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MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 10 December 2024.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)
Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor David Macdonald (*)

Councillor Colm Merrick
Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Andrew Morrison (*)

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Inspector Brian Eaglesham and Sergeant Belinda Rafferty, Police Scotland

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1065 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

1066 Councillor Edlin, seconded by Provost Montague, moved that the Committee recommend to Council that Councillor Merrick be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee. No further nominations were made.

Therefore, the Committee recommended to Council that Councillor Merrick be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR OPERATOR'S LICENCE

1067 The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement) in relation to a request for immediate suspension of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Operator's Licence under Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Agenda Item 3 refers).

The licensee was not present.

1044

Inspector Eaglesham and Sergeant Rafferty representing the Chief Constable, who had requested the suspension, were present. It was reported that the Chief Constable had complained that in terms of Paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Act, the licence holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold these licences, and he requested immediate suspension of the licences in terms of Paragraph 12(1) of the Schedule, that carrying on of the activity to which the licences related was likely to cause a serious threat to public order or public safety.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the request by the Chief Constable and its relevance to the types of licences held.

The Committee agreed to suspend both licences in terms of Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 11 December 2024.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson	Councillor David Macdonald (*)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth	Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Tony Buchanan	Councillor Colm Merrick
Deputy Provost Kate Campbell	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Betty Cunningham (*)	Councillor Andrew Morrison (*)
Councillor Danny Devlin (*)	Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Paul Edlin	Councillor Katie Pragnell
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Provost Montague in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Caitriona McAuley, Director of Environment; Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Julie Murray, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance; Sharon Dick, Head of HR and Corporate Services; Mark Rodgers, Head of Environment (Housing and Property); Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; Linda Hutchison, Senior Democratic Services Officer; Jennifer Greenshields, Chief Executive's Business Manager; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(*) indicates remote attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1068 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

PROVOST'S AWARD – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2024

1069 Provost Montague announced that Stephen Byars had been named as East Renfrewshire's Citizen of the Year for his lifesaving work as the dedicated coordinator of the Neilston & Uplawmoor Community First Responder Group, where his voluntary work had spanned a decade. Having highlighted that he had been an integral part of the group since its inception, she referred to his role and commitment to ensuring public access defibrillators were readily available in the community. She also referred to his motivation and dedication to educating as many people in the local community as possible on potentially life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills, and the impact of his work.

1046

Mr Byars responded in appropriate terms, during which he highlighted the impact the Group and its volunteers had had in the community.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1070 The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 23 October 2024.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

1071 The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted:-

- (a) Cabinet – 24 October 2024;
- (b) Appeals Committee – 29 October 2024;
- (c) Appeals Committee – 29 October 2024;
- (d) Special Planning Applications Committee – 31 October 2024;
- (e) Appeals Committee – 6 November 2024;
- (f) Appeals Committee – 6 November 2024;
- (g) Cabinet – 7 November 2024;
- (h) Education Committee – 14 November 2024;
- (i) Cabinet – 21 November 2024;
- (j) Audit & Scrutiny Committee – 21 November 2024;
- (k) Planning Applications Committee – 27 November 2024;
- (l) Cabinet (Police & Fire) – 28 November 2024; and
- (m) Cabinet – 5 December 2024.

STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL: EAST RENFREWSHIRE - A PLACE TO GROW

1072 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 11 September 2024 (Page 931, Item 939 refers), when it had been agreed to approve the ambitious strategic vision, East Renfrewshire - A Place to Grow as East Renfrewshire's Community Plan, Councillor O'Donnell reported that it had been adopted by the Community Planning Partnership Board. Having highlighted that it set out the shared hopes and aspirations for East Renfrewshire until 2040, he itemised its three pillars, confirming it had been shared with employees and publically on the Council's website and social media channels earlier in the week.

Councillor O'Donnell commented that the vision would be a key part of the conversation with residents about building a brighter future for everyone in East Renfrewshire, stressing the need for a vision for the area's long-term future which looked beyond short-term challenges and delivered on huge ambitions to achieve even more for residents. He clarified that there would be further community engagement events in the New Year, referring to joint working to be done to shape a brighter future for East Renfrewshire. He urged all Elected Members to continue to support A Place to Grow and share information on this with their constituents.

The Council noted the statement.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENER AND REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BODIES AND COMMITTEES

The following statements were made:-

(a) **Councillor Anderson – Convener for Education, Culture and Leisure**

Councillor Anderson reported that a presentation to the most recent Education Committee meeting on local schools' performances in the Broad General Education and senior phase had demonstrated how children and young peoples' learning had flourished in terms of attainment, attendance, inclusion, engagement and participation. The Committee had been especially pleased about the exceptionally high primary literacy and numeracy performance and with strong Secondary 4, 5 and 6 results, with local schools consistently performing better than their virtual comparators. Having highlighted that Scottish Government statistics just published had demonstrated that East Renfrewshire continued to be the highest performing authority for literacy and numeracy (based on Primary 1 to Secondary 3), he paid tribute to the relentless efforts of staff and outstanding leadership in schools which continued to enable such high standards to be achieved.

Councillor Anderson commented that East Renfrewshire libraries had celebrated Book Week Scotland in November, welcoming audiences and writers who had participated in fun, interactive events, examples of which he cited.

He reported that issues discussed at the most recent East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Board meeting had included impressive performance in 2024 regarding library and community halls attendances; record numbers enrolled in community sports coaching programmes; and increased participation in Live Active and Vitality programmes. Having highlighted that box office receipts at Eastwood Theatre and gym and fitness memberships were at all-time highs, and cited the example of the 2024 pantomime which had broken the Theatre's box office record and exceeded its income target, Councillor Anderson congratulated the Trust on the results and strength of its performance.

(b) **Councillor Pragnell – Convener for Social Work and Health**

Councillor Pragnell reported that on 20 November the East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) had received an update on the revenue budget, the latest projected overspend for 2024/25 being £1.784m which was just over 1% of the HSCP's total budget. The projection by partner contribution showed an overspend of £2.497m against NHS funded activity, driven by prescribing costs which was to be discussed further at the next IJB seminar. Social care currently showed an underspend of £0.713m.

She reported that, taking account of the financial challenges faced, the IJB had submitted proposed changes to existing charges and the introduction of non-residential charging to the Cabinet on 5 December, consideration of which had been deferred to February 2025, pending the implications of the Scottish Government budget becoming clear.

Other issues discussed at the IJB meeting had been an update on the HSCP Strategic Plan for 2025-28 to be finalised by March following consultation; annual clinical care governance and care home assurance reports and related issues; and an update on the redesign within the Care at Home service to

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support growing demand, improve efficiency and achieve necessary cost reductions whilst maintaining quality of care. There was an expectation that the new practice model for Care at Home would be fully implemented by April 2025.

The Council noted the statements.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

1073 The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships, providing details of civic engagements attended and civic duties performed by Provost Montague since the meeting on 23 October 2024.

The Council noted the report.

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2024 – INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2024/25 – QUARTER 2

1074 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of 21 November 2024 (Page 1022, Item 1047 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that organisations for investment of surplus funds be approved, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) reporting on Treasury Management activities for the quarter ending 30 September 2024.

The Council, having heard Councillor Morrison comment that the position had changed very little since Quarter 1 other than to reflect the completion of the recent takeover of the Clydesdale and Virgin Money Bank by the Nationwide Group, agreed that the organisations for investment of surplus funds be approved in accordance with Appendix 8 to the report.

CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2024 – GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1075 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 21 November 2024 (Page 1017, Item 1041 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme be approved, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) monitoring income and expenditure as at 30 September 2024 against the approved Programme and recommending adjustments to it where possible.

The Council:-

- (a) approved and noted the movements within the 2024/25 Programme; and
- (b) noted the shortfall of £0.053m and that income and expenditure on the Programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

CABINET – 21 NOVEMBER 2024 – HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1076 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 21 November 2024 (Page 1018, Item 1042 refers), when it had been agreed to recommend to the Council that proposed adjustments to the Housing Capital Programme be approved, the Council considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) monitoring income and expenditure as at 30 September 2024 against the approved Programme and recommending adjustments to it where required.

The Council:-

- (a) approved and noted the movements within the Programme; and
- (b) noted the shortfall of £0.121m and that income and expenditure on the Programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

COMMUNITY SAFETY 24/7 RESPONSE CENTRE AND OVERLEE HOUSE UPGRADES

1077 The Council considered a joint report by the Director of Business Partnerships and Operations and Director Environment providing an update on property projects regarding the Community Safety 24/7 Response Centre environment, and aimed at increasing capacity at Overlee House.

The report referred to the need for additional capital resourcing for each project, clarifying that the upgrading of the Response Centre and enhancing the capacity of Overlee House had been long-held ambitions. Since funds for the projects had been approved initially, both projects had been impacted by changes in legislative requirements and significant cost increases. Upgrading the facilities within the Response Centre would enhance capacity to deliver critical safety interventions, such as telecare, whilst providing adequate facilities for staff to discharge their duties safely and effectively. Enhancing capacity at Overlee House would, not only reduce reliance on hotel and bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, but also be critical considering the unprecedented homelessness crisis facing East Renfrewshire. It was considered likely that costs for both projects would increase further if they had to be revisited in future years.

In response to Councillor Bamforth, the Director of Environment confirmed that the proposed financial provision for Overlee House was separate from the £1m approved previously for housing acquisitions to address the housing emergency declared by the Council. In reply to Councillor Ireland, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) clarified the accommodation it was intended to build, that the properties should be ready to hand over around December 2025, the current status of the contract which provided greater certainty on costs, and that the next stage would be the appointment of a contractor. In response to comments and queries raised by Councillor Wallace, he referred to the prioritisation of cases for housing, explained that single people were those most likely to remain in B&B accommodation taking account of risk assessments, and reported on the recovery of costs from the Scottish Government.

The Council approved an increase of:-

- (a) £61k to the existing budget within the Capital Programme for the refurbishment of the Community Safety Response Centre project; and
- (b) £297k to the existing budget within the Capital Programme for the Overlee House project.

EASTWOOD HEADQUARTERS REFURBISHMENT – UPDATE

1078 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 13 December 2023 (Page 707, Item 694 refers) when proposals regarding modernisation works at Eastwood Headquarters, Giffnock had been approved, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment providing an update on the project.

It was clarified that the structure of the building was sound, but that much of its core infrastructure was obsolete, life expired and/or in an unsatisfactory condition, creating a threat to business continuity or service provision if left unmanaged and requiring the building to be upgraded to extend its useful life. The report commented on a range of related issues, including employee welfare facilities in the building, the planned relocation of staff from Spiersbridge to the building and related implications.

Having referred to updated cost projections following an invasive survey and other developments and opportunities identified, the report clarified that to deliver fully the originally desired outcomes would require the approved budget of £4.86m to increase to £7.20m. Against this background, 4 options for proceeding were summarised together with the related budgetary requirements of each, the recommended course of action being to approve Option 4 which involved a reduced schedule of works and aimed to reach a reasonable compromise between outcomes and available resource. Whilst Option 4 would incur a significant increase in budget of £1.30m, that investment remained £1.04m below the increased cost of delivering the whole project as originally envisaged. It would deliver many originally envisaged benefits and a revenue costs saving, extend the life of the building for at least 20 years, and much improve the working environment for the increased number of staff to be based in the building.

Subject to approval of the proposal, it was estimated that work would start on site during the summer of 2025 and be completed in early 2026. The programme would be subject to final agreement on designs and any works additionally discovered upon commencement on site. Further updates would be provided to the Governance Board, Corporate Management Team and Elected Members periodically on progress and issues of interest.

Councillor Ireland referred to concerns she had expressed previously on costs, acknowledged the need for some work to be done, but confirmed she held concerns regarding the proposed increased expenditure when other projects were not proceeding. She welcomed clarification provided on the reduced work to be done on the Council Chamber, and also that updates to Elected Members were to be provided moving forward. In response to issues raised by her, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) confirmed that Hub West Scotland would be involved in the project and, regarding the £0.6m contingency provision for the project, highlighted that the project costs were now more certain than at the end of 2023, given the current stage of the project.

In reply to Councillor Bamforth, the Chief Executive confirmed that approval of Option 4 would allow infrastructure work on the Council Chamber to be completed. Subsequently, it would be for the full Council to decide if further cosmetic work on it was to be done, if it wished, at some stage in future. Councillor Ireland highlighted that an original aim had been to develop the Chamber into a more flexible space that could be used more.

Councillor Wallace highlighted that, as for some other projects, the costs had increased from those anticipated and approved originally. In response to him, Councillor O'Donnell referred to the project's complexity, the age of the building and its current infrastructure on which there had been underinvestment, potential unknowns, and related challenges of managing such issues without allocating an unacceptable level of contingency to the project. He highlighted that, in contrast to what would be considered acceptable in the public sector, it was common for changes to be made to such projects in the private sector, but also for more funds to be invested in maintaining buildings in that sector on an ongoing basis.

Having heard the Chief Executive confirm that issues raised on the condition of the building had been accepted, the Head of Environment (Housing and Property) provided an update on work now underway in terms of the Capital Strategy to address such issues going forward. Amongst other things, he referred to the need to be more up front on potential costs, expressed the view that the costs approved for this project had been optimistic, and highlighted that no

guarantees could be given on costs until the latter stages of projects. He also commented on the importance of controlling issues which were under the Council's control, issues such as inflation and market conditions being out with those.

Further in response to Councillor Wallace, the Director of Environment confirmed that the costs specified in the report for Option 1 were for delivering the original project. Councillor Wallace highlighted various issues, including the almost unanimous support for proceeding with this option in December 2023, the lack of progress on making the building fit for purpose, and concerns he held that the project costs could change again. He suggested that a further option was to proceed with Option 1, but to develop funding proposals which could include using financial resources available to the Council following a reduction in employer contributions to the Strathclyde Pension Fund and take account of any overall budgetary underspend by the Council for the current financial year. Councillor Morrison expressed support for this approach, commenting on a range of matters, including the issues identified through the detailed survey and lack of space within the building at present for collaboration.

In response to Councillor Edlin who proposed some form of inquiry on the project, the Chief Executive stressed that it was not uncommon for project costs to exceed those approved initially. Supported by the Head of Environment (Housing and Property), he emphasised that the professionalism of officers involved in the project thus far was not being questioned.

Whilst commenting on the proposals within the report, Councillor Buchanan expressed support for Option 4, taking account of a range of issues, including the outcome of the detailed survey and importance of bringing the infrastructure of the building up to standard.

Adjournment

The Provost adjourned the meeting for a short period to allow some discussion amongst the Group Leaders to take place on the way forward, taking account of issues raised during discussion.

On the reconvening of the Council, Councillor O'Donnell confirmed that all of the political Group Leaders shared disappointment that the original vision could not be delivered, acknowledged the issues raised by Councillor Wallace which were considered fair, and referred to political alignment on the importance of delivering a good working environment for staff. He added that support had been expressed for approving Option 4.

The Council:-

- (a) approved increasing the Eastwood Headquarters refurbishment budget allocation by £1.3m to £6.16m;
- (b) approved the reduced scope of the works as set out in Option 4, and described in paragraphs 19, 20 and 21, of the report; and
- (c) agreed that the refurbishment works at Eastwood Headquarters proceed.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP CHIEF OFFICER RECRUITMENT

1079 The Council considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships informing the Council that the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership had intimated that she would retire from mid-May, and confirming that her successor would be appointed by the Integration Joint Board which had agreed to establish an Appointments Panel to progress this.

1052

Having provided further details on how the recruitment was to be progressed, the report outlined arrangements put in place to ensure continuity and stability within the HSCP should a successor not be in place by May 2025.

The Council noted:-

- (a) the retirement of the Chief Officer, HSCP with effect from mid-May 2025; and
- (b) that the Integration Joint Board was responsible for the recruitment of the Chief Officer, HSCP post.

PROVOST

MINUTE
of
CABINET
(POLICE & FIRE)

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 23 January 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair)

Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; Stephen Bell, Community Safety Manager; and John Burke, Committee Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Superintendent Lynn Ratcliff; Chief Inspector Gillian Faulds, (Area Commander), Police Scotland; and Group Commander Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Apology:

Councillors Danny Devlin and Gordon Wallace

LEADER'S REMARKS

1080 The Leader remarked upon Chief Inspector Faulds attending her first meeting of the Cabinet (Police & Fire) as Area Commander, replacing the outgoing Graeme Gallie. He paid tribute to the work of now Superintendent Gallie, who had recently taken up a promoted post in another area, and welcomed Chief Inspector Faulds, congratulating her on her appointment.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1081 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

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POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 3 - 2024-25

1082 The Cabinet considered a report by the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland, providing details of the performance of the police over the third quarter of 2024-25. The report also provided statistical information in relation to various categories of crimes and offences committed during the reported period together with comparative statistics for the corresponding period in 2023-24.

Chief Superintendent Ratcliff, in introducing the report, took a moment to add her thanks for the work of former Area Commander Graeme Gallie and congratulations to Chief Inspector Faulds on her appointment, expressing her utmost confidence that Chief Inspector Faulds would continue the outstanding work that had been ongoing in the area for many years.

The report provided a summary of police performance against the five local policing priorities contained in the East Renfrewshire Policing Plan 2023-26, with the information summarised.

The report also contained examples of the work being done in East Renfrewshire by officers of Police Scotland on all of the areas of focus covered.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Chief Superintendent Ratcliff and Chief Inspector Faulds responded to a number of questions and provided clarification on a range of operational issues within East Renfrewshire and the crime statistics recorded in the report. In particular, on domestic abuse figures, issues around cyclist safety and parking in cycle lanes, hate crimes among juvenile offenders and work being carried out on cross-boundary issues. Further information would be circulated to Cabinet on some of those issues, particularly on Hate Crime training and on cyclist safety.

There was also an update provided on the status of the body cam rollout, with the supplier identified and the first appearance of body cams in East Renfrewshire to take place later in 2025 as part of the national rollout programme.

The Cabinet noted the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2024-25

1083 The Cabinet considered a report by the Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing details of the performance of SFRS in East Renfrewshire during the first quarter of 2024-25 against the key priorities in their local plan.

Introducing the report, Group Commander Coughtrie referred to the work over bonfire night and the festive period in general. He also extended his congratulations to Chief Inspector Faulds on her appointment as Area Commander with Police Scotland.

Group Commander Coughtrie then reported on the performance of SFRS on performance over quarter 3, summarising the information provided in the report. In particular, he highlighted changes to the Home Fire Safety Visit Programme with more visits being targeted to high vulnerability individuals and data sharing agreements being put in place to allow vulnerable people to be signposted and referred to appropriate partner services.

There followed a question and answer session in the course of which Group Commander Coughtrie responded to members questions on smoke detection, the success of the new UFAS protocol, the robust flood training provided to Fire and Rescue Officers, the Fire and Rescue Service's desire to continue the Fire Skills course at Clarkston Fire Station, partnership working underway with the Council on deliberate fire setting and also on issues around traffic at large scale events and issues that can be caused by those.

Thereafter the Cabinet agreed to note the report.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 23 January 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Morrison (Chair)
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Vice Chair) *
Councillor Paul Edlin

Councillor Annette Ireland *
Provost Mary Montague

Councillor Morrison in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer); Michelle Blair, Chief Auditor; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Linda Hutchison, Clerk to the Committee; and Lesleyann Burns, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Laure Prior and Grace Scanlin *, Ernst and Young.

Apologies:

Councillors David Macdonald and Gordon Wallace.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1084 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CHAIR'S REPORT – SELF EVALUATION OF COMMITTEE; AND ACCOUNTS COMMISSION REPORT ON 2023/24 AUDIT OF ABERDEEN CITY - COUNCIL TAX REFUNDS – A SIGNIFICANT FRAUD

1085 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 21 November 2024 (Page 1021, Item 1045 refers), when it had been noted that work was about to commence on the Committee's self-evaluation, Councillor Morrison requested that members of the Committee complete and return the questionnaire issued to them to the Clerk by the end of January as requested to enable the feedback to be collated. He clarified that further correspondence would be issued on the way forward in due course.

1058

Regarding an Accounts Commission report published on the 2023/24 Audit of Aberdeen City Council, specifically a significant fraud identified regarding Council Tax Refunds, Councillor Morrison explained that the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships had confirmed that the findings were being looked at in-depth locally, and that she intended to submit a report to the Committee on that on 8 May. He indicated that this would be helpful and welcomed.

The Committee noted the report.

FRAUD RESPONSE STATEMENT 2023/24 – PROCUREMENT ISSUES; AND WHITELEE WINDFARM FUND – CLARIFICATION

1086 Under reference to the Minutes of the meetings of 26 September 2024 (Page 950, Item 962 refers) and 21 November 2024 (Page 1024, Item 1050) respectively, when it had been agreed that further clarification be sought regarding the promotion of the availability of Whitelee Windfarm Fund related grants; and anti-fraud measures pertaining to procurement arising from discussions on the Fraud Response Statement 2023/24, the Committee considered a report by the Clerk summarising the clarification received and circulated on these issues.

Regarding the feedback on procurement related anti-fraud measures, Councillor Ireland sought further clarification regarding the contract strategy document referred to that was completed for every tender opportunity. Specifically, she referred to the requirement for officers involved to declare any conflict of interest, seeking clarification if this relied solely on self-reporting, if that approach was considered sufficiently robust, and if a whistle blowing policy was in place to allow concerns to be raised by a third party. She undertook to provide further clarity on the issues she was raising following the meeting. Having confirmed that feedback on some of the issues she had raised would require to be sought after the meeting, the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) offered to provide further detail by email or in a meeting. The Chief Auditor confirmed that a Whistleblowing Policy was both in place and used.

The Committee:-

- (a) noted the various ways in which the availability of Whitelee Wind Farm related grants was promoted to the community;
- (b) agreed regarding the fraud prevention related feedback provided on the joint completion by procurement and the procuring service of a contract strategy document for every tender opportunity, that further clarification be sought on whether or not the section of that document on conflict of interest, which required officers involved in the procurement to declare any conflict of interest, relied solely on self-reporting and was considered sufficiently robust;
- (c) noted, further to (b) above, that a Whistleblowing Policy was both in place and used; and
- (d) otherwise, noted the report.

INTERIM TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2024/25 – QUARTER 3

1087 Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 21 November 2024 (Page 1022, Item 1047 refers), when it had been agreed to note the Interim Treasury Management Report for Quarter 2 of 2024/25 and recommend to the Council that the organisations specified in the report for investment of surplus funds be approved, the Committee considered a report by the Head of Finance (Chief Financial Officer) on treasury management activities for the third Quarter of 2024/25.

The report explained that, in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Committee was responsible for ensuring effective inspection of the Council's treasury management activities. In accordance with that requirement, the interim Treasury Management Report for the period ending 30 November 2024 was attached to the report for consideration.

Whilst highlighting key issues, the Chief Accountant referred to £25m of borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board to support the Capital Programme since Quarter 2 despite current high interest rates. She clarified that the period over which the loans had been taken was relatively short in anticipation of rates reducing in future years. The Council continued to adopt a prudent approach to treasury management and, in particular, the percentage of loans held as at 30 November 2024 that had variable interest rates was 6.13% which was well below the Council's approved upper limit of 15%.

Having commented on short term investments which had increased due to cash flows in both capital and revenue, she highlighted the prudential indicators referred to in the report which helped confirm that capital investment plans and treasury management decisions remained affordable, prudent and sustainable. She highlighted that the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for External Debt indicators demonstrated that the Council was operating well within its limits.

The Chief Accountant confirmed that the Council's list of counterparties remained unchanged from the one for Quarter 2, and clarified that all investments were restricted to UK bodies with high credit ratings, with the maximum period of investment, in general, restricted to 6 months. Finally, she reminded Elected Members that they could request further training on Treasury Management issues through the Clerk.

The Committee agreed:-

- (a) to **recommend to the Council** that the organisations for investment of surplus funds be approved in accordance with Appendix 8 to the report;
- (b) that members of the Committee should advise the Clerk if they felt they needed further training on Treasury Management issues; and
- (c) otherwise, to note the report and related comments made.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting, held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on Thursday 6 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Andrew Anderson (Chair)	Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Kate Campbell	Ms Fiona Gilchrist
Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader)	Mr Des Morris
Councillor Katie Pragnell (Vice Chair)	Ms Evelyn Yedd
Councillor Colm Merrick	

Councillor Anderson in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Mark Ratter, Director of Education; Kathleen McGuire, (Quality Improvement Manager); Joe McCaig, Head of Education Services (Provision); Siobhan McColgan, Head of Education Services (Equality and Equity); Graeme Hay, Education Senior Manager (Leading Change); Tracy Morton, Education Senior Manager (Developing People); and Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Maria Kane, Head Teacher, St. Thomas' Primary School; David Gordon, Quality Improvement Officer; Sharon Hunter, Head Teacher, Mearns Primary and Christine Downie, Head Teacher, St Luke's High School.

Apologies:

Councillor Tony Buchanan, Councillor Danny Devlin and Ms Dorothy Graham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1088 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

1062

PRESENTATION TO FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CLEANING SERVICE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR BEST PERFORMER UK APSE AWARD

1089 Councillor Anderson gave a presentation to facilities management cleaning service in recognition of their best performer UK APSE award. This was a great success for the team and it was acknowledged that it's not the first time they have won the award.

Members commended the work of the facilities management cleaning service in producing such excellent results.

EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT ON ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

1090 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Education informing members of the report produced by Education Scotland following its inspection of St. Thomas' Primary School and Nursery Class. A copy of the inspection report accompanied the report.

The inspection had been carried out by Education Scotland in September 2024. It had covered key aspects of the work of the school and had identified particular strengths and areas for improvement using the full model of the Education Scotland six-point scale and self-evaluation framework.

In assessing the indicators of quality in the school, Education Scotland found 2 aspects of the work to be very good: leadership of change and ensuring wellbeing, equality, and inclusion; and 2 areas to be good: learning, teaching and assessment and raising attainment and achievement.

The inspection team also identified 2 areas for improvement.

It was highlighted that the new head teacher has brought stability and cohesion to St Thomas' Primary School through her effective leadership within a short timeframe.

Members all congratulated the head teacher on the report especially in such a short space of time. A question was asked on the Monday motivation, Wednesday focus and Friday focus to which the head teacher responded that the school worked with the children to develop this and sought their views so the children decided what their focus is.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the content of the Education Scotland report on St. Thomas' Primary School; and
- (b) to approve the action plan to address the agreed areas for improvement.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

1091 Councillor Anderson invited the Director of Education to give an introduction on developing the young workforce, this encompassed skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The Director of Education explained that there had been a number of Spotlights that had come before Education Committee and that these were a deeper dive into work that was taking place in Education.

Members were given the opportunity to speak with the children and young people from both Mearns Primary School and St Luke's High School in the Members lounge before the Committee began who showcased and discussed how their curriculum had enabled them to develop and articulate a wide range of skills for learning, life and work.

The Quality Improvement Officer then gave a presentation on developing the young workforce alongside the Head Teacher's from Mearns Primary and St Luke's High Schools. They explained how they had worked with their children, young people and communities to design the curriculum; this included considering research and learning from best practice nationally and internationally. Both schools had provided extensive professional learning for staff. It was emphasised by both schools how important Metaskills, in key areas such as self-management and innovation were for preparing children for the future world, this gave them the tools that they require to thrive and shape the future as well as encouraging them to learn and reflect.

Members commended the work of pupils, teachers and staff in producing such excellent results.

DRAFT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2023 – 2024

1092 The Committee considered the report on Draft Standards and Quality Report for the school session 2023–24. The report detailed how the schools and services had sought and achieved improvements in provision. The Standards and Quality report had been aligned under four main drivers – Empowerment and Leadership, Social Justice and Wellbeing, Pedagogy and Learning and Attainment.

The Local Improvement Plan, upon which this report was based, was approved by Education Committee in February 2023 and reflected the National Priorities for education, the Council's Community Plan and the department's contributions to the Council's Outcome Delivery Plan 2021 – 2024. The plan listed the expected outcomes and impact associated with the delivery of the department's vision 'Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving, through Excellent Experiences'.

The Standards and Quality Report highlighted very good and excellent standards and practice achieved by the department, its schools and services and was offered as a public record of some of the activities which were undertaken during the previous school session and their impact on stakeholders.

The report set out details on how evidence was gathered to inform the report via a range of reports, questionnaires, performance data and consultation activity. The Education Department planned to make the report available electronically to all parents of children attending an East Renfrewshire school or Early Learning and Childcare setting. A limited number of copies would also be distributed to libraries, education, sports and cultural centres as well as other Council buildings.

The question was raised about an executive summary being produced that would be issued to parents as the view was expressed that it was quite a large report for parents to read through

1064

as it was over 30 pages long. The Director of Education agreed to make this available along with the full report.

Discussion took place over some of the wording in the document under the Development Milestones section. The Director of Education confirmed that the decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving the milestones, particularly in Quintile 3, would be kept under review.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed to get the Director of Education to make any amendments and produce then issue copies of the report for parents.

DRAFT LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2025 – 2028

1093 The Committee considered the report on Draft Local Improvement Plan 2025 – 2028. The report took into account of 'A Place to Grow' East Renfrewshire Community Planning partnership's new vision, the department's Strategic Equity Plan and the National Improvement Framework (NIF) priorities had also been incorporated into the plan.

This gave an indication of the department's key areas for improvement over the next three years and is updated annually due to changing priorities. The report had been aligned under four main drivers – Empowerment and Leadership, Social Justice and Wellbeing, Pedagogy and Learning and Attainment.

Having heard members commend the report, the Committee agreed to approve the Local Improvement Plan 2025 – 2028 with an inclusion of the word percent on page 9.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 6 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Leader) Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Andrew Anderson (Vice Chair) Councillor Katie Pragnell

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; Kirsty Stanners, Head of Finance; Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources, Health and Social Care Partnership; Lee McLaughlin, Head Of Adult Services, Communities and Wellbeing; Kenny Markwick, Head of Environment (Operations); Mark Rodgers, Head of Housing and Property; Thomas McAuley, RCU Lead; Alison Ballingall, Senior Revenues Manager; Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant; Barry Tudhope, Democratic Services Manager; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

CHAIR'S REMARKS – ORDER OF MEETING

The Chair indicated that, to facilitate the smooth running of the meeting, the items would be considered in the order shown below.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1094 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP CHARGING FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES IN 2025/26

1095 The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) on the proposed charges for non-residential care in the HSCP for 2025/26, following discussion at Cabinet on 5 December 2024 (Page 1017, Item 1041 refers).

It was indicated that, while part of the suite of charging proposals outlined by HSCP had been agreed at the previous meeting of Cabinet, implementation of charging for non-residential care had been deferred to allow further clarity to be received on Scottish Government budgets.

The Integration Joint Board had considered the proposals and, with some reluctance, had endorsed the recommendations as follows:-

1066

- the introduction of charging for non-residential care, at that point with a proposed implementation date of 1 April 2025
- the charge set at £20 per hour, subject to the ability to pay
- the taper to consider the amount of a person's disposable income, after assessment, to be used towards the cost of care to be set at 60%

It was confirmed that all charges would be linked to the ability to pay, confirmed via financial assessment. It was also pointed out that this policy aligned with current COSLA national strategy and guidance on the matter.

The report further detailed the proposed policy and the engagement work that would take place on the implementation of the proposals.

Members raised a wide range of questions on the issue, particularly to clarify the range of tapers and charges applied by other HSCPs in implementing such charges, as well as clarifying that HSCP modelling indicated around 25% of those currently in receipt of non-residential care would be impacted by the charge. It was also clarified that failure to implement this charge would result in the need for savings to be identified elsewhere, which could lead to cuts in other HSCP services that were not currently under consideration.

Following confirmation that there was no commitment in the current Scottish Government budget to mitigate the need for the charge, the Cabinet agreed to the implementation of charging for non-residential care for 2025/26 as per the proposal outlined in paragraph 7 of the report, subject to the following amendments:-

- (a) the introduction of charging for non-residential care would have an implementation date of 1 July 2025;
- (b) the charge be set at £20 per hour, subject to the ability to pay;
- (c) the taper to consider the amount of a person's disposable income, after assessment, to be used toward the cost of care be set at 40%; and
- (d) Cabinet also requested that the Chief Officer/Chief Financial Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership endeavour to mitigate the impact of any resultant deficit in setting the HSCP 2025/26 budget, whilst assuring that, should such steps not fully resolve any shortfall, the Cabinet would, on request, give positive consideration to address any in-year deficit.

[This decision was subsequently called-in to a meeting of East Renfrewshire Council to take place on 26 February 2025]

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2024/25

1096 The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Finance detailing the estimated projected revenue budget out-turn for 2024/25 and providing details of the expected year-end variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 30 November 2024 and subsequent assessment of pressures arising

- (i) Education Department;
- (ii) Contribution to Integration Joint Board;
- (iii) Environment Department;

- (iv) Environment Department – Support;
- (v) Chief Executive’s Office;
- (vi) Chief Executive’s Office – Support;
- (vii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department;
- (viii) Business Operations and Partnerships Department – Support;
- (ix) Other Expenditure and Income;
- (x) Joint Boards;
- (xi) Corporate Contingency;
- (xii) Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- (xiii) Housing Revenue Account.

The Principal Accountant advised that on the basis of the information, and taking account of forecast Council Tax collection, a year end operational underspend of £2.144m was forecast on General Fund services with an operational overspend of £80k on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The reasons for departmental variances were set out in the report. She outlined that any such operational underspend at this year-end would assist the Council in meeting future years’ budget challenges.

It was noted that the above figures reflected that £1,351k of forecast COVID-related pressures would be covered by drawing on the Council’s COVID grant resources and as a result did not impact on the operational budget position.

It was noted that the forecast outturn position could still be subject to significant change, for example if COVID pressures increased again. Conversely, it was hoped that management action to avoid any non-essential expenditure could increase the underspend at year end.

In addition, the report sought approval for a number of service virements and operational budget adjustments, details of which were outlined.

The Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) to note the forecast underlying General Fund Operational underspend of £2.144m and the HRA operational overspend of £80k before any contribution from the HRA reserve; and
- (b) service virements and operational adjustments as set out in the notes to the tables on pages 15 to 32 and noted the reported probable out-turn position.

INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE RESERVE – PROPOSALS

1097 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships on proposed further utilisation of the Investment for the Future reserve.

In setting the 2024/25 budget, East Renfrewshire Council had established a new Investment for the Future reserve to hold the resources arising from temporary reductions in employers’ contributions to the Strathclyde Pension Fund for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26, estimated at a total of circa £12.6m of one-off resource.

Criteria for the utilisation of the reserve had been agreed by Cabinet in May 2024 (Page 857, Item 851 refers), as well as the first tranche of projects to be allocated financial support, with a further report in October 2024 allocating funding for ICT infrastructure work (Page 975, Item 989 refers).

1068

The report outlined a series of new proposals for utilisation of the reserve: including the purchase of further temporary housing; a property condition survey; extension of the commitment to Community Capacity Building; and extension of the commitment to the Employee Wellbeing and Development reserve.

Following discussion, where members received clarification on measuring outcomes on the proposals, the Cabinet agreed the following commitments from the Investment for the Future reserve, totalling £3.7m:-

- (a) fund the purchase of a further £1m of temporary housing;
- (b) fund a Property Condition Survey at a cost of £0.5m;
- (c) extend the commitment to the Community Capacity Building reserve for a further 5 years at a cost of £1.2m; and
- (d) extend the commitment to the Employee Wellbeing and Development reserve for a further 5 years at a cost of £1m.

DEBT MANAGEMENT FOR COUNCIL TAX, NON-DOMESTIC RATES, SUNDRY DEBT INCOME, HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS AND EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF, NON-DOMESTIC RATES

1098 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships which sought approval to write-off as irrecoverable sums associated with Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, sundry debt income and Housing Benefit overpayments. The debts recommended for write-off had previously been included in bad debt provision and, therefore, the write-off had no net impact on the revenue accounts of the Council. The report also sought approval to continue the current policy on empty relief for Non-Domestic properties.

The Senior Revenues Manager advised that every effort had been made to recover these sums and the decision to seek write-off was not taken lightly or without due cause. Should any future avenue become available by which to recover those monies, any decision taken by Cabinet would not prevent such opportunities being pursued, hence the recommendation of write-offs “up to” said amounts.

The Senior Revenues Manager outlined the proposed write-off sums and advised that these were in accordance with the Council’s Debt Recovery Policy.

The Senior Revenues Manager also explained that Empty Property Relief had been devolved from Scottish Government to local authorities on 1 April 2023, with the policy for dealing with this agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 March 2023 (Page 447, Item 380 refers). It was proposed that the policy continue for the coming year, for the reasons set out in the report.

In responding to members questions, the Senior Revenues Manager confirmed that the write-offs were taken into account in budget planning and would not affect services and plans for the future.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the write-off of the following sums, totalling up to £502,716.11 without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure:
 - Council Tax arrears totalling up to £318,624.97

- Non Domestic rates arrears totalling up to £90,800.96
 - Sundry debt income totalling up to £69,614.79
 - Housing Benefit Overpayments totalling up to £23,675.39
- (b) noted that write-off of those sums would have no net impact on the Council's accounts as provision had been made for the debt, in full, in previous years;
- (c) noted that Water and Sewerage charges, totalling up to £113,372.07 were also being written off in discussion with Scottish Water; and
- (d) approved the continuation of the current policy for Empty Property Relief for Non Domestic Rate properties until March 2028;

THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES)(ON-STREET) ORDER 2020 (AMENDMENT NO.3)

1099 The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval for the making and confirmation of the East Renfrewshire Council (Disabled Persons' Parking Places)(On-Street) Order 2020 (Amendment No.3).

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the content of the report and approved the making of the East Renfrewshire Council (Disabled Persons' Parking Places)(On-Street) Order 2020 (Amendment No.3); and
- (b) delegated to the Director of Environment the implementation of the Order in accordance with associated statutory procedures.

CHAIR

1070

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 11 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)
Councillor Colm Merrick
Provost Mary Montague

Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor David Macdonald*

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Nicola McEleny, Senior Solicitor; David Higgins, Civic Government Enforcement Officer; Michelle McCarrol, Lead Officer (Tenant & Customer); Grant Murray, Housing Officer (Private Sector); Lesleyann Burns, Democratic Services Officer; John Burke, Democratic Services Officer and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Sergeant Emma Gardner, Sergeant Belinda Rafferty and Inspector Alan Ferris, Police Scotland.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1100 Councillor Lunday gave apologies.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1101 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

1072

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR GRANT

1102 The Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement) in relation to an application for the grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (agenda item 3 refers).

The applicant was present.

Sergeant Emma Gardner, Sergeant Belinda Rafferty and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

Inspector Ferris was heard in respect of the representation submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the applicant's previous convictions, their seriousness and relevance to the licence being applied for, and also having taken account of the representation by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence by virtue of his previous convictions.

Councillor Campbell joined the meeting at 10.10 am.

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

1103 The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement) in relation to a request for immediate suspension of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Operator's Licence under Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Agenda Item 4 refers).

The applicant was not present. A vote took place where Members unanimously agreed to progress in applicant's absence.

Sergeant Emma Gardner, Sergeant Belinda Rafferty and Inspector Alan Ferris, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an objection to the application, were also present.

It was reported that the Chief Constable had complained that in terms of Paragraph 11(2)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Act, the licence holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold these licences, and he requested immediate suspension of the licences in terms of Paragraph 12(1) of the Schedule, that carrying on of the activity to which the licences related was likely to cause a serious threat to public order or public safety.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the committee to decide what weight it wished to attach to the request by the Chief Constable and its relevance to the types of licences held.

The Committee agreed to suspend the licence in terms of Paragraph 11(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Councillor MacDonald left the meeting at this point.

PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION

1104 The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended (agenda item 5 refers).

The landlord, having been invited to the meeting, was not present. She was however represented by her husband, Craig Hepburn who presented the applicant's case

The Senior Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

Following discussion the committee agreed:-

- (a) that the applicant had two weeks to provide necessary and statutory paperwork to Housing Services; and
- (b) that if this was not provided a report would be brought to next Committee on 11 March 2025.

PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION

1105 The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended (agenda item 6 refers).

The Senior Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

Following discussion the committee agreed:-

- (a) that the applicant had two weeks to provide necessary and statutory paperwork to Housing Services; and
- (b) that if this was not provided a report would be brought to next Committee on 11 March 2025.

PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION

1106 The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended (agenda item 7 refers).

The Senior Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

The applicant was then heard in respect of the application and in response to questions.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

1074

Following discussion the committee agreed:-

- (a) that the applicant was not a “fit and proper” person to be entered upon the register of private landlords;
- (b) to authorise Council officers to draw up Rent Penalty Notices and cause them to be served on the applicant in the event the applicant did not cease acting as private landlord;
- (c) to authorise Council officers to report the applicant to the Procurator Fiscal, in the event that they do not cease acting as a private landlord and to cooperate with the Procurator Fiscal and Police in any criminal investigation and prosecution relating to this matter;
- (d) to authorise Council officers to defend any litigation instituted by the applicant in respect of their registration being refused or against the service of Rent Penalty Notices; and
- (e) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
LOCAL REVIEW BODY

Minute of meeting held at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 12 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Jim McLean
Councillor Paul Edlin

Provost Mary Montague(*)
Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor McLean in the Chair

Attending:

Mark Brand, Planning Adviser; Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

(*) denotes remote attendance

Apologies:

Councillors Betty Cunningham and Annette Ireland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1107 No interests were declared.

The Chair advised that a site visit had been held prior to the meeting.

NOTICE OF REVIEW – REVIEW 2025/01 – REPLACEMENT OF HIPPED ROOF WITH NEW PITCHED ROOF, TO INCLUDE 2 DORMERS TO FRONT ELEVATION AND 1 DORMER TO REAR ELEVATION. TILED ROOF FINISH TO MATCH EXISTING ROOF TILE. INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AT GROUND AND FIRST FLOOR. NEW TERRACE TO REAR OF HOUSE AT 123 AYR ROAD, NEWTON MEARN, G77 6RF (REF NO:- 2024/0427/TP).

1108 The Local Review Body considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships relative to a 'Notice of Review' submitted by Dr Alison MacEwen against the decision taken by officers to refuse planning permission in respect of a replacement of a hipped roof with new pitched roof, to include 2 dormers to front elevation and 1 dormer to rear elevation, tiled roof finish to match existing roof tile, internal alterations at ground and first floor, and new terrace to rear of house at 123 Ayr Road, Newton Mearns, G77 6RF.

The decision had been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation made in terms of Section 43A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

1076

The Local Review Body, having considered the information previously circulated, agreed that it had sufficient information to determine the review without further procedure.

Prior to the further consideration of this item, it was brought to the Local Review Body's attention that further information not provided at the time the application was determined had been submitted by the Applicant in support of the application. The Committee unanimously agreed that they would accept the submission of this new information.

Subsequently, it was explained by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement that, as the information hereby circulated was confidential under Section 50A(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting and any further recording of the meeting discontinued to allow the confidential information to be discussed. With members present indicating their agreement and understanding of this, the recording of the meeting was discontinued and members of the press and public excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the consideration of this item.

The Planning Adviser outlined the planning application and reasons for refusal as determined by the Appointed Officer in the decision notice and the applicant's grounds for review.

The Planning Adviser further outlined a proposed condition to be attached to any consent in the event the Local Review Body overturned the decision of the Appointed Officer and granted planning permission.

Discussion took place, particularly around the other properties in the area with similar development and the impact of the additional information on the decision.

Following the discussion, and having heard from the Planning Adviser, the Local Review Body agreed that the Appointed Officer's decision be overturned and planning permission granted, subject to standard conditions and the following condition:

- 1. The development hereby approved must be begun not later than the expiration of 3 years, beginning with the date on which the permission is granted or, as the case may be, deemed to be granted.*

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 13th February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Chair)	Provost Mary Montague
Councillor Paul Edlin	Councillor Jim McLean (Vice Chair)
Councillor Annette Ireland	Councillor Andrew Morrison
Councillor Chris Lunday	

Councillor Cunningham in the Chair

Attending:

Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Michelle McGuckin, Chief Planner and Building Standards Manager; Nicola McEleny, Solicitor; Derek Scott, Principal Planner (Development Management); John Burke, Democratic Services Officer; and Bethany Mitchell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1109 Councillor McLean declared an interest in Planning Application 2024/0478/TP as the applicants were known to him.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

1110 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment on an application for planning permission requiring consideration by the Committee.

It was agreed that the applications be determined as indicated at Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute, particular reference being made to the following:-

- (i) 2024/0478/TP – Agricultural slurry tower with associated access road at land south of East Kilbride Road (B764), Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire, G76 0NT.

Councillor McLean, having declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

The Principal Planner was heard further on the report, in the course of which he summarised the 12 representations that had been received.

He provided further information on the relevant planning policies and assessments and stated that the proposal was considered to comply with the terms of the development plan, including NPF4 and LDP2.

1078

Members expressed concerns around the location of the site, close to properties to the north east, and around the potential for odours to affect those properties, and received clarity on the odour control and management plan that was proposed as a condition of any permission granted.

On a vote taken by a show of hands, 5 members voted to approve planning permission, and 1 voted to reject planning permission. The Committee, therefore, agreed to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report of handling.

- (ii) 2024/0502/TP – Demolition of existing building and erection new building to house leisure centre, theatre, local event and learning space with landscaping, parking and associated works at Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire.

Councillor McLean re-entered the meeting at the outset of this item of business.

The Principal Planner was heard further on the report, in the course of which he summarised the 2 representations that had been received.

He provided further information on the relevant planning policies and assessments and stated that the proposal was considered to comply with the terms of the development plan, including NPF4 and LDP2.

In discussion, members expressed concern about the loss of trees and potential issues with traffic around the site during construction, and with the roads access to Eastwood Park. They received clarification that the Roads service had not raised any objection and specific conditions were in place around the traffic management of the site during construction. There was also a plan in place for the planting of 62 trees to replace those lost during the construction and landscaping works.

Thereafter, the Committee unanimously agreed to grant planning permission subject to the conditions set out in the report of handling.

CHAIR

APPENDIX

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Draft index of applications under the above acts to be considered by Planning Applications Committee
on 13th February 2025.

Reference No: 2024/0478/TP

Ward: 5

Applicant:

G Strang & Son
Mains Farm
Eaglesham
East Renfrewshire
Scotland
G76 0NX

Agent:

David Mair
113 Mary Morrison Drive
Mauchline
KA5 6AR

Site: Land to the South of East Kilbride (B764), Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire G76 0NT

Description: Agricultural slurry tower with associated access road.

Please click [here](#) for further information on this application

Reference No: 2024/0502/TP

Ward: 3

Applicant:

East Renfrewshire Council
Eastwood Park HQ
1 Rouken Glen Road
Giffnock
G46 6UG

Agent:

David Campbell
Tay House
300 Bath Street
Glasgow
Scotland
G2 4LH

Site: Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire

Description: Demolition of existing building and erection of new building to house leisure centre, theatre, local event and learning space with landscaping, parking and associated works

Please click [here](#) for further information on this application

MINUTE
of
APPEALS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 9.30am in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 14 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor Colm Merrick

Councillor Katie Pragnell

Councillor Pragnell in the Chair

Attending:

Kath McCormack, HR Manager; Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee agreed that Councillor Pragnell would chair the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1111 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL – EDU – 08/2024

1112 The commencement of the appeal was delayed until 10am to allow opportunity for all parties to attend.

Joe McCaig, Head of Education Services (Performance and Provision) and Jacqueline Hart, HR Case Team Leader appeared on behalf of management.

The appellant, having been advised of the date and time of the meeting, was not present.

1082

The Committee determined that, as this meeting had been rearranged on 2 previous occasions, they would consider the appeal in-absentia.

Management made their submission to the Committee and were heard in answer to questions on their submissions. A witness was also called by Management.

Thereafter the Management representatives withdrew from the meeting.

Following consideration, the Management representatives were recalled and advised by the Chair that the grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal was not upheld.

CHAIR

MINUTE
of
APPEALS COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 9.30am in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 18 February 2025.

Present:

Councillor Kate Campbell
Councillor Annette Ireland

Councillor Andrew Morrison

Councillor Morrison in the Chair

Attending:

Kath McCormack, HR Manager; Nicola McEleny, Solicitor.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Committee agreed that Councillor Morrison would chair the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1113 There were no declarations of interest intimated.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL – HSCP – 01/2025

1114 Gayle Smart, Senior Manager – Unscheduled Care and intensive Services and Sharon Bradshaw, HR Case Advisor appeared on behalf of management.

The appellant, having been advised of the date and time of the meeting, was not present.

The Committee determined that, as this meeting had been rearranged from a previous occasion where the appellant had failed to attend, they would consider the appeal in-absentia.

1084

Management made their submission to the Committee and were heard in answer to questions on their submissions.

Thereafter, the Management representatives withdrew from the meeting.

Following consideration, the Management representatives were recalled and advised by the Chair that the grounds of the appeal had not been substantiated and the appeal was not upheld.

CHAIR