

## ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

### COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 15 JUNE, 2017

**Present:** Councillors A Stirling (Chair), I Walker (Vice Chair), A Allan, D Beagrie, S Calder, E Durno, A Hassan, M Ingleby (as substitute for Councillor P Gibb), A Kille, D Mair, G Reynolds, D Robertson, A Ross and S Wallace.

**Apologies:** Councillor P Gibb.

**Officers:** Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Housing, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Corporate Finance Manager, Chief Superintendent C Thomson, Police Scotland, Local Senior Officer (Aberdeenshire and Moray), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Corporate Finance Manager, Principal Solicitor (Governance) (Ms R O'Hare) and Senior Committee Officer (Mr N David).

#### 1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Beagrie declared an interest in Item 13, Regulation of Energy Efficiency and Conditions in Private Rented Housing, as a registered private sector landlord.

No other interests were declared.

#### 2A. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) Where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching their decision.

#### 2B. RESOLUTION

The Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Items 15 and 16, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SESSION FOR MEMBERS

The Chair explained that the meeting would be adjourned until 11.30am to allow a closed session for substantive and substitute members to take place on the Services which reported to the Communities Committee.

The meeting was adjourned and presentations on Housing; Sport and Physical Activity; Community Planning, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and Police Scotland took place.

The meeting reconvened at 11.30 a.m.

### **3. COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 30 MARCH, 2017**

There was circulated, **noted** and **approved** as appropriate, the Minute of Meeting of the Communities Committee of 30 March, 2017.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES**

There was circulated a report dated 10 May, 2017, by the Director of Business Services which requested that the Committee consider the existing Communities Committee Sub-Committees and then provide nominations for the re-appointment of those that were to continue.

The Committee **agreed** to the re-establishment and appointment of the following Sub-Committees:-

- (1) the Housing Adaptation Grants Appeals Sub-Committee, comprising Councillors Forsyth, Mair, Robertson, H Smith and Walker,
- (2) the Regulation of Private Sector Rented Housing Sub-Committee, comprising Councillors Allan, Durno, Kille, Hassan and Wallace, and
- (3) the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee, comprising Councillors Allan, Baillie, Ewenson, Robertson, H Smith, Stirling, Taylor and Wallace.

### **5. NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

There was circulated a report dated 19 May, 2017, by the Director of Business Services which detailed the outside bodies which had asked for representation from the Council and which it had been agreed at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 18 May, 2017, that the power to nominate members be delegated to this Committee.

The Committee **agreed** the following:-

- (1) Aberdeen Foyer – to nominate Councillors Forsyth and Simpson,
- (2) Aberdeenshire Sports Council – to nominate one Councillor from the Administration and Councillor Reid as substitute, and
- (3) Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action – to nominate Councillor H Smith and one member of the Opposition as a substitute.

### **6. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT: 1 APRIL, 2016 TO 31 MARCH, 2017**

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services which provided information on how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Fire and Rescue Plan to 2014 to 2017, approved at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 3 April, 2014.

The report included the performance reports in an appendix which provided outcomes applicable to the quarterly report on the performance for the Aberdeenshire Council area in

the context of the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014 to 2017. The appendix was a summary of performance for the reporting period 1 April, 2016 to 31 March, 2017.

The report highlighted that the performance monitoring report would provide a regular opportunity for members to maintain scrutiny of significant Fire and Rescue activities in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge:-

- (1) the attached performance report relating to year to date performance for 1 April, 2016 to 31 March, 2017 for Aberdeenshire area of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and
- (2) acknowledge the national and operational matters arising, together with key resource issues, as detailed within the appendix to the report.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN**

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services on the outcomes of the review of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The report explained that the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 placed a duty on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to produce a Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the local authority area.

The report further explained that, in October, 2016, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service produced a new strategic plan and as three years had elapsed since the publication of the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014 to 2017, this instigated the requirement to carry out a mandatory review.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge and note the outcomes of the mandatory review of the Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan and that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service provide future reports along with a revised Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire for approval by the Communities Committee.

## **8. POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

There was circulated a report dated 1 June, 2017, by the Director of Business Services on how the Police Service was performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Police Plan.

The report explained that the performance monitoring report provided a regular opportunity for members to maintain scrutiny of significant Police activities, in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.

It was also advised to the Committee that the Local Police Plan 2017 to 2020 would be submitted to a meeting of the Communities Committee on 28 June, 2017, for approval. In advance of that draft copies would be provided to members for comment.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the performance monitoring information relating to the Aberdeenshire component of the North East Division of Police Scotland,
- (2) that the Divisional Commander continue to report to the Communities Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives, and
- (3) that the Aberdeenshire Local Police Plan 2017 to 2020 be submitted to the meeting of the Communities Committee on 28 June, 2017, for approval.

## **9. FINANCIAL MONITORING FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH, 2017**

There was circulated a report dated 29 May, 2017, by the Director of Business Services on financial monitoring for the year ended 31 March, 2017.

The report explained that the Council's Scheme of Governance aligned Service budget responsibility with Policy Committee responsibility. The report therefore covered the unaudited outturn for the year ended 31 March, 2017, for both revenue and capital budget monitoring. The figures would be subject to audit and may change in light of External Audit work and would therefore be treated as provisional at this time.

With regard to revenue budget monitoring, the report explained that the Communities revenue budget for 2016/2017 for net revenue expenditure was £114,631,000. This covered Leisure – Active Aberdeenshire and Leisure Sports and Leisure Management – Client, as well as the Sports and Leisure Management Trading Account; Housing General Fund; Community Planning; and the Council's contribution to the Integration Joint Board.

The financial position was detailed in an appendix to the report, along with accompanying narrative which detailed major variances in an additional appendix. Another appendix outlined a budget virement which was proposed for approval.

In respect of capital budget monitoring, the Communities revised capital budget for year 2016/2017 was finalised at £10,235,000. This figure altered during the year, as and when changes to the profile of capital expenditure from one year to another were agreed and adjusted. Reasons for major variances were detailed within the report.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the revenue and capital budget monitoring for the year ended 31 March, 2017, as detailed in the report,
- (2) to approve the virement set out in Appendix 3 to the report and to note the revenue budget adjustments, some of which would be reported to Full Council for approval, and
- (3) that the Director of Business Services take forward consideration of future monitoring reports including a section explaining risk and that the possibility of this being included in all committee reports be explored.

## **10. HOUSING SERVICE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE**

There was circulated a report dated 18 May, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on how the Service had performed against key performance measures and associated targets as set out in the Plan covering the period until March, 2017.

The report included a summary of performance during this quarter. Information was provided with regard to the three key service objectives, namely: to ensure access to good quality, affordable housing; to ensure our service meets the outcome of the Scottish Social Housing Charter; and reducing fuel poverty.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge:-

- (1) the positive performance achieved from January to March, 2017,
- (2) those measures where performance was below expectations in the period from January to March, 2017,
- (3) the update provided on work undertaken to alleviate fuel poverty,
- (4) progress towards delivering projects, as detailed in the appendix to the report, and
- (5) to acknowledge the publication of the complete January to March, 2017 along with a reporting rationale document for all indicators.

#### **11. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN – 2016/2017**

There was circulated a report dated 10 May, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised the Committee of the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget outturn for 2016/2017.

The report explained that the Housing Revenue Account budget for monitoring purposes for 2016/2017 was approved by Council on 11 February, 2016. It was agreed that any net surplus on the Housing Revenue Account would be used to fund the Housing Revenue Account capital programme. Regular monitoring reports had been presented to the predecessor Social Work and Housing Committee, and subsequently the Communities Committee, throughout the year, forecasting the final outturn against the approved budget.

The report went on to explain that the draft accounts for the year ended 31 March, 2017, would be set before Full Council on 29 June, 2017 and remained provisional pending the completion of the external audit review. The final outturn was summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee **agreed** to note:-

- (1) the unaudited Housing Revenue Account revenue budget outturn position for 2016/2017, and
- (2) the capital funded from current revenue which would offset some of the borrowing required to fund the Housing Revenue Account capital programme.

#### **12. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN – 2016/2017**

There was circulated a report dated 5 May, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme Outturn 2016/2017.

The report explained that the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2016/2017 was approved at the Social Work and Housing Committee on 1 September, 2016, to be £27,385,000. Regular monitoring reports had been presented to the Social Work and Housing Committee, and more recently to the Communities Committee. The forecast for the year amounted to £27,990,000. Actual expenditure was £29,011,000, being £1,021,000 higher than anticipated.

The Committee **agreed** to approve:-

- (1) the unaudited Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme Outturn position for 2016/2017, giving totals for expenditure and income of £29,011,000 and £6,877,000 respectively, and
- (2) the revised borrowing requirement to finance the Capital Programme, as detailed within the report.

### **13. REGULATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONDITIONS IN PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING**

There was circulated a report dated 26 May, 2017, by the Head of Housing on the Regulation of Energy Efficiency and Conditions in Private Rented Housing.

The report explained that the Scottish Government had issued a consultation on energy efficiency and condition standards in private rented housing. The consultation comprised two parts. One part related to energy efficiency standards and the second part related to conditions.

Appendix 1 to the report detailed the consultation and the draft response prepared by the Head of Housing formed Appendix 2. In this respect, officers had consulted widely between various Council services, other local authorities, SCARF and the current energy efficiency contractor for private sector housing works, to inform the response. Due to the timescales it had not been possible to consult landlords, but the consultation document was emailed to every landlord who was registered with Aberdeenshire Council and provided an email address.

Following consideration, the Committee **agreed** that the consultation response from Aberdeenshire Council, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

### **14. INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES - SERVICE PLAN 2017-2020**

There was circulated a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2017 to 2020.

The report highlighted progress achieved by the Housing Service with actions set out in the Infrastructure Services Plan 2016 to 2019 and also advised the Committee on what action had been agreed for Housing in the 2017 to 2020 Service Plan.

Appendix 1 to the report provided details on the progress made against 27 main actions set out in the 2016 to 2019 Service Plan. For each action the status was shown and the extent of progress was assessed. Appendix 2 to the report set out the draft Service Plan for Infrastructure Services for the period 2017 to 2020.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note progress with the Housing actions set out in the Infrastructure Service Plan 2016 to 2019, as detailed in Appendix 1,
- (2) note the Housing specific actions set out in the new Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2017 to 2020, and
- (3) advise the Director of Infrastructure Services to continue to report six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the Service Plan.

## 15. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SERVICE: ANNUAL WORK PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 23 May, 2017, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which presented to the Committee the Directorate Work Plan for the Sport and Physical Activity Service for 2017/2018 as detailed in Appendix 1 which sought approval of the items in that Work Plan which had been identified as falling within the remit of the Committee.

The report explained that, under the new Scheme of Governance which aligned service budget responsibility with Policy Committees, each Director was responsible for reporting to the relevant Committee prior to the beginning of the financial year with a proposed Work Plan for all the procurements falling within the jurisdiction of the Committee with a contract value of £50,000 or more. The Committee was requested to approve the items on the Work Plan which had been identified as falling within the remit of this Committee as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

After due consideration, the Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1,
- (2) approve the items on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee, and
- (3) not reserve approval of the business case for any of the items in the Work Plan which fell within the Committee's remit and where the value of the matter was between £50,000 and £1,000,000.