

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 13 December 2017.

Present:

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

Provost Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Julie Murray, Chief Officer - Health and Social Care Partnership; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Sharon Beattie, Head of HR, Customer and Communications; Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Gillian McCarney, Strategic Services Manager; Emma Edwards, Communications Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Group Manager Paul Devlin, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; and Anthony McReavy, Chief Executive, East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure.

Apology:

Depute Provost Betty Cunningham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

252. Councillors Devlin, Grant, Merrick and O’Kane declared a non-financial interest in item 270 below by virtue of their membership of the Board of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust.

Variation to Order of Business

In accordance with the terms of Standing Order 19, Provost Fletcher altered the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting it being noted that he proposed to take Agenda Item 12 – East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan after Agenda Item 3 – Presentation of Provost’s Award, and to take Agenda Item 15 – Financial Controls after Agenda Item 7 – Items Remitted to the Council.

PRESENTATION OF PROVOST’S AWARD TO ANNE-MARIE KENNEDY

253. Provost Fletcher welcomed to the meeting Anne-Marie Kennedy, her family and guests and advised that Mrs Kennedy was the recipient of the Provost’s Award 2017.

Provost Fletcher explained that Mrs Kennedy had contributed to a number of organisations in East Renfrewshire over many years including Community Transport and as Chair of Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire. She had dedicated many years of her life to promoting good deeds throughout East Renfrewshire and managed 47 volunteer drivers within the community transport service allowing members of the public with no access to transport to attend medical appointments and to access other community events and activities keeping them connected to their local community. She had successfully raised funds to purchase 3 accessible people carriers ensuring that those less able in society could attend local events and appointments. She was passionate about patient welfare and had taken part in cleanliness inspections of hospital wards and had chaired the local patient/user partnership group. She was also a regular attendee at Community Planning Partnership meetings. These examples were only a small fraction of what Mrs Kennedy had achieved for her local community over many years and the award was undoubtedly well deserved.

Thereafter, Provost Fletcher presented the award to Mrs Kennedy.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN

254. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet (Police and Fire) of 26 November 2017 (Page 218, Item 237 refers), when it was agreed that the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for East Renfrewshire 2017 be submitted to the meeting of the Council on 13 December for approval, the Council considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017.

The plan had been developed to support the delivery of local outcomes for East Renfrewshire’s communities in conjunction with the national priorities contained in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Plan 2016-2019. The plan provided information on the local area, including a review of operational activity across East Renfrewshire, and local priorities for East Renfrewshire were outlined including Domestic Fire Safety; Unintentional Harm and Injury; Deliberate Fire Setting; and Non-Domestic Fire Safety, amongst other things. It was further reported that, in order to remain flexible to local and national priorities, the plan would be reviewed at least every three years and sooner if required.

The Council approved the East Renfrewshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

255. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings held on 25 October and 21 November 2017.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

256. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted, except as otherwise referred to in Items 257 and 258 below:-

- (a) Cabinet – 26 October 2017;
- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 1 November 2017;
- (c) Local Review Body – 1 November 2017;
- (d) Cabinet – 9 November 2017;
- (e) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 9 November 2017;
- (f) Education Committee – 16 November 2017;
- (g) Licensing Committee – 21 November 2017;
- (h) Planning Applications Committee – 21 November 2017;
- (i) Cabinet (Police and Fire) – 23 November 2017;
- (j) Cabinet – 30 November 2017; and
- (k) Cabinet – 7 December 2017.

CABINET – 7 DECEMBER 2017 – EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE/CAMPUS

257. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 7 December 2017 (Page 232, Item 250 refers), when it was agreed to undertake a public consultation exercise with regard to the 4 options outlined in the report, Councillor Grant proposed that the consultation should be carried out as widely as possible and include a list of any potential sites for the new build option (Option 4).

In response, the Director of Environment confirmed that the consultation process would be carried out as widely as possible and could include information on possible sites for Option 4, although he emphasised that a view on the most appropriate site for any new build would not form part of the consultation process. Referring to discussions which had taken place in the past regarding refurbishment of the leisure centre, Councillor Wallace expressed concern that refurbishment had not taken place earlier and a further report on the future of the leisure centre, which was expected in February 2017, had been delayed. He referred to a comment made by the previous Leader of the Council prior to the local elections in 2017 stating that there was a determination by the Council to ensure that the leisure centre would be refurbished or rebuilt. However, Councillor Wallace understood that the footprint of the proposed new build leisure centre was too large to ensure that the leisure centre would remain within Eastwood Park. In response, Provost Fletcher added that his preference would be for the leisure centre to remain within Eastwood Park but accepted that a different site may offer the best facilities for local people, and that is what the consultation process would determine.

Further discussion took place on the consultation process and option costs, following which the Director of Environment advised that information on all costs, including revenue costs, could form part of the consultation document and confirmed that, if Option 4 was subsequently chosen as the preferred option, any consideration of the location of the leisure centre would become part of the future planning process.

The Council noted the information.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 16 NOVEMBER 2017 – SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

258. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 16 November 2017 (Page 201, Item 226 refers), when the committee noted the update and comments made, Councillor Wallace sought clarification regarding some of the comments made about attainment in both Barrhead High School and St. Luke's High School and whether or not the differences were as a result of family affluence or teaching methods. In response, the Director of Education confirmed that both were contributory factors.

The Council noted the information.

INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2017/18

259. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee of 9 November 2017 (Page 194, Item 220 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that the organisations listed in the report for investment of surplus funds be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, providing details about the Council's treasury management activities for the first 6 months of 2017/18.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the interim Treasury Management Report 2017/18; and
- (b) approved the use of the organisations listed at Appendix II to the report for the investment of surplus funds.

STRATEGIC MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017-18 – COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND COUNCIL PERFORMANCE

260. Under reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet of 30 November 2017 (Page 220, Item 242 refers), when it was agreed that the report be remitted to the Council for further consideration, the Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive providing a summary of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and Council mid-year performance in 2017/18 based on performance indicators in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and Outcome Delivery Plan (ODP) 2017-20.

In response to questions, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that Scottish Public Services Ombudsman data had not been included as this was a mid-year report and that the mid-year status had also affected some of the other data referred to within the report. She added that any changes would be reflected in the end-year report which would be submitted in due course.

The Council noted the report.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

261. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 30 November 2017 (Page 222, Item 245 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2017/18 be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer recommending adjustments to the 2017/18 General Fund Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

Referring to the costs associated with Eastwood Leisure Centre, Councillor Swift sought clarification on the accuracy of the costs contained within the capital programme. In response, the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) advised that there were a number of ways to provide assurance in the programme, which was often planned very far in advance, including an annual review of the programme by the Corporate Asset Management Group and regular progress updates within capital reports.

In response to further questions, Councillor Buchanan confirmed that the units in Barrhead were now fully operational and occupied, and although there had been some slippage with the timetable for completion of the rail halt in Barrhead which was outwith the Council's control, work on the project continued.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £225,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

262. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 30 November 2017 (Page 223, Item 246 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed adjustments to the Housing Capital Programme 2017/18 be approved, the Council considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Environment, recommending adjustments to the 2017/18 Housing Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £55,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

BARRHEAD FOUNDRY REFURBISHMENT 2017/18

263. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 30 November 2017 (Page 223, Item 247 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that an increase of £246,000 to the previously agreed budget allocation for the Barrhead Foundry in the General Fund Capital Plan be approved to cover the increased contract costs and also the proposed works at Neilston Pool to be phased in as appropriate over 2017/18 and 2018/19, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment recommending an increase to the previously agreed budget allocation.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the increased provision of £246,000 for the Barrhead Foundry in the General Fund Capital Plan to cover the increased contract costs; and
- (b) that the proposed works at Neilston Pool be phased as appropriate over 2017/18 and 2018/19.

FINANCIAL CONTROLS

264. The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing information on the present responsibilities of officers and Elected Members for the financial management of the Council and for the reporting of financial and audit matters to the Council.

The report provided information on the roles of the Section 95 Officer; Chief Auditor; Audit & Scrutiny Committee; and the External Auditor for clarification. Reference was also made to the updated Financial Regulations which were approved by Council in June 2017 which included information on the Council's budgetary control; financial controls; financial systems, and the reporting procedures in place.

Councillor Swift advised that as the information contained within this report provided clarification on financial controls, he would seek to withdraw Motion No. 2 on the agenda relating to financial thresholds and timelines at the appropriate time. However, he highlighted that a number of serious financial failures had taken place within the Council in recent years, with the loss of thousands of pounds, and some Elected Members had only been made aware of these failures through the local and national press and that this should not be allowed to happen again. He further advised that, had Elected Members known about the losses earlier, they could have insisted on changes being made earlier.

He further highlighted that the credit control function had moved between four different services in the previous four years; staff turnover was high; and procedures were not being adhered to, which had led to a number of mistakes being made. In addition local businesses had been affected as payments were often delayed or underpayments made. He recognised that some improvements had been made but highlighted that more required to be done to ensure that adequate financial procedures were in place and being followed.

The Council noted:-

- (a) the background information on the roles of the Section 95 Officer, the Chief Auditor, External Auditor and the Audit and Scrutiny Committee with regard to financial controls; and
- (b) the established reporting procedures associated with financial controls in the Council.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 1

265. In accordance with Standing Order 25, the following notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Swift, seconded by Councillor Miller.

“East Renfrewshire Council deplores the comments made by Councillor Buchanan in his first debate as Council leader where he smeared the opposition Conservative Councillor Jim Swift with a false accusation. This attributed to Councillor Swift that he sought a 5% reduction in education budget to pay for roads improvements at a local community council event (the comment was minuted and attributed to someone else). It is even more regrettable that the Leader of the Council was unwilling to apologise for the lie that besmirched his fellow Councillor, when asked for an apology at the last Council meeting.”

Councillor Buchanan advised that he had previously apologised to Councillor Swift for the comments made, and apologised again for any distress caused, following which Councillor Swift accepted the apology and with the agreement of Councillor Miller agreed to withdraw the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION No. 2

266. In accordance with Standing Order 25, the following notice of motion had been submitted by Councillor Swift, seconded by Councillor Miller.

“Financial thresholds and timelines

The Leader of the Council at the last meeting gave partial information on the thresholds above which serious failures in financial controls would be submitted to certain elected members. As every Councillor has a duty to ensure that the Council maintains its fiduciary duties, accordingly we all have a right to know.

To that end we believe that all Councillors should be informed about failures in financial controls as per the following criteria and within the following timelines:-

1. A failure in financial controls and an actual loss to the Council of £5,000 or more should be communicated by e-mail or writing to all Councillors within 14 days of the event being uncovered.
2. A failure in financial controls with no loss to the Council, but the Council was at risk of a loss above £20,000 as agreed by internal audit should be communicated to all elected members within 14 days of the event being uncovered.
3. All other failures in financial controls should be communicated to the Chair of Audit and Leader of the Council within 28 days.”

As referred to at item 264 above on financial controls, Councillor Swift with the agreement of Councillor Miller agreed to withdraw the motion.

PROVOST’S ENGAGEMENTS

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

STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

268. The following statements were made:-

(a) Integration Joint Board

Councillor Bamforth referred to the meeting of the Integration Joint Board held on 29 November 2017 when it was reported that, as an attempt to sell Bonnyton House had been unsuccessful, a number options for the future of Bonnyton House were submitted for consideration. She advised that the IJB

had agreed to approve the option to retain Bonnyton House and to remodel the services provided there, which would include a palliative care unit. She advised that existing staff would work with GPs and other services, including the Care Inspectorate, as appropriate, to pull together the services required for Bonnyton House and a further report would be submitted to the IJB in April 2018.

The Council noted the position.

(b) **Education establishments**

Councillor O’Kane reported that he had recently attended the official opening of the new Joint Faith Campus in Newton Mearns, consisting of St. Clare’s and Calderwood Lodge Primary Schools, and earlier that day he had attended the official opening of the refurbished and extended Crookfur Primary School. He expressed his thanks to everyone involved in both events and wished the school communities well for the future.

The Council noted the position.

AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT MEMBER

269. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking the appointment of a new member to serve on the Audit & Scrutiny Committee following the resignation of Councillor Aitken.

The Council agreed that Councillor Swift be appointed as the new member to serve on the Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE CULTURE AND LEISURE TRUST - BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19

270. The Council considered a report by the Director of Education seeking approval of the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL) 2018/19 Business Plan. A copy of the Business Plan was appended to the report.

The report explained that the East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust was established as an independent charity, registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 1 July 2015. The charitable objectives of the Trust were laid out in the *Articles of Association*, details of which were outlined in the report.

Furthermore, a business planning process was outlined in the Services Agreement between the Trust and the Council that vested the Trust with the assets to deliver culture and leisure services on behalf of the Council. It was noted that as part of the agreement an annual business plan would be presented to the Council not less than three months before the beginning of the financial year. The Trust’s first Business Plan and budget was submitted in February 2016 in recognition that the Trust was constituted in July 2015.

The report explained that the third East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Business Plan gave a clear strategic direction that was in accordance with the Council’s strategies and was supported by detailed operational plans which delivered the Council’s objectives under the Single Outcome Agreement and would guide the work of the Trust and its staff to deliver high quality services to the residents and communities of East Renfrewshire.

The Council approved the proposed Business Plan for 2018/19, subject to the budget being confirmed at the Council's budget meeting.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL – BEST VALUE ASSURANCE REPORT

271. The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive, presenting the Council's Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) published in November 2017 following an audit of Best Value carried out by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission, and setting out the main findings of the audit; key recommendations and a proposed action plan to address the report's recommendations. A copy of the Best Value Assurance Report was appended to the report.

The report explained that a new approach to the audit of best value had been introduced, based on a five year audit programme, and six councils, including East Renfrewshire, had been selected to participate in the new approach. The scope of the audit was wide ranging and a number of key areas were selected including the Council's vision; financial management; financial planning; and community engagement, amongst other things. The audit was carried out between March and August 2017, and involved a mix of evidence gathering, desk-based research and data analysis. A range of meetings, including Cabinet and Audit & Scrutiny Committee were observed, and staff focus groups were carried out.

East Renfrewshire's Best Value Assurance Report was considered by the Accounts Commission on 12 October 2017 and published by Audit Scotland on 7 November 2017. Five recommendations had been made and an action plan had been developed to set out the key actions to be progressed. It was reported that the Council had a strong culture of continuous improvement and the BVAR reflected the significant progress which had been made across the Council in recent years. It was highlighted that a wide range of areas demonstrated sector-leading practice with some areas of challenge highlighted for future years which were already being focussed on with community partners and in self-evaluation work. The report captured the value that the Council placed on working closely with partners to ensure effective collaboration for the good of all residents.

Councillor Buchanan explained that this had been a long, arduous process, but a number of strengths and sector-leading practices had been highlighted, including in Education and Children's Services. The report referred to a clear vision and strategic direction and the generally good working relationships between Elected Members and the Corporate Management Team. A number of areas for monitoring were highlighted, including better scrutiny of committee papers, and he reported that training for Elected Members would take place in early 2018. He expressed his thanks to staff, community partners and external auditors for their involvement in this process.

A full discussion took place in the course of which it was highlighted that all Elected Members were responsible for scrutiny within the Council and that open debate was necessary to ensure that effective decisions were being made. It was further highlighted that officers should consider the scrutiny process when creating policies to allow processes to be fully transparent.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the findings and recommendations of the Council's Best Value Assurance Report;
- (b) approve the action plan listed in Appendix 2; and

- (c) approve the arrangements for monitoring progress on the action plan as referred to in the report.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2 (MAIN ISSUES REPORT) CONSULTATION

272. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment providing an update in relation to the outcome of the consultation on the Main Issues Report (MIR) for Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).

It was explained that a consultation exercise on the MIR was carried out between 30 November 2016 and 8 February 2017, which highlighted the vision, ideas and challenges for future development within East Renfrewshire and set out officers' suggested options and possible alternatives. A total of 692 responses were received from a variety of sources including consultants, key agencies and members of the public, with the majority of comments and objections focussing on Issue 2 – Managing and Enabling Growth.

The range of issues raised through the consultation were outlined and it was reported that the responses received would help to develop and shape the best strategy and mix of development sites for East Renfrewshire and would inform the proposed Plan programmed for summer 2018. The proposed Plan (LDP2) with recommendations would be submitted to the Council in due course.

Councillor Swift emphasised that the majority of representations on the MIR related to the possible development site at Broomburn Drive, as many local residents believed that any development would result in parking and access problems and would remove the only local green space. He referred to the Best Value Assurance report which had highlighted that the Council should listen closely to residents and take their views into consideration when making decisions.

The Council noted:-

- (a) the consultation responses received in relation to the Main Issues Report as summarised in Appendix 3; and
- (b) that further research and analysis would be carried out to inform the approach towards education needs and provision for the Proposed Plan, which would result in a delay in publication.

REVIEW OF BUDGETING

273. The Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) explaining the main reasons for historic underspends and advising of past and future actions to align budgeted and actual spending.

It was explained that departmental expenditure and income were generally well controlled with only a small number of significant variances. A major contributor to underspends were centrally held, corporate budgets, as it was difficult to predict one-off costs associated with redundancy and early retirement, and variations in financial costs (loan charges) relating to the Council's capital plan. It was reported that actions had been taken prior to setting the 2017/18 budget to reduce underspends and further actions would be taken in 2018/19 and in future budget planning when the final underspend each year would be reviewed. It was

recognised that the Council's prudent historic approach to budget setting was no longer appropriate in view of the current financial outlook, and that a slightly less risk averse approach should be adopted.

The Council noted:-

- (a) the reasons for historic underspends;
- (b) the resulting actions taken in setting the 2017/18 revenue budget;
- (c) subsequent transfers of centrally held budgets during 2017/18;
- (d) the actions taken in compiling 2018/19 budget proposals; and
- (e) that consideration would be given to utilising reserves in future to permit contingency budgets to be minimised.

REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND POLICY STATEMENT

274. The Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) advising of a review of the Treasury Management Practices and Policy Statement.

The report explained that a review of Treasury Management Practices and Policy Statement took place periodically and, following the most recent review, minor changes had been made to the document mainly relating to the Council's internal structure.

In response to comments made, the Head of Accountancy advised that part of the appraisal process for new capital bids included consideration of the capital costs and revenue consequences for each project. Any revenue costs associated with capital projects would be added to departmental budgets which would be considered at the same Council meeting as the capital plan.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the content of the revised Treasury Management Practices and Treasury Management Policy Statement; and
- (b) approve the revised Treasury Management Practices and Treasury Management Policy Statement.

NAMING OF THE NEW COMMUNITY HUB IN AUCHENBACK

275. The Council considered a joint report by the Chief Officer – HSCP and Director of Education seeking agreement on a name for the new community hub in Auchenback, Barrhead.

The report explained that the vision for the community hub developed out of the Early Years Strategy which continued to address the needs of the most vulnerable children and families in East Renfrewshire. Work in the centre would continue to contribute to tackling deprivation, health inequalities and equity in educational experiences and outcomes, issues which had and continued to be championed by Sir Harry Burns, local resident and Freeman of East Renfrewshire.

It was therefore proposed that the centre be named in honour of Sir Harry Burns in recognition of his work locally, nationally and internationally

The Council agreed that the community hub in Auchenback, Barrhead be named The Sir Harry Burns Centre.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, Provost Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Buchanan, proposed that the Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, agree to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Aitken, proposed as an amendment that the press and public should not be excluded from the meeting.

Roll Call Vote

In accordance with Standing Order 32(b), Councillors Macdonald, Aitken, McLean and Swift requested a roll call vote.

On the roll being called, Provost Fletcher, and Councillors Bamforth, Buchanan, Convery, Devlin, Gilbert, Grant, Ireland, Lafferty, Merrick, Miller, O'Kane, Swift and Wallace voted for the motion.

Councillors Aitken, Macdonald and McLean voted for the amendment.

There being 14 votes for the motion and 3 votes for the amendment, the motion was declared carried and it was agreed:-

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

At this stage a number of members of the public refused to clear the gallery.

In accordance with Standing Order 15, the Provost adjourned the meeting for a short period to allow the necessary steps to be taken for the public gallery to be cleared.

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Councillor Grant left the meeting at this point.

On reconvening, with the public gallery still not being cleared, the Provost moved that the meeting be further adjourned and reconvened in Meeting Room 5. This was agreed.

CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

276. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval for a proposed restructure of Heads of Service within the Environment Department and the Health and Social Care Partnership, with associated amendments to remits.

The report explained that a total of three Strategic Reviews had been undertaken within the Environment Department and a new management structure was now in place at the level below Head of Service. The Director of Environment had concluded that the department was now ready to implement the next phase of the restructure, including a senior management review at Head of Service level as part of which it was proposed to reduce the number of Heads of Service from 3 to 2. The current and proposed management structure along with details of the proposed new remits was appended to the report.

The report further explained that, due to rising demand and the need for unprecedented savings within the HSCP, a review of structures, processes and systems had been required. Alongside a number of service reviews, a review of the senior management structure of HSCP had been undertaken and a redesign of the management structure had taken place. This had resulted in proposed changes to the current structure and remits. The current and proposed management structure along with details of the new remits of the officers was appended to the report.

Following full discussion and having heard officers in response to a number of questions, the Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the early retirement of the Head of Environment (Major Programmes and Projects) on the grounds of business efficiency, and the changes to the Head of Service remits within the management structure in the Environment Department;
- (b) approve the early retirement of the Head of Health and Community Care on the grounds of voluntary redundancy, the matching of the Chief Financial Officer into the Head of Service role, and the changes to the Head of Service remits within the HSCP management structure; and
- (c) delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Environment and Chief Officer – HSCP to make the necessary arrangements.

PROVOST

