

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 19 August 2020 at 9.30am.

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

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); B Cargill, A Clegg, S D'All and A Graham (Housing and Environment); C Flynn, K Molley and A Brown (Corporate and Democratic Services); C Wright (IT).

Apology: Councillor W Robertson

Councillor A Forbes, Convener, Presiding.

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

1. FLOODING IN PERTH AND KINROSS

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the storm that occurred on the 11/12 August, resulting in severe weather conditions and flooding throughout Perth and Kinross. He added his sympathies to those who had been affected. B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment) provided an operational update, which highlighted the work being undertaken to tackle the consequences of the flooding conditions and the tighter measures that are now being introduced.

B Renton answered members questions.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor A Forbes welcomed everyone to the meeting and an apology was noted as above.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors A Forbes, A Jarvis and M Williamson declared a non-financial interest in Item 8.

4. MOTION

In terms of Standing Order 29(b), the Convener heard the following item on the recent local flooding event as a matter of urgent business.

THERE WAS A TWO MINUTE BREAK AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9.55AM.

Motion (Councillors C Stewart and M Barnacle)

The Committee:

- Notes the extreme adverse rainfall and flooding of 11th and 12th August, and the devastating effect this had in many local areas across Perth & Kinross, particularly in Alyth, Kinross, Dunning and Perth; and
- Recognizes the efforts of Council and Tayside Contracts staff to assist householders, businesses and communities to deal with flooding and its immediate effects; and
- Commends communities across Perth & Kinross for the community spirit they showed and for their efforts to assist neighbours to prevent properties being flooded and to clean up afterwards; and
- Notes with concern the anxiety caused by severe weather warnings in communities that have previously experienced flooding, particularly in Alyth following the major flood of 2015 and the near miss of February 2020; and
- Notes that work has commenced on the preparation of the second cycle of flood risk management strategies and local flood risk management plans due to be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively.

and thus requests officers to:

- Review the existing flood schemes and local flood risk management plans to determine what further interim arrangements may need to be put in place to manage flood risk before the proposed schemes are completed; and
- Review where there are additions required to the list of local flood schemes included in the national flood risk management plan and any additions required to the lists of actions in local flood risk management plans; and
- After hearing feedback from the local community about their experiences and opinions on how to avert or mitigate future flooding, identify short, medium and long-term actions for the communities that have been affected and Alyth in particular; and
- Report back as early as possible with the result of these reviews and with the identified actions for Alyth and other areas to a future meeting of this Committee.

Councillor G Laing asked if the following recommendations could be incorporated into the motion:

Officers to:

- Review the Out of Hours Emergency Service as a matter of urgency.
- Include winter and other weather events in future Policy and Level of Service reports.

Councillors C Stewart and M Barnacle agreed to incorporate Councillor Laing's recommendations into their motion.

Resolved:

The Committee:

- Notes the extreme adverse rainfall and flooding of 11 and 12 August, and the devastating effect this had in many local areas across Perth & Kinross, particularly in Alyth, Kinross, Dunning and Perth; and
- Recognizes the efforts of Council and Tayside Contracts staff to assist householders, businesses and communities to deal with flooding and its immediate effects; and

- Commends communities across Perth & Kinross for the community spirit they showed and for their efforts to assist neighbours to prevent properties being flooded and to clean up afterwards; and
- Notes with concern the anxiety caused by severe weather warnings in communities that have previously experienced flooding, particularly in Alyth following the major flood of 2015 and the near miss of February 2020; and
- Notes that work has commenced on the preparation of the second cycle of flood risk management strategies and local flood risk management plans due to be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively.

and thus requests officers to:

- Review the existing flood schemes and local flood risk management plans to determine what further interim arrangements may need to be put in place to manage flood risk before the proposed schemes are completed; and
- Review where there are additions required to the list of local flood schemes included in the national flood risk management plan and any additions required to the lists of actions in local flood risk management plans; and
- After hearing feedback from the local community about their experiences and opinions on how to avert or mitigate future flooding, identify short, medium and long-term actions for the communities that have been affected and Alyth in particular; and
- Report back as early as possible with the result of these reviews and with the identified actions for Alyth and other areas to a future meeting of this Committee.
- Review the Out of Hours Emergency Service as a matter of urgency.
- Include winter and other weather events in future Policy and Level of Service reports.

5. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of 22 January 2020 (Arts 15-29) was submitted and approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

6. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

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. She thanked all staff for their efforts and dedication throughout this time and showed appreciation to those who had been re-tasked into different services. This update also included the continued work in areas such as Flood Prevention Schemes, Outdoor Access, Greenspace, North Inch Golf Course, Garden Waste and Bereavement Services.

B Renton and B Cargill answered members questions.

7. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE FUND UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/132) (1) seeking approval to amend the 'match funding' criteria with regard to making applications to the fund; and (2) providing a update on the award of Community Environment Challenge Funding to community groups between April 2019

and March 2020 (including the CEC Funding which was ring-fenced to use for the Solheim Cup Communities Fund in 2019/20).

Resolved:

- (i) Contents of Report 20/132 and Appendices to report 20/132, be noted.
- (ii) The additional criteria proposed for 2020/21 as set out at section 2.2. of report 20/132, be approved.

8. POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR WINTER 2020/21

There was submitted a report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/133) recommending the level of service to be approved by the Council for the gritting and snow clearing of roads and footways in Perth and Kinross during the winter of 2020/2021 using plant and labour resources of Tayside Contracts and other Council Services.

Resolved:

- (i) It be noted that the budget is set at £3,715m, subject to any changes made by Council as part of the revenue budget review in September 2020.
- (ii) The delivery of the winter maintenance service as outlined in report 20/133, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be authorised to make arrangements outwith the policy and level of service in exceptional conditions such as snow emergencies.

9. CITY OF PERTH WINTER FESTIVAL

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (20/134) outlining the 2019/20 City of Perth Winter Festival and its estimated impacts.

Resolved:

- (i) The approach to the development of the Perth Winter Festival in 2019/20 and its performance, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that as a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis, Senior Officers took the decision using emergency powers that the Perth Winter Festival would not take place in 2020/21.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (20/135) recommending that the List of Public Roads be updated to take account of the amendments detailed in this report.

Resolved:

- (i) The List of Public Roads as detailed in Appendix 1 to report 20/135, be approved.
- (ii) It be agreed that future updates to the List of Public Roads will not be submitted to Committee, but the information will still be shared with Elected Members.