

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors BILL DUFF, GEORGE MEECHAN, CHRIS BEATTIE, JULIE BELL, BRIAN BOYD, DAVID CHEAPE, JACK CRUICKSHANKS, LYNNE DEVINE, HEATHER DORAN, IAIN GALL, ROSS GREIG, MARK McDONALD, IAN McLAREN, GAVIN NICOL, LOIS SPEED and CRAIG FOTHERINGHAM.

Councillor DUFF, Convener, in the Chair.

1. **APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Derek Wann, with Councillor Fotheringham substituting.

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

Councillor Beattie made a statement of transparency in relation to Item 14, Report No 378/24 – Nature Restoration Fund – Restoring the River South Esk: A Nature Rich and Climate Resilient Catchment – Procurement Authority Approval Request, as he was a Cairngorms National Park Authority Board Member.

3. **MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 October 2024 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

4. **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 14 to 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, 9 and 14.

5. **DIGITAL AND DATA STRATEGIES**

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 18 May 2018, there was submitted Joint Report No 369/24 by the Director of Finance and the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support, presenting the Council's Digital and Data Strategies which set out the Council's strategic approach to progressing these initiatives over the next three to four years. The Digital and Data Strategies had been brought to this committee for consideration as a joint report, due to the inextricable link between digital technologies and the data they produce and store.

The Report indicated that good progress had been made with the Digital Strategy, outlining the key achievements and that a Data Maturity Statement supported by the Scottish Government had been completed which had provided a baseline for developing the strategy.

The Service Leader, Digital Enablement and IT presented the refreshed digital strategy and highlighted the intrinsic link between data and digital how technology was aligned with people and processes to provide better outcomes for staff and Angus constituents. The digital strategy was a high-level strategy which would be backed up by an annual delivery plan, detailing key activities and initiatives undertaken. The strategy was based round four key principles and would be focused around nine key themes.

The Service Leader, Governance, Change and Strategic Policy presented the new data strategy providing the strategic approach focused on making better use of data. A number of themes to focus on had been identified and the Data Strategy Board would take the strategy forward focusing on 4 tests of change over the next 3 to 4 years.

Following questions from Members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the 'Digital Angus' Angus Council Digital Strategy 2025-2028 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- (ii) to approve the Angus Council Data Strategy 2025-2028 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

6. COMMON GOOD REGISTER - MONTROSE

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 September 2024, there was submitted Report No 370/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, providing an update on the adoption of a publicly available Register of Common Good property assets for the former Royal Burgh of Montrose following upon the publication of a draft Register for Montrose Properties as required by section 102 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as amplified by Statutory Guidance subsequently issued by the Scottish Government in July 2018. This followed earlier reports on the former Burghs of Arbroath, Brechin and Forfar. A separate report to this meeting sought approval to go out to consult on the draft list for Kirriemuir and provided an update on the current position with Carnoustie and Monifieth.

The Interim Director of Legal, Governance and Change introduced the Report at which time it was noted that no representations had been received. Thereafter, the Director of Finance indicated a correction to paragraph 8.2 of the Report in that the General Fund and not Montrose Common Good Fund would be liable for the running costs of the 4 properties referred to as a one-year transfer period applied.

Following a question from Cllr Cheape, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note that no representations had been received following upon the published statutory consultation on the List of Land and Buildings of Common Good Register for Montrose;
- (ii) to adopt the List of Land and Buildings set out in Appendix 1 of the Report as part of the assets of the Common Good of the former Royal Burgh of Montrose, and to publish it in accordance with legislation and Statutory Guidance; and
- (iii) to note the List of Buildings in Appendix 2 of the Report were excluded from the Montrose Common Good on legal grounds.

7. COMMON GOOD REGISTER - KIRRIEMUIR

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 8 June 2021, there was submitted Report No 371/24 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, providing an update on the progress with compiling a publicly available register of Common Good property assets for the former Burgh of Barony of Kirriemuir. The Report also sought approval for the Council to consult on a draft Register of the relevant Kirriemuir Properties in implementation of section 102 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as amplified by Statutory Guidance subsequently issued by the Scottish Government in July 2018. This followed previous reports to Committee on the Former Royal burghs of Arbroath, Brechin, Montrose and Forfar.

The Interim Director of Legal, Governance and Change introduced the Report and thereafter, the Director of Finance indicated a correction to paragraph 8.2 of the Report in that the General Fund and not Kirriemuir Common Good Fund would be liable for the running costs of the properties referred to as a one-year transfer period applied.

Councillor Cheape sought confirmation that a similar exercise would be undertaken for Monifieth and Carnoustie and the interim Director of Legal, Governance and change confirmed that this was now underway. Thereafter, the Convener acknowledged the amount of work that had been undertaken by staff throughout the process.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note and approve the content of the Consultative draft List of Land and Buildings of the Common Good Register for the former Burgh of Barony of Kirriemuir as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report;

- (ii) to approve the Consultative draft List referred to at (i) above be publicly consulted upon and duly published as required by the legislation;
- (iii) to note that following completion of the period for consultation and publicity the Director of Legal, Governance and Change would bring a report back to Committee on the representations received and the responses to them and inviting the Committee to approve for publication the final List of Land and Buildings of the Common Good Register for the former Burgh of Barony of Kirriemuir; and
- (iv) to note progress with the compilation of, and consultation on, a publicly accessible register of Common Good property assets.

8. BRECHIN COMMON GOOD FUND – FUNDING APPLICATION

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2024, there was submitted Report No 372/24 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, advising on a Common Good funding application that has been received and seeking Committee approval to award funding to the City of Brechin Pipe Band to cover the cost of replacement uniforms.

The Committee agreed to approve the application from the City of Brechin Pipe band, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, from the Brechin Common Good Fund.

9. APPROPRIATION OF AREA OF LAND BETWEEN GENERAL FUND AND THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AT NEWTON AVENUE, ARBROATH

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 15 August 2017, there was submitted Report No 373/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, requesting approval for the area of park at Newton Avenue, Arbroath which had previously been identified for disinvestment to be appropriated to the Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing on the Fraser Path site. Statutory consultation had taken place using Engage Angus and no comments had been made regarding the proposals for the appropriation of the land.

The Report indicated that the development would provide 20 units for social rent with a mix of properties including cottage flats, detached and semi-detached bungalows, and semi-detached and terraced houses. The mix of properties addressed the high demand for one-bedroom properties. By incorporating the area of land into the development, the aim was to provide a diverse mix of public open space and landscaping. The quality of open space in the development area overall would be improved from a generally uninspiring area of large expanses of grass with a number of trees, to a series of open spaces providing for various functions such as meeting places for residents and neighbours, informal play and socialising opportunities, attractive planting areas, as well as biodiversity improvements including awildflower meadow, bulb and additional tree planting.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note that a statutory consultation had been undertaken;
- (ii) to approve that the site extending to 892sqm at Newton Avenue, Arbroath (shown outlined in blue as Area 1 on the plan attached at Appendix 1 of the Report), be appropriated from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for £16,000 for the delivery of affordable housing; and
- (iii) to note that the new-build housing site would provide areas of open space providing improvements for informal play and socialising space.

10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT DISPOSAL OF LAND AND GRANTING OF SERVITUDE RIGHTS OF ACCESS POLICY

There was submitted Report No 374/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, seeking approval of an update to the Policy for Servitude Right of Access over Council Ground and for the Policy to be expanded to include the Disposal of Housing Revenue Account Small Parcels of Land. The Report also sought approval of Angus Council's

position in relation to the disposal of attic/roof spaces shared in common between council and ex-council properties and for this to be added to the Policy.

The Report further sought delegated authority to the Service Leader – Housing to approve the disposal of small parcels of Housing Revenue Account land and/or the granting of servitude rights of access over Housing Revenue Account land, and approval of proposed changes to the administration fee (and other related fees) to be charged to purchaser(s) of Housing Revenue Account land and/or those requesting servitude rights of access over Housing Revenue Account land.

Having heard from a number of members who expressed concern in relation to the proposed policy, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Report for further consultation with the HRA Land Disposal Policy Working Group. A revised Report and Policy would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

11. ANGUS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2024

With reference to Article 10 of minute of meeting of Angus Council of 2 November 2023, there was submitted Report No 375/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, providing an update on the progress and implementation of the Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) from January 2023 to September 2024, fulfilling the requirement to carry out a full review every two years.

The Report indicated that a full SECAP review had been undertaken in 2024, which included a full detailed analysis of all 71 SECAP actions, with a copy of the review provided within Appendix 1 to the Report. In addition, a Second SECAP Work Programme had been developed to support the continued delivery of the SECAP action implementation and was attached as Appendix 2 to the Report.

The Manger - Development Planning, Environment and Climate Change introduced the Report informing members that a SECAP Working Group had been established and that a full review had shown that out of the 71 actions, 80% of these were in progress or had been completed.

Following questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Angus Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) Review 2024 which contained a full review of SECAP delivery progress from January 2023 to September 2024;
- (ii) to approve the content of the SECAP review for circulation to members of the SECAP steering group and publishing on the Angus council website;
- (iii) to approve the second SECAP Working Programme set out in Appendix 2 of the Report; and
- (iv) to note that the Report included a second phase delivery programme agreed by SECAP Steering Group members with progress being reported to Committee in 2025 as part of the next SECAP progress report.

12. ANGUS COUNCIL TRANSITION TO NET ZERO ACTION PLAN 2022 TO 2030: ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE 2023/24

With reference to Article 11 of minute of meeting of Angus Council of 2 November 2024, there was submitted Report No 376/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, providing the annual update to Council on the implementation of the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 – 2030 and detailing the progress made on emission reduction targets for the period 2023/24.

The Manger - Development Planning, Environment and Climate Change introduced the Report, informing members that the Council was making steady progress towards the 2030 target of 75% reduction in emissions. From the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2023/24, the Council had reduced its emissions by 60% and had also achieved a year-on-year emissions reduction of 4.6% in the 23/24 period, Unfortunately this was less than the target of a 5.8% year on year reduction and the Council had fallen behind its ideal

target position, therefore from now until the next interim target due in 2029/30 of a 75% reduction, the Council must reduce its emissions by 6.3% each year.

Following questions, the Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the progress on the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan during 2023/24; and
- (ii) to note the progress of emissions reductions, future emissions reductions required and current challenges that were likely to impact on progress in meeting these.

13. ANGUS COUNCIL GRANT GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

With reference to Article 7 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 24 October 2023, there was submitted Report No 377/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, providing an update on progress with the new grant governance procedures. It also sought approval for additional powers to be delegated to the Grants Sub-Committee that was established following Committee approval in October 2023.

The additional powers being sought for the Grants Sub-Committee would allow it to consider and determine how non-core funding of £50,000 or more was spent or allocated and to set criteria in relation to that where applicable.

The Committee agreed: -

- (i) to note the progress made in relation to new governance for grant funding approved in October 2023 as set out in Section 5 of the Report;
- (ii) to note that the powers delegated to the Grants Sub-Committee, as approved by Policy and Resource Committee on 24 October 2023 (Report 288/23), did not fully reflect the proposed grant governance process set out within Report 288/23; and
- (iii) to amend and restate the powers of the Grants Sub-Committee such that the powers set out in Appendix 2 to the Report were delegated to the Grants Sub-Committee in substitution for the previous powers delegated to the Grants Sub-Committee pursuant to Report 288/23;

14. NATURE RESTORATION FUND – RESTORING THE RIVER SOUTH ESK: A NATURE RICH AND CLIMATE RESISTANT CATCHMENT – PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST

There was submitted Report No 378/24 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, providing an update on the River South Esk Catchment Partnership Nature Restoration Fund - Restoring the River South Esk: A Nature Rich and Climate Resilient Catchment project. It sought procurement authority to progress construction elements of the project as the maximum value exceeded the Chief Officer's procurement delegated authority limits contained in Section 16.8.1 of Financial Regulations.

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

15. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY REPORT – FUNDED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

There was submitted Report No 379/24 by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, outlining the procurement strategy for the provision of funded Early Learning and Childcare in non-local authority settings from August 2025 and seeking approval to implement the strategy via a procurement exercise.

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

16. BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE POLICY

There was submitted Report No 380/24 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support, presenting the Council's Bring Your Own Device policy.

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

17. PROCUREMENT APPROVAL REPORT FOR MULTI FUNCTIONAL DEVICES

There was submitted Report No 381/24 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support, seeking approval for a procurement strategy involving the use of remanufactured devices.

The Committee agreed to approve recommendations (i) and (ii) as detailed in the Report.