

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 19 April 2017.

Provost Alastair Carmichael	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Depute Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Kenny Hay	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Alan Lafferty	Councillor Vincent Waters

Provost Carmichael 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); Les Gaff, Service Manager, Criminal Justice; Jonathan Hinds, Manager: Intensive Services (Young People) and Criminal Justice; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Gordon McCaskill.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2482. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2483. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 22 March 2017.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

2484. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Cabinet – 23 March 2017;
- (b) Education Committee – 30 March 2017;

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- (c) Cabinet – 6 April 2017;
- (d) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 6 April 2017;
- (e) Appeals Committee – 11 April 2017;
- (e) Local Review Body – 12 April 2017; and
- (f) Licensing Committee – 18 April 2017.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17

2485. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 23 March 2017 (Page 2270, Item 2440 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2016/17 be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, recommending adjustments to the 2016/17 General Fund Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

In reply to a question from Councillor Grant regarding the project for remedial works at Capelrig House the budget for which was noted as £50,000, the Director of Environment explained the works at the site had not been programmed as the Council was involved in discussions with a number of community groups regarding the future use of the property. He indicated that it was the Council's intention for the property to be used by the community.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements with the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £248,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17

2486. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 23 March 2017 (Page 2271, Item 2441 refers), when it was agreed to recommend to the Council that the proposed adjustments to the Housing Capital Programme 2016/17 be approved, the Council considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Environment recommending adjustments to the 2016/17 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 £26,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

2487. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Carmichael since the last meeting.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERERS

Integration Joint Board (IJB)

2488. Councillor Lafferty advised that at the meeting of the IJB on 16 March 2017, the Joint Board had been given a presentation on Homecare and the new re-ablement service. He highlighted that the service had received very positive feedback from people it had supported back to independence and staff who provided the service. He advised that the service would be rolled out across the whole of East Renfrewshire in the near future. Details of the grades the service had recently been awarded by the Care Inspectorate were also highlighted to the Council.

Whilst noting that the IJB had also approved a Housing Contribution Statement, Councillor Lafferty explained that this was a 'bridge' between the Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan and the Council's Local Housing Strategy. Furthermore, a commissioning plan had been approved which not only set out local actions to reduce unplanned admissions to hospital and delayed discharges but also a series of actions that the HSCP wished NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to undertake to focus hospital care on acutely ill patients. This was intended to shift the balance of care with more people being supported in their local area.

Concluding his remarks, he highlighted that whilst the Council had approved a recurring revenue contribution to the IJB of £45 million which met the Scottish Government settlement requirements, the IJB had been unable to agree its settlement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. He explained that the Chief Finance Officer did not consider that the NHS offer met Scottish Government expectations. Discussions were continuing with regard to this matter and in the meantime the IJB was exploring options to deliver savings to meet the cost pressure that was anticipated.

The Council noted the position.

STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES

2489. Provost Carmichael intimated that no statements had been received.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE DRAFT OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017/2020

2490. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the Community Justice Partnership Draft Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2017/2020. A copy of the plan was appended to the report.

The report explained that the new national strategy for community justice had been launched in November 2016 and that the East Renfrewshire Community Justice Plan 2017/20 had been developed taking full regard of the national strategy, outcomes, performance and improvement framework, guidance on community justice and the local Outcome Delivery Plan.

The plan set out the Community Justice Partnership's strategic intent to find the Council's core outcomes, its key activities and what it would deliver as partners and how this would contribute to and improve the lives of people with lived experience of the community justice system. The plan identified the Council's critical indicators to measure improvement.

The report concluded by highlighting that the CJOIP set out the Community Justice Partnership's intent, defined what the Council would deliver as partners and how this would contribute to preventing and reducing offending and improving the lives of everyone with lived experience of the community justice system.

In reply to a question by Councillor Grant, the Manager: Intensive Services (Young People) and Criminal Justice, explained that the primary focus of the plan was to reduce re-offending by addressing the underlying causes and supporting those who have committed offences to integrate into the community.

Councillor Swift sought clarification about what the Council would get out of the plan and whether offenders could be involved in clearing paths in East Renfrewshire as part of unpaid work associated with Community Payback Orders. In reply, the Manager: Intensive Services (Young People) and Criminal Justice explained that the Council's grounds maintenance service did work with offenders although such work could only be carried out on public pathways rather than pathways in private developments.

Councillor Wallace referred to the critical indicators which appeared at Appendix 1 to the report, and in particular to the public's perception that crime in East Renfrewshire was increasing rather than decreasing. He sought clarification whether there was anything in the document to tackle this problem.

Whilst acknowledging that the trend was not a positive one, the Manager: Intensive Services (Young People) and Criminal Justice indicated that the figures reported appeared to go against the national trend although a number of agencies were involved in tackling the problem.

Councillor McAlpine emphasised that East Renfrewshire had the lowest level of crimes recorded of any mainland local authority and suggested that this should reassure local residents that East Renfrewshire was a safe place to live.

The Council approved the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/20.

CHANGES TO SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS HANDLING PROCESS

2491. The Council considered a joint report by the Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership, advising of changes in the way in which social work complaints would be dealt with from 1 April 2017.

Whilst noting the background regarding the arrangements that were in place to deal with social work complaints, the report explained that in March 2016, The Public Services Reform (Social Work Complaints Procedure)(Scotland) Order 2016 was made. The proposals in that Order, which came into force on 1 April 2017, included the repeal of the former arrangements for the consideration of social work complaints. Details of those arrangements were outlined in the report.

The report explained that the new arrangements for dealing with social work complaints would see the procedures brought broadly into line with the procedures for dealing with complaints across the Council. The procedures would also in due course remove the need for the Council to retain a panel to enable meetings of Complaints Review Committees to be convened and to establish a Social Work Committee to consider the recommendations arising from the Complaints Review Committee.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the terms of the report; and
- (b) agreed to extend the term of office of the members of the Complaints Review Committee Panel until all complaints where there was the potential for a Complaints Review Committee to be convened had been dealt with.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

2492. This being the last meeting of the Council before the forthcoming local government elections, Councillor Fletcher thanked all those involved in the Administration over the last 5 years and the work of the Corporate Management Team. He highlighted that over this period the Council had had to deal with a range of challenging issues particularly the difficulties associated with managing decreasing budgets. He also referred to the positive results from the Citizens' Panel and expressed his genuine thanks to all his colleagues and members of staff highlighting that the Council was held in high regard throughout Scotland.

Councillor Green also expressed her thanks to all those she had worked with in the Council over the 10 years she been a Councillor. She paid tribute to those in the Education Department, particularly the Director of Education in the course of which she highlighted a number of senior staff appointments that she had been involved in and to various achievements by the Education service during her time as Convener for Education and Equalities.

Councillor Grant also thanked members of staff for their assistance to her over her time as a Councillor and wished her fellow Councillors who were standing for re-election success in the forthcoming elections and to those who were not standing again wished them well for the future.

Councillor Buchanan echoed the earlier remarks that had been made in the course of which he highlighted the success of the Council and referred to the hard work that was carried out in delivering a range of services to local residents.

Councillors Miller and Robertson also paid tribute to members of staff in the course of which Councillor Gilbert thanked the staff in the Education Department and highlighted that he enjoyed good working relationships with fellow councillors and members of staff.

Councillor Swift whilst echoing the remarks that had already been made suggested that one the things the Council could improve on in the future would be listen to the views expressed by residents about local issues that affected them.

In conclusion, Provost Carmichael commended the work of members of staff in the Council and for their assistance to him during his time in office. He also thanked his fellow councillors for their assistance in the work he had carried out in his role as Provost, particularly those that had taken part in the school debates. Concluding his remarks, he expressed the hope that his successor would continue the successful programme of school debates.

PROVOST

