

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

Minute of special meeting of Perth and Kinross Council held virtually on Wednesday 15 November 2021 at 9.30am.

Present: Provost D Melloy, Councillors K Baird, C Ahern, A Bailey, M Barnacle, L Barrett, P Barrett, B Brawn, R Brock, A Coates, H Coates, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, J Duff, A Forbes, T Gray, D Illingworth, I James, A Jarvis, G Laing, M Lyle, I Massie, R McCall, S McCole, X McDade, T McEwan, A Parrott, B Pover, C Purves, J Rebbeck, C Reid, W Robertson, F Sarwar, C Shiers, L Simpson, F Smith, C Stewart, R Watters, M Williamson and W Wilson.

In Attendance: T Glen, Chief Executive; B Renton, Executive Director (Communities); C Mailer, Depute Director (Communities); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); K Donaldson, Chief Operating Officer; G Paterson, Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health and Social Care; L Simpson, S Hendry, S Mackenzie, S Walker, P Johnstone, A Brown and M Pasternak (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Provost D Melloy, Presiding

## **TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FORMER COUNCILLOR JACK COBURN**

The Provost paid tribute to the late former Councillor Jack Coburn who had sadly passed away recently and the Council observed a minute silence.

Several other elected members also paid further tribute and passed on their condolences to family and friends.

### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Provost welcomed all those present to the meeting.

The Provost particularly welcomed Thomas Glen, Chief Executive, to his first Council meeting following his recent appointment. Thanks were expressed to Barbara Renton, Executive Director (Communities) who had recently served as Interim Chief Executive.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors X McDade and L Barrett declared non-financial interest in Item 3(i) on the agenda.

### **3. MOTIONS**

In terms of Standing Order 9.3(b) the Provost ruled that the following emergency motion (3(i)) should in his opinion be considered due to the continuing situation that was developing and that this item of business should not be deferred until the next Council meeting.

**(i) Dual Nationals being held in Iranian Prisons**

Motion (Councillors M Williamson and I Massie)

I would like to express my sympathy for the plight of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family, along with other dual nationals being held in Iranian prisons.

The purpose of this motion is to seek Council's support for the following motion. We are asking the Leader of the Council write to the UK government to request that they explore all possible measures they can take and use every power at their disposal to secure the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and other British Iranian citizens currently in Iranian prisons.

**Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

**(ii) Restoration of Title of Lord Provost**

Motion (Councillor C Ahern and I James)

**I call on this council to agree that we put in an application to the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition for the Title of Lord Provost of the City of Perth. Now that we have regained City status this will be the only opportunity for a long time to put in a bid for the Lord Provost of Perth as it has to be during a Platinum year.**

**Importantly, this is not a request for a new title, it is for "the restoration" of the Title of Lord Provost which was held by the City of Perth for over 300 years; in 1975. It was unjustly removed from Perth because of the formation of Tayside and Perth & Kinross. Perth was the only city in Scotland to lose its ancient civic honours.**

**Given this history and the opportunity in next year's Platinum Jubilee this is the ideal time to apply. The Title will greatly enhance the status and standing of Perth as a City in Scotland well into the future and it will assist in enhancing civic pride - just as city status did.**

**Having a Lord Provost would put Perth on a par with Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee. It would elevate Perth's ambition to be considered as a small, but prosperous and high achieving European city, and raise Perth's profile nationally and internationally.**

**With regard to the Lord Lieutenancy, the Lord Lieutenants of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee, are the exception, rather than the rule. In England none of the Lord Mayors are ex-**

**officio Lord Lieutenants of their cities. The two roles are quite separate. Indeed, when Perth had a Lord Provost up to 1975, that person was not the Lord Lieutenant - the only Lord Provost in Scotland who was not also the Lord Lieutenant of his area. There is no reason why that should not be the case once again.**

**Finally, it is significant that the Stone of Scone is at last being returned home to Perthshire following the decision made by the Commissioners of Regalia on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. Given that we have now been restored City status and the Stone will be returning to Perthshire it would seem logical to have the Title of Lord Provost restored as well.**

In terms of Standing Order 17.1, Councillor X McDade, seconded by Councillor A Bailey, moved a procedural motion that no further questioning or discussion took place and, unless an Amendment was moved and seconded, that the Motion be agreed.

In terms of Standing Order 17.3 a simple majority for/against vote was taken.

22 Members voted for as follows:

Councillors C Ahern, A Bailey, K Baird, M Barnacle, B Brawn, R Brock, A Coates, H Coates, J Duff, A Forbes, D Illingworth, I James, A Jarvis, M Lyle, R McCall, X McDade, Provost D Melloy, C Purves, C Reid, C Shiers, F Smith and C Stewart.

18 Members voted against as follows:

Councillors L Barrett, P Barrett, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, T Gray, G Laing, I Massie, S McCole, T McEwan, A Parrott, B Pover, J Rebbeck, W Robertson, F Sarwar, L Simpson, R Watters, M Williamson and W Wilson.

The procedural motion was therefore carried.

**Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

Note - Councillors T McEwan, G Laing, A Parrott, R Watters, E Drysdale and S McCole recorded their dissent at the decision to not allow further questioning or discussion on the Motion.

#### **4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Finance (21/212) (1) updating the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Council on 30 September 2020 (Report No. 20/174 refers); (2) summarising the implications of the latest projections on future Council General Fund Revenue Budgets over the medium term and providing an update on the Council's Capital Budget, Housing Revenue Account and Reserves position; and (3) setting out a proposed approach to the development of the Revenue and Capital Budgets.

**Motion (Councillors M Lyle and J Duff)**

- (i) The Head of Finance be requested to maintain the Medium-Term Financial Plan and further refine the assumptions which underpin it.
- (ii) The setting of the 2022/23 Final Revenue Budget on 23 February 2022 be approved.
- (iii) The redesignation of £7.614 million from the Covid-19 earmarked Reserve to support the 2022/23 Revenue Budget be approved.
- (iv) The submission of the updated Reserves Strategy to the Council in February 2021 be approved.
- (v) The un-earmarking of £4.1 million from the Covid-19 earmarked Reserve be approved.
- (vi) The proposals to determine the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget and rent levels for 2022/23 and the five-year Housing Investment Programme at the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee in January 2022 be endorsed.

**Amendment (Councillors A Bailey and X McDade)**

In accordance with the Motion, but replace 13.7.2 with:

Approves the setting of the 2022/23 Final Revenue Budget on 23 February 2022 and remits officers to produce indicative revenue budgets for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11.16AM.

In terms of Standing Order 21.3 a roll call vote was taken.

34 Members voted for the Motion as follows:

Councillors C Ahern, K Baird, M Barnacle, L Barrett, P Barrett, B Brawn, A Coates, H Coates, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, J Duff, A Forbes, T Gray, D Illingworth, I James, G Laing, M Lyle, I Massie, R McCall, S McCole, T McEwan, Provost D Melloy, A Parrott, B Pover, J Rebbeck, C Reid, W Robertson, F Sarwar, C Shiers, L Simpson, F Smith, R Watters, M Williamson and W Wilson.

5 members voted for the Amendment as follows:

Councillors A Bailey, R Brock, X McDade, C Purves and C Stewart.

1 member Abstained as follows:

Councillor A Jarvis

**Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 11.30AM.

## **5. CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) (21/209) (1) informing Council of the Covenant of Mayors, the Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, outlining the commitments required for each and (2) seeking approval for the Council to become signatories to the declarations, demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to tackle climate change, in advance of the Climate Change Action Plan being submitted to Council at its next meeting.

### **Resolved:**

It be agreed that Perth and Kinross Council commit to the following initiatives:

- (i) The Global Covenant of Mayors;
- (ii) Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration; and
- (iii) Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## **6. LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Communities) and the Child Poverty Lead (21/210) (1) presenting the third Perth & Kinross Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) November 2020 – May 2021, to be submitted to the Scottish Government; and (2) providing a brief update following the previous report which covered the period May 2019 – November 2020.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The Local Child Poverty Action Report be noted.
- (ii) The next steps and actions outlined within the Local Child Poverty Action Report be noted.
- (iii) It be noted that feedback and further updates on the Local Child Poverty Action Report will be brought back to the Community Planning Partnership and then to Council.

## **7. SERVICE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS TO MARK QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN JUNE 2022**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Human Resources Manager (21/211) seeking approval of the leave and service delivery arrangements that will allow the Council to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

### **Motion (Councillors M Lyle and J Duff)**

**Council approves the following proposals:**

#### **Education Settings**

- (i) **School and local authority nursery setting closure on Thursday 2 June 2022 and Friday 3 June 2022, facilitated by the redesignation of the UK Early Bank Holiday (2 May 2022) observed in schools to Thursday 2 June 2022 and one additional day's leave to be taken on Friday 3 June 2022.**

- (ii) **Apply to Scottish Government for an exemption to reduce the school teaching year from 190 to 189 days in the academic year 2021/22.**

#### **All Other Council Workplaces**

- (iii) **Minimal staffing on Thursday 2 June 2022, with the option for employees to apply for a day's leave from their own entitlement, subject to operational requirements.**
- (iv) **All other Council workplaces to be closed facilitated by one additional day's leave to be taken on Friday 3 June 2022.**
- (v) **Essential services to be maintained on Friday 3 June 2022 to enable the Council to respond to any emergencies in our communities.**

#### **All Employee Groups**

- (vi) **Compensatory arrangements for employees who are not scheduled to work on Friday 3 June 2022 to ensure fairness and equality. This would include time off in lieu for employees who are required to work to maintain essential services.**

#### Amendment (Councillors J Rebbeck and F Sarwar)

In accordance with the Motion but with the following changes:

To delete:

3.2(1) which says "School and local authority nursery setting closure on Thursday 2 June 2022 and Friday 3 June 2022 facilitated by the redesignation of the UK Early Bank Holiday (2 May 2022) observed in schools to Thursday 2 June 2022 and one additional days leave to be taken on Friday 3 June 2022".

To be replaced by:

"School and local authority setting to be closed on Friday 3 June 2022 to be facilitated by one additional days leave to be taken on Friday 3 June 2022".

In terms of Standing Order 21.3 a roll call vote was taken.

25 Members voted for the Motion as follows:

Councillors C Ahern, K Baird, M Barnacle, L Barrett, P Barrett, B Brawn, A Coates, H Coates, J Duff, A Forbes, D Illingworth, I James, A Jarvis, M Lyle, R McCall, X McDade, Provost D Melloy, C Purves, C Reid, W Robertson, C Shiers, L Simpson, F Smith, C Stewart and W Wilson.

15 members voted for the Amendment as follows:

Councillors A Bailey, R Brock, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, T Gray, G Laing, I Massie, S McCole, T McEwan, A Parrott, B Pover, J Rebbeck, F Sarwar, R Watters and M Williamson.

#### **Resolved:**

In accordance with the Motion.

## **8. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY POLLING PLACES**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (21/213) seeking views on several temporary changes to polling places through to December 2022.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) The use of St Anne's Church Hall for the PBM register through to 31 December 2022 be approved.
- (ii) The permanent use of the North Inch Community Campus (library) for the PCW register be approved.
- (iii) The creation of a new polling district for the Bertha Park area and that a community facility in the vicinity of Bertha Park High School be designated as the polling place for the residents be approved.
- (iv) The appointment of Caputh Village Hall as the permanent polling place for the PCP polling district be approved.
- (v) Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with Ward elected members, to make adjustments to polling places (only as a result of unforeseen circumstances and where timescales do not permit formal consideration by the Council).

## **9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES/OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **(i) Tay Cities Region Joint Committee Vice-Convener**

Currently the Convener of the Tay Cities Region Joint Committee sits with Dundee City Council and the position of Vice-Convener with Angus Council. From December 2021 the Convener will be appointed by Angus Council and the Vice-Convener by Perth and Kinross Council. The Council's representatives on the Joint Committee are Councillors G Laing, M Lyle and C Stewart.

It be agreed that Councillor M Lyle be the Vice-Convener of the Joint Committee from December 2021.

### **(ii) Tayside Contracts Joint Committee**

It be agreed that Councillor B Brawn be appointed to the vacant position on the Tayside Contracts Joint Committee.