

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**SPECIAL MEETING****SKYPE MEETING, 6 OCTOBER, 2021**

Present: Councillors W Agnew, D Aitchison, A Allan, P Argyle, N Baillie, D Beagrie, L Berry, G Blackett, R Bruce, C Buchan, M Buchan, S Calder, G Carr, R Cassie, J Cox, I Davidson, S Dickinson, A Duncan, E Durno, A Evison, M Ewenson, A Fakley, M Findlater, M Ford, A Forsyth, P Gibb, V Harper, A Hassan, W Howatson, J Hutchison, M Ingleby, P Johnston, A Kille, D Keating, A Kloppert, J Latham, S Leslie, D Lonchay, L McAllister, R McKail, A McKelvie, D Mair, I Mollison, G Owen, G Petrie, S Powell, G Reid, G Reynolds, D Robertson, A Ross, M Roy, A Simpson, H Smith, N Smith, S Smith, A Stirling, I Sutherland, I Taylor, B Topping, I Walker, R Withey and J Whyte.

Apologies: Councillors A Bews, A Buchan, J Gifford, J Ingram, H Partridge, C Pike, A Wallace and L Wilson.

Officers: Chief Executive, Director of Business Services, Director of Education and Children's Services, Director of Infrastructure Services, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, Head of Service, Legal and People, Head of Service, Customer & Digital Services, Interim Head of Service, Finance, Head of Service, Planning and Environment 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. The following declarations were intimated in respect of Item 3 –

- (1) Councillor Baillie by virtue of being a support worker and having applied the objective test concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant would remain and participate;
- (2) Councillor Johnston by virtue of a family member employed in Education and Children's Services and having applied the objective test concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant would remain and participate;
- (3) Councillor Cassie by virtue of a family member employed in the Care sector and having applied the objective test concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant would remain and participate; and
- (4) Councillor Evison as President of COSLA and having applied the objective test concluded that the interest was so remote and insignificant would remain and participate.

2. STATEMENT ON EQUALITIES

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. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL CARE SERVICE FOR SCOTLAND

There had been circulated a report dated 21 September, 2021 by the Director of Business Services seeking consideration and comment on the Aberdeenshire Council response to the Scottish Government Consultation on a National Care Service as detailed in Appendix 2. The report (1) noted that an Independent Review into Adult Social Care (IRASC) had been published in 2020 as part of the Scottish Government Programme for Government with the aim of securing improvements to adult social care in Scotland, (2) highlighted that one of the recommendations of the IRASC had been the concept of a National Care Service, the founding principles being the need to create a system that was controlled nationally, delivered locally, had the person at the centre and was affordable; (3) explained that the Scottish Government on 9 August, 2021 had published its consultation on a National Care Service, following the recommendations of the IRASC, (4) advised that an executive summary had been developed taking account of feedback on the proposals from Elected Members, as detailed in Appendix 1, and (5) sought consideration and approval of the draft response to the Consultation as detailed in Appendix 2.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and the Council heard from the Director of Education and Children's Services and from the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership on the far reaching proposals.

Following a full discussion, the Council **agreed**:

- (1) to approve the Council response to the Scottish Government Consultation on a National Care Service attached as Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) to note that the response deadline was 2 November 2021; and
- (3) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to submit the final response following consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Policy Chairs, Opposition Leader and Opposition spokespersons for Communities and Education and Children's Services Committees in terms of the Scheme of Governance.