

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 2 June 2016.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)
Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Elaine Green

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Economic Development and City Deal); Raymond O’Kane, Property and Technical Services Manager; Stuart Free, Principal Officer (Asset Management); Gillian McNamara, Economic Development Manager; and Paul O’Neil, Committee Services Officer.

OPENING REMARKS

2040. On behalf of the Cabinet, Councillor Fletcher extended his sympathies to Councillor Montague following her recent loss.

Apologies:

Councillors Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader); Mary Montague, and Vincent Waters.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2041. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

FIRE AND RESCUE FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2016 CONSULTATION

2042. The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking approval of a proposed Council response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016. A copy of the response was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016 was the vehicle, established under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, as amended by the Police and Fire

Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, through which Scottish Ministers set out priorities and objectives that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service must have regard to in carrying out its functions, in terms of public safety, efficiency and effectiveness.

It was noted that the ten strategic key priorities within the Framework set out Scottish Ministers' expectations of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and also sought to provide guidance and support to the service, setting in context the overarching purpose that the service should adhere to in carrying out its functions.

The Cabinet:

- (a) approved the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2016; and
- (b) agreed that it be submitted to the Scottish Government by 13 June 2016.

LOCAL SCRUTINY PLAN 2016/17

2043. The Cabinet considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the Local Scrutiny Plan for 2016/17. A copy of the Plan was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the Plan set out the planned external scrutiny in the Council over the next year and was based on a Shared Risk Assessment (SRA) undertaken by all scrutiny bodies who engaged with the Council, the report explained that a Local Area Network (LAN) had been established to bring inspectors and auditors together to share the relevant information held about the Council and to agree a scrutiny plan for the Council.

The report also highlighted that the first Assurance and Improvement Plan (AIP), had been published in 2010, which set out a programme of scrutiny activity for the Council for the period 2010/13 based on a Shared Risk Assessment (SRA), undertaken by the LAN. Thereafter the AIP had been updated annually. Summary details of the Shared Risk Assessment (SRA) 2016/17 were outlined in the report together with information on the planned scrutiny activity for 2016/17.

The report concluded by highlighting that the Local Scrutiny Plan 2016/17 report presented a positive external assessment which served to demonstrate the Council's and employees' ongoing commitment to ensure that the Council was striving to make peoples' lives better and deliver better outcomes for its customers and residents.

The Cabinet noted:-

- (a) the Council's positive assessment by the Local Area Network (LAN) of external scrutiny bodies; and
- (b) the planned external scrutiny activities by bodies within the Local Area Network (LAN) for 2016/17.

EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

2044. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the Council's contribution towards the Employability Strategy and Action Plan and its implementation. A copy of the Strategy and Action Plan was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the Council had approved the first Community Planning Partnership Employability Strategy and Action Plan in 2008 prior to the effects of the global recession which started to impact significantly on unemployment levels in the spring of 2009, the report highlighted that since that date there had been major changes in the economy, the labour market and in both the UK and Scottish Government's policy response.

The report explained that in 2015 a new Local Employability Partnership (LEP) had been established comprising representatives from within the Council and across Community Planning partners. It was noted the LEP had endorsed the development of a new employability strategy and agreed that the new strategy should set out future issues and the challenges for employability services in order to ensure that services were closely aligned to the priorities of the Council and its partners.

The aims of the strategy were outlined in the report which included amongst other things reducing unemployment and the dependence upon benefits amongst working age residents. It was noted that through the use of European social funding, a number of measures had been put in place to help people get ready for work, to help them with the specific skills they needed to secure a job, and provide them with the support and after care they needed to maintain employment thereafter. Furthermore, the key messages and emerging priorities of the strategy were also outlined in the report.

Whilst noting that LEPs had been established to drive the employability agenda forward at a local level in councils throughout Scotland, the report provided details of the governance arrangements of the LEP, highlighting that it was now the central strategic employability group for East Renfrewshire. A full list of the activities that formed the remit of the LEP was also detailed in the report.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the Employability Strategy and Action Plan;
- (b) agreed the implementation of the actions within the Action Plan which were the responsibility of the Council; and
- (c) noted the governance arrangements for the new Local Employability Partnership as detailed in the report.

EXTENSION AND REFURBISHMENT – CROOKFUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

2045. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, regarding the contract for the extension and refurbishment of Crookfur Primary School and seeking homologation of the action taken in awarding the contract.

Whilst noting that funding of £7 million had been made available through the Scottish Futures Trust for the project which had an estimated cost of £7.8 million, the report advised that one of the conditions placed upon the award of funding was that the funds be fully expended by March 2017 which upon appeal had been extended until August 2017, with no possibility of further time extensions.

The report explained that whilst tender documents had been sent to five contractors only one tender from Heron Brothers Ltd had been received by the deadline date. The tender amount was £8.9 million which was £1.1 million over the estimated cost of the project. However, the same contractor had also been appointed to construct the new Faith Schools Joint Campus

and this project had an anticipated underspend of £1.3 million. The subsequent effect on the capital budget over both these projects was a net underspend of approximately £200,000 against estimated provision within the Capital Programme.

To comply with the severe restrictions placed upon the Council in terms of both funding and the need for an increased provision of accommodation for the new term in August 2016, the Director of Environment sought and received approval from Councillor Fletcher, Leader of the Council and Councillor Devlin, in accordance with the provisions of Clause 10.1 of the Council's Financial Regulations to allow a letter of acceptance to be issued to the successful contractor to allow the contractor to proceed on programme.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the current position on costs and funding;
- (b) homologated the action taken by the Director of Environment in awarding the contract for the extension and refurbishment at Crookfur Primary School to Heron Brothers Ltd as detailed in the report in accordance with Clause 10.1 of the Council's Financial Regulations; and
- (c) agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment to progress the project on site to its successful completion.

UPDATE ON CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

2046. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, providing details of the progress on asset management arrangements across the Council.

The report explained that effective asset management arrangements which reflected best practice had been in place across the Council for a number of years. It was noted that a total of six asset management plans were in place across the Council. These were noted as Roads; Fleet; Open Spaces; Property; ICT; and HRA Assets. A number of refinements to these arrangements had been made in order to ensure even more effective joint working and appropriate linkages to corporate priorities.

The Cabinet noted the continued progress made with corporate asset management planning across the Council and that all asset management plans were up to date.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Leader, the Cabinet unanimously resolved 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 they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LAND AT FALCON COURT/STEWARTON ROAD, NEWTON MEARNS

2047. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of the proposed acquisition of 1.6 acres of land to the east of Falcon Court, Newton Mearns to facilitate the proposed Greenlaw Business Centre.

The report explained that the proposed acquisition would facilitate the development of the Newton Mearns Business and Innovation Centre project. However, it was noted that construction of the facility would not commence until the Council has secured Full Business Case approval later this year from the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, in accordance with the City Deal Assurance Framework.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the acquisition of 1.6 acres of land at Greenlaw, Newton Mearns from the company referred to in the report, to enable the development of the proposed City Deal Fund Business and Innovation Centre; and
- (b) agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement, to make the necessary arrangements.

PROPOSED SALE OF “STATUE HOUSE”, 24 MONTGOMERY STREET, EAGLESHAM

2048. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval to the proposed sale of the Council owned “Statue House” at 24 Montgomery Street, Eaglesham.

The report explained that the proposed sale of the “Statue House” would avoid the Council incurring further maintenance costs, generate a capital receipt and enable the prospective purchaser, to renovate the property for future use.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the proposed sale of the “Statue House” as detailed in the report; and
- (b) agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement, to finalise negotiations and conclude the acquisition.

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND AT NEWFORD GROVE, CLARKSTON

2049. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval to the Council making an additional payment to the company referred to in the report, to gain access to a ribbon of land to construct the proposed new children’s nursery and family centre at Newford Grove, Busby.

The report explained that the proposed acquisition would enable the proposed nursery and family centre to be developed on schedule, highlighting that without access at this time delays could result in further more significant costs to the project and potential delay to the opening of the new facility.

The Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) to approve the payment to the company as detailed in the report; and

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- (b) that delegated powers by be granted to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement, to finalise negotiations and secure the access right.

CHAIR