

MINUTE
of
CABINET

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

Present:

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

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; Barry Ashcroft, Head of ICT and Resilience; Mark Rodgers, Head of Housing and Property; Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place; Andy Dick, Get to Zero Manager; Michael McKernan, Economic Growth and Inclusive Development Manager; Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant; John Semple, Regeneration Officer; and John Burke, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Danny Devlin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1137. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1138. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Finance to monitor both income and expenditure as at 31 December 2024 against the approved General Fund Capital Programme and recommending adjustments where possible.

The report updated project costs and phasings based on current progress and anticipated progress to 31 March 2025.

The Principal Accountant outlined that the current position was a budget shortfall of £0.362m, which was within manageable limits.

The main income and expenditure movements to December 2024 were detailed in the report.

Following a brief discussion, the Cabinet agreed to recommend that Council:-

- (a) note and approve the movements within the 2024/25 programme;

- (b) note the shortfall of £0.362m and that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis; and
- (c) noted that the Principal Accountant would come back to Councillor Anderson with more information on the number of sites for Education CCTV that would carry into the next financial year.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1139. The Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Finance to monitor both income and expenditure as at 31 December 2024 against the approved Housing Capital Programme and recommending adjustments where required.

The report updated project costs and phasings based on current progress and anticipated progress to 31 March 2025.

The Principal Accountant outlined that the current position was a budget shortfall of £0.119m, which was within manageable limits.

The main income and expenditure movements to December 2024 were detailed in the report.

Following a discussion, the Cabinet recommended that Council:-

- (a) note and approve the movements within the programme; and
- (b) note the shortfall of £0.119m and that income and expenditure on the programme would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

CARBON EMISSIONS REPORT 2023-24

1140. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on the carbon emissions from the Council's operations in 2023/24 as well as an introduction to area-wide carbon emission reporting and the results for East Renfrewshire. The report also provided details of progress towards the Council's 2045 net-zero carbon emissions target.

The full report, containing all details of the Council's emissions, area wide emissions, and highlighting projects which were being undertaken to reduce those emissions, was attached as Appendix A to the report.

Following a discussion of the key figures, the Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the Council's operational carbon emissions for 2023/24;
- (b) noted East Renfrewshire's area wide emissions for 2020; and;
- (c) noted the projects and actions across the Council that had a positive climate change impact.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE FORMER TENANT RENTS AND COURT EXPENSES

1141. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval to write-off former tenant rent and court expenses debt that could not be recovered through the debt collection process.

The proposed write-off sums had previously been included in bad debt provision. Therefore, the write-off had no net impact on the revenue accounts of the Council. It was acknowledged that those debts could be pursued and recovered in future if additional information and opportunities arose.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the write-off sum up to the value of £99,606.49 of former tenant irrecoverable rents and court expenses whilst acknowledging those could be pursued and recovered in future should additional information and opportunities arise;
- (b) noted that £93,508.68 of that amount was written off against the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the remaining £6,097.81 was written off against the non HRA as it was accrued by homeless households placed in temporary accommodation; and
- (c) noted that the write-off of those historic unrecoverable debts would have no net impact on the Council's accounts as provision had been made for the debt, in full, in previous years.

OVERLEE PUMP TRACK

1142. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment on a community-led proposal for the construction of a pump track on an area of Overlee Playing Fields, Clarkston, and to seek approval to provide match funding for the construction of the facility from the Economic Development regeneration capital budget.

The provision of a pump track or skateboard park for wheeled play had been identified as a priority within the 2024 Local Action Plan for Clarkston. Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council had contacted the Council in January 2025 seeking support to establish one within their area and liaised with officers from Economic Development to develop the proposal.

The report detailed the budgetary requirements and work done by both the Council and Community Council in meeting the cost of the project. A full funding plan was outlined in the report.

In discussion, Cabinet members praised the work of the Community Council in driving the project forward, indicating this highlighted the impact that can be made by Local Action Plans, and by participation in Community Councils.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the proposal for a new pump track (undulating circuit for wheeled play) at Overlee Playing Fields; and
- (b) approved the match funding commitment of an estimated £87,397 from the Council's regeneration capital budget for 2025/2026.

CYBER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE – VARIATION OF CONTRACT PROPOSAL

1143. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships seeking approval to modify an existing contract with Quorum Cyber Security Limited for the provision of Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) services across the East Renfrewshire Council corporate ICT network.

The initial contract had been set to run to March 2025, following a competitive procurement exercise. However, it was noted that the Council's ICT services were due to undergo a significant redesign to meet future needs. Changing CSOC provider during that period of change would bring risks, which were detailed in the report.

It was proposed that the contract be extended for a period of up to 24 months, which would allow the Council to conduct a full procurement options appraisal once the ICT programme of change was completed.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the modification of the existing contract with Quorum Cyber Security Limited to extend the same for a period of up to 24 months; and
- (b) approved variation of the contract value in the sum of up to £120,000.

CHAIR