

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 26 June 2024.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Deputy Provost Kate Campbell	Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Betty Cunningham*	Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Gordon Wallace*
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Provost Montague in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Julie Murray, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Lesleyann Burns, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance.

Apologies:

Councillors Angela Convery, Paul Edlin, Annette Ireland, David Macdonald and Jim McLean.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

888. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 APRIL 2024

889. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 24 April 2024.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

890. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Cabinet – 25 April 2024;
- (b) Appointments Committee – 29 April 2024;
- (c) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 9 May 2024;
- (d) Licensing Committee – 14 May 2024;
- (e) Cabinet – 30 May 2024;
- (f) Appointments Committee – 30 May 2024;
- (g) Local Review Body – 5 June 2024;
- (h) Education Committee – 6 June 2024;
- (i) Licensing Committee – 11 June 2024;
- (j) Cabinet (Police & Fire) – 13 June 2024
- (k) Cabinet – 20 June 2024;
- (l) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 20 June 2024; and
- (m) Appeals Committee – 21 June 2024

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BODIES AND COMMITTEES

891. The Provost confirmed that no statements from Conveners or Representatives on Joint Bodies and Committees were being given at this meeting.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

892. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Montague since the meeting on 24 April 2024.

The Council noted the report.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

893. The Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) recommending adjustments to the 2024/25 General Fund Capital Programme resulting from finalisation of the previous year's programme and in light of subsequent information.

The report also provided details of a shortfall of £211,000, the reasons for which were fully outlined in the report.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) note and approve the movements within the programme; and
- (b) note the shortfall of £211,000 and that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

894. The Council considered a joint report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) and Director of Environment recommending adjustments to the 2024/25 Housing Capital Programme resulting from the finalisation of the previous year's programme and in light of subsequent information.

The report also provided details of a shortfall of £143,000, the reasons for which were fully outlined in the report.

The report also detailed developments within the programme, including receipts from land disposal and the new build programme where there were proposed revisions to Council expenditure.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) note and approve the current movements within the programme;
- (b) approve the revised new build expenditure plans at Barrhead Road, Commercial Road and Maidenhill with an overall expenditure increase in the current year of £4.694m;
- (c) approved increasing the expenditure in the current year on site acquisition and investigation by £0.300m, to be funded by Commuted Sums;
- (d) approved increasing expenditure in the current year by £1.336m to meet investment priorities on existing housing stock; and
- (e) noted the shortfall of £143,000 and that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HRA LAND TRANSFER AND LEASE FOR CITY DEAL FUNDED BALGRAY STATION

895. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for: transfer of ownership of two small pockets of land held in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to Network Rail for a nominal fee (the areas shaded in purple in Appendix 1 to the report); and to enter into a 175-year lease with Network Rail, for a peppercorn rent, to transfer a larger area of HRA land to be used as the car park for Balgray Station (the area outlined in pink in Appendix 1 to the report).

A City Deal investment package of £44 million had been agreed for East Renfrewshire with contributions from Scottish and UK Governments totalling £38 million, as well as a capital contribution from the Council of £6 million

The Council agreed to:

- (a) approve the revised Development Plan Scheme for publication and submission to Scottish Ministers;
- (b) delegate to the Director of Environment authority to approve any minor inconsequential changes to the documents, in line with Council policy, prior to submission to Scottish Ministers; and
- (c) note that the Director of Environment would confirm the position on the membership of the Member Officer working Group to Councillor Devlin.

CHANGE TO SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION – APPEALS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

896. The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships regarding a proposed change to the Council's Scheme of Administration to provide for increased membership of the Appeals Committee to ensure that final determination of disciplinary appeals could take place within an appropriate timeframe.

The Council had seen a rise in the number of appeals over the preceding 2 years, which had placed some pressure on officers of Democratic Service in identifying suitable dates for hearings which accommodated the availability of all parties concerned, including appellants and their representatives, witnesses, and members of the committee. In some cases, hearings had been required to be delayed for periods of up to 3 months to identify a suitable date.

To minimise the potential for continuation of such delays, it was proposed that the pool from which committee members were drawn be extended to encompass all elected members, with the quorum continuing as 3 members. Training in the relevant employment matters would be provided to all members to ensure they had relevant knowledge prior to being asked to sit on a Committee.

The Council agreed to amend paragraph 2 of the Scheme of Administration to change the membership of the Appeals Committee from "5 Elected Members" to "All Elected Members save for, in any given case, those members holding convenorships reflective of the service to which the appellant belongs or belonged prior to dismissal".

PROVOST