

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 1 May 2019.

Present:

Provost Jim Fletcher	Councillor Annette Ireland
Councillor Paul Aitken	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor David Macdonald
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Angela Convery	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Gordon Wallace

Provost Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Fiona Morrison, Head of Education Services (Provision and Resources); Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Graeme Smith, Communications Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Depute Provost Betty Cunningham, and Councillor Jim Swift.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

865. Councillors Grant, Merrick and O’Kane declared a non-financial interest in relation to Item 872 by virtue of the fact that they were members of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Board.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

866. The Council, having heard Councillor Bamforth, considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 28 February 2019 subject to the first paragraph on page 750 (Item 804) being amended to reflect that Audit Scotland had commented that East Renfrewshire Council’s current level of borrowing was one of the lowest in Scotland.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

867. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted, except as otherwise referred to in Item 868 below:-

- (a) Planning Applications Committee – 13 March 2019;
- (b) Local Review Body – 13 March 2019;
- (c) Cabinet – 14 March 2019;
- (d) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 14 March 2019;
- (e) Licensing Committee – 19 March 2019;
- (f) Appeals Committee – 21 March 2019;
- (g) Education Committee – 28 March 2019;
- (h) Cabinet – 4 April 2019;
- (i) Planning Applications Committee – 10 April 2019;
- (j) Licensing Committee – 16 April 2019;
- (k) Cabinet – 25 April 2019.

CABINET – 14 MARCH 2019 – REQUEST TO RECORD PROCEEDINGS

868. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 14 March 2019 (Page 771, Item 818 refers), Councillor Macdonald, referring to a request to record proceedings which had been refused, sought clarification regarding the reason why the request to audio record had been refused; why the reason had not been recorded in the Minute of the meeting; and why there was a disparity in dealing with these requests at different meetings.

In reply, Provost Fletcher commented that it was up to committees to consider each request on its own merits. Referring to the meeting in question, Councillor Buchanan advised that all members in attendance had agreed that the meeting should not be audio recorded as the Minute provided a record of the discussions which took place.

The Council noted the comments made.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

869. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 14 March 2019 (Page 773, Item 822 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2018/19 be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, recommending adjustments to the 2018/19 General Fund Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the General Fund Capital Programme 2018/19; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £318,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19

870. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 14 March 2019 (Page 773, Item 823 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed

adjustments to the Housing Capital Programme 2018/19 be approved, the Council considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Environment, recommending adjustments to the 2018/19 Housing Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the Housing Capital Programme 2018/19; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £85,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS/REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES

871. The following statements were made:-

(a) **Integration Joint Board – Councillor Bamforth**

Councillor Bamforth reported that at the Integration Joint Board (IJB) meetings on 20 March and 1 May, the Board had received an update from the Chief Financial Officer on the national budget settlement and agreed the Integration Joint Board budget for 2019/20.

Councillor Bamforth also explained that the IJB had received updates on the Family Wellbeing Service; Care at Home Service; and Corporate Parenting Plan. The IJB also agreed that the partnership would host the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Services which provided equipment and support to those individuals who had little or no clear speech, and also agreed the response to the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care self-evaluation. She advised that Anne-Marie Monaghan had recently been appointed as the new Chair of the IJB, taking over from Morag Brown whose contribution to the IJB was recognised. The IJB also expressed their thanks to Dr Craig Masson who had stepped down as Clinical Director.

It was confirmed that the next IJB meeting was scheduled to take place on 26 June 2019.

The Council noted the position.

(b) **Community Services and Community Safety – Councillor Merrick**

Councillor Merrick reported that the Culture and Leisure Trust had invested in new technology at Eastwood Theatre which had led to the launch of the National Theatre Live programme. A sell out audience had enjoyed a live broadcast of All about Eve and a further programme of performances was scheduled.

Councillor Merrick also reported on his attendance at the third East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Staff Recognition Awards at Eastwood House. The awards had recognised Team Work, Professionalism, the Pursuit of Excellence, Customer Service and Commitment to the Community. Further awards were given for Team of the Year, Young Employee of the Year and the Chair's Award for Outstanding Contribution.

Councillor Merrick then referred to the Active Schools programme which had been running since 2004 and was designed to provide more and higher quality opportunities for children and young people to take part in physical activity before and after lessons and during lunchtimes. He advised that the programme was delivered on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council by the Leisure Trust and the latest data from **sportscotland** showed that Active Schools sessions in East Renfrewshire were at their highest ever levels. **Sportscotland** had recently confirmed that East Renfrewshire would be one of the few authorities in Scotland to receive funding for a further four years.

The Council noted the position.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST BOARD APPOINTMENTS

872. The Council considered a report by the Director of Education seeking the nomination of a new independent board member for the Trust following a recent resignation, and seeking the appointment of a replacement Elected Member on the Trust Board following the resignation of Councillor Devlin.

The report explained that as there were no suitable candidates on the register for independent positions at the time of the vacancy an open recruitment exercise had been conducted to identify a suitable candidate for the vacant position, and potential future candidates for any subsequent vacancies which may arise in future. A consultant was retained to run the recruitment campaign and, following an interview by a committee consisting of five board members, Mr Rob Crusher was chosen as the preferred candidate. Mr Crusher's relevant skills and experience were outlined.

It was further reported that Councillor Devlin had recently tendered his resignation from the Trust Board and the Council was asked to consider the appointment of a replacement Elected Member. Councillor Merrick, seconded by Councillor O'Kane, proposed that Provost Fletcher be appointed to the Trust Board. There were no other nominations.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the recommendation of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Board's nominated candidate, Mr Rob Crusher, in accordance with the Trust Articles of Association; and
- (b) that Provost Fletcher be appointed as Council Devlin's replacement on the Trust Board.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

873. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Fletcher since the previous meeting.

Further to the report Provost Fletcher reported that he had recently met with two individuals from the town of Barrhead, Alberta, Canada who were touring Scotland and who had been asked by the Mayor of that town to present a letter and small gifts to the Provost of East Renfrewshire. The Provost gave the individuals a letter containing good wishes from East Renfrewshire to pass on to the Mayor on their return to Barrhead.

Provost Fletcher read out the letter from the Mayor and advised Elected Members that a copy of the local newspaper, postcards and badges from the town were available to view in Members' Services.

The Council noted the report and comments made.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

874. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 31 October 2018 (Page 592, Item 661 refers), when it was agreed that a revised Vision for the Future document would be brought back to the Council for approval, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive seeking consideration of a draft revision of "Vision for the Future", setting out the long-term ambitions for the work of East Renfrewshire Council based on a horizon of 10 years.

The report explained that significant work had been undertaken to improve the integration of strategic and operational planning and the refreshed "Vision for the Future" document would sit under the Community Plan and above the Outcome Delivery Plan, setting out the Council's long-term strategy and plans to deliver its part of the Community Plan. The "Vision for the Future" document was considered to be an early draft which would allow further conversations on the broader strategic context and ambitions for East Renfrewshire to take place over the summer and into the autumn. Initial work would consider "Vision for the Future" in the context of equality impact and Fairer Scotland assessments.

In response to questions, the Director of Environment advised that developers would be encouraged to include sufficient electric car charging facilities within any new-build developments as part of the policies contained with LDP2. He further advised that no decisions had been made about any future developments at Shawwood and an options report and associated master planning report on the future of Eastwood Park would be submitted to the Council in due course, although no firm date for submission could be provided at the present time. He added that development of Eastwood Park may include consideration of a themed campus with a further education element, but this was a visionary aspiration and no firm conclusions had yet been reached. The Chief Executive clarified that the word campus had been used to describe Eastwood Park as a whole and did not necessarily relate solely to educational facilities.

Having heard a number of Members commend the report, the Chief Executive confirmed that comments on the early draft of the document would be sought over the next few months; work would continue on LDP2, education provision, the master planning of Eastwood Park, and the provision of leisure facilities; and briefings for Elected Members would be provided.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note the updated outcomes, capabilities and values which made up the overarching strategy;
- (b) to further development of "Vision for the Future" taking into account the ongoing work on the Local Development Plan, the refreshed Capital Investment Strategy and City Region economic planning; and
- (c) otherwise, to note the comments made.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS – CHANGES TO POLLING PLACES

875. The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive advising of changes to two polling places at the forthcoming European parliamentary elections due to unavailability of the approved polling places.

The report explained that a review of the current polling scheme was underway and, due to the uncertainty at the time around participation in the European parliamentary elections, the election team had carried out a review of existing polling places to ascertain their availability. During the review it was established that Crookfur Pavilion and Mearns Parish Church Hall would be unavailable and potential alternatives within the area were identified as Broom Parish Church and the Lygates Building. Under previously approved delegated powers, the Chief Executive had approved the decision to use Broom Parish Church and the Lygates Building for the forthcoming European parliamentary elections.

The Council noted:-

- (a) the use of Broom Parish Church and the Lygates Building as replacements for Crookfur Pavilion and Mearns Parish Church Hall respectively at the forthcoming European parliamentary elections; and
- (b) that the changes had been made by the Chief Executive under the delegated powers granted by the Council in February 2014.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020

876. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval for the 2020 meetings calendar.

Whilst noting that in terms of the Council's Standing Orders, it was necessary for the full Council to approve the calendar subject to the ability of committees to revise dates thereafter, the report highlighted that in recent years, due to the late approval of the Scottish Government Budget and the subsequent late confirmation of Local Government funding levels, it had been necessary for the originally scheduled Budget Meeting to be cancelled and re-arranged at relatively short notice.

The report proposed that given the problems experienced in the past, the scheduled Budget Meeting had been amended in 2019 to the end of February at which time it was expected that funding levels would have been confirmed before then and so the need for cancelling and re-arranging the meeting would be eliminated or at the very least minimised. As this arrangement had worked satisfactorily in 2019, it was proposed to continue this arrangement in 2020. It was further reported that appropriate dates had been built into the calendar in relation to the timing of the presentation of the Treasury Management Strategy; the draft Annual Accounts; and the final Annual Accounts.

The Council approved the 2020 meetings calendar.