

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 21 FEBRUARY, 2019

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

Apologies: Councillor A Ross.

Officers: Director of Education and Children's Services, Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Head of Service (Housing), Head of Service (Lifelong Learning and Leisure), Head of Service (Property and Facilities), Service Manager (Facilities and Finance), Education and Children's Services, Accountancy Finance Manager (Housing), Manager Detective Superintendent A Dowall (Police Scotland), Social Work Manager (Criminal Justice), Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Principal Solicitor (Governance) (L Cowie), and Senior Committee Officer (N David).

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. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

Consider, and if so decided, adopt:- "In line with the Council's legal duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the Committee, in making decisions on the attached reports, shall have due regard to the need to":-

- (i) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- (ii) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (iii) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

2B. RESOLUTION

Consider, and if so decided, adopt the following resolution: - That under Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the Meeting for Items 12 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE OF 20 DECEMBER, 2018

The Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 20 December, 2018 had been circulated, was **approved** as a correct record, and thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There was circulated a report, which updated members on the progress made, against outstanding actions agreed, at previous meetings of the Communities Committee, held on 21 December, 2017, 31 May, 6 September, 8 November and 20 December, 2018. The report also detailed the actions completed since the last meeting.

After consideration, the Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the position with regard to progressing actions from previous meetings and those which had now been completed.

5. AUDIT SCOTLAND - THE 2017/18 AUDIT OF THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

There was circulated a report by the Director of Business Services on the fifth Annual Report on the finances and performance of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA), which had been published on 20 November, 2018. A copy of the Annual Report was appended to the report.

The report explained that Section 22 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000 allowed the Auditor General to bring to the Scottish Parliament and the public's attention matters of public interest related to the financial statements of public bodies.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the Audit Scotland report on the 2017/18 Audit of the Scottish Police Authority;
- (2) advise Police Scotland that the Committee had no comments to make on any impact of the Audit Scotland report on partnership working; and
- (3) request that Police Scotland advise whether there has been a Brexit risk assessment undertaken by Police Scotland.

6. FINANCIAL MONITORING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

There was circulated a report dated 22 January, 2019 by the Director of Business Services on financial monitoring for the period ended 31 December, 2018.

The report explained that the Council's Scheme of Governance aligned Service budget responsibility with Policy Committee responsibility. The report covered the forecast outturn for the period ended 30 September, 2018, for both revenue and capital budget monitoring.

The report highlighted that the revenue budget monitoring report for the Communities Committee now included the activities within the Culture and Sport Business Unit, which Full Council determined at the meeting on 26 April, 2018, should now fall within the remit of Communities Committee.

The report advised that the forecast position to the end of December 2018 was £42,000 within budget and the financial position was shown in more detail in Appendix 1. The major variances in excess of £100,000 were detailed in Appendix 2.

With regard to capital budget monitoring, the revised capital budget for 2018/19 was £9,174,000 and was detailed in Appendix 4.

After consideration, the Committee **agreed** to note the revenue and capital budget monitoring as at 30 September, 2018.

7. ABERDEENSHIRE RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN (RRTP) UPDATE

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Committee of 6 September, 2018 (Item 8) and 20 December (Item 12), there was circulated a report dated 25 January, 2019 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which provided an update on the Aberdeenshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP).

The report reminded members that it had been agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 6 September, 2018, when considering an update on the work of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), that a five year fully costed RRTP be in place by 31 March, 2019. It was also agreed that a member officer working group be set up to oversee progress of the RRTP and make recommendations to the Communities Committee. Following the Communities Committee on 20 December, 2018, the draft RRTP was submitted to the Scottish Government by 31 December, 2018.

The report asked Committee to consider and comment on the current draft RRTP and Action Plan. A final draft would be prepared and submitted to Committee on 28 March, 2019 for approval prior to submission by the final deadline of 31 March, 2019.

The Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to acknowledge and approve the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan;
- (2) that the Director of Infrastructure Services submit a report to the meeting of the Committee on 5 September, 2019 providing an update to the progress of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and how this was integrating with other strategies, particularly the Local Housing Strategy; and
- (3) that the Director of Infrastructure services provide Area Committees with information on homelessness and use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

8. HOUSING ACTION PLAN

There was circulated a report dated 14 January, 2019 by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Housing Action Plan.

The report explained that the Housing Service report to the Scottish Housing Regulator annually by way of the Annual Return on Charter. The Annual Return on Charter report documented how well the Housing Service was doing against the Scottish Housing Regulator's indicators. The Housing Service also provided data to two benchmarking organisations throughout the year. The two organisations being the Scottish Housing Network and HouseMark. Both organisations provided presentations annually to the Housing Service. The presentations provided an in-depth analysis of what the service did well and what could be improved upon.

An Action Plan showing areas for improvement was included as an appendix. The Action Plan tied in with the Local Housing Strategy adopted by Aberdeenshire Council in December 2017.

The Committee is **agreed** to approve the Housing Action Plan and that six monthly updates be provided to the Committee on the progress of the Action Plan.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) FINANCIAL MONITORING – 31 DECEMBER 2018

There was circulated a report dated 25 January, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services which advised the Committee of the Housing Revenue Account revenue and capital monitoring to 31 December, 2018.

The report explained that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Expenditure budget for monitoring purposes for 2018/2019 was approved by Council on 8 February 2018. It was agreed that any net surplus on the HRA would be used to fund the HRA Capital Programme, whilst maintaining a minimum working balance of £2 million in reserves.

The report further detailed that the HRA capital budget for the year 2018/19 was currently £60,744,000 with £19,046,000 budgeted to be used as Capital Funded from Current Revenue (CFCR), and the overall HRA position was summarised within the report.

The Committee **agreed** to acknowledge the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budget monitoring as at 31 December 2018.

10. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE – PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2019/20

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 20 December, 2018 (Item 18) there was circulated a report dated 28 January, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services on Live Life Aberdeenshire Performance Targets 2019/20.

The report reminded members that, at the meeting of the Committee on 20 December, 2018, a report on Culture and Sport reporting was agreed, which outlined measures for the performance framework for Culture, and Sport and Physical Activity. The framework agreement was the first part of a two-stage process to develop relevant performance measures and targets for 2019/20. The report under consideration was the second stage of that process, providing specific targets for each of the measures.

The Communities Committee **agreed**:-

- (1) to approve the performance targets for Live Life Aberdeenshire for 2019/20; and
- (2) that the Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure arrange for informal briefing sessions to be delivered to Area Committees.

11. LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE - FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 26 April, 2018 (Item 8) there was circulated a report dated 24 January, 2019, by the Director of Education and Children's Services on Live Life Aberdeenshire Fees and Charges 2019/20.

The report reminded members that at the meeting of Full Council on 26 April, 2018 it was agreed that all Lifelong Learning and Leisure matters, including pricing be grouped under the remit of the Communities Committee, which subsequently delegated these matters to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee.

A report was to be presented to the Culture and Sport Sub-Committee meeting on 6 March, 2019 on proposals for price adaptations. The report to the Communities Committee sought to obtain views in a consultative role prior to a decision being taken by the Sub-Committee.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the proposal for adjustments to the existing Live Life Aberdeenshire Pricing Policy for 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) instruct the Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure to feed back to the Culture and Sport Sub Committee, for determination at the meeting on 6 March, 2019, the view that Option 2 (as detailed within the report) be selected; namely increase all prices by a factor of 3.5%, but not implement the proposed Phase 3 price increases, which predominantly impact on prices for those under 18 and over 60.

12. POLICE SCOTLAND – OPERATION CORNER PRESENTATION

Detective Superintendent Alex Dowall, Police Scotland, Adam Coldwells, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Dawn Leslie, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership gave a presentation to the Committee on Operation Corner.

Operation Corner was a multi-agency response to break the cycle of individuals involved in serious organised crime groups in Aberdeenshire.

There followed a question and answer session.

The Committee concurred with the Chair in thanking Alex, Adam and Dawn for a very informative presentation and **agreed** that an update on outcomes from Operation Corner be reported to a future meeting at the appropriate time.

13. MACRAE HOUSE TYPES EXTERNAL INSULATION

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 30 March, 2017 (Item 4) there was circulated a report dated 23 January, 2019, by the Director of Business Services on the tender returns for Macrae House Types External Insulation Contract 1706.

The report reminded members that at the meeting of the Committee on 30 March, 2017 consideration was given to the Housing Service Work Plan and approval was given for the procurement of Macrae House Types. Thereafter a competitive tender exercise was carried out.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) approve the project cost of £3,612,216.38 inclusive of associated costs, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) authorise acceptance of the tender submitted by Insulated Render System (Scotland) Ltd, in the amount of £3,235,600.38, after correction and Value Engineering adjustment.

14. HARD FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (HARD FM) UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 17 November, 2016 (Item 39) when it had been agreed to award the Hard Facilities Management (HardFM) contract to FES FM Ltd, there was circulated a report dated 22 January, 2018, by the Director of Business Services which provided an update on Hard Facilities Management (Hard FM).

The report detailed progress on the implementation, with information on current performance statistics, information on Key Performance Indicators and an Improvement Plan which had been agreed and was under regular review.

The Committee **agreed** to:-

- (1) acknowledge the performance of FES FM Limited under the Hard Facilities Management contract and that further updates be submitted to Committee on a quarterly basis; and
- (2) that the Director of Business Services arrange a workshop on Hard FM, for members of the Committee, to take place between Easter and summer 2019.

15. ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR HOUSING – PROCUREMENT APPROVAL

There was circulated a report dated 21 January, 2018, by the Director of Infrastructure Services on the Annual Work Plan for Housing.

The report explained that approval of items in the Work Plan was the first stage of the approval process. It was included as an appendix to the report and showed the forecasted expenditure on new contracts, goods, works and services for the next financial year.

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;
- (3) not reserve approval of the Business Case for any item on the Work Plan where the value of the matter was between £50,000 and £1,000,000;
- (4) to receive the Business Case for approval for items on the Work Plan which were within the Committee's remit and the value of the matter was over £1,000,000;
- (5) consider the Business Case/Award Report for items on the Work Plan, within the remit of this Committee and the value being over £1,000,000, detailed in Appendix 3; and
- (6) not reserve the award of the final contract for any matter over £1,000,000, and to note that the Head of Housing therefore had delegated powers to award the final contracts,

16. SUPPLEMENTARY WORK PLAN 2019-2020 ON BEHALF OF INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD - SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE OLM CAREFIRST SYSTEM

There was circulated a report dated 29 January, 2019, by the Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership on the Supplementary Work Plan 2019/20, on behalf of the Integration Joint Board, for support and maintenance contract extension for the Olm Carefirst System.

The report explained that a report entitled Supplementary Work Plan 2019/20 CareFirst System would be presented to the Integration Joint Board at their meeting on 27 February, 2019. A copy of the report was included as an appendix.

The Committee **agreed** to delegate to the Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board, following consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and opposition spokesperson of the Communities Committee, the approval of the Supplementary Work Plan, appended to the report, and approval of the business case, subject to a Direction being given by the Integration Joint Board.

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