

THE MORAY COUNCIL
MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2014
COUNCIL OFFICE, ELGIN

Present

Councillors A. Wright (Chairman), S. Cree (Deputy Chairman), G. Coull, J. Cowe, J. Divers, P. Gowans, G. Leadbitter, E. McGillivray, P. Paul, R. Shepherd and A. Skene.

Also Present

Councillor G. Alexander.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor M. Shand.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), the Acting Corporate Director (Environmental Services), the Head of Financial Services, the Head of Schools and Curriculum Development, the Head of Integrated Services, the Head of Direct Services, the Head of Community Care, the Acting Head of Housing and Property, the Estates Manager, the Housing Strategy & Development Manager, the Inclusion Manager, the Lands & Parks Officer, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Energy Officer, Mrs L. Paisey, Principal Accountant, Mr A. McEachan, Legal Services Manager (Property and Contracts) and Mr D. Westmacott, Committee Services Officer, as Clerk to the meeting.

1. WELCOME

The Committee joined the Chairman in welcoming members of the Forres Heritage Trust to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF GROUP DECISIONS AND MEMBERS INTERESTS

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from group leaders or spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Members' interest in respect of any item on the agenda.

3. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Paragraph No. of Minute</u>	<u>Paragraph No. of Schedule 7A</u>
12	6
13	4

4. WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5. PLAN FOR THE MODERATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF ASSESSMENT WITHIN CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the minute of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 18 December 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) inviting the Committee to agree the recommendation of the Children and Young People's Service Committee to release Moray's allocation of monies from the Scottish Government to support Quality Assurance and Assessment in 2013/14.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to authorise the release of Moray's allocation of monies from the Scottish Government to support Quality Assurance and Assessment in 2013/14 to the Schools and Curriculum Development section of Education and Social Care.

6. CAPITAL PLAN 2013/14

Under reference to paragraph 12 of the minute of this Committee dated 5 November 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) advising the Committee of the expenditure to 31 December 2013 under the Capital Plan for the financial year 2013/14 and of the estimates of projected expenditure, profiled into quarters. A copy of expenditure against the Capital Plan was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the expenditure to 31 December 2013 of £32.8 million, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) note the current projected expenditure of £48.4 million, profiled into quarters detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;

- (iii) approve amendments to the 2013/14 Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6.14 of the report, reducing the Programme by £2.6 million; and
- (iv) approve the construction of the Newmill Flood Alleviation Scheme - Phase 2.

7. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2013

Under reference to paragraph 2 of the minute of the special meeting of The Moray Council dated 13 February 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) advising the Committee of the current Revenue Budget Monitoring position for 2013/14 and the estimated out-turn for 2013/14.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the Budget Monitoring position for 2013/14 as at 31 December 2013, as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) note the estimated out-turn for 2013/14, as detailed in Section 7 of the report;
- (iii) note the estimated balance on the General Fund Reserve at 31 March 2014, as detailed in Section 9 of the report; and
- (iv) approve the release from provisions to meet budget pressures of £208,000 arising from Out of Area placements, as detailed in paragraph 6.2 of the report.

8. ANNUAL REPORT ON ENERGY STRATEGY/ACTIONS

There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director (Environmental Services) advising the Committee on actions to minimise the Council's energy consumption, as well as progress and developments on a number of energy issues.

During discussion, the Chairman requested that the report on the outcome of the audit into energy consumption at Primary Schools be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee when completed instead of incorporating in the next Annual Energy report. In response, the Estates Manager confirmed that a report would be submitted as requested.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) the Council's energy consumption in non-domestic operational properties of 51,232,693kWH in 2012/13, as detailed in Section 4 of the report;
- (ii) the successful completion of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme audit, as detailed in Section 6 of the report;
- (iii) the measures being taken to minimise the Council's energy consumption;
- (iv) the reduction in the Council's energy consumption for the first 6 months of 2013/14 which is 9% lower than the corresponding period in 2012/13; and

- (v) that a report on the outcome of the audit into energy consumption at Primary Schools would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the minute of this Committee dated 3 December 2013, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the timescales to address performance indicators and service improvements actions in relation to equalities which were progressing outside the target timescale.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:-

- (i) performance of Equal Opportunities within the Chief Executive's Office, as detailed in Section 3 of the report; and
- (ii) the actions being taken to seek improvements where required.

10. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: FORRES HERITAGE TRUST

Under reference to paragraph 13 of the minute of this Committee dated 3 December 2013, there was submitted a report by the Head of Community Care updating the Committee on the progress made by Forres Heritage Trust (FHT) in relation to a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Forres Tolbooth and inviting the Committee to consider their application for a transfer at no consideration.

On the invitation of the Chairman, based on the Councillor's position as a Ward Member, Councillor Alexander spoke to the Committee of his support to the Forres Heritage Trust and their application, commending the work of the CAT team and FHT since the meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2013. He thanked the CAT team for the advice given following the meeting and the prompt action on receipt of the revised business plan. He also took the opportunity to commend the hard work done by the FHT, noting that many hours were given up during the evenings and over the Christmas period to complete revisions to the business plan.

The Committee joined Councillor Paul and the Chairman in sending their best wishes to the FHT on their future endeavours.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) approve the transfer of Forres Tolbooth to the Forres Heritage Trust for no consideration; and
- (ii) remit the matter to the Legal Services Manager (Property and Contracts) to effect the formal transfer of title.

11. INITIATIVE TO HONOUR VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive inviting the Committee to consider whether to register an interest in becoming involved in a UK Government initiative to commemorate First World War recipients of the Victoria Cross.

In response to a query from the Chairman, the Lands and Parks Officer agreed to keep Elected Members up to date with proceeding of the initiative.

The Lands and Parks Officer advised the Committee that the Lord Lieutenants of Banffshire and Moray were involved in a working group aimed at assisting communities to create "Moray's War", a website resource of memories, photographs, documents and information about the War. This was noted by the Committee.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) register an interest with the Department of Communities and Local Government in becoming involved in an initiative to honour First World War recipients of the Victoria Cross;
- (ii) note that Elected Members would be kept up to date with proceedings of the initiative; and
- (iii) note the involvement of the Lord Lieutenants of Banffshire and Moray in a working group aimed at assisting communities to create "Moray's War", a website resource of memories, photographs, documents and information about the War.

12. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions raised.

13. COUNCIL HOUSE NEW BUILD PHASE 4 – REPORT ON TENDERS (PARA 6)

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the minute of the Communities Committee dated 22 October 2013, there was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director (Environmental Services) presenting to the Committee an evaluation of the tender received for the construction of an additional 5 houses at Barhill Road, Buckie as a variation to the Council's existing Phase 4, Buckie contract.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to accept the tender received, as reported on by KLM Partnership in Appendix 1 of the report, for the construction of an additional 5 houses at Buckie as variation to the existing Phase 4, Buckie new build contract.

14. ADAPTION OF A FOSTER CARER'S DWELLING HOUSE (PARA 4)

Under reference to paragraph 21 of the minute of the Children and Young People's Services Committee dated 18 December 2013, there was submitted a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Social Care) seeking Committee approval for a loan for one approved Moray Council foster carer to extend their private dwellinghouse in order that the carers can offer increased placements options and to a wider range of children requiring placement.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) approve funding for a secured loan at 0% interest to specific The Moray Council foster carers; and
- (ii) note that this loan will be subject to an appropriate legal agreement which will secure the Council's loan.