

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 11 June 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors MARK MCDONALD, KENNY BRAES, DAVID CHEAPE, SERENA COWDY, JACK CRUICKSHANKS, LYNNE DEVINE, BILL DUFF, BRENDA DURNO, CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM, IAN McLAREN, LLOYD MELVILLE, LOUISE NICOL, RONNIE PROCTOR MBE, JILL SCOTT and MARTIN SHEPHERD.

Councillor McDONALD, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener reminded members that it was currently the pre-election period in light of the forthcoming UK Parliamentary General Election on 4 July 2024 and that members were to be mindful of the legal requirements in their discussion and debate today.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Tommy Stewart.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

Councillor Proctor made a statement of transparency in relation to Item 9, Report No 186/24 in that he was a Council appointed representative on the Tay Cities Region Joint Committee.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Committee agreed, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 27(2), that the public and press be excluded during consideration of item 9 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, Paragraph 6.

5. ARBROATH HARBOUR JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENTS

The Committee was advised that following the resignation of former Councillor David Fairweather, there was now a vacancy on the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee. They also required to elect a Convener.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to appoint Councillor Jack Cruickshanks to the Arbroath Harbour Joint Consultative Committee; and
- (ii) to appoint Councillor Serena Cowdy as Convener of the Committee.

6. ANGUS FORESTRY & WOODLAND STRATEGY 2024-2034 - FINAL REPORT

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 16 January 2024, there was submitted Report No 183/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth seeking approval of the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy 2024 - 2034 following a period of public consultation, which would form the Council's policy in relation to forestry and woodland in Angus.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and advised members that the formal launch of the Strategy would not now take place until after the General Election on 4 July.

The Report advised that there had been received 57 responses to the consultation on the strategy itself and Appendix 1 to the Report summarised and grouped the 57 responses into themes; provided the proposed response to them from the Council; and any appropriate changes proposed to be made to the Strategy. It also set out each individual response in detail, who had made that response, respondent identification number, questions asked, and responses colour coded to response themes.

A summary of the proposed changes to the Strategy, in response to the comments, were summarised within Paragraph 6.1 of the Report and additional optional questions on the Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Report and the Habitats Regulations Appraisal were also included as part of the consultation. Information on these were set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to the Report.

Following positive comments from members, the Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the proposed responses to the consultation undertaken on the draft Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy 2024-2034 as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to approve the proposed responses to the consultation undertaken on the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report;
- (iii) to approve the proposed responses to the consultation with NatureScot undertaken on the Habitat Regulations Appraisal as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report;
- (iv) to approve the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy 2024-2034 as set out in Appendix 4 to the Report; and
- (v) to authorise the Chief Planner and Service Leader – Planning and Sustainable Growth to make any minor technical and typographical changes, as well as any presentational and graphical changes to the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy 2024-2034 and update and refine the supporting interactive map, where required.

7. REVIEW OF WATER SAMPLING CHARGES

There was submitted Report No 184/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth setting out the detail of a review undertaken of charges levied by the Council for the sampling of private water supplies and swimming pools and the proposals for the increase in charges based on a full cost recovery model. The Report also sought approval to introduce charging for sampling in relation to planning applications and resampling visits.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and it was noted that the current charges were made up of officer time, travel and the analysis cost charged by Scottish Water who analyse all water samples. A full review of the model for charging found that a full cost recovery model was not being applied.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note that a review of charges levied by the Council for the sampling of private water supplies and swimming pools had been undertaken;
- (ii) to approve the proposed increased charges as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (iii) to approve the introduction of charging for sampling in relation to planning applications and resampling visits; and
- (iv) that the proposed fees be applied from 1 July 2024.

8. HOUSING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024-2025

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 26 September 2023, there was submitted Report No 185/24 Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth which presented the Housing Service Improvement Plan for 2024-25 and proposed governance and reporting arrangements. The Improvement Plan had been developed in

response to actions required to improve performance and meet the requirements of the Scottish Housing Regulator's annual engagement plan with Angus Council.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth introduced the Report and discussion took place during which Councillor Scott suggested that the Report be deferred to the Council meeting on 20 June 2024 to allow all Councillors the opportunity to consider the Report.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to adjourn for 5 minutes to allow the Convener to take advice from Officers.

The meeting resumed at 2.25pm

The Committee agreed that the Report be deferred to the Council meeting on 20 June 2024.

9. TAY CITIES REGION DEAL – MERCURY DRONE PORT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

With reference to Article 10 of the minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 24 October 2023, there was submitted Report No 186/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth informing members on the Tay Cities Region Deal Mercury Drone Port partnership opportunity and seeking authority to agree a Memorandum of Understanding to enable the development of terms of a Partnership Agreement to allow the delivery of the for the project.

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