and address inequalities in Angus in line with Equally Safe, Scotland's national strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

The Report presented the work undertaken in Angus by multi-agency partners to deliver local, Tayside and national initiatives, policies, and frameworks to improve the lives of women and children living with Gender Based Violence. AVAWP also supported work with those who commit Gender Based Violence.

The Committee heard from Mr Ewan West, Independent Chair, Angus Violence Against Women Partnership who provided an overview of the Report.

Following a number of questions, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the contents of the Angus Violence Against Women Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023, attached as an Appendix to the Report; and
- (ii) to note the Council's cross departmental responsibilities in relation to Gender Based Violence.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTE CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER

There was submitted Report No 101/24 by the Interim Director of Children, Families & Justice and the Chief Social Work Officer seeking delegated authority to be given to the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) to appoint a Depute Chief Social Work Officer. The Report also sought approval to remove the requirement within the current Scheme of Delegation that the role of Depute CSWO was automatically designated to the Service Leader Justice, given that the vacant post was not currently being recruited to.

At this stage in the meeting the Provost determined, in terms of Standing Order 25(1), that there had been a material change of circumstances within six months of consideration of Report No 355/23 presented to Angus Council on 14 December 2023 as a result of the vacant post of Service Leader - Justice which was not currently being recruited to, and that it was appropriate for the issue to be re-considered in terms of recommendations (ii) and (iii) contained within Report No 101/24.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to note that a material change of circumstances had occurred making it appropriate for the Scheme of Delegation approved by Council on 14 December 2023 to be reconsidered, only insofar as it related to the appointment of a Depute CSWO, as detailed in the Report;
- (ii) to agree to amend the Scheme of Governance Part 3 – Scheme of Delegation to Officers by adding a delegation to the Chief Social Work Officer under Part G Section 1, adding the words “1.6 to appoint a Depute Chief Social Work Officer to be selected from the Service Leaders within Children Families & Justice or the Heads of Service from within the Angus Health and Social Care Partnership, following consultation with the Director of Children, Families and Justice.”; and
- (iii) to agree to amend the Scheme of Governance Part 3 – Scheme of Delegation to Officers at part A 3.4 by deleting the line: - “The designated Depute Chief Social Work Officer shall be the Service Leader - Justice”.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2024/25

There was submitted Report No 102/24 by the Director of Finance seeking members approval of the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for Angus Council for financial year 2024/25. 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).

The Council resolved: -

- (i) to approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25, attached as Appendix A to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the Treasury Prudential Indicators detailed in Appendix A – Annex D (Tables 2, 3 and 4) to the Report.

7. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997: REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S SECTION 43A SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

With reference to Article 3 of the minute of adjourned meeting of the Development Standards Committee of 13 February 2024, there was submitted Report No 103/24 by the Service Leader - Planning & Sustainable Growth seeking approval for minor revision to the council's statutory scheme of delegation for determination of planning applications under section 43A of

the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as unanimously agreed by the Development Standards Committee at its meeting on 13 February 2024.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the proposed revision to the section 43A planning scheme of delegation as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to instruct the Service Leader Planning & Sustainable Growth to submit the scheme of delegation to Scottish Ministers for approval.

8. TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 2024 – JUNE 2025

There was submitted Report No 104/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance & Change setting out a Timetable of Meetings for the period August 2024–June 2025.

In addition to the meetings detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report it would be necessary to arrange a Special Meeting of the Council to set the 2025/26 General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Tax and a Special Meeting of the Communities Committee to set the 2025/26 Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets and Council Rents. The timing of these meetings could not be confirmed at this time as they relied on publication of information by Scottish Government, the timing of which was uncertain.

The Report also indicated that it was proposed to complete a review of the pattern and frequency of Council meetings to consider if any adjustments may be required.

The Council resolved:-

- (i) to approve the Timetable of Meetings covering the period August 2024 - June 2025, attached as Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to note that a review of the pattern and frequency of Council meetings would be undertaken and, if any adjustments were proposed, that a further Report would be brought back to a future meeting.