

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of HYBRID MEETING of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Tuesday 28 January 2025 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 DEREK WANN.

Councillor DUFF, Convener, in the Chair.

Prior to commencement of business, the Convener paid tribute to Alison Smith, Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth upon her forthcoming retiral and wished her well for the future.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

There were no apologies intimated.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENTS OF TRANSPARENCY

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

3. MINUTES

(a) Previous Meeting

The minute of meeting of this Committee of 10 December 2025 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Convener.

(b) Policy and Resources Executive Sub Committee

The minute of meeting of the Policy and Resources Exec Sub Committee of 28 November 2024, a copy of which is appended hereto, was submitted and noted (**APPENDIX I**).

(c) Policy and Resources Grant Sub Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Policy and Resources Grant Sub Committee of 4 June 2024 and 6 August 2024, copies of which are appended hereto, were submitted and noted (**Appendix II**).

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 9 to 12 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 and 9.

Requests to Speak

The Convener intimated that Requests to Speak had been received from Mr Stuart Walker and Mrs Fiona Doran of Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council, and Mr Robert Marshall and Mr Neil Brooks of Shape Wellbeing CIC in relation to Report No 22/25 on Arbroath Community Centre Future.

The Committee agreed to hear the Requests.

Mr Walker addressed the Committee informing members that the Royal Burgh of Arbroath Community Council felt that there had been a lack of consultation carried out by Angus Council and requested that the course of action be reviewed to allow consultation to take place.

The Convener thanked Mr Walker for his presentation, and following questions from Members to Mr Walker and Mrs Doran, they withdrew to the public benches.

Mr Marshall addressed the Committee, thanking the members for the opportunity to speak. He outlined the proposal from Shape Wellbeing CIC and requested the Committee to agree the recommendations contained within the Report in order to develop a community consultation process and return at a later date to present the findings prior to a final lease agreement.

The Convener thanked Mr Marshall for his presentation and following questions from Members to Mr Marshall and Mr Brooks, who had attended remotely, Mr Marshall withdrew to the public benches.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 10(1), the Committee agreed to vary the order of business and it was considered in the following order.

5. ARBROATH COMMUNITY CENTRE FUTURE

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 29 August 2023, there was submitted Report No 22/25 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, providing an update in relation to Arbroath Community Centre following the decision to develop a Feasibility Study for the Community Centre to be led by a community group. The Report indicated that this followed on from a decision of Council on 3 November 2022 agreeing a general approach for the Council to engage with local communities to explore opportunities for ongoing delivery of services.

The Report provided an update on the development of the Feasibility Study, and the outcome of the process which had identified a potential community-led operator. It sought approval for officers to continue negotiations with this community-led operator, with a view to negotiating a lease agreement in principle, that would require the potential operator to undertake further community consultation and finalise a financial and business plan prior to a Report being brought back to Committee for a final decision on whether to agree a lease.

The Director of Vibrant Communities and Economic Growth introduced the Report. There followed lengthy discussion with members' questions being responded to by officers who outlined that they had been requested to find a new operator for the building and the consultation was not on what the Community Centre could be, as Angus Council would not be operating the building. If a new operator could not be found the building would be declared as surplus and disposed of in the usual way.

COUNCILLOR DUFF, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DEVINE, MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREES:-

- (i) TO NOTE THE DECISION OF COUNCIL ON 3 NOVEMBER 2022 AGREEING TO ADOPT AN APPROACH OF ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE DELIVERY INCLUDING AT LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, AND TOWN HALLS;
- (ii) TO NOTE THE DECISION OF THIS COMMITTEE ON 29 AUGUST 2023 FOR OFFICERS TO DEVELOP A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ARBROATH COMMUNITY CENTRE TO BE LED BY A COMMUNITY GROUP, AND TO NOTE THE UPDATE ON THE PROCESS CARRIED OUT IN ENGAGING A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE OPERATOR FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTION FROM COMMITTEE;
- (iii) TO NOTE THAT AN INTERESTED COMMUNITY-LED OPERATOR "SHAPE WELLBEING COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY" ("SHAPE WELLBEING CIC") HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND HAD PRESENTED A PROPOSAL TO LEASE ARBROATH COMMUNITY CENTRE;
- (iv) TO AGREE THAT OFFICERS CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAPE WELLBEING CIC, AND NEGOTIATE LEASE TERMS IN PRINCIPLE FOR ARBROATH COMMUNITY CENTRE;
- (v) TO NOTE THAT CONSULTATION TO INFORM THE FINAL PROPOSAL WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO A LEASE, AND THAT INFORMATION FROM THAT CONSULTATION WOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH A FINAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS PLAN, TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH SHAPE WELLBEING CIC; AND

- (vi) TO NOTE THAT IF RECOMMENDATION (IV) ABOVE WAS NOT APPROVED, OFFICERS WOULD CEASE DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAPE WELLBEING CIC AND THE BUILDING WOULD BE DECLARED SURPLUS AND PUT ON THE OPEN MARKET FOR LEASE OR SALE.

Councillor Wann, seconded by Councillor Cruickshanks moved, as an amendment, that the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the Report to the next meeting of Angus Council.

On a vote being taken, the Members voted:-

For the motion:-

Councillors Duff, Meechan, Beattie, Bell, Boyd, Cheape, Devine and McDonald (8).

For the amendment:-

Councillors Cruickshanks, Doran, Gall, Greig, McLaren, Nicol, Speed and Wann (8).

There being an equality of votes the Convener used his casting vote in favour of the motion whereupon the motion was declared carried and became the finding of the meeting.

6. CAPITAL MONITORING – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2024/25

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 3 September 2024, there was submitted Report No 19/25 by the Director of Finance, appraising members of the capital expenditure incurred for the period from 1 April 2024 to 30 November 2024 and measuring projected capital expenditure for the year against budgeted provision.

The Report indicated that with eight months (66.67 per cent) of the financial year gone the actual spend levels presented in Tables 1 and 2 of the Report were 46.5 per cent on a gross basis and 62.5 per cent on a net basis respectively. Up to 10 per cent of annual capital spend could come through as accruals at the year end. The value of work completed up to 31 March 2025 would be assessed as part of the year end process and expenditure accrued accordingly, hence the reason why spend could increase significantly in the final month of the year. The Report indicated that it should also be noted that work was ongoing on a number of significant projects for which no payment had yet been made by virtue of the phasing of such projects. For information purposes, the 2023/24 actual spend outturn was 94.5 per cent (gross) and 92.7 per cent (net).

The projected net expenditure of £45.881 million (reflected in Table 2 in the Report) would be indicatively funded from the sources detailed in Table 3 in the Report.

Having heard from the Director of Finance and following questions and comments from Members, the Committee agreed to note the expenditure to date and projected outturn position on the General Fund capital programme as per Tables 1 and 2 of the Report and the Capital Monitoring statement attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.

7. REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25 AND RENEWAL & REPAIR FUND POSITION 2024/25

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of Angus Council of 29 February 2024, there was submitted Report No 20/25 by the Director of Finance, providing revenue budget performance information for the Committee to consider.

The Report detailed the latest projected year-end position for each main council service area, giving a brief explanation of significant variances and providing an update on expenditure funded through the Council's Renewal and Repair Funds. The position within the Report was based upon actual spend and income information as at 30 November 2024.

The Director of Finance introduced the Report advising Members that most Directorates were reporting an overspend mainly due to inflationary pressures and based on that position it was recommended that a number of provisions set aside in the reserves for potential budget risks be applied to reduce the scale of the projected overspend. It was also proposed that uncommitted reserves be used towards the shortfall in the Change Programme that had previously been reported to this Committee and for unbudgeted element of the pay awards as outlined in Section 8.3 of the Report. He further outlined that the Report updated members on

the return of reserves from Angus Integrated Joint Board and proposals to use some of the funding to support specific projects as outlined in Section 5.13 of the Report.

Following questions from Members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to approve the proposals for use of Angus IJB reserves returned to the Council as detailed in Corporate Items section 5.13 of the Report;
- (ii) to note the Renewal and Repair fund position as set out in section 5.18 of the Report and Appendix D to the Report;
- (iii) to approve the budget uplifts from the General Fund Reserve as detailed in Section 8 of the Report; and
- (iv) to note the content of the Report, in particular the comment on the Financial Implications section regarding the projected year end position as set out in Section 9 of the Report.

8. ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 12 March 2024, there was submitted Report No 21/25 by the Director of Legal, Governance and Change, presenting the Council's statutory annual procurement report under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and recommending that the Annual Report be now published, and the necessary return made to Scottish Ministers.

The Interim Director of Legal, Governance and Change introduced the Report advising Members that the report also sought approval for a review of the Council's membership of Scotland Excel.

Following questions from Members, the Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Angus Council Procurement Annual Report 2023/24 which was annexed as Appendix 1 to the Report;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Legal, Governance & Change to publish the Annual Report on the Council's website and to provide the necessary return on the Annual Report to Scottish Ministers in line with Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (iii) to authorise a review of the Council's ongoing membership of Scotland Excel, a paid for provider of procurement services and resources within the public sector, in light of the potentially diminishing benefits.

9. SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE OF WATER UTILITY AUTOMATIC METER READERS 2025-2027

There was submitted Report No 23/25 by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment, seeking Committee approval for a direct award of a two-year extension to current contract for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Water Utility Automatic Meter Readers.

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

10. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST – OLM SOFTWARE PRODUCTS CAREFIRST AND ECLIPSE – RENEWAL OF HOSTING, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENT

There was submitted Report No 24/25 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support, seeking authority for the proposed procurement where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limit.

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

11. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY APPROVAL REQUEST – GRANICUS SOFTWARE PRODUCTS – RENEWAL OF HOSTING, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENT

There was submitted Report No 25/25 by the Director of HR, OD, Digital Enablement, IT and Business Support, seeking authority for the proposed procurement where the maximum value of the contract was above the Chief Officer's delegated authority limit.

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

12. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE – UNIT 1A BROOMFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MONTROSE, DD10 8SZ

There was submitted Report No 26/25 by the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, relating to the proposed sale of a commercial property at Unit 1A Broomfield Industrial Estate, Montrose, DD10 9SZ, which comprised an industrial unit with yard space, extending to approximately a gross internal area of 1320 sq m.

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