

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 15 FEBRUARY, 2018

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

Officers: Director of Infrastructure Services, Head of Housing, Accountancy Finance Manager, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure, Superintendent G Duncan, Police Scotland, Detective Inspector A Armit, Police Scotland, Ms B Andrew Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance, Ms T Pentland, UK Border Force, Acting Legal Services Manager (Governance), and Senior Committee Officer (Mrs S Rawlins).

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 9, 10, 11 and 12, 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
09	8 & 10
10	8
11	8
12	8 & 10

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 21 DECEMBER, 2017

There was circulated, noted, approved and thereafter signed by the Chair, the minute of meeting of the Committee of 21 December, 2017.

4. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 23 November, 2017 (Item 4), there was circulated a report dated 1 February, 2018, by the Director of Business Services on Human Trafficking.

Members were reminded that following the consideration of a Notice of Motion from Councillor Reynolds at the meeting of Full Council on 23 November, 2017, it had been agreed that a presentation be given to the Communities Committee, to which all Councillors would be invited. In this regard, the Operations Manager, (Trafficking Alliance Raising Awareness (TARA)) gave a presentation to the Committee. The presentation covered: the definition of human trafficking; the nature and extent to which human trafficking is occurring globally; trafficking for prostitution: profits; the national referral mechanism, including statistics from 2016; the prevalence within Scotland; the Scottish legal and policy context; the TARA service; general indicators; CSE indicators; victims experiences; the specific needs of victims post-trafficking; and the collectively responsibility we have. A question and answer session followed the informative presentation. The Committee and other Councillors present concurred with the Chair in thanking the Operations Manager (TARA) for an excellent presentation.

Thereafter, the Committee considered the report and **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the contents of the report, and
- (2) delegate to the Director of Infrastructure Services, in consultation with Police Scotland, the authority to take a report to the Community Planning partnership Board regarding any policies or actions required and to recommend back to Aberdeenshire Council, any policies that will be required.

5. 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 28 June, 7 September and 21 December, 2017.

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

- (1) note the position with regard to progressing actions from previous meetings;
- (2) request that dates are assigned to each item on the progress report;
- (3) request that items on the progress report are actioned in a timeous manner, and
- (4) in respect of Financial Monitoring for the period ending June 2017, request that dates for the workshop are agreed.

6. ANNUAL POLICE PLAN 2018/19

There was circulated a report dated 29 January, 2018, by the Director of Business Services which provided information on Aberdeenshire Councils response on the consultation on the Police Scotland 2018-19.

The report reminded members that the Police & Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 require Police Scotland to produce an annual plan outlining the arrangements for the policing of Scotland and that this plan is laid before the Scottish Parliament prior to the 1st April each year and is also published online for the public to view. The report detailed that a cross –service consultation had provided the draft response to provide feedback on the activities of Police Scotland. Elected Members had been notified separately of the consultation and invited to submit their own responses if they so wished. The paper would represent the Council's overall formal response.

The Committee asked questions in relation to:

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the Aberdeenshire Council response on the consultation on the Police Scotland Annual Plan 2018-19.

7. FINANCIAL MONITORING FOR PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2017

There was circulated a report dated 26 January, 2018, by the Director of Business Services on financial monitoring for the period ended 31 December, 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 31 December, 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 £114,068,000. 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.

Forecast to the end of the Financial Year was expected to be over budget by £422,000.00 at £114,490,000.00 which is equivalent to an excess of 0.37%.

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. The report detailed a figure of £208,000 at Note A and this should have read £660,000.

In respect of capital budget monitoring, the Communities revised capital budget for year 2017/2018 was currently £4,400,000. 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.

Forecast capital expenditure to the end of the financial year is £2,713,000, which is £1,687,000 within budget, which will become part of the budgeted capital expenditure in 2018/19.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the revenue and capital budget monitoring as at 31 December, 2017, as detailed in the report;
- (2) approve the revenue budget virement as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCIAL MONITORING – 31 DECEMBER, 2017

There was circulated a report dated 12 January, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which advised the Committee of the Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital budget monitoring to 31 December, 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 report further detailed that the HRA revised capital budget for the year 2017/18 was currently £36.465m. This budget figure may alter during the year to reflect changes to the profile of capital expenditure. Regular monitoring reports had been presented to the Communities Committee and the current capital forecast for 2017/18 is £30,761,000. This is £5,704,000 lower than budget mainly due to delays in the Housing Improvement Plan contract which is due to start early 2018 and the Council's new build programme.

The forecast outturn was summarised in Appendix 3 to the report

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the HRA revenue and capital budget monitoring at 31 December, 2017.

9. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN 2018/2019: PREPAID ACCOUNTS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

There was circulated a report dated 18 January, 2018, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership on the Health and Social Care Partnership Work Plan 2018/2019: Prepaid Accounts and Associated Services.

The report reminded members that the Scheme of Governance had introduced changes to the Council's financial management arrangements, including aligning service budget responsibility with the Policy Committees, front loading procurement measures and increasing expenditure thresholds for officers. The Committee was requested to approve the item the inclusion of the Business Case into the Work Plan for 2018-19, as directed by the Integration Joint Board.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Directorate Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report,
- (2) approve the items on the Work Plan, identified as falling within the remit of the Committee, as recommended by the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board, 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.

10. ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR HOUSING – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

There was circulated a report dated 9 January, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which presented to the Committee the Directorate Work Plan for the Housing Service for 2018/2019 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) note that the dates for the last three items of the appendix, Castlehill Housing Association, Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association and Sanctuary Housing, should be October 2019,
- (2) note that the total contract figure contained in the appendix for Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association should read £431,848,
- (3) acknowledge the Directorate Work Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report,
- (4) approve the items on the Work Plan identified as falling within the remit of the Committee,
- (5) 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,
- (6) note that the Committee will receive the Business Case for approval for any item on the Work Plan which is within the Committee's remit and the value of the matter is over £1,000,000,
- (7) note that the Business Case for the item on the Work Plan – which was within the remit of this Committee and the value was over £1,000,000 – was attached to the report at Appendix 3, and
- (8) not reserve the award of the final contract for any matter over £1,000,000 and note that if not reserved the Head of Housing has the delegated powers to award the final contracts.

11. CULTURE AND SPORTS SERVICES: ANNUAL WORK PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 10 January, 2018, by the Director of Education and Children's Services which presented to the Committee the Directorate Work Plan for the Culture and Sports Services for 2018/2019 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.

12. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) REACTIVE HEATING UPGRADES 2015-2020

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 13 November, 2014, (Item 30), there was circulated a report dated 8 January, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided an update on reactive heating upgrades programme.

The report reminded members that at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 November, 2014, it had been agreed to approve the principle of appointing a contractor to provide heating upgrades on a reactive basis for properties where this was required outside the scheduled annual works and authorised officers to accept the most economically advantageous offer to provide these services, submitted by Everwarm Ltd. The report explained that the anticipated scope of the works would be around 70 houses per annum and approval was obtained on that basis. The number of houses that required a reactive heating upgrade had increased due to a delay in procuring the stock improvement heating upgrade contract, which had led to an increased number of heating failures. The purpose of the report was to update the committee on the expenditure on the contract to date and seek approval for the estimated spend for 2018 and for the extension of the contract for one year. The report went on to explain that a framework contract for stock improvement works in houses had now been let, Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) and the improvement works carried out through that contract would reduce the works carried out through this reactive heating contract. A Hard Facilities Management (FM) contract had also been let and it was intended that the reactive improvement works would be carried out through that contract in the future.

Thereafter the report went on to provide evidence of the costs incurred in carrying out the various types of upgrades and explained that the rates compared very favourably with rates provided for heating upgrade projects.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) note the current expenditure on reactive heating from commencement of the contract in January 2015 until December 2017,
- (2) approve the estimated expenditure in 2018 of £1.40 million for reactive heating works to be undertaken by Everwarm Ltd, and
- (3) approve the extension of the contract with Everwam Ltd for one year.

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