

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 26 October 2016.

Present:

Depute Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Danny Devlin	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 Alan Lafferty	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Ian McAlpine	Councillor Vincent Waters

Deputy Provost Cunningham 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); Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Major Programmes and Projects); Andrew Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); Gillian McCarney, Planning and Building Standards Manager; Shona Fraser, Environmental Services Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Provost Alastair Carmichael and Councillor Kenny Hay.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2228. Councillors Gilbert and Montague declared a non-financial interest in respect of the statement on East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust on the grounds that they were members of the Board of the Trust.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2229. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 14 September 2016.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING

2230. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the special meeting held on 29 September 2016.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

2231. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted except as otherwise noted in Item 2232 below:-

- (a) Cabinet – 15 September 2016;
- (b) Social Work Committee – 15 September 2016;
- (c) Cabinet (Police & Fire) – 22 September 2016;
- (d) Cabinet – 29 September 2016;
- (e) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 29 September 2016;
- (f) Education Committee – 6 October 2016; and
- (g) Licensing Committee – 11 October 2016.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE 6 OCTOBER 2016

2232. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 6 October 2016 (Page 2071, Item 2222 refers), Councillor Swift sought clarification on whether or not the recently announced Scottish Government voucher scheme in respect of increased parental choice in the provision of early learning and childcare would have an impact on the Education Department's proposals to meet the Council's duty to provide the proposed increase in hours.

In response, the Director of Education confirmed that the voucher scheme would be one option for consideration and advised that she would be writing to all elected members in early November inviting them to meet with her with a view to informing the Council's response to the proposal.

The Council noted the information

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

2233. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 29 September 2016 (Page 2053, Item 2198 refers), the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive, recommending adjustments to the 2015/16 General Fund Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme;
- (b) approved the transfer of £50,000 between the Barrhead Sports Centre Refurbishment and Barrhead Learning and Leisure Hub projects; and
- (b) noted the shortfall of £247,000 and that this would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

2234. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 29 September 2016 (Page 2054, Item 2199 refers), the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive recommending adjustments to the 2015/16 Housing Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) homologated the decision to purchase an additional property under the mortgage to rent arrangements;
- (b) approved the drawdown of £31,000 from commuted sums (2nd homes council tax discount) to assist with the purchase of the additional property;
- (c) approved an expenditure increase of £300,000 to External Structural Works;
- (d) approved the expenditure transfer of £100,000 from Rewiring to External Structural Works; and
- (e) noted the shortfall of £26,000 and that this would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

QUESTIONS TO CONVENERS

2235. In accordance with Standing Order 24, Councillor Robertson had submitted the following 2 questions on the introduction of the Council's new 4-bin arrangements, both for Councillor Waters, Convener for Environment.

1. What consultation took place with residents in areas with problems in storing 4 bins?
2. What guarantee is there from the supplier/manufacturer of the new bins as they appear to be inferior quality to previous bins?

Responding to the first question, Councillor Waters provide details of the extensive communications campaign carried out by the Cleansing Service that had started in March 2016. This was followed by a further advertising campaign subsequently followed by the rollout of the wheeled bins which had included a brochure detailing the new arrangements and advice on how to contact the Cleansing Service should problems arise. Householders had been advised during all campaigning that if they did not wish to participate in the 4 bin service they could continue with the current box and bag service.

Using evidence from previous bin rollouts it had been decided that each household would get the 4 bins and, if after a short trial period, they wished to retain the box and bag service, the Cleansing Service would remove the new bins. To date bins had been delivered to approximately 37,000 households and 250 requests to remove them had been received.

Referring to flatted properties, Councillor Waters explained that bin inventories and assessments of suitability to accommodate 4 bins had been carried out and the configuration of bins changed to accommodate the new service. This had been achieved by recruiting 2 drivers from the refuse collection service with detailed collection knowledge of many of the "difficult" properties. Almost 1000 locations had been visited within a 2 month period and where residents had been available, the team had taken time to discuss the plans with them.

In cases where the team had been contacted by residents in flatted properties regarding the new arrangements, appointments had been made and the team had met with the residents to find the best solution. All flatted properties had been mailed in advance of the new bins being delivered.

Thanking Councillor Waters for his response, Councillor Robertson referred to a number of bins being left on footpaths permanently due to lack of suitable places to store them and the safety implications of this practice particularly in respect of elderly residents.

In reply, Councillor Waters explained that residents who were in possession of an appropriate medical certificate could apply for an assisted uplift or, where space was at a premium, opt to continue to use the current box and bag system and that sensible positioning of bins by both residents and Cleansing Service staff was essential to maintain a safe environment for all concerned. He concluded by explaining that bins should be removed from footpaths as soon as practical after emptying; that Cleansing Service staff would in the first instance speak to residents who failed to do so; and that continued refusal to remove bins could result in enforcement action being taken by staff from the Council's Environmental Health Service.

Councillor Waters was then heard in response to Councillor Robertson's second question explaining that the specification had required all bins to comply with BS EN 840-1:2012, Mobile Waste and Recycling Containers. All wheeled bins had been manufactured under a quality system complying with BS EN 9001:2000 and therefore met current British Standards. As part of these standards all bins supplied had a guarantee of 10 years.

Councillor Robertson thanked Councillor Waters for his response.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENERS

Visit by John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

2236. Councillor Green was heard on the recent visit by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to the St. Luke's cluster on 11 October.

In light of the current governance review of education throughout Scotland, the Deputy First Minister had been invited by the Leader of the Council to see first-hand what worked well within education in East Renfrewshire and to hear from Head Teachers, officers, teachers and pupils about successes and how the system could be improved.

The Deputy First Minister had been advised and saw demonstrations of a range of systems in place in East Renfrewshire and how these were used to help improve outcomes for children and young people including how particular underperforming groups were the focus for collaborative enquiry and action research to determine what changes to teaching and learning needed to be made to help learners engage and achieve.

Councillor Green expressed the view that the Deputy First Minister could only have been impressed by what he had seen and heard and that she hoped it would influence his thoughts on the future governance of education.

She concluded by explaining that she had asked the Director of Education to consider organising a similar event for elected members.

The Council noted the position.

East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership

2237. Councillor Lafferty reported that at the most recent meeting of the Integration Joint Board a presentation entitled *My Life, My Way* had been made outlining how older people were supported to access and develop a range of leisure and social opportunities which might be of interest to them thereby reducing isolation and dependence on day services. The presentation had highlighted the extent of partnership working involving the community, care homes, faith organisations and 3rd sector providers in supporting older people to live a full and active life.

He went on to report that earlier in the day he had attended the official opening by Aileen Campbell MSP, Minister for Public Health and Sport, of the new Eastwood Health and Social Care Centre. The Minister had been shown how the building supported extensive partnership working allowing GPs, nurses, social workers and rehabilitation staff to co-ordinate care and support to the local community. She was also shown how people with learning difficulties were fully included in the life of the building enjoying new social and work opportunities.

He concluded by reporting that the ceremony had been attended by a large number of distinguished visitors as well as a number of elected members.

The Council noted the position.

East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust Quarter 1 performance 2016-17.

2238. Councillor Montague reported that following excellent performances in 2015/16, attendances remained high across both sports centres and libraries.

In gyms, while work on retention had continued to improve, the attrition rates among members and recruitment of new members had dropped. This undoubtedly reflected the impact of private operators on the Trust's gym business with the opening of the new David Lloyd Centre during the quarter and its targeted recruitment having an adverse effect.

Libraries continued to perform well, not only in attendances, but also in book issues. Although there had been a slight decrease in visits, issues were up across all age ranges and for adults this had been the first increase in 5 years. This increase had taken place against a well - established national trend.

A new Arts Strategy had been prepared by the Trust's new Cultural Team Leader and would be brought to the Council for approval in due course. The Trust's new website had gone live on 17 September and had been delivered largely by Council ICT and Trust staff working in partnership with some external partners. Social media channels had already been revised and updated.

Pool closures continued to affect Eastwood Park Leisure which had seen its numbers suffer in contrast to Eastwood High School and the Foundry. Project planning was underway between Trust and Council colleagues to prepare for the scheduled closure and upgrade of Eastwood Park Leisure currently scheduled for 2019. A variety of options were being explored including partial refurbishment, replacement, and the leveraging of external funding to create complementary sports and performing arts facilities in the area.

She went on to express confidence that the Trust would continue to make positive contributions to the Community Planning Partnership's Single Outcome Agreement; would work to achieve the targets set out in the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan; and continue to improve the experiences and outcomes of its customers by building on its recent successes.

In conclusion, she reported that further details about the Trust's vision and future development would be provided to elected members through an Information and Consultation session planned for before the December meeting of the Council when the Council would also be asked to approve the Trust's business plan, subject to budget decisions.

The Council noted the position.

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

2239. Deputy Provost Cunningham intimated that no statements had been received.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

2240. 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.

MAIN ISSUES REPORT – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2

2241. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval to publish the Main Issues Report (MIR) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for consultation.

The report explained that the MIR was the key consultative stage in the preparation of the proposed Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). The MIR set out the Council's preferred options and possible alternatives to ensure that all reasonable options were explored before the Council formed a firm view for the Proposed Plan. The MIR was intended to stimulate discussion and concentrated on the key changes which had taken place since the adoption of LDP1 in June 2015. LDP2 would cover the period to 2029 and beyond. Many of the key aspirations had been introduced and addressed through the development of LDP1 including the establishment of a new longer term development strategy to manage the future growth of the area. LDP2 would build upon and further progress the strategic aims of LDP1 with a strong focus on delivery with particular emphasis on the 3 Strategic Development Opportunities (SDOs) at Maidenhill, Barrhead South and Barrhead North and any other sites identified in the new plan.

Significant preparatory work had been undertaken in order to prepare the MIR. To inform the MIR process a "Call for Sites" and Key Issues" consultation exercise had been undertaken during April/May 2016. Submissions had been received on a range of brownfield and greenfield site options across the Council area and on specific topics to be considered in the MIR. In total, 65 site proposals and 30 responses had been received. Officers had also undertaken a detailed review of the existing policies and proposals contained in LDP1 and this information was contained in the Monitoring Statement which accompanied the MIR. A series of background reports had also been prepared to inform the MIR. This preparatory work had assisted in identifying the main issues and possible solutions to these for the MIR.

A number of Members were heard in respect of a range of issues including, amongst others, the need to ensure that all new developments had access to a high quality digital infrastructure; the quality of the maps contained in the report; the need to increase the supply of affordable and particular needs housing; public transport provision; and the availability of adequate numbers of school places to accommodate further increases in pupil numbers generated by increased house building. In response, the Planning and Building Standards Manager explained that the MIR was intended as an options and consultation document, that the proposed housing sites had been identified by officers following a call for sites and that all responses would be given full consideration. She went on to clarify a number of issues raised and confirmed that considerable discussions had taken place with officers from the Education Department in respect of the pressures on existing school places; the need to seek developer contributions for schools; and to ensure that development was carried out in a phased manner to ensure that places were available prior to houses being occupied.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the Main Issues Report (MIR) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for publication and consultation; and
- (b) delegated authority to the Director of Environment to make any minor inconsequential changes to the documents, in line with Council policy, prior to their publication.

INTRODUCTION OF OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES

2242. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 20 April 2016 (Page 1900, Item 2020 refers) when it had been agreed to approve the preparation and advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with statutory procedures to introduce off-street parking charges in selected Council operated off-street car parks, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment providing an update on the current position.

The report explained that following Council approval to progress the proposal to introduce parking charges with a view to achieving the planned benefits including realising income of £200,000 per annum from 2017/18, consultation had taken place with key stakeholders including Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Network Rail, Scotrail and the Business Improvement District (BID) Manager for Giffnock and Clarkston. During these consultations it had become apparent that there were various issues relating to charging at Station Road, Giffnock, Patterton Station, Carlibar Road, Barrhead and Kingston Road, Neilston with the reduction in potential parking spaces where charging could be applied and that these had implications for the initial financial projections which had been undertaken. As a result, a number of options had been considered, including the extension of charging to other off-street car parks under the control of the Council.

Taking account of this, it was proposed to introduce parking charges in seven car parks as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. In recommending these charging options, the main function of the car park, VAT payments, allowances for displacement parking and maintenance had all been considered.

A number of Members expressed concern about the introduction of charging on local businesses and the potential for the displacement of cars from car parks to local streets preventing residents from parking close to their homes. In response, Councillor Buchanan explained that in an ideal world there would be no need to charge for car parking but the

reality was that there were insufficient parking spaces to meet demand. He went on to explain that the proposals were part of the savings proposals agreed by the Council and that without the anticipated income, other Council services could be adversely affected.

Following further discussion in the course of which a number of possible alternatives were put forward, Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Reilly, moved that:-

- (a) recommendations (a), (c) and (d) be approved; and
- (b) the parking levy outlined in Option 2 in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved as an amendment that:-

- (a) recommendations (a), (c) and (d) be approved; and
- (b) a further option, Option 3, be approved which would have the effect of charges for all car parks being amended to 0 – 2 hours free of charge with all-day parking being charged at £3 per day.

On a vote being taken, 11 votes were cast for the motion and 7 votes were cast for the amendment. The motion was therefore carried.

Thereafter, the Council:-

- (a) agreed to parking charges being implemented in the car parks set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) approved parking levy Option 2 as outlined in Appendix 1;
- (c) noted that the controlling regulations would be updated and cover all car parks set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (d) authorised the Director of Environment to advertise the Traffic Regulation Order in accordance with statutory procedures.

PROVOST