

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 24 January 2022 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors B Brawn, C Ahern, A Bailey (up to and including Item 5), L Barrett, P Barrett, A Jarvis (up to and including Item 6), I Massie, T McEwan, F Smith, C Stewart and R Watters.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Communities); C Mailer, Depute Director (Communities); E Ritchie, J McColl (up to and including Item 7), C France, M Smith (up to and including Item 7), M Dow (up to and including Item 7), N Lennon (up to and including Item 7), N Robson, S Coyle, F Crofts (from Item 7 onwards), D Stokoe (for Item 5 only) (all Communities); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); H Robertson, N Rogerson (for Items 8 and 9) and E Lindsay (for Items 8 and 9) (all Education and Children's Services); and S Hendry, A Taylor, A Brown, M Pasternak and A McMeekin (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance: Chief Superintendent P Davison (up to and including Item 4(iii)) and Chief Inspector G Binnie (up to and including Item 4(iii) (both Police Scotland) and; Group Commander E Baird (up to and including Item 4(iii)) (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and E Osbourne (MAPPa Co-ordinator) (from Item 7 onwards).

Apologies: Councillors S McCole and C Shiers.

Councillor Brawn, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion on Items 1-3 and 5-9, and the Vice-Convener on Item 4.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Ahern declared a Non-Financial interest in Item 9 as current Chair of the Community Justice Partnership.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2021 FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE

The minute of meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 10 November 2021 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

VICE-CONVENER TOOK THE CHAIR

4 POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

(i) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Interim Activity Report

There was submitted an interim update report by Area Manager S Wood, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (22/12) on the performance of the SFRS against the priorities, performance indicators and targets detailed within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth and Kinross 2020-23, covering the interim period 1st – 31st December 2021.

Group Commander Baird answered members' questions thereon. The question and answer session can be viewed via the following [link](#).

Resolved:

The update on operational and community safety engagement activities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Perth and Kinross area covering the interim period 1st – 31st December 2021, be noted.

(ii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area Quarterly Police Report – 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021

There was submitted a report by Chief Superintendent P Davison, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) (22/13) on the performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area as set out in the Local Policing Plan for the second quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2021.

Chief Superintendent Davison and Chief Inspector Binnie answered members' questions thereon. The question and answer session can be viewed via the following [link](#).

Resolved:

The update on performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area during the period 1 July to 30 September 2021, be noted.

(iii) Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area – Interim Activity Report

The Committee received a verbal report from Chief Inspector G Binnie, Police Scotland 'D' Division (Tayside) providing an interim update on local policing activity in the Perth and Kinross area for the period 1st – 31st December 2021.

Resolved:

The interim update on performance of Police Scotland against the local policing priorities for the Perth and Kinross area be noted.

CONVENER RE-TOOK THE CHAIR AT THIS POINT

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Culture and Community Services (22/14) providing an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since 10 November 2021.

Resolved:

The contents of Report 22/14, be noted.

COUNCILLOR BAILEY AND D STOKOE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN INCORPORATING THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND RENT STRATEGY TO 2026/27, RESERVES STRATEGY AND OTHER HOUSING CHARGES 2022/23

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Executive Director (Communities) and Head of Finance (22/15) (1) setting out the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for five years from 2022/23 to 2026/27; (2) recommending increases to rents for houses and other HRA property service charges, and an appropriate level of reserves; and (3) detailing the proposed budget for the next five years of the Capital Investment Programme totalling £83.3 million from 2022/23 to 2026/27.

Motion (Councillors Brawn and Ahern)

- (i) The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23 and provisional budgets for financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 22/15, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 4 to Report 22/15, be approved.
- (iii) The Rent Strategy for 2022/23 and a provisional Rent Strategy for the following 4 years to 2026/27, as detailed in Section 6 of Report 22/15, be approved.
- (iv) The 3.0% rent increase for the year commencing 4 April 2022 for all Council houses be approved, meaning the average weekly rent would be £73.61 per week based on 52 weeks.
- (v) The rent increase of 3.0% for the year commencing 4 April 2022 be approved for:
 - All lock-ups
 - All garage sites
 - Chalets and stances for travelling people at Double Dykes and Bobbin Mill
 - Dispersed tenancies owned by the HRA
 - Greyfriars Hostel
- (vi) The Housing Revenue Account Reserves Strategy, as proposed in Section 7 of Report 22/15, be approved.
- (vii) The final movement in the Housing Revenue Account in 2022/23 transferred to a Covid-19 earmarked Reserve (HRA), as proposed in Section 7.12 of Report 22/15, be approved.
- (viii) The proposal to set Housing service charges from 4 April 2022, as stated in Section 10 of Report 22/15, be approved.

- (ix) Endorse and approve, where necessary, the revised level of all housing related charges, as detailed in Appendix 6 to Report 22/15.
- (x) The progress made to date in delivering and maintaining the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) for improving and managing the housing stock, as set out in Section 4 of Report 22/15, and the related business cases, be endorsed.

Amendment (Councillors P Barrett and L Barrett)

Recommendation (i) insert after 2022/23 “plus £38k for enhanced measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. This will result in a reduction of £38k in CFCR.”

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 11.31AM.

Note: The Mover and Seconder of the Motion agreed to accept the Amendment in the Revised Motion as follows:

- (i) **The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2022/23 plus £38k for enhanced measures to tackle anti-social behaviour resulting in a reduction of £38k from Reserves, and the provisional budgets for financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (ii) **The proposed Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 4 to Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (iii) **The Rent Strategy for 2022/23 and a provisional Rent Strategy for the following 4 years to 2026/27, as detailed in Section 6 of Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (iv) **The 3.0% rent increase for the year commencing 4 April 2022 for all Council houses be approved, meaning the average weekly rent would be £73.61 per week based on 52 weeks.**
- (v) **The rent increase of 3.0% for the year commencing 4 April 2022 be approved for:**
 - **All lock-ups**
 - **All garage sites**
 - **Chalets and stances for travelling people at Double Dykes and Bobbin Mill**
 - **Dispersed tenancies owned by the HRA**
 - **Greyfriars Hostel**
- (vi) **The Housing Revenue Account Reserves Strategy, as proposed in Section 7 of Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (vii) **The final movement in the Housing Revenue Account in 2022/23 transferred to a Covid-19 earmarked Reserve (HRA), as proposed in Section 7.12 of Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (viii) **The proposal to set Housing service charges from 4 April 2022, as stated in Section 10 of Report 22/15, be approved.**
- (ix) **Endorse and approve, where necessary, the revised level of all housing related charges, as detailed in Appendix 6 to Report 22/15.**

- (x) **The progress made to date in delivering and maintaining the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) for improving and managing the housing stock, as set out in Section 4 of Report 22/15, and the related business cases, be endorsed.**

Resolved:

In accordance with the Revised Motion.

COUNCILLOR JARVIS LEFT THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE ITEM.

E OSBOURNE JOINED THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE ITEM.

7. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF NOS. 1-5 CUMBERLAND BARRACKS, COUPAR ANGUS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) (22/16) seeking approval for the disposal of six properties on the Housing Revenue Account properties at 1 to 5 Cumberland Barracks, Coupar Angus.

Motion (Councillor Brawn and Councillor Ahern)

The proposed disposal by auction of properties at 1-5 Cumberland Barracks on the terms and conditions contained within Report 22/16, and on any other terms and conditions considered appropriate by the Executive Director (Communities) and the Head of Legal Services, be approved.

Amendment (Councillor McEwan and Councillor Watters)

To add the following recommendation to the report:-

- (iv) The capital receipt raised from the sale of this property would be reinvested in modern social housing for affordable rent where it is most needed.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 12.32PM.

Note: The Mover and Seconder of the Motion agreed to accept the Amendment in the Revised Motion as follows:

- (i) **The proposed disposal by auction of properties at 1-5 Cumberland Barracks on the terms and conditions contained within Report 22/16, and on any other terms and conditions considered appropriate by the Executive Director (Communities) and the Head of Legal Services, be approved.**
- (ii) **The capital receipt raised from the sale of this property be reinvested in modern social housing for affordable rent where it is most needed.**

Resolved:

In accordance with the Revised Motion.

N ROGERSON, E LINDSAY AND F CROFTS JOINED THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE ITEM.

COUNCILLOR LAING, M SMITH, J McCOLL, M DOW AND N LENNON ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

8. TAYSIDE MAPPA ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) (22/17) introducing the Tayside Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report for 2020-21.

E Osborne, MAPPA Co-ordinator, answered members' questions.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the Tayside MAPPA Annual Report 2020-21 be endorsed and noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) bring forward future reports to this Committee.

9. JUSTICE UPDATE REPORT 2019-20

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (22/18) providing updates on (1) the work of Council services and partners to meet local and national outcomes for Community Justice for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021; and (2) the effectiveness of arrangements for the supervision of serious offenders and approaches to help people make positive changes in their lives and tackle the underlying causes of their offending.

Resolved:

The approach being undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council in respect of the Perth and Kinross Community Justice Partnership and the content of the 2020-21 Annual Report be approved.

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