

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 7 December 2017.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Colm Merrick

Councillor Buchanan, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Major Programmes and Projects); Andy Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); Jane Corrie, Roads and Transportation Controller; Jamie Reid, Partnership and Community Services Manager; Jen Cassells, Senior Environment Officer; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Paul O'Kane (Deputy Leader).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

248. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT 2016/17

249. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of the Council's 2016/17 climate change report for submission to Scottish Ministers, a copy of which was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 placed a range of duties on public bodies, including local authorities, to take action to mitigate against the impact of climate change, the report explained that the Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements)(Scotland) Order 2015 came into force on 23 November 2015. This placed a duty on public bodies to prepare a report, annually, in relation to compliance with the climate change duties.

The report highlighted that in terms of climate change mitigation, the Council continued to perform well achieving a further 8.2% reduction in carbon emissions against the 2015/16 baseline. A priority during 2017/18 would be for the Council to ensure that internal reporting requirements/methodology in relation to environmental sustainability took account of the new arrangements required by the new legislation. These changes would be incorporated into the revised Environmental Sustainability Strategy and action plan as an action being undertaken during 2017/18.

The Cabinet approved the Council's 2016/17 climate change report for submission to Scottish Ministers.

EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE/CAMPUS

250. The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Directors of Environment and Education, providing details about the current condition of Eastwood Park Leisure Centre, Eastwood Theatre, and Carmichael Hall and outlining options for further consideration regarding future leisure provision and the Eastwood Park Campus more generally.

The report provided background information about the measures the Council had taken since 2014 to address the deteriorating condition of Eastwood Leisure Centre. This included the commissioning of consultants, Turner and Townsend to prepare a business case supporting the establishment of a long-term vision for the facility and to outline how the leisure centre could be improved for customers whilst at the same time operating more efficiently. Details of the consultant's report that was submitted to the Council in June 2014 were outlined in the report.

Whilst noting that in December 2014 the Council had agreed to establish a leisure trust and having noted that at the Budget meeting in 2015 the Council had made provision in the General Fund Capital Plan of £6 million for the refurbishment of the leisure centre to be spread over 2018/19 and 2019/20, the report explained that it had been recognised that once the Trust was established a further review would be required.

Details of the changing environment in which the leisure centre had been operating in since 2014 were outlined in the report. Whilst noting that to inform the Council's options regarding the future of the leisure centre/campus a further report was commissioned in 2017, the report explained that the consultants highlighted that there were significant maintenance issues that had been identified at the leisure centre and that Carmichael Hall and Eastwood Theatre also required major renovation and refurbishment if they were to remain fit for purpose.

Furthermore, the consultants had considered 4 options regarding the future of the leisure centre/campus and had carried out an option appraisal exercise highlighting the costs associated with pursuing each option. The options were noted as option 1 – status quo; option 2 – address current maintenance issues; option 3 – redevelopment on existing site; and option 4 – new build facility.

The report highlighted that the consultant's recommendation was that the Council should take forward and development a full feasibility study and business case for a new build facility (i.e. option 4) at an alternative location within the Eastwood area. In addition, it was suggested that any proposal for a new build leisure facility should have an option for including a theatre.

The report concluded by advising that the Council now needed to consider its position with regard to the existing leisure facilities within Eastwood Park. However, to do this it was proposed that the Council should have all the relevant information to fully inform any future decision. It was therefore proposed that a public consultation exercise be carried out in relation to the 4 options; that at the same time a comprehensive feasibility study and full business case be commissioned for a new facility at an alternative location; and in due course a masterplan with options be commissioned for the Eastwood Park Campus.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the 4 options regarding the future leisure provision within the Eastwood area of the Council;
- (b) approved the proposal to undertake a public consultation exercise with regard to the 4 options; and
- (c) instructed the Directors of Environment and Education to commission for consideration by the Council:-
 - (i) a comprehensive feasibility study and full business case for the potential construction of a new build leisure and recreational facility with pool, theatre and conferencing facilities at an alternative location within the Eastwood area of the Council; and
 - (ii) a masterplan with options for the Eastwood Park Campus in future.

ROADS REVENUE PROGRAMME – RESULTS OF EAST REN DECIDES

251. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 22 June 2017 (Page 46, Item 38 refers), when it was agreed amongst other things to approve a “participatory budgeting” exercise to take place to apportion £600,000 of the Roads Revenue Budget allocation, the Cabinet considered a joint report by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Environment, providing details of the results of the Roads Revenue Programme participatory budgeting exercise, entitled “East Ren Decides”. Full details of the exercise together with information on the full evaluation were appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the process was designed to give residents more influence over roads investment, with a particular focus on residential areas, the report highlighted that 33 residential roads and footways across 4 locality areas were identified by roads engineers as being in need of repair, it being noted that they were unlikely to feature in the normal maintenance programme. Details of the 4 locality areas in East Renfrewshire were listed in the report.

The report explained how the 10 week consultation exercise had been promoted highlighting that almost 1,300 residents had voted in the exercise by using the Council’s online tool Citizen Space. The cost of progressing with the top two schemes in each locality area would be £50,000 over the £600,000 budget that had been set aside for the process.

However, it was noted that once the schemes were put out to tender the prices for each scheme could be more or less than the estimated value. As a result, it was proposed that the Director of Environment be granted delegated powers to adjust the details of the schemes to ensure that the £600,000 allocation was fully committed.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the results of the participatory budgeting exercise and the ranking of the scheme;
- (b) noted the key messages and learning points from the evaluation of the process;
- (c) approved the recommendation to take forward the top two schemes in each area; and
- (d) agreed that the Director of Environment be authorised to put the schemes out to tender and adjust the details of the schemes to ensure that the £600,000 allocation was fully committed.

CHAIR