

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held virtually on Wednesday 1 September 2021 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors J Duff, M Lyle, C Ahern, A Bailey, P Barrett, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, A Forbes, G Laing, B Brawn (substituting for R McCall), T McEwan, A Parrott, C Shiers, C Stewart and W Wilson (up to and including Item 7); and Provost D Melloy.

In Attendance: B Renton, Interim Chief Executive and Executive Director (Communities), F Crofts, S Merone, M Dow, L Haxton, C Mailer, K Steven and D Stokoe (all Communities); S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); J Cockburn, Education and Children's Services; K Donaldson, Chief Operating Officer; L Brady, S Nicoll, S Walker, S Hendry, C Judge, S Mackenzie, L Simpson, A Brown, M Pasternak, L McGuigan, P Johnstone and A McMeekin (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Councillor J Duff, Convener, Presiding.

Apology for Absence: Councillor R McCall

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An Apology and substitution were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors Code of Conduct, Councillors J Duff declared a non-financial interest in Item 4 (Revenue Budget 2021/22 – Update No.2), S Donaldson declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (Non-statutory Guidance – Thimblerow Planning Brief), C Ahern declared a non-financial interest in Items 8 (Revised Perth Harbour Business Plan and Progress Report) and 9 (Merging of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee and Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee), and A Parrott declared a non-financial interest in Item 8 (Revised Perth Harbour Business Plan and Progress Report).

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 2 June 2021 was submitted and approved.

(ii) Chief Executive Appointment Sub-Committee

The minutes of meetings of the Chief Executive Appointment Sub-Committee of 4 June 2021, 28 July 2021, 4 August 2021, 10 August 2021 and 12 August were submitted and noted.

(iii) Property Sub Committee

The minutes of meeting of the Property Sub-Committee of 19 April 2021 and 14 June 2021 were submitted and noted.

(iv) Employees Joint Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 25 February 2021 was submitted and noted.

(v) Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee

The minute of meeting of the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee of 8 March 2021 was submitted and noted.

(vi) Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board

The minutes of the meetings of the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board of 31 March 2021 and 23 April 2021 were submitted and noted.

(vii) Tay Cities Region Joint Committee

The minute of meeting of the Tay Cities Region Joint Committee of 23 April 2021 was submitted and noted.

HAVING DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, THE CONVENER DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM. THE CHAIR PASSED TO THE VICE-CONVENER.

4. REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22 – UPDATE NO.2

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (21/146) providing (1) an update on progress with the 2021/22 General Fund Revenue Budget based upon the June 2021 ledger, and updated for any subsequent known material movements, and (2) the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the report, be noted;
- (ii) The adjustments to the 2021/22 Management Revenue Budget detailed in Appendices 1 to 7 and Sections 2 to 8 be approved;

- (iii) 2021/22 Service virements summarised in Appendices 2 and 4 be approved;
- (iv) The Health & Social Care projected outturn summarised in paragraphs 3.1 and Appendix 3 be noted;
- (v) The Housing Revenue Account projected outturn summarised in Section 4 and Appendix 4 of the report be noted;
- (vi) The criteria set out at section 4.20 of the report that will apply to the relaunched Covid-19 Local Authority Discretionary Fund be agreed with authority delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to progress the scheme.
- (vii) Following the serious fire at the Crannog Centre in Highland Perthshire earlier in the year, and given this material change in circumstances since the Council previously allocated £20,000 to the Crannog Centre, it be agreed that an additional £31,000 of the total projected under spend identified in the report be applied to provide additional financial support to the Crannog Centre.

THE CONVENER RE-JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

5. COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/29 & HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/26 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER No.1

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (21/147), (1) providing a summary position to date for the 8-year Composite Capital Budget for 2021/22 to 2028/29 and the 5-year Housing Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26, and (2) seeking approval for adjustments to the programmes.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the eight-year Composite Capital Budget 2021/22 to 2028/29 as set out in Sections 2 and 3 of the report, and summarised at Appendices I and II, be approved
- (iii) The proposed budget adjustments to the Housing Investment Programme Budget 2021/22 to 2025/26 set out in Section 4 of the report, and summarised at Appendix III, be approved.

THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11.21AM.

6. NON-STATUTORY GUIDANCE – THIMBLEROW PLANNING BRIEF

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Development (21/148) (1) summarising the responses to the public consultation on the draft planning brief and (2) making recommendations for amendments where appropriate and (3) seeking consent to finalise and adopt the non-statutory guidance to support LDP2, adopted in November 2019.

Resolved:

- (i) The Thimblerow Planning Brief as Non-Statutory Guidance, be approved as a key document to support LDP2.
- (ii) It be agreed that the site may be re-marketed in line with the brief in the event an agreement was not concluded with Espresso Property.
- (iii) The Head of Planning and Development report back to Council on the finalised scheme, and the terms of the development agreement, prior to the Council entering into any such agreement.

7. UPDATE ON THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TOWN CENTRE FUND AND PROPOSALS FOR THE NEW PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Development (21/149) (1) providing an update on progress with projects allocated funding from the Town Centre Fund and (2) outlining the new Scottish Government funded Place Based Investment Programme and (3) recommending further projects to receive funding in order to utilise the 2021/2022 allocation.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress being made to deliver the already approved Town Centre Fund projects be noted;
- (ii) The requests for additional funding from these projects be noted;
- (iii) The allocation of additional funding available via the Place Based Investment to the following projects be approved;
 - Strathmore Community Hub - £125,000
 - Town Wi-Fi - £30,000
 - Kinross Loch Leven Car Park - £35,000
 - Drummond Arms - £140,000
 - Crieff Hotel Community Arts Space - £200,000
 - Letham Hub - £735,000
- (iv) Officers convene a workshop in autumn this year for all elected members to consider options for the use of the remaining Place Based Investment Programme funding and other sources of potential funding;
- (v) The Head of Planning & Development to report on progress before the end of March 2022.

COUNCILLOR WILSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

8. REVISED PERTH HARBOUR BUSINESS PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (21/150) (1) considering the Perth Harbour business plan (April 2021 – March 2026) and (2) noting the associated actions as detailed in the report.

Resolved:

- (i) The robust governance arrangements and the legal responsibility of the Harbour Board as the duty holder for Perth Harbour Authority be noted;
- (ii) The positive progress made to run safe and effective harbour operations be noted;
- (iii) It be noted that in line with the business plan forecast, the Harbour will continue operating at a (reducing) deficit during the period of the business plan;
- (iv) The wider economic benefits of Perth Harbour, and that if the financial trend projected in the business plan continues beyond the period of this business plan, a breakeven position may be achievable in the longer term be noted;
- (v) The draft business plan (April 2021-March 2026) as contained in Appendix 1 to Report 21/150, be approved;
- (vi) The storage capacity under the control of Perth Harbour be increased within the Harbour Support Zone when opportunities arise, and it be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Harbour Board Chair, to finalise the conclusion of a lease or an acquisition subject to costs being contained within the Council's Harbour Revenue Budget or equivalent additional income generated;
- (vii) It be agreed to accept a recommendation from the Harbour Board not to undertake the capital dredging to 4.5m or 5m and consequentially decommit from the prudential borrowing currently contained within the capital programme.
- (viii) The Harbour Board's recommendation to maintain the navigation channel accessibility at 4.2m through maintenance dredging (Option 2) & redesign of navigation channel (Option 5) be agreed;
- (ix) The Head of Planning and Development to bring forward an update report to this Committee by March 2023 and a further review to also take place following the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

9. MERGING OF THE EMPLOYEES JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE CORPORATE HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/151) seeking approval to merge the Employees Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee (CHS&WCC) to form the new Employees Joint Consultative Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) The merging of the JCC with the CHS&WCC to form the new Employees Joint Consultative Committee due to the reasons outlined in Report 21/151, be approved;
- (ii) The Employees Joint Consultative Committee to follow the constitution outlined in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (iii) The first meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee to be held on 27 September 2021;
- (iv) The meetings of the CHS&WCC scheduled for 13 September 2021 and 6 December 2021 to be cancelled.

DRAFT