

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 21 NOVEMBER, 2019

Present: Councillors K Adam, D Aitchison, A Allan, P Argyle, N Baillie, D Beagrie, L Berry, A Bews, G Blackett, R Bruce, C Buchan, S Calder, G Carr, R Cassie, I Davidson, S Dickinson, E Durno, A Evison, M Ewenson, A Fakley, M Findlater, M Ford, A Forsyth, P Gibb, J Gifford, V Harper, A Hassan, W Howatson, J Hutchison, M Ingleby, J Ingram, P Johnston, A Kloppert, A Kille, J Latham, R McKail, A McKelvie, D Mair, I Mollison, G Owen, C Pike, G Reid, G Reynolds, D Robertson, M Roy, A Simpson, N Smith, S Smith, A Stirling, I Sutherland, I Taylor, R Thomson, I Walker, L Wilson and J Whyte.

Apologies: Councillors Agnew, A Buchan, M Buchan, Cox, Duncan, Hood, Leslie, Lonchay, Partridge, Petrie (maternity leave), Ross, H Smith, Topping, Wallace and Withey.

Officers: Chief Executive, Director of Education and Children's Services, Acting Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance, Head of Economic Development and Protective Services and Principal Committee Services Officer.

CHAIR

Councillor W Howatson, Provost of the Council, presided.

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Provost asked members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the following declaration was intimated –

- (1) Item 3 – Councillor Ford declared an interest as his partner is a Member of a Community Council and left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof.

2. RESOLUTION - PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Council **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.

3. REVIEW OF THE SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Council of 28 September, 2017 (Item 9) when the current Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils had been approved and it had been agreed that a light touch assessment of the Scheme be scheduled for January 2019, there had been circulated a report dated 30 October, 2019 by the Director of Business Services explaining the reasons for the delay in completing the light touch assessment at the request of Community Councils and detailing (1) responses from Community Councils to the light touch assessment undertaken, as detailed in Appendix 1, (2) proposed improvements to the Scheme taking into account the responses from Community Councils, as detailed in Appendix 2, and (3) the statutory process to be followed should a review of the Scheme as proposed be supported.

Having heard from the Head of Legal and Governance on the detail of the statutory review process, the proposed amendments to the Scheme and the requirement for a two thirds majority of members present and voting to support any decision to review the Scheme, the Council unanimously **agreed**:

- (1) to commence a Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in accordance with Section 53 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, on the basis of the proposals in Appendix 2 of the report and in accordance with the process detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.