

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Special Meeting held at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 29 September 2016.

Present:

Provost Alastair Carmichael	Councillor Ian McAlpiine
Depute Provost Betty Cunningham	Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Barbara Grant	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Elaine Green	Councillor Vincent Waters
Councillor Alan Lafferty	

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Julie Murray, Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Lesley Bairden, Chief Financial Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant, Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer

Apologies:

Councillors Danny Devlin, Kenny Hay, Stewart Miller and Mary Montague.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2214. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE COUNCIL’S CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2015/16

2215. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 2058, Item 2204 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) advising that the audit of the 2015/16 Annual Accounts for the seven charitable trusts for which the Council acted as trustee had been

completed and that a copy of each of the accounts 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.

Referring to the discussions that had taken place at the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Wallace, Chair of the Committee, highlighted that many of the funds were not being used regularly and it was proposed that information on the availability of these Trusts would be advertised on the Council website.

Having heard Councillor Wallace the Council noted the 2015/16 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 2015/16

2216. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 2059, Item 2205 refers), the Council considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) regarding the Annual Accounts for 2015/16 and the associated Annual Audit Report prepared by the External Auditor. The Audit Report provided an overview of the main issues arising from the 2015/16 audit.

The Council had received an audit certificate which was unqualified. An overall surplus of £2,865K had been recorded in the Accounts. After transfers to earmarked reserves, a sum of £65K had been added to the non-earmarked General Fund reserve resulting in a balance of £9,099K as at 31 March 2016. This represented 4.1% of the annual budgeted net revenue expenditure which was in line with Council policy on this.

Transfers totalling £10,786k had been made from the General Fund balance to specific reserves and capital expenditure of £25,683k had been invested. An operating surplus of £425k had been achieved on the Housing Revenue Account resulting in an accumulated surplus balance to carry forward of £1,378k.

Referring to the discussions that had taken place at the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Wallace, Chair of the Committee, was heard in relation to overpayments to care providers, advising that significant progress and improvements had been made to the finance systems within HSCP.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the Councils Annual Accounts for 2015/16; and
- (b) note the draft Annual Audit Report to the Council and Controller of Audit 2015/16 and the External Auditor's Report on matters arising from the audit of the Council's 2015/16 Financial Statements prepared under requirements of ISA 260.

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015/16

2217. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held earlier that day (Page 2060, Item 2206 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 2016 and seeking approval that the attached list of organisations for the investment of surplus funds be approved.

The report explained that in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011, the 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 Wallace, Chair of the Committee, the Council agreed to:-

- (a) note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2015/16; and
- (b) approve those organisations specified in the report for investment of surplus funds.

HEAD OF SERVICE RE-DESIGNATION WITHIN ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

2218. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval for a proposed re-designation of Head of Service remits within the Environment Department.

The report referred to the need to continue to ensure that appropriate structures were in place to deliver an ambitious programme of change and improvement as a result of which the Director of Environment had concluded that the existing remits of the Heads of Service required to be changed to align with new operating models. It was intended that three new multi-disciplinary teams would be created and a matching process would be undertaken with the three existing Heads of Service. It was further reported that all service areas across the department would be reviewed and, as the detail of the remits of the Heads of Service may require adjustment as the change programme progresses, it was proposed that authority be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Community Services to approve any further changes as a result of this process. Details of the existing structure and proposed remits and structure were attached to the report.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to the proposed re-designated management structure within the Environment Department as shown in Appendix 1 and 2b to the report; and
- (b) to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Environment, to make necessary arrangements.

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE JOINT CIVIL CONTINGENCY SERVICE TO INCLUDE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

2219. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval to expand the Joint Civil Contingency Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council.

Further information was provided on the establishment of a Joint Civil Contingency Service which was approved by the Council in 2008 and outlining the benefits which had been brought about as a result of this change. Following a request from West Dunbartonshire Council to consider expansion of the Joint Civil Contingency Service a review of current civil contingencies working arrangements and policies within West Dunbartonshire was undertaken and it was shown that there would be no detrimental impact on existing members of the service if this expansion was approved. It was reported that West Dunbartonshire Council would match East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils current contribution; would provide an additional administrative employee resource to support the

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transition process; and would also provide a transitional fund of £5,000 per year for the first two years, to be used for training requirements.

The Council approved the expansion of the Joint Civil Contingency Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council.

Urgent Item of Business

Provost Carmichael gave notice that he had accepted an additional item of business in relation to the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements as urgent on the grounds of the need to determine how to proceed following the decision made on the Council's electoral wards by the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland (The Commission).

FIFTH STATUTORY REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

2220. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 14 September 2016 (Page 2030, Item 2168 refers), when it was agreed that the sub-group of Elected Members be reconvened and that it be delegated to that sub-group to determine whether or not the Council should proceed to judicial review, an update on the sub-group meeting was provided.

Councillor Fletcher advised that the sub-group had considered all available options and, although there was a good legal case to proceed to judicial review, advised that there would be a significant cost involved as both senior and junior Counsel would require to be appointed. In order to reduce the costs involved, the sub-group had contacted other councils in the same situation to ascertain if they would be prepared to proceed to judicial review, and a deadline of 7 October had been given for their responses. Following receipt of the responses the sub-group would meet again to take a view on how to proceed.

The Council noted the update provided.

PROVOST