

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 15 April 2021.

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)
Councillor Caroline Bamforth
Councillor Danny Devlin

Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Paul O’Kane

Councillor Buchanan, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Andrew Corry, Head of Environment (Operations); Gill Darbyshire, Chief Executive’s Business Manager; Colin Hutton, Senior Communications Officer, Rachel Forbes, Communications Officer, Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer

Apology:

Councillor Colm Merrick.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1610. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1611. A minute’s silence was held to mark and respect the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER) – MINUTE OF MEETING OF 11 FEBRUARY 2021

1612. The Cabinet considered and noted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 11 February 2021.

REVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

1613. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, outlining the latest biannual update of the Council’s Strategic Risk Register and providing a summary of risk management progress.

It was noted that the previous update of the Strategic Risk Register had been considered by the Cabinet on 24 September 2020 and recently on the 18 March 2021 by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

The Strategic Risk Register, a copy of which accompanied the report, set out the key strategic risks to be considered by the Council and detailed the actions that management had put in place to manage these risks.

The report outlined that since the Strategic Risk Register was last considered by the Cabinet, a thorough review of all risks on the register had been undertaken. The result of the review was 12 risks remained as high; 4 risks had been rescored from high to medium; 10 risks had been added to the register; no risks had been removed from the register; and 10 risks retained the same score as before although the risk descriptions had been amended to reflect the current position or provide further clarity.

The various categories and risks therein were set out.

The Chief Executive's Business Manager advised that within the report a risk tolerance map was included and the risks set out by outcome. The Corporate Management Team continued to discuss and review the Strategic Risk Register on a regular basis and it remained a standing item on the Corporate Management Team agenda.

In summary, there were now 42 risks on the register of which 17 were classified as "high" risk.

The Cabinet noted the development of the Council's Strategic Risk Register, that it was considered a "live" document and would be updated and amended by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) as appropriate.

MIXED TENURE SCHEME

1614. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 January 2021 (Page 1401, Item 1514 refers), when amongst other things it was noted that the contract for the Mixed Tenure Scheme would be retendered, the Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, now seeking approval to bring the scheme in-house and to transfer the existing relevant staff into the employment of the Council.

Having referred to the report considered by the Cabinet in January the report explained that as part of the tender process an options appraisal had been carried out assessing the respective merits of stopping delivering the service, retendering to the market or bringing the service in house, with an overview of each of these options being set out.

The report outlined that in terms of an options appraisal, bringing the service in-house represented best value in the circumstances by avoiding the uncertainty over future service provision and the potential additional cost of going out to the market. In-house service provision also ensured the continued delivery of added social value in relation to employment and the local economy.

Having heard the Director of Environment in detailed explanation of the proposals and various Members refer to the benefits already delivered by the scheme and the further benefits that would be accrued by bringing the scheme in-house, the Cabinet:-

- a) agreed that for the reasons detailed in the report in relation to Best Value the service provided under the existing contract be brought in-house;

- b) noted that the relevant employees from VERG would transfer to the Council as employees through Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, (TUPE);
- c) agreed to extend the contract for a few months on the same terms and conditions and rates and within the existing budget as noted in the 28 January 2021 report until the transfer can take place which would be done as quickly as possible;
- d) noted that there were no financial implications at this stage since budgetary provision already existed for the delivery of the scheme; and
- e) delegated to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement and Deputy Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements for the transfer.

GARDEN WASTE CHARGING PROPOSAL UPDATE

1615. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, providing further information on the details of the proposed commencement of the scheme for charging for the collection of Garden Waste. The scheme was approved in principle at the Cabinet meeting on 26 November 2020 and formally approved as part of the Council's budget setting on 15 March 2021.

The report outlined that the Council's current collection of Garden Waste provided a high number of weekly collections per annum compared with many other councils. Maintaining this level of service during the summer months resulted in pressure to the service due to the large volume of garden waste produced.

The proposal to implement the charging for Garden Waste scheme would generate income for the Council whilst at the same time allowing for the reliability of the scheme to be improved through additional staffing and an additional refuse collection vehicle. Three new operational posts and one administrative post would be created within Neighbourhood Services.

Commenting further the Director of Environment advised of a change to the proposed commencement date in the report from the 7 June 2021 to 5 July 2021 to ensure the effective operation of the online payment system.

Having heard officers in response to questions and following discussion, the Cabinet:-

- a) noted the further detailed information provided as to the background to the proposed scheme; and
- b) approved the commencement of the Charging for Garden Waste Scheme for East Renfrewshire Council from 5 July 2021 and not Monday 7 June 2021 as proposed in the report.

