

# **STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held virtually on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors M Lyle, J Duff, C Ahern, H Anderson (substituting for vacant position), A Bailey, K Baird (substituting for C Shiers), S Donaldson, A Forbes, G Laing, R McCall, S McCole, T McEwan, A Parrott, L Simpson (substituting for P Barrett) and C Stewart.

In Attendance: K Reid, Chief Executive; K Donaldson, P Johnstone, S Mackenzie, L Simpson, S Walker, C Irons, A Brown, L McGuigan, A McMeekin, B Parker, M Pasternak, C Wright (all Corporate and Democratic Services); J Pepper and G Boland (both Education and Children's Services); B Renton, S Coyle, F Crofts, C France, A Graham, D Littlejohn, J McCrone, B Murray, A Seggie and L Stewart (all Housing and Environment) and G Paterson and J Smith (Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership).

Apologies: Councillors Barrett and Shiers.

Councillor M Lyle, Convener, Presiding.

## **. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies and substitutions were noted as above.

## **. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## **URGENT ITEM**

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to item 12 on today's agenda (previously referred to as item P1) and confirmed that in terms of Standing Order 29(b) it was his opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency to maintain resilience and capacity in the Council's Executive Structure.

## **. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **(i) Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 29 January 2020 (Arts.55 - 62) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

### **(ii) Executive Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Executive sub-committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23 October 2020 was submitted and noted.

**(iii) Appeals Sub-Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Appeals sub-committee of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 13 August 2020 was submitted and noted.

**(iv) Employees Joint Consultative Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee of 28 November 2019 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 9 December 2019 was submitted and noted.

**(vi) Tay Cities Region Joint Committee**

The minute of meeting of the Tay Cities Region Joint Committee of 8 November 2019 was submitted and noted.

**(vii) Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board**

The minutes of meeting of the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board of 17 December 2019; 12 February, 31 March, 21 April, 29 May and 31 July 2020 were submitted and noted.

**(viii) Perth City Development Board**

The minute of meeting of the Perth City Development Board of 9 July 2019 was submitted and noted.

**REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 2**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (20/225) providing an update on (1) progress with the 2020/21 General Fund Revenue Budget with a focus on the estimated financial impact of Covid-19 in the current year and (2) the projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 20/225, be noted.
- (ii) The potential gross financial impact of Covid-19 of between £26million and £30.4million, be noted.
- (iii) The allocation of £15.3million of Scottish Government funding towards the Council's Covid-19 response, be approved.

- (iv) The utilisation of £2.3million from the 2020/21 allocation for Early Learning and Childcare towards the additional costs/reduced income related to the Council's Covid-19 response, be approved.
- (v) The application of £5.7million of other net underspends towards the Covid-19 response, be approved.
- (vi) A remaining net financial gap of between £0.3million and £4.7million, be noted.
- (vii) The options that may be available to contribute towards the financial consequences of Covid-19 as detailed in Report 20/225, be noted.
- (viii) The adjustments to management budgets set out in section six of Report 20/225, be approved.
- (ix) Authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Development to approve applications of up to £75,000 that meet the terms of the vacant retail premises conversion scheme.

## **COMPOSITE CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/29 AND HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/25 – MONITORING REPORT NUMBER 2**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (20/226), providing a summary position to date for the 9-year Composite Capital Programme for 2020/21 to 2028/29 and the 5-year Housing Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25 and seeking approval for adjustments to the programmes.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The contents of Report 20/226, be noted.
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the 9-year Composite Capital Budget 2020/21 to 2028/29, as set out in sections 2 and 3 of and summarised at Appendices I and II to Report 20/226, be approved.
- (iii) The proposed budget adjustments to the Housing Investment Programme Budget 2020/21 to 2024/25 set out in section 4 and summarised at Appendix III to Report 20/226, be approved.

## **UPDATE ON THE TOWN CENTRE FUND**

There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Operating Officer (20/230) advising of (1) the latest position on the projects identified for funding from the Town Centre Fund; (2) an additional offer of grant from the Scottish Government and (3) an update on the Pitlochry Town Centre project.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The de-committing of funding for the Pitlochry Town Centre project, be approved.
- (ii) The funding of the following projects, be approved: Crieff Hotel (£100,000); Strathearn Hotel (option B) (£265,000) and Town Wi-Fi (£50,000).

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2: SEA POST ADOPTION STATEMENT**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Development (20/228) on (1) publishing a statement to outline how the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) findings and comments received have been taken into account

and (2) outlining a programme for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the Plan, adding value to the review of the Plan.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Post-Adoption Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 20/228 be published and a copy submitted to the SEA Gateway, be approved.
- (ii) A further report be submitted to this Committee on the Local Development Monitoring Report.

THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11.35AM.

**ADOPTION OF STATUTORY SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON FINANCIAL GUARANTEES FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT AND NON-STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON DELIVERY STRATEGIES, RIVER TAY SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION AND THE DUNKELD – BLAIRGOWRIE LOCHS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Development (20/229) (1) providing a summary of the comments received on both the statutory supplementary guidance and non-statutory guidance published for consultation in February and March 2020 and (2) making recommendations for change where appropriate and seeking consent to finalise and adopt the guidance to support the second Local Development Plan (LDP2) adopted on 29 November 2019.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Financial Guarantees for Minerals Supplementary Guidance be approved and it be remitted to the Interim Chief Operating Officer to finalise and submit the Guidance to Scottish Ministers.
- (ii) The following non statutory guidance be finalised and adopted as key policy documents to support LDP2: Delivery Strategies Guidance; River Tay Special Area of Conservation Guidance and Lunan Valley Area Dunkeld - Blairgowrie Special Area of Conservation Guidance, be approved.

**PERTH AND KINROSS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024 – 2034 DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Development (20/230) seeking approval of the publication of a Development Plan Scheme as a key stage in the preparation of the next Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan 2024 -2034.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The proposed Perth and Kinross Council Development Plan Scheme be approved and the Interim Chief Operating Officer be authorised to submit the scheme to Scottish Ministers.
- (ii) It be remitted to the Interim Chief Operating Officer to submit an annual progress report to this Committee detailing any changes to the Development Plan Scheme.

## **PROCUREMENT UPDATE 2019/20**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (20/231) providing an update on the Council's procurement activity in 2019/20 and detailing the projected contracting activity for 2020/21.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Procurement Annual Report attached as Appendix 1 to Report 20/231, be approved for publication.
- (ii) The record of tenders accepted in 2019/20 under the Council's Scheme of Administration, be noted.
- (iii) The projected contracting activity for 2020/21, be noted.

## **CORPORATE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### **Resolved:**

Councillor B Pover replace Councillor E Drysdale on the Consultative Committee.

THERE FOLLOWED A PRIVATE BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12.52PM

## **URGENT ITEM**

## **EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (20/238) on (1) changes to strengthen the leadership and management arrangements within the Council and (2) providing the outcome of the first phase of a formal job evaluation exercise for chief officer posts which will establish an independent, robust and objective method of salary determination.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Housing and Environment Service to be the Communities Service with the transfer of function as detailed in Report 20/238 with effect from 1 December 2020, be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Directors of Communities and Education and Children's Services to deputise for the post of Chief Executive, as may be required from time to time in their absence and when doing so may use the job title designation of Depute Chief Executive, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Communities) to become the de facto Interim Chief Executive should there be any sustained period of absence or unavailability of the substantive postholder, with appropriate recompense, be approved.
- (iv) The salary levels for the posts of Executive Director (Education and Children's Services; Executive Director (Communities) and the Director of Integrated Health and Social Care/Chief Officer reflect the independent job evaluation outcome and additional duties with effect from 1 April 2020, therefore increasing the salary from CO46 (£111,265) to CO51 (£120,901).

- (v) The post of Depute Chief Executive/Chief Operating Officer CO53 (£124,763), to be replaced by the creation of the role of Chief Operating Officer to be recruited internally on CO46 (£111,265).
- (vi) The Chief Executive submit a further report to this Committee on the chief officer salary levels on conclusion of Phase 2 of the job evaluation exercise.
- (vii) That the executive structure would bring capacity and stability to the Council at a critical time as well as a net recurring saving, be noted. That this does not limit the new Chief Executive to bring forward a restructuring of other staffing levels across the Council in due course, be noted.
- (viii) A report be submitted to the Council to update and amend the Scheme of Administration to reflect the changes in delegated responsibilities as a result of this report, be noted.

COUNCILLOR C STEWART REQUESTED HIS DISSENT BE RECORDED IN  
RELATION TO APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE ITEM.

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