

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 24 September 2014.

Provost Alastair Carmichael
Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)
Councillor Charlie Gilbert
Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Elaine Green
Councillor Kenny Hay
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Ian McAlpine
Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Vincent Waters

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Julie Murray, Director of Community Health and Care Partnership; Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Margaret McCrossan, Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer); Andrew Corry, Head of Environment (Environmental Services and Roads); Iain MacLean, Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration); Sharon Beattie, Human Resources Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officer.

Apology:

Councillor Gordon McCaskill.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1197. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING - JUNE 2014

1198. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the special meeting held on 25 June 2014.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1199. The Council considered the Minute of the meeting held on 25 June 2014.

Referring to discussions that had taken place regarding the “Leisure Trust Feasibility” study (Page 1091, Item 1137 refers), Councillor Swift commented that when a similar proposal had been considered in 2006/07 the case for not pursuing a Trust then had been considered robust. He sought further clarification on why the anticipated savings associated with the proposal to establish a Trust at the current time were now considered to be robust.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the Minute; and
- (b) noted that the Director of Education would provide further information to Councillor Swift relative to the projected savings associated with moving to a Leisure Trust.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING – AUGUST 2014

1200. The Council considered the Minute of the special meeting held on 14 August 2014.

Referring to discussions that had taken place on the “City Deal Proposal” (Page 1108, Item 1154 refers), Councillor Swift sought further clarification on why it had been proposed to improve connections from and to Junction 5 of the M77 rather than Junction 4.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the Minute; and
- (b) noted that the Head of Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration) would provide further clarification to Councillor Swift on why connections from and to Junction 5 of the M77 were being proposed.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

1201. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted except as otherwise referred to in Items 1202 to 1204 below:-

- (a) Cabinet – 5 June 2014;
- (b) Planning Applications Committee – 13 August 2014;
- (c) Local Review Body - 13 August 2014;
- (d) Civic Hospitality Committee – 14 August 2014;
- (e) Licensing Committee – 14 August 2014;
- (f) Cabinet – 21 August 2014;
- (g) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 21 August 2014;
- (h) Education Committee – 28 August 2014;
- (i) Cabinet – 4 September 2014; and
- (j) Planning Applications Committee – 10 September 2014.

CABINET - 21 AUGUST 2014 - END-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORTS 2013/14

1202. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 21 August 2014 (Page 1112, 1157 refers) when summaries of the Chief Executive's Office, former Chief Executive's and Finance, Education and Environment Departments end-year performance for 2013/14 had been approved, Councillor Wallace questioned the accuracy of the phrase "the information presented showed a positive picture of services" within the Minute, citing examples of performance which he did not consider to be positive, including regarding absenteeism, payments, addressing some internal audit recommendations and ensuring culture and sports facilities were well maintained and fit for purpose.

Having confirmed the accuracy of the Minute, Councillor Fletcher stated that the overall performance of the Council was considered to remain high from both an internal and external perspective, commenting that the issues raised were relatively minor in that overall context.

Councillor Montague explained that officers were working hard to resolve the issue with the swimming pool at Eastwood Recreation Centre, referring to the age of the facility. Councillor McAlpine reported that all departments were also working hard to address attendance issues, referring to the substantial pressure employees were under to work increasingly efficiently given the budgetary position of the Council. He commended the Creditors Section on the level of payments secured quickly. Councillor Green commended the performance of the Education service.

The Council noted the position.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2014 – BARRHEAD HIGH SCHOOL – OPINION OF LORD TYRE

1203. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Education Committee of 28 August (Page 1130, 1178 refers) when the position in respect of the new Barrhead High School in the light of the opinion of Lord Tyre had been noted, Councillor Swift expressed concern regarding the current position, including the lack of a related contingency plan in view of what had happened.

The Director of Environment confirmed that options were being considered with a view to submitting a report to the Cabinet in the near future.

The Council noted the position.

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR 2013/14

1204. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 4 September 2014 (Page 1136, Item 1185 refers), when the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2013/14 had been noted, the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive providing details of the Council's Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2014 and seeking approval of the current list of organisations for the investment of surplus funds, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report explained that in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011, the Cabinet was responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of treasury management activities and the submission of the report to the Cabinet had been in accordance with this requirement.

1154

In response to Councillor Robertson, the Head of Accountancy clarified why the advice of treasury managers was that the appropriate deposit and transaction limit linked to the Lloyds Banking Group and Bank of Scotland was £10m, adding that investment of surplus funds with the Bank of England was a course of last resort as the interest rates were unattractive.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2013/14; and
- (b) approved the organisations listed at Appendix 7 to the report for the investment of surplus funds.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

1205. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the civic engagements attended by and civic duties performed by Provost Carmichael since the last meeting.

STATEMENTS BY CONVENER

1206. Provost Carmichael intimated that no statements had been received.

STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

1207. Provost Carmichael intimated that no statements had been received.

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON ADEQUACY OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

1208. The Council considered a report from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee providing a statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls operating within the Council during 2013/14.

The Council agreed to note the report.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: BARRHEAD SOUTH AND MAIDENHILL MASTERPLANS

1209. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 29 January 2014 (Page 872, Item 916 refers), when the Draft Development Frameworks for the 3 Strategic Development opportunity sites of Barrhead North, Barrhead South and Maidenhill/Malletsheugh were approved, the Council considered a report by the Director of Environment seeking approval to undertake statutory consultation on proposed Local Development Plan (LDP) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in relation to the Maidenhill and Barrhead South masterplans.

It was explained that Section 22 of the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 made provision for the preparation of SPG in connection with a LDP, that SPGs could be prepared and adopted alongside the proposed LDP and that, when adopted, the masterplans would form a statutory part of the LDP. The purpose of the masterplans would be to guide development,

set out development obligations, and explain how development can be delivered. The LDP was on schedule to be adopted by Spring 2015, subject to a positive and prompt outcome from the Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals which was currently expected to report before the end of 2014.

The masterplans, copies of which were attached to the report, had been subject to rigorous assessment, including informal preparatory consultation with various stakeholders. The Barrhead North masterplan was scheduled to be completed by October 2014 and separate SPG was to be reported to the Council around December 2014 covering specific projects and infrastructure improvements within the Dams to Darnley Country Park. Reference was also made to Development contribution requirements explained within each masterplan both of which had been shortlisted for the Scottish Quality in Planning Awards, and the fact that the masterplan areas and other LDP related sites would provide significant construction job opportunities.

Further detail on both masterplans was provided, including on how they were commissioned, related studies, consultation thus far, and key features within them, following which reference was made to the intention to issue them for a formal 6 week public consultation commencing Autumn 2014. It was reported that delivery of the masterplans would result in significant development contributions towards necessary infrastructure over a period of over 10 years. It was concluded that the documents moved the Council towards the delivery of housing requirements identified within the Proposed LDP, provided a mechanism to deliver infrastructure that mitigated against the impact of the release of these areas of land from the greenbelt, and proactively set out to developers what they needed to deliver to comply with the Council's aspirations as well as providing some certainty to them which helped derisk development, particularly at Barrhead South.

Councillor Swift, supported by other Members, commended officers, particularly the Development Management and Building Standards Manager, on the quality of the documents prepared including the SPG. Citing examples of comments within the Maidenhill masterplan on the maintenance of culverts and the Mearnskirk pathway network, he also commended the extent to which the content reflected views expressed.

The Council:-

- (a) noted the extensive informal consultations that had taken place over the emerging Maidenhill and Barrhead South masterplans;
- (b) approved the detailed Maidenhill and Barrhead South masterplans for formal consultation as Supplementary Planning Guidance; and
- (c) delegated authority to the Director of Environment to:-
 - (i) publish and undertake statutory consultations for both masterplans; and
 - (ii) approve any minor, inconsequential changes to the masterplan documents prior to their publication for consultation.

THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL (CLARKSTON AND BUSBY AREA) (ON STREET)(WAITING AND LOADING) ORDER

1210. The Council considered a report by the Director of Environment relative to the proposed introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to control waiting and loading in the Clarkston and Busby area.

The report referred to the consultation that had taken place as part of the development of the proposed Order and set out the key proposals contained therein. Details of the consultation that had taken place in connection with the draft Order were provided, it being noted that a total of 99 responses were received. Of the 99 responses, 47 objected to the proposals, with each objection being considered and the objectors advised thereafter of any proposed amendments to the draft Order.

Following this process 12 objections were maintained, it being noted that many of the grounds for objection were not within the scope of the draft Order. A summary of the maintained objections, along with a response and proposed action were provided in the appendix to the report. It was explained that in response to the initial and maintained objections, a number of minor amendments were made to the draft Order. However, none made the Order more restrictive which would have required re-advertisement to take place.

Commenting on the proposals, Councillor Robertson referred to ongoing parking problems within the Clarkston Goods Yard car park in response to which it was explained that officers were aware of the situation and looking at ways to resolve the matter. Furthermore, in response to a question from Councillor Miller, it was explained that the definition of the term "peak hours" was contained in the draft Order.

The Council:-

- (a) considered the terms of the maintained objections and approved the responses as outlined in the report;
- (b) approved the making and confirmation of the East Renfrewshire Council (Clarkston and Busby Area)(On Street)(Waiting and Loading) Order 2014; and
- (c) agreed that the Director of Environment be authorised to implement the Order in accordance with the associated statutory procedures.

Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Provost, the Council 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 1 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE - APPOINTMENT AS NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1211. The Council considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive recommending that the approval granted to the Chief Executive to allow her to pursue an appointment as a member of the Board of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), subject to Council approval, be homologated.

It was explained that the SFC was a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Scottish Government established in 2005 as the national, strategic body responsible for funding teaching and learning provision, research and other activities in Scotland's colleges and universities and higher education institutions. Reference was made to the recruitment process associated with appointment to the Board, benefits for the Council associated with

such an appointment, the time commitment involved, and associated issues.

The Council, having heard Councillor Wallace and Councillor Robertson support and commend the proposal, agreed to grant permission for the Chief Executive to take up the appointment as a member of the Board of the Scottish Funding Council.

PROVOST

