

LEADERSHIP PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr
on 22nd August 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Douglas Campbell (Chair), Ian Cochrane, Julie Dettbarn, William Grant, Peter Henderson and Brian McGinley.

Apology: Councillor Philip Saxton.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; V. Andrews, Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation; L. Bloomer, Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment; R. Riddiough, Head of Legal and Democratic Service; T. Baulk, Head of Finance and ICT; D. Gillies, Head of Property and Risk; D. Burns, Head of Housing and Facilities; C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; M. Baker, Head of Policy and Performance; K. Leinster, Head of Community Health and Care Services; E. White, Manager, (Culture and Sports); and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

1. Opening Remarks.

The Chair advised

- (1) that the Opposition Group had indicated that they would not be taking up the two places on this Panel offered to them, as agreed at South Ayrshire Council on 29th June 2017; and
- (2) that a further report would be presented on this matter to the Council in due course.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of 13th June 2017 ([issued](#)) were submitted and approved.

4. Decision Log.

Decided:

- (1) to note the contents of the Decision Log ([issued](#)).
- (2) to agree that the Leader of the Council would discuss with the Chief Executive how best to revise the Log, in terms of how it was presented and the information provided.

Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

5. Consultation on a Socio-Economic Duty for Public Bodies.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of August 2017 by the Head of Communities

- (1) highlighting the on-going consultation by the Scottish Government on the introduction of a socio-economic duty which public authorities would have to have due regard to when setting strategic policy; and
- (2) advising that, to meet legislative timescales, the consultation period was short and that agreement was therefore sought for the final consultation response to be finalised by the Head of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning.

The Panel, having noted that the introduction of this duty would impact on strategic policy documents such as the Council's Local Development Plan and the Council Plan, the need to focus on equality and equity issues and the need for early consideration to be given to implementation even before it became law; the importance of delivery across Community Planning partners and measuring impacts.

Decided:

- (a) to note that the Scottish Government intended to place a duty on public bodies to have due regard to socio-economic issues when setting strategic policy and that this was expected to be in force before the end of 2017;
- (b) to note that the consultation paper was concerned with detailed aspects of the proposed duty such as definitions and who it should be placed on;
- (c) to agree the main points to be covered in the Council's consultation response, as detailed in the report; and
- (d) to agree that the detailed consultation response be finalised by the Head of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Strategic and Community Planning to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 12th September 2017.

Housing and Customer Services.

6. Affordable Housing Development – The Former Whitletts Primary School Site, Ayr.

There was submitted a joint report ([issued](#)) of 28th July 2017 by the Head of Housing and Facilities and the Head of Property and Risk seeking agreement to the development of a Council house new build development on the site of the former Whitletts Primary School, Main Road, Ayr.

Having welcomed the paper and having noted the importance of keeping the local community informed of the works taking place, the Panel

Decided: to agree

- (1) to provide three tenants in the block at 108-114 James Brown Avenue with priority for immediate re-housing, including statutory home loss and disturbance allowances, to achieve vacant possession of the block;
- (2) to demolish the Council owned block of flats at 108-114 James Brown Avenue, Ayr once vacant possession had been achieved;
- (3) to the development of twenty-seven new affordable homes, via the Council's affordable housing contractor framework, on the site of the former Whitletts Primary School, Main Road, Ayr; and
- (4) that the three tenants relocated to support demolition of 108-114 James Brown Avenue be given the opportunity to receive an offer for a home of the appropriate size within the new development at a future date.

Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure.

7. Partnership with Ayr United Football Academy.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 3rd August 2017 by the Head of Enterprise, Development and Leisure seeking authority to extend the agreement which provided Ayr United Football Academy (AUFA) with preferred status in accessing lets at Belmont Academy all weather pitch.

The Panel, having noted the importance of ensuring that the services provided were affordable for all and maximised inclusion, in order to align with the strategic direction of the Council,

Decided: to agree

- (1) to preferred status for Ayr United Football Academy in accessing lets at Belmont Academy up until and including December 2020 in order to satisfy Scottish Football Association audit criteria; and
- (2) that officers report back prior to any future further extension on the means by which the organisation has demonstrated its support for an inclusive approach to service delivery aligned to the Council's strategic direction.

Health and Social Care.

8. Equality and Diversity Forum Role and Remit Update.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 15th August 2017 by the Head of Policy and Performance seeking approval for the revised role and remit of the Equality and Diversity Forum.

The Panel

Decided: to agree the revised role and remit of the Equality Diversity Forum, as detailed in the report.

9. Supported and Continuing Care Service Adult Placement Service.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 4th August 2017 by the Director of Health and Social Care advising on the outcome of an announced inspection conducted by the Care Inspectorate of services and support to young people supported in continuing care placements.

The Panel, having considered the contents of the inspection report and having noted the fall in standards since the previous inspection reports, and expressed concerns and emphasised the need to raise standards,

Decided: to agree

- (1) that oversight of improvement activity would be undertaken by the Integration Joint Board's Performance and Audit Committee; and
- (2) that an update on the improvement activity and steps taken to raise standards be presented to this Panel in February 2018 and to include in that report information regarding outcomes for the young people affected.

Resources and Performance.

10. Budget Management – Revenue Budgetary Control 2017/18 – Position Statement at 30th June 2017.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th August 2017 by the Head of Finance and ICT detailing a financial overview of the General Services revenue account, Housing Revenue Account and Common Good Accounts for 2017/18 as at 30th June 2017.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note the revised Directorate budgets following the budget movements as outlined in the report;
- (2) to approve the budget transfers as outlined in the Directorate financial performance reports; and
- (3) to approve the requested earmarking for carry forward of resources to 2018/19 as outlined in the report.

11. 2016/17 Out-turn Review and General Services Reserves and Fund Review.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14th August 2017 by the Head of Finance and ICT detailing the outcome of a review of the 2016/17 underspends contained in the service out-turn reports and to review the various committed balances currently held in General Services reserves by the Council.

The Panel

Decided:

- (1) to note that a review of the 2016/17 out-turn had taken place but that there were no material recurring underspends identified for use as permanent savings in future years; and
- (2) to agree that the current levels of general services reserve balances and funds held remain in place for further consideration as part of the budget process.

12. Council Tax: Variance to Charges for Unoccupied Properties and Second Homes.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th August 2017 by the Head of Finance and ICT seeking approval to apply discretionary powers to increase Council tax charges as detailed in this report in accordance with The Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and The Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

The Panel, having noted that there was an element of Council tax income that was ringfenced for provision of affordable housing, that the policy aim of this report was to bring more housing back into use, and that exemptions would still apply,

Decided: to agree

- (1) to reduce the level of discount awarded for unoccupied properties from 50% to 10% after six months;
- (2) to increase Council Tax charges for all properties unoccupied for twelve months or over to 150% with effect from 1st April 2018;

- (3) to increase Council Tax charges for all properties unoccupied for twelve months or over to 200% with effect from 1st April 2019; and
- (4) to remove the 10% Second (or Holiday) Home discount indefinitely with effect from 1st April 2018.

13. Treasury Investment Strategy – Permitted Investments.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 11th August 2017 by the Head of Finance and ICT requesting an amendment to the Council's Treasury and Investment Strategy in relation to Permitted Investments.

The Panel

Decided: to approve an amendment to the Council's Treasury and Investment Strategy to include Loans or Investments for Common Good/Trusts, Registered Social Landlords, Third Parties (including Soft Loans) and hubSW/SFT Project Investment as Permitted Investments.

14. General Services Capital Programme 2017/18: Monitoring Report as at 30th June 2017.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14th August 2017 by the Head of Property and Risk advising on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the General Services Capital Programme projects as at 30 June, 2017 (Period 3).

The Panel, having noted the excellent performance reported,

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the General Services Capital Programme to 30th June 2017 (Period 3), resulting in spend of £7,795,479, or 25.76%, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) to approve the adjustments as contained in the report, leading to a revised budget for 2017/18 of £31,234,079.

15. Housing Capital Programme 2017/18: Monitoring Report as at 30th June 2017.

There was submitted a report ([issued](#)) of 14th August 2017 by the Head of Housing and Facilities and Head of Property and Risk advising on the actual capital expenditure and income, together with progress made on the Housing Capital Programme projects as at 30 June 2017 (Period 3).

The Panel, having considered the performance to date,

Decided:

- (1) to note the progress made on the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme to 30th June 2017, resulting in spend of £2,326,351, or 12.20%, as detailed in the report; and
- (2) to approve the adjustments contained in the report, leading to a revised in year budget of £19,227,810.

16. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraphs 3, 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

17. Authority to Accept Tenders.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 11th August 2017 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking approval to accept tenders that were not the lowest priced tenders.

The Panel

Decided: to grant authority to the Executive Director – Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment in terms of Standing Order 18.2.3 of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts to accept the tenders by:-

- (1) the successful bidder for the supply and delivery of grounds maintenance machinery: Lot 1 supply and delivery of a tractor mounted cut and collect mower/scarifier;
- (2) the successful bidder for the supply and delivery of grounds maintenance machinery: Lot 3 supply and delivery of self-propelled pedestrian leaf blower;
- (3) the successful bidder for the supply and delivery of grounds maintenance machinery: Lot 7 supply and delivery of a self-propelled walk behind verticutter;
- (4) the successful bidder for the supply and delivery of grounds maintenance machinery: Lot 11 supply and delivery of self-propelled pedestrian sprayer; and
- (5) the successful bidder for the supply and delivery of grounds maintenance machinery: Lot 13 supply and delivery of a self-propelled pedestrian cylinder mower for fine turf (golf greens).

Health and Social Care.

18. Outcome of Complaints Review Committee.

There was submitted a report (issued to members only) of 11th August 2017 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services informing of the outcome of the Complaints Review Committee which had taken place on 28th June 2017.

The Panel

Decided: to approve the recommendation of the Complaints Review Committee that the complaint be remitted back to the Head of Community Health and Care Services for further consideration of the terms of the solicitor's letter referred to in Appendix 1 of the report and for confirmation by the Head of Community Health and Care Services of whether his decision altered following such consideration.

19. Consideration of Disclosure of the above Confidential Reports.

Decided: not to authorise the disclosure under Standing Order 32.4 of the whole or part of the following reports:-

- Authority to Accept Tenders and
- Outcome of Complaints Review Committee.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.