

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 16 December 2015.

Provost Alastair Carmichael
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)
Councillor Charlie Gilbert
Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Elaine Green
Councillor Kenny Hay
Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Vincent Waters

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Kate Rocks, Head of Children’s Services and Criminal Justice (Chief Social Work Officer); Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Economic Development and City Deal); Gillian McCarney, Planning and Building Standards Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1843. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

PRESENTATION OF PROVOST’S AWARD TO ANDREW PATON

1844. Provost Carmichael advised the Council that the recipient of the Citizen of the Year 2015 was Andrew Paton who was a pupil at Eastwood High School.

Andrew had rescued his grandfather after he had fallen out of a boat while they were out sailing earlier in 2015. Andrew had remained calm throughout managing to stop the boat and throw a rope to his grandfather before calling for emergency assistance. Coastguard representatives were struck by how brave and sensible Andrew had been under the circumstances and his grandfather paid a special tribute saying that Andrew was “cool, calm and collected throughout”. Provost Carmichael added that this exceptional act had shown true bravery, spirit and courage and Andrew’s family felt extremely proud of him.

Thereafter, Provost Carmichael presented the Award to Andrew.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1845. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 28 October 2015.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

1846. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted, except as otherwise referred to in Items 1847 and 1848 below:-

- (a) Appointments Committee – 3 November 2015;
- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 4 November 2015;
- (c) Local Review Body – 4 November 2015;
- (d) Licensing Committee – 10 November 2015;
- (e) Cabinet – 12 November 2015;
- (f) Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 12 November 2015;
- (g) Education Committee – 19 November 2015;
- (h) Licensing Committee – 19 November 2015;
- (i) Cabinet (Police & Fire) – 26 November 2015;
- (j) Licensing Committee – 1 December 2015;
- (k) Local Review Body – 2 December 2015;
- (l) Cabinet – 3 December 2015; and
- (m) Licensing Committee – 15 December 2015.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2015 – CONSULTATION ON COMPLAINTS CONCERNING FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE NAMED PERSON AND CHILD’S PLAN AS CONTAINED IN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

1847. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 19 November 2015 (Page 1697, Item 1809 refers) when the content of the joint response by the Education Department and the HSCP to the Scottish Government Consultation on Complaints Concerning Functions Relating to the Named Person and Child’s Plan was noted, Councillor Grant requested further information regarding who the named person would be and how the scheme would work. In reply, the Director of Education advised that the named person would be different depending on the age of the child but it could be a midwife, health visitor, head teacher, depute head teacher or principal teacher, and this was similar to the procedure currently in place in East Renfrewshire. She did not anticipate any

workforce implications relating to the introduction of the named person function but some additional training for staff may be required.

The Council noted the information provided.

CABINET – 3 DECEMBER 2015 – STRATEGIC MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

1848. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 3 December 2015 (Page 1713, Item 1826 refers) when the report summarising the Community Planning Partnership and Council's mid-year performance for 2015/16 was approved, Councillor Swift highlighted a significant increase in the number of complaints upheld by the Ombudsman compared to previous years and sought clarification regarding customer care procedures. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive acknowledged the increase but added that the numbers were still relatively low and she did not think that this was a cause for concern. She advised that all complaints were taken seriously and dealt with appropriately by staff. Councillor Fletcher added that he also had no concerns about this increase as the actual number of complaints involved was extremely low.

The Council noted the response.

INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

1849. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 12 November 2015 (Page 1690, Item 1802 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that the organisations listed in the report for investment of surplus funds be approved, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing information relative to the Council's treasury management activities for the first 6 months of 2015/16.

The Council agreed that the organisations listed in the report for the investment of surplus funds be approved.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1850. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 3 December 2015 (Page 1715, Item 1829 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.

Having heard the Chief Financial Officer provide clarification on actual expenditure and projected outturn the Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £49,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1851. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 3 December 2015 (Page 1716, Item 1830 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) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £17,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

1852. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the civic engagements attended by and civic duties performed by Provost Carmichael since the last meeting.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENER

1853. The Council received statements as follows:-

- (i) Local Government Financial Settlement

Councillor Fletcher reported that the Local Government financial settlement had been announced earlier that day and there had been a significant cut to the funding for local authorities which may require adjustments to the indicative budget for East Renfrewshire in due course. He referred to the ongoing Council Tax freeze which meant that Councils could not raise funds by increasing Council Tax without being penalised by the Scottish Government, and stated that payment in to the "floors" arrangement, where every local authority is guaranteed that their budget will decrease by no more than a set amount has had a further impact on the Council's budget. Although there may be some further adjustments to the budget, Councillor Fletcher still expected the budget to be announced at the Council meeting in February 2016 as planned.

The Council noted the statement.

- (ii) Equally Safe Violence Against Women and Girls Joint Strategic Board

Councillor Montague advised that she had been appointed to serve on the Equally Safe Violence Against Women and Girls Joint Strategic Board which would push for change within organisations and sectors to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls.

The appointment was noted.

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

1854. The Council received a statement as follows:-

(i) Integration Joint Board

Councillor Lafferty referred to a seminar which had been held by the Strategic Planning Group on the new Clinical Services Strategy during which consideration was given to how Integration Joint Boards throughout the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area could work together to support the changes which had been introduced. The IJB had been advised of preparations in place for winter to ensure services were adequately staffed and received a detailed progress report for the first six months of 2015/16.

The information was noted.

DAMS TO DARNLEY COUNTRY PARK GOVERNANCE

1855. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for proposed changes to the governance arrangements in relation to Dams to Darnley Country Park.

The report explained that East Renfrewshire and Glasgow City Councils had worked in partnership to develop and manage Dams to Darnley Country Park and a Minute of Agreement was put in place in 2006 setting out the governance arrangements for the project including the establishment of a Joint Committee. As the main focus in terms of future capital investment would take place in East Renfrewshire, it was considered by both councils that a Joint Committee was no longer the most effective nor efficient mechanism to manage the project which could more appropriately be managed by means of a Service Level Agreement.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the proposed dissolution of the existing Dams to Darnley Country Park Joint Committee and the establishment of a Service Level Agreement; and
- (b) that a revised Minute of Agreement be produced.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (DRUMBY CRESCENT DEVELOPMENT BRIEF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE)

1856. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 24 June 2015 (Page 1521, Item 1629 refers) when formal publication and consultation in relation to the Drumby Crescent Development Brief was approved, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment updating the Council on the outcome of the consultation on the Proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance: Drumby Crescent Development Brief, and seeking approval to submit it to Scottish Ministers for approval. A summary of the representations received, and the Council's response, together with a copy of the Supplementary Planning Guidance, were appended to the report.

The report explained that following a six week consultation period no adverse comments had been received and officers were not required to make any substantive changes to the Supplementary Planning Guidance. It was further reported that once submitted to Scottish Ministers, the Council may adopt the guidance after 28 days unless directed by Ministers not to do so. The document would thereafter be formally adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) alongside the already adopted Local Development Plan and the existing suite of SPGs.

The Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve the proposed responses and recommendations to representations as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) approve the submission of the Finalised Supplementary Planning Guidance to Scottish Ministers for adoption; and
- (c) delegate authority to the Director of Environment to approve any minor inconsequential changes to the documents, in line with Council policy, prior to submission to Scottish Ministers.

CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

1857. The Council considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer providing details of the Chief Social Work Officer's activities for 2014/15. A copy of the annual report was appended to the report.

The report provided an overview of the areas of work in which the social work service was engaged together with the particular responsibilities held by the Chief Social Work Officer across the delivery spectrum. There continued to be a number of significant challenges and risks facing social work and the Council in East Renfrewshire including the continuing challenging financial climate for all public services; the increasing expectations and demands from the public and stakeholders; the increasing cost of supporting vulnerable people within the area; the significant changes in the welfare system which would affect the most vulnerable in the Council's communities; the increased child poverty in the area; and the management of increased service demand at a time of diminishing resources.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, key successes had been achieved and social work would continue to adapt to meet the growing demands associated with protecting and caring for the most vulnerable and at risk within the community.

In response to questions regarding foster carer numbers, the Chief Social Work Officer advised that there had been a significant increase in foster carer enquiries during 2015/16, which was out with the timeframe of this report, and it was expected that at least 3 new foster carers could be appointed at the end of the process. She further advised that she did not have any concerns about child protection processes within East Renfrewshire as the information sharing systems in this area were effective.

The Council noted the report.

SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE: APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT PANEL MEMBER

1858. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking appointment of an additional person to serve on the Panel established for the purposes of convening Social Work Complaints Review Committees (CRC).

The report explained that since May 2012, when seven independent persons had been reappointed to the Panel from which a CRC could be convened, one member of the Panel had resigned and, in order to ensure that the Council could, if required, fulfil its obligations to convene a meeting of the CRC without any problems, it was considered prudent to increase membership of the Panel. Contact was made with Members of Panels from other local authorities and, following receipt and review of her application, Mrs Maureen Robertson was considered suitable for appointment. It was further explained that the Scottish Government was currently consulting on a Draft Order to revise the procedure for dealing with complaints about social work services and further information would be provided in due course.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) that Mrs Maureen Robertson be appointed to serve as an independent person on the Panel of persons for the purposes of convening CRCs, with the appointment to be time limited to expire on the date of the next local authority elections in 2017, at which time the appointment would be reviewed;
- (b) that the Deputy Chief Executive would continue to review the adequacy of the size of the Panel and recommend further appointments if necessary;
- (c) to note that the Council's Social Work Committee was the one responsible for dealing with recommendations made by CRCs; and
- (d) to note that the social work complaints procedure was currently under review.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017

1859. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking approval for the 2017 meetings calendar.

The report explained that the Committee Services Team formed the core election team for the administration and delivery of elections in East Renfrewshire. Due to the increasing requirements associated with the delivery of electoral events, it had become increasingly difficult for the team to deliver the elections and also to continue to provide secretariat support for those meetings that take place in the run up to election day and those meetings that take place in the period just after election day. In order to address this, it had previously been agreed that no meetings would take place around election time.

As the elections taking place in 2017 would be the local elections, a number of assumptions had been made in respect of meetings falling after that date, including the requirement for the first statutory meeting of the Council to be held within 21 days of the elections and that there would be no changes to the Council's governance structures and the meetings

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currently in operation would continue. In the event of any changes, a further report would be prepared and submitted for approval.

The Council agreed to approve the 2017 calendar of meetings.

PROVOST