

# **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 M Lyle, J Duff, 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.

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

Councillor J Duff, Convener, Presiding.

Apologies: Councillor R McCall

## **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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 – Thimblorow 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), A Parrott declared a non-financial interest in Item 8 (Revised Perth Harbour Business Plan and Progress Report) in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## **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 noted

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

The minutes of meeting 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.

**(vi) 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.

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

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

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

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

**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, 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 above and Appendix 4, be noted
- vi) The criteria set out at 4.20 above that will apply to the relaunched Covid-19 Local Authority Discretionary Fund and delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Development to progress the scheme, be agreed

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

There was submitted a report by 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 this report, be noted
- (ii) The proposed budget adjustments to the eight-year Composite Capital Budget 2021/22 to 2028/29 set out in Sections 2 and 3 of this 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 this report and summarised at Appendix III, be approved

## **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 this non-statutory guidance to support LDP2, adopted in November 2019.

### **Resolved:**

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

## **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 to convene a workshop in autumn this year for all elected members to consider options for the use of the remaining PBIP funding and other sources of potential funding, be requested
- v) The Head of Planning & Development to report on progress before the end of March 2022, be requested.

**8. REVISED PERTH HARBOUR BUSINESS PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT**

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (21/150) (1) considering and agreeing 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) In line with the business plan forecast, the Harbour will continue operating at a (reducing) deficit during the period of the business plan, be noted
- iv) The wider economic benefits of Perth Harbour, and 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, be approved
- vi) The storage capacity under the control of Perth Harbour should be increased within the Harbour Support Zone when opportunities arise, and delegates to the Head of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Harbour Board Chair, the conclusion of a lease or an acquisition subject to costs being contained within the Council's Harbour Revenue Budget or equivalent additional income is generated, be agreed
- vii) 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, be agreed

- 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, be requested.

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

There was submitted a report by Head of Legal and Governance Services (21/151) seeking approval to merge the Employees Joint Consultative Committee with the Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing Consultative Committee 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 this report, be approved
- (ii) The Employees Joint Consultative Committee will follow the constitution outlined in Appendix 1, be agreed
- (iii) The first meeting of the Employees Joint Consultative Committee will be held on 27 September 2021, be noted
- (iv) The meetings of the CHS&WCC scheduled for 13 September 2021 and 6 December 2021 will be cancelled.