

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 28 October 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors A Forbes, K Baird, C Ahern (substituting for Councillor C Reid), A Bailey, M Barnacle, S Donaldson, J Duff, T Gray, I James (substituting for Councillor R McCall), A Jarvis, G Laing, A Parrott, W Robertson, C Stewart and M Williamson.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment); A Clegg, S Best, S Cumiskey, H Hope, N McGill, J Pritchard, R Ross and J Williams (Housing and Environment); P Marshall, B Murray, H Biro, C Flynn, K Molley, A Brown and M Pasternak (Corporate and Democratic Services); C Wright, L McGuigan and B Parker (IT).

Apologies: Councillors R McCall and C Reid

Councillor A Forbes, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on items 1-4, 6-7, 9 and 11 and Vice-Convener on items 5, 8 and 10.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor A Forbes welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor S Donaldson declared a non-financial interest in Item 7.

3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of 19 August 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS SINCE 19 AUGUST 2020

The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) gave a verbal update on the activities undertaken throughout the Covid-19 pandemic by the Housing and Environment Service, since that last Environment and Infrastructure Committee in August 2020. This included the continued work in activities and areas such as the Spaces for People Project, Road Maintenance, Community Greenspace, Burial and Cremation Services, Winter Service and the plans and prevention measures put in place due to the flooding incident in August 2020.

B Renton answered members questions.

5. PERTH AND KINROSS FOOD GROWING STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

There was submitted a report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (20/197) seeking approval for the Perth and Kinross Food Growing Strategy Consultative Draft 'Growing Together'.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Food Growing Strategy consultation draft as attached in Appendix 1 to report 20/197, be approved.
- (ii) Following the consultation, it be requested that a further report is brought back to the Committee outlining the strategy development along with resource requirements and the action plan.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-2025- PROGRESS REPORT

There was submitted a report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/198) (1) providing an update on progress with the action plan of the Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan; and (2) recommending approval of the new actions 102-103 (shown in Appendix 1B) which are in line with recent national regulatory and strategic developments.

Resolved:

- (i) The annual update on progress on the Waste Management Action Plan, be endorsed.
- (ii) It be noted that the ability to address the Action Plan will be dependent on any response required to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (iii) It be noted that the Council will engage with Scottish Government, COSLA and the Waste Management Officers Network (WMON) and contribute to national consultations, discussions on new policy areas and explore funding opportunities.
- (iv) The new actions under (number 102-103) of the Waste Management Action Plan set out in Appendix 1B to report 20/198, be approved.
- (v) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to bring back a further progress report in November 2021.

7. VISITOR MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS

There was submitted a report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (20/199) (1) highlighting multi-agency actions taken during 2020 to respond to the unprecedented increases in visitors (especially informal camping and motor homes) in rural areas of Perth and Kinross, as a result of COVID-19 related restrictions; and (2) setting out proposals to prepare for the future challenges and opportunities presented by increases in visitor numbers.

Resolved:

- (i) The proposed approach to detailing with future increased visitor challenges as detailed in report 20/199, be agreed.
- (ii) It be agreed to prioritise activity to the geographical areas and facilities as detailed in section 5.4 and 5.8 of report 20/199.

- (iii) It be agreed to extend the funding criteria for the Council's Community Environmental Challenge Fund to include works to improve visitor facilities, as detailed in sections 5,12-5.13 of report 20/199.

THERE WAS A 10 MINUTE RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11.33AM.

8. NORTH INCH GOLF COURSE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

There was submitted a report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/200) bringing forward the North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2019/20, based on the previously approved Business Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) The North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2019/20, be noted
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be requested to bring the realigned and extended business plan and performance report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee in November 2021.

9. FREE FESTIVE PARKING 2020

There was submitted a report by Head of Business and Resources (20/201) recommending that the Free Festive Parking initiative operates on each weekend in December, within Council owned car parks, from Saturday 5 December until Saturday 26 December 2020 inclusive; and (2) supporting local business during the Christmas period, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues.

Resolved:

It be agreed that the Council offers free parking on each weekend in December from Saturday 5 December until Saturday 26 December 2020 inclusive in all Council operated car parks across the whole Perth and Kinross area, as shown in Appendix 1 to report 20/201.

10. COMMUNITY GREENSPACE – WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES – DELIVERING THE PERTH AND KINROSS OFFER

There was submitted a report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/202) providing an update on the previous Community Greenspace 'Working with Communities' report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 5 September 2018, which is an exemplar of the Council's commitment to deliver the Perth and Kinross Offer by engaging, equipping and empowering local communities to make the best of their public greenspaces.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made in the last 18 months, be noted.
- (ii) The continuation and development of the successful greenspace partnership models to deliver the Perth and Kinross Offer, be endorsed.

11. VALEDICTORY

The Convener paid tribute to Keith McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment) at this his last attendance at the Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Members passed on their best wishes to Keith in his new role as Managing Director of Tayside Contracts.