

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 09 NOVEMBER, 2017

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

Apologies: Councillor D Mair

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Housing, Corporate Finance Manager, Housing Manager (Strategy), Business Services Manager (Shared), Project Manager (Property & Facilities), Head of Resources and Performance, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Health & Social Care Partnership), Communications Team Manager (Customer Communications & Improvement), HR Team Leader (HR & OD) (Ms J Bremner), Local Senior Officer (Aberdeenshire and Moray), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Group Manager (Aberdeenshire and Moray), Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Principal Solicitor (Governance) (Mrs L Cowie) and Committee Officer (Mrs S Rawlins).

Also in attendance: Chair of the Board, Mr P Watters (SFRS), Mrs S Cowie (Aberdeenshire Council), Ms D Sim (Audit Scotland).

1. SEDERUNT AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No 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 13 and 14, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the undernoted paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Item No	Paragraph No of Schedule 7A
13	8 & 10
14	8

3. MINUTE OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 7 SEPTEMBER, 2017

There was circulated for approval the Minute of Meeting of the Communities Committee of 7 September, 2017.

- (1) With regard to the Councillors listed as present, the Committee **agreed** to note that Councillors P Gibb and G Reynolds were present at the meeting held on 7 September, 2017

Thereafter the Minute was **noted** and **approved** as appropriate.

4. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There was circulated a report, which updated members on progress made with actions agreed at the previous meetings of the Communities Committee, held on 15 and 28 June, 2017 and 7 September, 2017.

After consideration the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and appendix,
- (2) that timescales for each action will be added to the report, and
- (3) in respect of the Housing Quarterly report, that an update on the roll out of Universal Credit will be included in the report being brought to the December meeting of the Committee and that members of the Committee will contact the Head of Housing directly with any specific points they want included in the report.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING FOR PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER, 2017

There was circulated a report dated 18 October, 2017, by the Director of Business Services on financial monitoring for the period ended 30 September, 2017.

The report explained that the Council's Scheme of Governance aligned Service budget responsibility with Policy Committee responsibility. The report therefore covered the 2017/18 forecast position for the period ended 30 September, 2017, for both revenue and capital budget monitoring.

With regard to revenue budget monitoring, the report explained that the Communities revenue budget for 2017/2018 for net revenue expenditure was £114,008,000. This covered Leisure Active Communities and 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 Appendix 1 to the report, along with accompanying narrative which detailed major variances, as outlined in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 outlined budget virements which were proposed for approval.

In respect of capital budget monitoring, the Communities revised capital budget for year 2017/2018 was currently £5,885,000. 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** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the revenue and capital budget monitoring as at, 2017, as detailed in the report;
- (2) acknowledge there were no virements to approve in Appendix 3 to the report.

6. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2017 - 2020

The Chair opened the item with an acknowledgement that this would be the last meeting that the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Mr D Rout would be attending, as he was due to retire at the end of the year. The Chair went on to commend the work that Mr Rout had carried out to ensure partnership working and that he had been a first class ambassador during his time in service. Mr Rout thanked the Chair for her words and stated but that it had been a privilege and an honour to deliver a local service with the commitment and flexibility of all the staff involved.

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services on 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, the draft plan covered a 3 year period from 2017 to 2020 which aligned to a previous report submitted and approved at by the Communities Committee on 23 February, 2017. A robust consultation and engagement process had been undertaken by the Local Senior Officer involving key internal and external stakeholders which included a series of presentations to all Area Committee, use of the Aberdeenshire Citizens Panel and consultation and engagement with local individuals and groups. The consultation closed on 12 September 2017.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2017-2020.

Thereafter, the Chair welcomed the Chair of the Board for SFRS, Mr P Watters, to the meeting, and invited him to address the Committee. Mr Watters proceeded to speak on the on the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. The Committee concurred with the Chair in thanking Mr Watters for attending.

7. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2018-2023

There was circulated a report dated 7 September, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services requesting approval of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018-2023.

The report explained that Strategic Housing Investment Plans and Strategic Local Programmes were part of the Local Housing Strategy process. They were statements of affordable housing investment priorities in each local authority area which will guide the

application of Scottish Government and other funding. In line with Scottish Government guidance issued July 2017, all local authorities were required to submit a Strategic Housing Investment Plan to Scottish Government every year.

The report further explained that, the core purpose of the plan was to set out investment priorities for affordable housing over a five year period to achieve the outcomes set out in the local housing strategy (LHS). It provided a practical plan detailing how the LHS investment priorities would be delivered and forms the basis for more detailed programme planning. The plan set out key investment priorities for affordable housing, demonstrating how these would be delivered, identifying the resources required to deliver the priorities and enable the involvement of key partners.

The report continued to explain how the Strategic Housing Investment Plan had been drafted in accordance with the Resource Planning Assumptions as indicated by the Scottish Government. This funding was intended to enable the delivery of affordable housing and sat alongside the City Region Deal. Over the course of the five year period potentially 2622 homes, with around 394 potentially suitable for particular needs households, could be delivered across Aberdeenshire, subject to grant availability and financial capacity. Of these 2622 homes, 2263 were proposed for social rent, 110 for mid-market rent and 249 for low cost shared equity as outlined in Table 1 below, with full details available in **Appendix 1**.

The Committee **agreed** to approve the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018-2023.

8. ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There was circulated a report dated 9 October, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services requesting approval of a proposal to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing through the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

The report explained that in February 2016, Aberdeenshire Council agreed to support the delivery of affordable housing through the allocation of a total of £4million from the General Fund. To date £187,000 had been spent supporting the delivery of 41 new affordable homes in Peterhead and Inverurie. A further £2.357million has been committed to several developments across Aberdeenshire which would enable the further delivery of a further 191 units. Currently £1.375million remains uncommitted.

The report further explained that Aberdeenshire had received a Resource Planning Allocation of £19.393million from the Scottish Government for 2017/18. Over-programming was encouraged by the Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire's development programme was projected to be over committed by around £2million across both Council and Registered Social Landlords' projects that were already, or imminently, on site. Consequently as things currently stood it was unlikely that any further new projects would be started during 2017/18 resulting in a 'boom and bust' approach to the delivery of affordable housing.

The report continued to explain that in order to facilitate a more effective sustained increase in the delivery of affordable housing, it was proposed to use the uncommitted Affordable Housing Reserve Fund monies of £1.375million to act as a 'front-funding' mechanism. It was proposed that these monies would be used to 'kick-start' new affordable housing projects – both from the Council and Registered Social Landlords - during 2017/18, with the view that the monies would be repaid during April 2018, once further Scottish Government grant became available as part of the resource planning assumption of £25.313 million for 2018/19. Initial discussions with Scottish Government officers had indicated that such innovative approaches to support the sustained delivery of affordable housing were welcomed. Once the monies have been repaid, these monies would then become available to support further affordable housing projects.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the proposal to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing through the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund,
- (2) that Officers bring back further reports to Committee with updates as they become available, and
- (3) that a briefing note on all pilot areas be provided to members of the Committee.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 2017/18

There was circulated a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme monitoring 2017/18.

The report explained that the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2017/2018 was approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee on 30 March, 2017, with a budget allocation of £34,794,000. Regular monitoring reports had been presented to the Communities Committee and the forecast expenditure for the year amounted to £33,101,000. Actual expenditure to 30 September, 2107 was £11,337,000, being £3,238,000 lower than anticipated. The decreased budget was a reflection of the agreed drawdown of the Housing Improvement programme contract and adjustments to the timing of the new build programme.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge the revised Housing Revenue Account capital programme for 2017/18,
- (2) to acknowledge the Housing Revenue Account capital programme forecast for 2017/18 as at 30 September 2017,
- (3) to acknowledge the forecast borrowing requirement to finance the Capital programme and resultant Housing Business Plan implications, and
- (4) that with regard to Berryden shops, Aberdeen, that a briefing note is provided to all members of the Committee to give detail of the current position.

10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING – 2017/2018

There was circulated a report dated 10 October, 2017, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which advised the Committee of the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget monitoring to 30 September, 2017.

The report explained that the Housing Revenue Account budget for monitoring purposes for 2017/2018 was approved by Council on 9 February, 2017. 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 Communities Committee, throughout the year, forecasting the final outturn against the approved budget.

The forecast outturn was summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge:-

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget monitoring position at 30 September, 2017, and

- (2) the forecast capital funded from current revenue which would offset some of the borrowing required to fund the Housing Revenue Account capital programme.

11. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORTING APRIL – JUNE 2017, (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

There was circulated a report dated 21 September, 2017 by the Director of Education and Children's Services, on how the Service had performed against key performance measures and associated targets as set out in the Plan covering the period April to June, 2017.

The report explained that this year was a transition year for Council priorities, and with Education and Children's Services (ECS) taking the opportunity to revisit service planning processes, this year's service plan was a holding one. The performance measures had been reduced in number to reflect this, with the intention of developing a more meaningful set of performance measures for the 2018-2021 ECS Service Plan.

The report included a summary of performance during this quarter. Information was provided with regard to the three key service objectives, namely: satisfaction with libraries, satisfaction with Museums and Galleries and satisfaction with Leisure Facilities.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the performance achieved from April to June, 2017,
- (2) acknowledge those measures where performance was below expectations in the period from April to June, 2017,
- (3) acknowledge the publication of the complete April to June, 2017 along with a reporting rationale document for all indicators,
- (4) instruct the Director of Education and Children's Services to continue to report, by exception, to Committee quarterly performance against service objectives, and
- (5) that the Director of Infrastructure addresses the methods of performance reporting as part of the service planning taking place.

12. ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE & OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK QUARTER 1 REPORTING – APRIL TO JUNE 2017

There was circulated a report dated 6 October, 2017 by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, on how the Integration Joint Board had performed against key performance measures and associated targets as set out in the Plan covering the period April to June, 2017.

The report explained that the appendix to the report had been approved at the Integration Joint Board (IJB) meeting on 30 August, 2017 and was being circulated to this Committee for noting and recommending improvement actions as appropriate.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the content of the IJB Performance Quarter 1 report, and
- (2) instruct Locality Managers to engage with their Area Committees to ensure relevant area specific data was provided using the same framework as Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

13. INVERURIE COMMUNITY CAMPUS – GATEWAY 3 AND FINANCIAL CLOSE

There was circulated a report dated 28 September, 2017 by the Director of Business Services. The report explained that a replacement Inverurie Community Campus had been identified as a priority within Aberdeenshire Council's asset management strategy and that the project was included within the capital plan, which was approved by Full Council on 24 August, 2017.

The report further detailed that at the meetings of the Education and Children's Services Committee on 23 March, 2017 and the Communities Committee on 30 March, 2017 approval was given that the design of the campus be based on the building footprint proposed at that time. Thereafter at the meeting of the Education and Children's Services Committee on 14 June 2017 approval was given for the relocation of St Andrew's School within the Inverurie Community Campus.

The report outlined updates on progress and funding, the procurement model and revenue implications.

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

- (1) to approve the project Business Case detailed in Appendix D,
- (2) to approve the increase to the Capital Plan allocation of £4,710,550, and
- (3) that the Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson be included in the list of consultees and that Appendix F should be referred to as appropriate.

14. EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY WORK PLAN

With reference to the minutes of meetings of 15 June, 2017 (Item 15) when it had been agreed to approve the Directorate Work Plan for the Sport and Physical Activity Service for 2017/2018, and 28 June, 2017 (Item 5) when it had been agreed to approve Directorate Work Plan for Social Care Services for 2017/18, there was circulated a report dated 6 October, 2017, by the Director of Education & Children's Services containing a Supplementary Work Plan seeking the addition of two items.

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 addition of two 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) approve the addition of the two items, namely Cash in Transit and Biomass FI, to the Work Plan 2017/18,
- (2) acknowledge the items were cross service spend and that the lead Committee was Business Services,
- (3) approve the expenditure within the remit of the Communities Committee budget,
- (4) acknowledge that the approval of the Business Case for the Cash in Transit contract would be determined by Business Services Committee as lead Committee

- (5) acknowledge that the Business Case for the Biomass Pellets contract had been approved by the Business Services Committee, and the Education and Children's Services Committee had approved the spend from their budget and the contract award had been reserved to the Business Services Committee, and
- (6) acknowledge that the Governance around procurement would be reviewed.

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