

MINUTE
of
CABINET

Minute of Meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 24 March 2016.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)	Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Tony Buchanan (Deputy Leader)	Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Danny Devlin	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Elaine Green	

Councillor Fletcher, Leader, in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes; Deputy Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Head of Business Change and Revenues; Andy Corry, Head of Environment (Environmental Services and Roads); Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Housing and Property Services); Sharon Beattie, Head of HR, Customer and Communications; Candy Millard, Head of Strategic Services; Jackie Martin, Corporate Business Manager; Steven Skelly, Revenues and Business Support Manager; Stuart Free, Principal Officer (Asset Management); Brian Orde, Roads and Transportation Controller; and Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Vincent Waters.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1967. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER)

1968. The Cabinet considered and noted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee (First Tier) held on 21 January 2016, which forms Appendix 1 accompanying this Minute.

AREA FORUM MINUTES

1969. The Cabinet considered the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted Area Forums which form Appendices 2, 3 and 4 accompanying this Minute:-

- (i) Giffnock and Thornliebank, Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood Area Forum – 24 February 2016;
- (ii) Neilston, Uplawmoor and Newton Mearns North and Barrhead Area Forum – 25 February 2016; and
- (iii) Newton Mearns South, Busby, Clarkston and Eaglesham Area Forum – 1 March 2016.

The Cabinet agreed to note the Minutes and approve the recommendations therein.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK: 2014/15 PERFORMANCE

1970. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing an update on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) together with an overview of the Council's performance against the indicators from 2012/13 to 2014/15. A copy of the performance report was appended to the report.

Whilst noting that the LGBF had been recorded and publicly reported by all Scottish councils as a statutory requirement since 2010/11, the report highlighted that the framework provided comparative analysis for a total of 56 indicators at a Council level although only 54 of the indicators were relevant to the Council as two of them related to museums.

The report explained that the published LGBF data was for financial year 2014/15, and therefore the data was not new and that much of the information had been publicly reported to the Council as part of the Council's performance management arrangements. However, it was noted that this was the first time the 2014/15 results had been presented in comparison with local authority performance across Scotland. Detailed information on the LGBF (including data issues) was outlined in Annex 2 to the report.

The report concluded by indicating that the Council's performance against the LGBF data set showed a broadly balanced picture of performance, with the majority of indicators in the upper quartiles. Furthermore,, it showed strong performance in key outcome areas where the Council was making differences to people's lives in education, recycling, employment and housing. The LGBF indicator set was only one means of recording and measuring the Council's performance, and the report indicated that to achieve a balanced picture, the outcomes the Council was delivering through the Single Outcome Agreement, Outcome Delivery Plan and through various audits, inspections and self-assessments should be noted. The use of the LGBF and other benchmarking data to support service improvement was ongoing within the Council.

The Cabinet noted the Council's performance against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators and the action being taken by departments to address any performance issues.

CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE - HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP AGILE WORKFORCE SOLUTION

1971. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Officer - Health and Social Care Partnership, providing an update on the capital funding allocated to the agile workforce solution within the Health and Social Care Partnership previously known as the Community Health and Care Partnership and seeking approval to re-allocate the funding within the Agile Workforce programme of work.

The report explained that since 2013, the Health and Social Care Partnership had made significant progress in transforming from a traditional desk based workforce to one that was modern and digital, in line with the Council's five capabilities. To further support this transformation, the Health and Social Care Partnership had requested that funding of £226,000 currently allocated to the overarching Agile Workforce programme be re-allocated to enable the required buildings to be redesigned. The project would enable the re-fit of the three remaining buildings (excluding the Eastwood Health and Care Centre) hosting Health and Social Care Partnership staff to ensure that they were designed to support agile working and facilitate co-produced, collaborative and effective working.

The Cabinet:-

- (a) noted the progress of the original programme; and
- (b) approved the re-allocation of £226,000 within the Agile Workforce programme to the re-design of buildings hosting Health and Social Care Partnership staff.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

1972. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, monitoring expenditure as at 2 March 2016 against the approved Capital Programme for 2015/16 and recommending adjustments where necessary in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that the projected shortfall of £24,000 representing 0.1% of the resources available was within manageable limits.

It was noted that increasing inflation on construction works was impacting on a number of the Council's major capital projects and the cost increases had been reflected in the 8-year programme approved at the meeting of the Council on 9 March 2016. Cost increases approved as part of this process had been reflected within the total cost assigned to each project. Full details were appended to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) **recommend to the Council** that the proposed adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme 2015/16 be approved; and
- (b) note that the shortfall of £24,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

1973. The Cabinet considered a joint report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Environment, monitoring expenditure as at 2 March 2016 against the approved Housing Capital Programme 2015/16 and recommending adjustments where necessary in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The report highlighted the latest developments relating to the programme, including the latest income and expenditure movements and cash flow management issues and indicated that the projected shortfall of £18,000 representing 0.3% of the resources available was within manageable limits. Details of the 2015/16 Housing Revenue Account investment in the Council's housing was also outlined in the report.

The Cabinet agreed to:-

- (a) **recommend to the Council** that the movements within the Housing Capital Programme 2015/16 be approved; and
- (b) note the shortfall of £18,000 would be managed and reported within the final accounts for the year.

ESTIMATED REVENUE BUDGET OUT-TURN 2015/16

1974. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, detailing the projected revenue out-turn for 2015/16 and providing details of the expected variances together with summary cost information for each of the undernoted services as at 1 January 2016:-

- (i) Objective and Subjective Summaries;
- (ii) Education Department;
- (iii) Health and Social Care Partnership;
- (iv) Environment;
- (v) Environment – Support;
- (vi) Corporate and Community Services Department – Community Resources;
- (vii) Corporate and Community Services Department – Support;
- (viii) Chief Executive's Office;
- (ix) Other Expenditure and Income and Other Housing; and
- (x) Housing Revenue Account.

Whilst noting that the estimated year-end position showed a net favourable variance on net expenditure of £3,640,900, the report highlighted that for General Fund services the projected underspend was noted as £3,690,600 and that this variance was anticipated in addition to the planned transfer to reserves of £1,010,000 agreed at the meeting of the Council on 12 February 2015. Furthermore, the Housing Revenue Account was currently forecasting an overspend of £50,000 and this had arisen as overheads must now be recovered only from revenue works and not from capital projects. However, management action was being taken to address this matter.

The report also explained that the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 placed a statutory requirement on Significant Trading Operations to achieve a break even position over a rolling three year period. However, it was noted that none of the Council's services fell within the definition of a Significant Trading Operation.

The report concluded by highlighting that a number of operational variances required management action to ensure that expenditure would be in line with budget at the end of the financial year and that at this time, it was expected that management action would lead to all overspends being recovered, that all underspends were consolidated wherever possible and that spending up to budget levels did not take place.

The Cabinet, having noted the reported probable out-turn position of the Revenue Budget 2015/16, agreed that:-

- (a) all departments currently on target to remain within budget be required to monitor and maintain this position to the year-end;
- (b) those departments currently forecasting a year-end overspend position be required to take action to bring net expenditure back within budget; and
- (c) all service departments ensure that effective control and measurement of agreed operational efficiencies were undertaken on a continuous basis.

TRADING UNDER BEST VALUE

1975. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer, requesting that consideration be given to the classification of Council activities in terms of trading operations as defined by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and as modified in June 2013 by the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC).

The report explained that in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council was required to consider its trading operations on an annual basis and determine those which should be regarded as significant. Having noted the criteria that required to be met for a trading operation to be considered as “significant” and a further test of significance that required to be taken into account, the report explained that having taken these conditions into account, the result of the review for 2015/16 was that the Council had no Significant Trading Operations.

The Cabinet approved that in terms of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 that there were no trading services operated by the Council that should be classified as “significant”.

REVIEW OF THE STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

1976. The Cabinet considered a report by the Chief Executive, providing the annual update of the Council’s Strategic Risk Register and noting that the previous update had been considered at the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 3 March 2016. A copy of the register was appended to the report.

The Strategic Risk Register set out the key risks to be considered by the Council and detailed the action that management had put in place to address these risks. It was noted that for the first time, significant risks which might impact on the achievement of the Council’s outcomes relating to either the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership Integration Joint Board or the Culture and Leisure Trust had been included in the update.

It was noted that across the Council, 6 new risks had been added and 3 having been removed, the report indicated that there were now 31 risks on the register of which 13 were

evaluated as high, 15 medium and 3 of low risk. The amount of high risk remained similar to the previous update.

The Cabinet approved the updated Council Strategic Risk Register.

ROADS REVENUE PROGRAMME 2016/17

1977. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the Roads Revenue Programme for the financial year 2016/17. A copy of the programme was appended to the report.

The report explained that the Roads Revenue core funding was £3,514,600 and that this sum had been supplemented by an allocation of £500,000 from the Repairs and Renewals budget for carriageway resurfacing giving a total available budget of £4,014,600 for 2016/17. A breakdown of how the proposed revenue expenditure would be allocated was outlined in the report.

The Cabinet approved the Roads Revenue Programme 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A to the report.

THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL – ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 AND ROAD HUMPS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1998 – INTRODUCTION OF RAISED JUNCTION TABLES – B764 MOOR ROAD, EAGLESHAM

1978. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval of the introduction of raised junction speed tables on the B764 Moor Road at its junctions with Kirktonmoor Road/Alnwick Drive; Picketlaw Road and Polnoon Street/B764 Montgomery Street/Alnwick Drive in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

The report explained that the Polnoon Housing Development in Eaglesham was an exemplar project setting new standards across Scotland and that as part of this design it was agreed that, contrary to Council policy, raised speed tables would be considered at this location.

The proposed speed tables were contrary to Council policy as the Moor Road was a classified B route. However, due to the changed circumstances on the B764 Moor Road since the opening of the A726 Glasgow Southern Orbital and the invitation for the Council to participate in this exemplar project, the design feature was agreed between the developer, the Council and the Scottish Government. The junction tables will also complement the extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B764 Moor Road, approved at the meeting of the Council on the 11 February 2016.

Following statutory consultation and as a consequence of one formal objection being received, the design of the scheme had been amended. Although the formal objection had not been retracted the Council's Legal Services had advised that in this instance there was no requirement to hold a Public Inquiry regarding the introduction of junction speed tables.

The Cabinet approved the introduction of raised junction speed tables on the B764 Moor Road at its junctions with (1) Kirktonmoor Road/Alnwick Drive; (2) Picketlaw Road; and (3) Polnoon Street/B764 Montgomery Street/Alnwick Drive in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE COUNCIL TAX

1979. The Cabinet considered and approved a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking the write-off of Council Tax arrears of £196,898.12 and Water and Sewerage charges of £63,221.13, without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE NON-DOMESTIC RATES

1980. The Cabinet considered and approved a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking the write-off of £39,573.97 of Non-Domestic Rates, without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure.

WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE SUNDRY DEBTOR INCOME

1981. The Cabinet considered and approved a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, seeking the write-off of £143,635.68 of irrecoverable Sundry Debtor Income, without prejudice to subsequent recovery procedure.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Leader, the Cabinet 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Act.

ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND AT NEWFORD GROVE, CLARKSTON

1982. The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, seeking approval for the purchase of an area of land at Newford Grove, Clarkston.

The Cabinet agreed:-

- (a) to approve the acquisition of an area of ground, extending to approximately 450 sqm from the owners of the land; and
- (b) that delegated powers be granted to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement, to finalise negotiations and conclude the acquisition.

CHAIR

MINUTE

of

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (FIRST TIER)

Minute of Meeting held at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 21 January 2016.

Present:

Councillor Jim Fletcher
Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Ralph Robertson

Union Representatives:

Mr Martin Doran (GMB)
Mr Mark Kirkland (UNISON)
Mr Steven Larkin (UNISON)

Mr Gordon Lees (UNISON)
Mr Alan Munro (EIS)
Mr David Nimmo (GMB)

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Sharon Beattie, Head of HR, Customer and Communications; Hugh Friel, Senior HR Officer; Steve Murray, Health and Safety Adviser; and Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Mr John Henry (GMB); Mr John Guidi (SSTA); Mr Joe Lynch (UNISON); and Mr Alan Scott (UNISON).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The committee considered and approved as a correct record the Minute of the meeting held on 21 May 2015.

REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

2. The committee considered a report by the Head of Accountancy on developments regarding the 2016/17 revenue budget. In keeping with a longer term approach adopted to managing the current financial difficulties, in February 2015 the Council had approved the 2015/16 revenue budget and indicative budgets for 2016/17 and 2017/18 based on forecasts of spending pressures and funding and savings measures for 2015/16 to 2017/18 which had been subject to full consultation. Based on grant assumptions, the 2016/17 and 2017/18 savings had fallen short of the total thought required by £0.115m and £4.52m respectively, the intention being to keep forecasts and grant assumptions under review and submit updated budgets to the Council for approval annually as funding was confirmed.

It was explained that when the Council's provisional 2016/17 grant figures were announced in December 2015, it had been confirmed that the overall core grant level for Scottish Councils for 2016/17 would reduce in cash terms by 3.5%. Despite the Council's prudent approach when setting future indicative budgets, this was more than assumptions used for forecasting. Having clarified that the 2016/17 core grant was lower in cash terms than that allocated for 2015/16, the report highlighted that the Council had to find efficiencies to compensate for pay and price increases and service demand pressures which were not funded.

The report explained that the headline grant figure incorporated funding to support a Council Tax freeze, this being a condition of the grant as was maintaining teacher numbers linked to pupil ones. Having referred to the varied settlement across individual councils associated with the distributional effects of population changes and the 'floors' grant safety net arrangement, the report highlighted that some elements of grant remained to be distributed and checks carried out, with confirmation of the final settlement due in February. The Council was reviewing its provisional figures to confirm the impact on its 2016/17 budget, with the outlook for 2017/18 remaining a major concern and savings still requiring to be identified to address the anticipated funding gap.

Issues referred to on the financial outlook included the multi-year budget set by the Council to help manage the difficult financial circumstances faced and the value of its longer term financial planning approach which it was intended to continue. It was reiterated that the Council's 2016/17 grant allocation would not be confirmed until February 2016 with uncertainties remaining on future funding, and clarified that an updated forecast on the Council's 2017/18 financial position would be made but reviewed on an ongoing basis to reflect clarification provided on grant funding, to review assumptions on spending pressures needing to be addressed and based on assumed Council Tax income.

Based on assumptions and advice on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn 2015 Statement, the forecast remained that local government funding could reduce further in cash terms in 2017/18. It was anticipated that over the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 a total shortfall of £26m had to be addressed by the Council compared to £22m anticipated originally. This compared to savings applied totalling £10.6m for 2013/14 and 2014/15, emphasising the scale of the difficulties faced. It was expected that real term budget reductions would continue until at least 2019/20 and clarified that the difficulties would be considered in line with the Council's longer term financial management strategy and involve Trade Union engagement.

Whilst commenting on the Council's multi-year Capital Plan for the General Fund, the report referred to the need for investment to reflect economic circumstances, reductions in capital receipts and the establishment of an appropriate level of Capital Reserve to be applied over the coming years. Reference was also made to the Housing Capital Plan and, more generally, related consultation and communication, including with the Trade Unions.

Whilst commenting on the provisional grant settlement, Councillor Fletcher referred to a graph, a copy of which was tabled and would be submitted to the Budget Strategy Group (BSG), depicting the savings required in 2016/17 and 2017/18 compared to those planned for. He referred to the intention to delay submitting a report to the Council on its revenue budget for 2016/17 and beyond, the extent of further savings required and intention to adopt an honest and transparent approach. Having reported why he could not provide the detail normally made available to the committee at this stage and whilst explaining the savings required with reference to the graph, he commented on the severe pressures facing local authorities and that the financial settlement did not include provision for significant costs linked to pay increases, national insurance changes and price inflation. Councillor Fletcher

referred to savings identified thus far with Trade Union help, indicating an intention to bring forward to 2016/17 savings identified for 2017/18 on which consultation had been done, subject to further work on options by officers. He added that he was not aware of any appetite amongst Members to increase the Council Tax.

Referring to 2017/18 savings requirements, Councillor Fletcher expressed hope that a Council Tax freeze would not be a grant condition in future and that future taxation changes in Scotland would be helpful. Having referred to challenges linked to identifying savings, including when teacher numbers had to be maintained, and quantified those necessary, he emphasised that a significant proportion of the £26m required had already been achieved through hard work and liaison, including with the Trade Unions.

In reply to Mr Lees, Councillor Fletcher confirmed the Council's commitment to no compulsory redundancies for the 2016/17 financial budget but however that this commitment could not be made at this time for the 2017/18 savings being applied in 2016/17. He added that until future grant settlements and any required savings were fully known, a guarantee beyond then could not be given whilst every effort would be made to avoid these. He anticipated announcing at the Council meeting in March that a funding gap existed and that confirmation of the position on posts would depend on how quickly the 2016/17 savings package could be finally agreed.

Also in response to Mr Lees and Mr Doran who requested further information on the specific savings to be brought forward to 2016/17 and those in 2017/18, Councillor Fletcher referred to the need to identify options, highlighting it was unlikely that all savings could be achieved through use of reserves although use of some could make a contribution to them. He added that one reason why the final situation could not be confirmed was that the position on funding made available by the Government for Integration Joint Boards (IJBs), which might be additional to the local government settlement, was still unclear.

Whilst acknowledging the difficulties faced, Mr Doran commented that Trade Union members would wish clarification on their employment position, job security being a top concern. Having reiterated the Council's past commitments on redundancies, Councillor Fletcher stressed the increasingly difficult position faced and need to deliver a legal budget, emphasising how crucial staff had been to delivering savings and how valued they were. He referred to how Government protection of selected services had not extended to local government, emphasising the need for related concerns to be raised by the Council and others. Mr Larkin confirmed he had written to the First Minister in such terms requesting a meeting with the First Minister and Finance Minister. Councillor Fletcher emphasised that his party would support a local campaign for a better settlement. Councillor McAlpine stressed there was no wish to increase Council Tax levels or pursue compulsory redundancies, also expressing his support for working with the Trade Unions on such a campaign.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the level of pressure staff faced and concerns expressed, clarifying that if compulsory redundancies were ever pursued this would not happen immediately. She clarified that elected Members too were aware of pressures facing staff and wished to work with the Trade Unions to manage issues. She emphasised that efficiency was not about asking hard working staff to work harder, but rather about looking at what work might no longer be required and how services are delivered. Mr Munro commented that requests for staff to work harder were for the past, including for teachers. Whilst supporting maintenance of teacher numbers, he commented that the Trade Unions had pursued a standard for teacher numbers on which local government support would be helpful. Having referred to a current no compulsory redundancy agreement in place for teachers linked to absence levels, he expressed the view that savings would ultimately lead to a smaller authority and less service provision.

In reply to Mr Munro who asked what future changes were envisaged in 2017/18, Councillor Fletcher reiterated his commitment to an honest approach and on-going partnership with the Trade Unions such as on sharing information, but added that he could not comment on this in detail at this stage, reiterating his hope that more funds would become available. He added that he did not criticise the EIS for its stance on protecting teacher numbers, but that a consequence of that protection was that savings impacted disproportionately on other, unprotected services. He expressed the view that it was unhelpful when the EIS supported local authorities being sanctioned financially for failing to maintain teacher numbers, citing the value of school librarians and classroom and special needs assistants who did not receive such protection. Mr Munro commented that workforce planning for teachers needed to be addressed further, referring to the difficulty of engaging permanent and supply staff.

Mr Lees requested that the Council revisit cuts facing the school librarian service, arguing that a 50% cut in one year was too great. Councillor Fletcher confirmed he had relayed the concerns expressed about this to the BSG and that a response would be provided but that he did not think scope to take a different approach existed. He emphasised that there was no wish to force people to leave the authority, that discussions with these librarians had been ongoing and that he was not aware of anyone leaving who had not expressed a wish to do so. More generally he highlighted that employees in surplus posts were dealt with sensitively and redeployed if possible. Mr Lees highlighted that posts deleted from the staffing establishment would not be reinstated and the need to recognise that the future school librarian service could not equal that of the past. Councillor Fletcher commented that, even with reduced staff, a school library service would be provided.

It was agreed to note the position and comments made.

TRADE UNION BILL

3. Reference was made to a Motion sent to Councillors by the Trade Unions seeking the Council's support to oppose provisions within the Trade Union Bill.

Councillor Fletcher undertook to consider what had been sent but referred also to an agreement amongst the coalition not to submit many Motions to Council and the possibility of action without Motions being considered formally. He commented that whilst there was opposition to the Bill and everything possible would be done to preserve current provision in relation to cheque-off and facilities time for example, there was a need to work within the law. He added that further clarity on the Bill was anticipated in due course. Councillor Robertson said he considered the Motion he had seen fair and expressed support for working with the Trade Unions, but added that there was a need to work within the law.

Mr Doran referred to the proposed legislation as an attack on democracy and the GMB's position, commenting that Scottish local authorities' current opposition to implementation of the legislation was welcomed but could change. Having referred to a local initiative to move GMB members onto making payments by direct debit instead of through cheque-off, he referred to staff commitment to providing high quality services and his intention to seek permission to brief the GMB membership on implications of the legislation and the direction of travel. Councillor Fletcher clarified that there was no wish to change the current cheque-off arrangements if they could continue legally but referred to potential sanctions of not adhering to legislation and the need to consider these. He confirmed that the GMB should liaise with the Head of HR, Customer and Communications on the contact it wished to make with its members.

The position was noted.

COUNCIL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

4. There were submitted and noted the Minutes of the Council's Health and Safety Committee held on 29 April and 28 October 2015.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. The committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 19 May 2016.

MINUTE
of
GIFFNOCK AND THORNLIEBANK, NETHERLEE, STAMPERLAND
AND WILLIAMWOOD AREA FORUM

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in Woodfarm High School, Woodfarm on 24 February 2016.

Present:

Councillor Mary Montague

Lynne Arnott (Thornliebank Community Council); Monty Cowen (Jewish Representative Council); and Jim Martin (Giffnock Community Council).

Councillor Montague in the Chair

Attending:

Paul O'Neil, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Jim Fletcher and Ralph Robertson; Inspector Alan Dickson, Police Scotland; and Station Manager David Fothergill, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 2 December 2015.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16

2. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of projects previously approved by the forum in 2015/16.

The report explained that at the meeting of the forum on 2 December, it was agreed that delegated powers be granted to the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services in consultation with the Chair to approve any projects up to the end of the financial year to commit the balance remaining in the budget of £4,300.

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Whilst noting that it had been decided under delegated powers to purchase and install a table tennis table in Rouken Glen Park at a cost of £7,800, the report explained that the shortfall in funding the total cost of the project would be met from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The forum agreed to note the terms of the report.

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES – UPDATE

3. There were no representatives from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at the meeting.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

4. The forum noted that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 January 2016, it had been decided that the area forums would cease to operate from April 2016, and as a result this was the last meeting.

Councillor Montague thanked all the Members of the forum both past and present for their positive contribution to the work of the forum over the years of its operation.

MINUTE
of
NEILSTON, UPLAWMOOR AND NEWTON MEARNS NORTH AND BARRHEAD
AREA FORUM

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead on 25 February 2016.

Present:

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair); Councillor Tony Buchanan; Grace Brookmyre (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum); David Pearson (Crookfur, Greenlaw and Mearns Village Community Council); and Alan Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

Attending:

Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Elaine Green, Paul O’Kane and Tommy Reilly; Inspector Alan Dickson (Police Scotland); and Station Manager David Fothergill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 10 December 2015.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16

2. The Forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the budget allocation for 2015/16.

The report explained that at the previous meeting the Forum had agreed that further information would be sought regarding the noise reduction project at Uplawmoor Skate Park to allow a final decision to be made on the request for additional funding. Attempts had been made to contact Metropolitan Insulation Services regarding the work carried out in Glasgow but no response had been received. Since insufficient time remained to complete the project before the end of the financial year the funding previously agreed had been returned to the Area Forum budget and Uplawmoor Community Council, which had submitted the proposal, had been advised in writing of the decision.

The Committee Services Officer explained that two projects had recently been submitted for consideration, these being for an information signpost at High St/Main St, Neilston and for a dog waste bin at Mure Hall, Uplawmoor. Following urgent discussion with and considerable effort by officers within the appropriate services, it had been confirmed earlier in the day that it was most unlikely that either of these projects could be completed by the end of the financial year.

A list of projects approved by the forum and under delegated powers was included as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Hay expressed regret that it had not been possible to complete some of the projects submitted for consideration and invited views on how the outstanding balance of approximately £4190 could be spent by the end of the financial year to the benefit of the local community.

Councillor Hay, supported by Councillor Buchanan, proposed that an approach be made to the company which had supplied and installed World War 1 commemorative benches at the war memorial in Cowan Park, Barrhead with a view to establishing if a further three such benches could be provided on a supply-only basis with a view to these being installed by the Council in the new financial year at sites to be agreed with local communities.

Mr Walker advised that a landscaping contractor working on behalf of Neilston Development Trust to plant a number of trees within Kingston Park, Neilston had indicated to him that if funding was available an increased number of trees could be planted and invoiced by the end of the financial year.

Following discussion on these suggestions, the forum agreed:-

- (a) that the Committee Services Officer would ascertain the possibility of three World War 1 commemorative benches being provided on a supply-only basis;
- (b) that Councillor Hay would approach relevant officers within the Environment Department with a view to installing these benches in the new financial year at sites yet to be confirmed;
- (c) that Mr Walker would advise the Project Manager for the Kingston Park project to contact the Committee Services Officer regarding the possible availability of funds to provide additional trees; and
- (d) otherwise, to note the report.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

3. The following issues were raised:

Holehouse Brae, Neilston

Mr Walker raised the condition of a retaining wall at Holehouse Brae, Neilston which was causing concern to local residents. Councillors Hay and Buchanan undertook to contact officers within the Environment Department as a matter of urgency in view of the safety implications of the poor condition of this wall.

Future community engagement arrangements

Mr Walker sought information on future community engagement following the dissolution of area forums. Councillor Buchanan, supported by Councillor Hay, explained that it was anticipated that the recently revamped community councils would be encouraged to be more proactive in engaging with the Council and other agencies with a view to better representing their local communities.

The forum noted the position.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

4. Councillor Hay commented that this was the final meeting of the area forum. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to Elected Members, community partners, community representatives and officers for their support during his time as Chair.

MINUTE

of

NEWTON MEARN'S SOUTH, BUSBY, CLARKSTON AND EAGLESHAM AREA FORUM**Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School on 1 March 2016.****Present:**

Provost Alastair Carmichael

Councillor Alan Lafferty

George McLachlan (Busby Community Council); and John Seenan (East Renfrewshire Neighbourhood Watch Association).

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager.

Apologies:

Councillors Ian McAlpine and Stewart Miller; Inspector Alan Dickson (Police Scotland); and Station Manager David Fothergill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting of 1 December 2015.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16

2. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing an update on projects previously approved by the forum and the balance outstanding in the General Services budget for 2015/16.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that Busby Community Council had submitted proposals for some resurfacing and reinstatement works on the path at the end of Newford Grove. Costs had been requested and were awaited.

During further discussion a number of additional proposals were suggested, particularly in relation to regular waste and dog waste bins at various locations, in respect of which the Democratic Services Manager undertook to contact cleansing services to establish whether these could be taken forward before the end of the financial year.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

3. Mr Seenan reminded the forum that he had raised the issue of property revaluation at the meeting of the forum on 2 December 2014. He explained that he understood it to be the case that domestic dwellings should be revalued every time that they were sold to a new owner and this was not happening. As a result, with regard to the particularly challenging financial circumstances facing local authorities, this lack of revaluation was depriving them of a potential source of additional income through some properties being revalued and moved into higher Council Tax bands.

At the time this was first raised the Democratic Services Manager undertook to raise this matter with the Assessor and a reply had been obtained and forwarded to Mr Seenan.

It was noted that Provost Carmichael was one of the Council's representatives on the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board and he undertook to raise this matter with the Assessor once again.

Thereafter Mr Seenan and Mr McLachlan were heard on the poor condition of The Crescent in Busby, Mr McLachlan indicating that it was his understanding that the road was scheduled for repair.

In reply, the Democratic Services Manager undertook to clarify the situation with the Roads Service and advise Mr Seenan and Mr McLachlan in due course.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

4. The forum noted that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 January 2016, it had been decided that the area forums would cease to operate from April 2016, and as a result this was the last meeting of the forum.

Councillor Lafferty on behalf of the forum thanked Provost Carmichael for his chairmanship of the forum and paid tribute to those forum members, past and present, who had attended meetings and to their positive contributions. In addition Mr Seenan thanked the forum for the improvements it had made to the lives of many disabled residents in the area through the installation of dropped kerbs in various locations.