

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 28 September 2017.

Present:

Provost Jim Fletcher	Councillor Charlie Gilbert
Depute Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Annette Ireland
Councillor Paul Aitken	Councillor Colm Merrick
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Angela Convery	Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Gordon Wallace

Provost Fletcher in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Lesley Bairden, Chief Financial Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership; Candy Millard, Head of Strategic Services, Health and Social Care Partnership; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Jamie Reid, Community Resources Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Barbara Grant, Alan Lafferty, David Macdonald and Jim McLean.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

161. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE COUNCIL’S CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2016/17

162. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 145, Item 156 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) explaining that the audit of the 2016/17 Annual Accounts for the seven charitable trusts for which the Council acted as trustee had been completed, that the Accounts had been amalgamated into one document, and that a copy was now submitted for consideration. In addition, the External Auditor’s report in

respect of the Trusts, in compliance with the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260, was also submitted for consideration.

Councillor Miller commented that there had been a good discussion on the report at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting which had agreed to remit it to the Council for consideration.

The Council noted the 2016/17 Annual Accounts for each of the Trusts and the associated External Auditor's report.

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND DRAFT ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2016/17

163. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 146, Item 157 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) regarding the Annual Accounts for 2016/17, the associated draft Annual Audit Report prepared by the External Auditor, and a further report by the External Auditor on matters arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements for 2016/17 reported under ISA 260 requirements. The draft Audit report provided an overview of the main issues arising from the 2016/17 audit.

The Council had received an audit certificate which was unqualified. An overall surplus of £2,437k had been recorded in the Accounts. After transfers to earmarked reserves, a sum of £655k had been added to the Council's non-earmarked General Fund reserve resulting in a balance of £9,754k as at 31 March 2017. This represented 4.2% of the annual budgeted net revenue expenditure which was in line with Council policy.

Transfers totalling £8,000k had been made from the General Fund balance to specific reserves and capital expenditure of £40,146k had been invested. An operating deficit of £134k had been made on the Housing Revenue Account, this decreasing the accumulated surpluses brought forward to that Account to £1,244k. The deficit had been calculated after a transfer of £450k to loan charges to reduce future financing costs.

Having heard Councillor Miller comment that there had been a good discussion on the report at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting which had agreed to remit it to the Council for consideration, Councillor Fletcher expressed the view that the Accounts reflected that the Council was in a good financial position and had a good level of reserves, referring also to the audit certificate linked to the Accounts which was unqualified. Councillor Buchanan added that a good report had been received from the External Auditor and that he was delighted to recommend approval of the report.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the Council's Annual Accounts for 2016/17; and
- (b) note the draft Annual Audit Report to the Council and Controller of Audit 2016/17 and the External Auditor's report on matters arising from the audit of the Council's 2016/17 Financial Statements prepared under requirements of ISA 260.

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2016/17

164. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 148, Item 158 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) providing details of the Council's treasury management activities for the year ending 31 March 2017 and seeking approval of the organisations listed in Appendix 7 of the report for the investment of surplus funds.

The report explained that in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee was responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of treasury management activities and the submission of the report to the committee was in accordance with that requirement.

Having heard Councillor Miller, Chair of the committee, the Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17; and
- (b) approve those organisations specified in the report for investment of surplus funds.

FAIRER EAST REN AND LOCALITY PLANS

165. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 26 January 2017 (Page 2193, Item 2355 refers), when the Council's approach regarding the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the phased development of locality plans had been approved, the Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval of the Fairer East Ren Plan and associated locality plans required in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Copies of the Plan and the Auchenback and Add2Barrhead Locality Plans accompanied the report.

The report explained that the Act contained a number of provisions aimed at empowering communities and involving them in the design and delivery of services across the East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) area. This included a requirement for CPPs to prepare LOIPs. These plans would replace Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) and would be the key ones for tackling inequalities and closing the gap between those who experience poorer outcomes and other residents in the CPP area. In East Renfrewshire the plan, known as Fairer East Ren, would sit below a new overarching Community Plan to be developed in the months ahead.

The report further explained the requirement for locality plans to be produced for areas experiencing significantly poorer outcomes than East Renfrewshire or Scotland as a whole. In East Renfrewshire, 2 locality planning areas had been identified; Auchenback, and the Arthurlie/Dunterlie/Dovecothall (ADD2 Barrhead) area. It also referred to national guidance produced which set out the range of requirements for the plans which applied both to LOIPs and locality plans, clarifying that the process for developing each type of plan differed to take account of differences in needs, community infrastructure and scale.

Details of the processes and community engagement mechanisms that had been used in the development of the plans were outlined, following which it was highlighted regarding the Fairer East Ren Plan that 4 key themes had been identified. These related to reducing the impact of child poverty; improving employability; improving mental health and wellbeing; and

reducing social isolation and loneliness and increasing safety. 2 cross-cutting themes had also been identified in relation to community and public transport, and community influence.

With regard to the 2 locality plans, it was explained that there was a tendency for the key priorities to be more physical and environmental, with the key priorities for both areas being outlined.

The report further explained that the Act required CPPs to align resources to meet local priorities efficiently and effectively and that this would be kept under review throughout the delivery of the Plan. As part of this, opportunities to secure external funding had already been and would continue to be pursued. This would augment council-approved funding as well as mainstream resources of all partners.

It was clarified that the plans, once approved, would form the basis for the next stage of the process which would be the development of detailed evidence-based actions, measures and targets that would deliver on the outcomes as contained in the plans.

Having commended the report, Councillor Buchanan referred to a range of issues including the work undertaken with key community planning partners to develop the plans and the key priority themes, commenting that they had been informed by socio-economic evidence for East Renfrewshire and the views of over 2,200 residents. Whilst referring to the development of the locality plans, he explained that the ADD2Barrhead plan had been co-developed in partnership with others such as the voluntary sector clearly demonstrating the strong level of commitment that existed to work together to improve communities. He also made reference to further engagement that would take place with residents and partners across East Renfrewshire and specific localities over the months ahead to continue to develop the delivery plans to identify performance measures and targets to close the gap between the most disadvantaged residents and communities in East Renfrewshire and the rest of the Council's area.

Councillor Swift expressed the opinion that there were not a lot of actions specified that would lead to change, but welcomed the consultation that had taken place thus far.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the Fairer East Ren Plan;
- (b) approved the socio-economic needs assessment and community priorities for the ADD2 Barrhead and Auchenback locality planning areas; and
- (c) noted the next phase in the process to develop delivery plans and associated outcome measures and targets.

PROVOST