

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 30 May 2024.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader) Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Danny Devlin

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources, Health and Social Care Partnership; Andy Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); Jamie Reid, Head of Communities and Transformation; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Morag Brown, Strategic Services Lead Officer; Julie Breslin, Strategy and Partnership Manager; Suzanne Conlin, Senior Housing Manager; Michael McKernan, Economic Development and Inclusive Growth Manager; John Marley, Principal Traffic Officer; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance

Apologies:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Depute Chair)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

850. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE RESERVE – INITIAL UTILISATION PROPOSALS

851. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) on the criteria for utilisation of the Council's Investment in the Future reserve and proposing the first tranche of projects to be allocated financial support.

The temporary reductions in employers' contributions to the Strathclyde Pension Fund were estimated to save the council £6.3m each year in 2024/25 and 2025/26. This provided a £12.6m one-off resource which could be utilised to benefit the Council in the future.

858

East Renfrewshire Council had established a new Investment in the Future reserve to hold those funds, with officers working with the Budget Strategy Group to bring forward proposals to Cabinet for utilisation. Details of those proposals were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The report outlined the proposed criteria for projects submitted and highlighted those projects in the list which met the criteria and were proposed for immediate focus.

Further reports would be submitted to Cabinet as new spending proposals were identified and the areas for consideration were detailed in the report.

Following a brief discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) agreed the utilisation criteria to be adopted for draws from the reserve;
- (b) noted the potential applications identified to date for the reserve;
- (c) agreed the initial projects to be supported; and
- (d) noted that further reports on proposed utilisation of the reserve would be brought back to Cabinet in due course.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK – 2022/23 PERFORMANCE

852. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive updating Cabinet on the national Local Government Benchmarking Framework and presenting a high level comparative overview of the Council's performance against the LGBF indicators for 2022/23.

The LGBF had been established and publicly reported by all Scottish councils as a statutory requirement since 2010/11. Three new measures had been included in the data set for 2022/23 and these were outlined in the report. It was also highlighted that data from some indicators had not been included at the time of reporting due to the lack of availability of that data.

A total of 95 measures were included in the full data set and the breakdown of those was provided. The data was collated by the Improvement Service and added to the National Benchmarking Report 2022/23.

A comprehensive breakdown of the performance information for each service area was listed in annex 1 to the report, and these were summarised within the report.

There followed a discussion where members scrutinised the data provided. In particular, comparisons to the results of the Scottish Household Survey were queried as well as details on the gender pay gap, poverty attainment gap and the measure where roads were costed per kilometre.

The Cabinet scrutinised and noted the Council's performance against the comparative information provided in the report.

COVID RESERVE – PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF FUND

853. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships providing an update on the progress of humanitarian projects that were allocated COVID reserve funding for the 2023/2024 financial year.

The Scottish Government had released various streams of COVID-19 funding to local authorities to react to the emerging needs and challenges faced by residents, businesses and service provision.

A series of funding proposals had been agreed by Cabinet on 13 October 2022 (Item 172, Page 229 refers) totalling nearly £1.7m over the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Proposals for the allocation for the 2023/24 funding had been agreed by Cabinet on 11 May 2023 (Item 442, Page 507 refers) with further proposals approved on 2 November 2023 (Item 654, Page 666 refers).

All of the humanitarian projects, the spend against their allocation and the progress made by each was detailed in Annex 1 to the report and these were summarised in the report. Several of the projects would continue into 2024/25, and those were also detailed in Annex 1.

There followed a brief discussion, where members expressed their support for the projects detailed, in particular, one to one support for children and young people, and the work on income generation and debt consolidation.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the impact made by humanitarian projects in 2023/2024 from funding through the COVID Reserve, highlighted in Annex 1 to the report;
- (b) noted the outstanding projects that would continue into the 2024/2025 financial year; and
- (c) approved the uncommitted balance of £131,672 that would be transferred to HSCP to assist with 2023/24 in-year budget pressures and COVID related impact.

DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNCIL HOUSING POLICY

854. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for a new Domestic Abuse Housing Policy to ensure a sensitive, consistent and equitable approach to finding suitable housing solutions for Council tenants that are victims of domestic abuse.

The Council had always supported those fleeing domestic abuse by using the duties set out in the Housing Scotland Act 1987. However, the introduction of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 made it appropriate to introduce a policy to complement that legislation and ensure the Council had robust measures in place to support those affected. This was of utmost importance as it was explained that Domestic Abuse was the main reason for women having presented as homeless.

The proposed Domestic Abuse Housing Policy, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, reflected the guidance contained in “Domestic Abuse: A Good Practice Guide for Social Landlords”.

The policy was summarised in the report as well as the proposed next steps in its implementation, should it be approved.

860

There followed a discussion where members expressed some concerns around the availability of homeless accommodation and that appropriate training be given to elected members regarding Domestic Abuse.

Thereafter, Cabinet approved the Domestic Abuse Housing Policy.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE – GLASGOW CITY REGION

855. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for a collaborative approach to expanding the public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, requiring the approval of eight Glasgow City Region (GCR) authorities to undertake the next steps to progress towards a shared commercial delivery agreement.

The report outlined work that had taken place among the eight authorities of the GCR in developing the proposed approach, which was termed a “concessionary-type commercial model”. A full timeline for the implementation of the model was detailed in the report.

Following a brief discussion, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the report into collaboration within the Glasgow City Region with respect to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI); and
- (b) approved the recommendations set out in the Programme Management Office’s report, included as Appendix 1 to the report, in their entirety, allowing the Glasgow City Region authorities to collaborate within the aim of introducing a shared commercial arrangement for EVCI.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

856. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment updating Cabinet on the progress of the Neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones programme.

Neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones (NTMZs) aimed to provide a network of safe, attractive, accessible and connected neighbourhoods. This approach intended to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling and reducing emphasis on the use of cars while reducing the impact of vehicular traffic diverting through residential areas on the way to other locations. Cabinet had approved the rationale and methodology for consultation at its meeting on 24 August 2023 (Item 549, Page 601 refers).

74 NTMZs had been identified across East Renfrewshire with consultation to take place on a phased basis at a rate of approximately 15 zones per year over 5 years. The first 15 zones were detailed in Appendix B to the report.

The report detailed progress to date on a number of key areas of work, in particular the strategic framework, which was attached as Appendix A to the report, and the consultation process.

Following a brief discussion, in particular around the potential to look at the area of Netherlee Primary School, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted progress on Neighbourhood Traffic Management Zones; and

- (b) noted the additional external funding application to Sustrans to support the development of a future strategy, arising from what was learned from the first phase of the programme, and approved acceptance of the funding, if it was awarded.

MINUTE OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2024

857. The minute of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 15 February 2024 was submitted for noting.

The Cabinet noted the minute.

CHAIR

