

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors B Brawn, C Ahern, A Bailey, K Baird (substituting for Councillor C Shiers), L Barrett, P Barrett, D Illingworth, A Jarvis, I Massie, S McCole, T McEwen and R Watters.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Communities); C Mailer, Depute Director (Communities), S Coyle (up to and including Item 9), J McColl, N Robson (up to and including Item 9), E Ritchie, C France, M Dow (up to and including Item 9) and N Lennon (all Communities); N Rogerson, C Cranmer and D Mortimer (from Item 9 onwards) (all Education and Children's Services); C Flynn, A Taylor, D Stokoe (for Item 6 only) and L Haxton (up to Item 7) (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance: Chief Inspector G Binnie (Police Scotland) (up to Item 4); Area Manager G Pryde and Group Commander E Baird (both up to Item 4) (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Apologies: Councillor C Shiers.

Councillor Brawn, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led the discussion on Items 1-3 and 5-10, and the Vice-Convener on Item 4.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology for absence and substitute was noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C Ahern and S McCole both declared a Non-Financial interest in Item 10.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(i) Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 2 September 2020 for Approval and Signature

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 2 September 2020 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

(ii) Minute of Special Meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 2 December for Approval and Signature

The minute of the special meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee of 2 December 2020 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

4. POLICE AND FIRE REFORM: LOCAL SCRUTINY AND ENGAGEMENT

(i) 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 December 2020 to January 2021.

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

Resolved:

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

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

The Committee received a joint verbal report from Area Manager G Pryde and Group Commander E Baird of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) providing an update on the activity within the Perth and Kinross area covering the interim period December 2020 to January 2021.

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

Resolved:

The interim update on operational and community safety engagement activities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Perth and Kinross area be noted.

CHIEF INSPECTOR G BINNIE, AREA MANAGER G PRYDE AND GROUP COMMANDER E BAIRD ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

5. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS SINCE 11 NOVEMBER 2020

C Mailer, Depute Director (Communities) provided a [slide-based presentation](#) on the various activities undertaken throughout the Covid-19 pandemic since the last meeting by the Housing Teams.

C Mailer answered members' questions thereon.

D STOKOE JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Chief Operating Officer (21/14) providing an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update on 11 November 2020.

L HAXTON AND D STOKOE BOTH LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN INCORPORATING THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND RENT STRATEGY TO 2025/26, RESERVES STRATEGY AND OTHER HOUSING CHARGES 2021/22

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Executive Director (Communities) and Head of Finance (21/15) (1) setting out the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget for five years from 2021/22 to 2025/26; (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 £66.3 million from 2021/22 to 2025/26.

Resolved:

- (i) The Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2021/22 and provisional budgets for financial years 2022/23 to 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 21/15, be approved.
- (ii) The proposed Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22 to 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 3 to Report 21/15, be approved.
- (iii) The Rent Strategy for 2020/21 and a provisional Rent Strategy for the following 4 years to 2025/26, as detailed in Section 6 of Report 21/15, be approved.
- (iv) The 1.0% rent increase for the year commencing 5 April 2021 for all Council houses be approved, meaning the average weekly rent would be £71.47 per week based on 52 weeks.
- (v) The rent increase of 1.0% for the year commencing 5 April 2021 be approved for:
 - All lock-ups
 - All garage sites
 - Chalets and stances for gypsy travellers 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 21/15, be approved.
- (vii) The proposal to set Housing service charges from 5 April 2021, as stated in Section 10 of Report 21/15, be approved.
- (viii) Endorse and approve, where necessary, the revised level of all housing related charges, as detailed in Appendix 5 to Report 21/15.
- (ix) 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 21/15, and the related business cases, be endorsed.

- (x) Convener to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request the continuance of the £20.00 weekly top-up to Universal Credit.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED AT 11.40AM.

8. RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Communities) (21/16) providing an update on progress with the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and the further development of Home First in tackling homelessness here in Perth and Kinross.

Resolved:

- (i) The significant progress that has been made to further enhance Home First and deliver a sector-leading service to people experiencing homelessness in Perth and Kinross be noted.
- (ii) The updated RRTP and its submission to the Scottish Government be approved.

N ROGERSON, C CRANMER AND D MORTIMER JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

9. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Communities) (21/17) seeking approval of the Perth and Kinross Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for the period 2021/22 to 2025/26.

Resolved:

- (i) The Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021/22 – 2025/26 as detailed in Report 21/17, be approved.
- (ii) Authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Communities) to ensure that where projects fall out of the plan, alternative projects, prioritised in the same way, are substituted for them.

S COYLE, M DOW AND N ROBSON ALL LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

10. JUSTICE UPDATE REPORT 2019-20

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (21/18) providing updates on the work of Council services and partners to meet local and national outcomes for Community Justice and on 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:

- (i) The approach being undertaken by Perth and Kinross Council in respect of the Perth and Kinross Community Justice Partnership and the content of the 2019-20 Annual Report be approved.
- (ii) The annual report for 2019-2020 prepared by the Tayside Strategic Oversight Group for Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) be approved.

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