

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee

Tuesday, 15 November 2022

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Bloomfield, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor John Divers, Councillor David Gordon, Councillor Juli Harris, Councillor Sandy Keith, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Paul McBain, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Draeyk Van Der Horn, Councillor Sonya Warren

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Mustard (item 4)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Amber Dunbar

IN ATTENDANCE

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Head of Economic Growth and Development, Head of Housing and Property, Consultancy Manager, Mr W Burnish, Senior Engineer (Flood Risk Management), Mrs D Anderson, Senior Engineer (Transportation), Property Asset Manager, Harbour Development and Operations Manager, Mr C Muir, Senior Officer (Economic Strategy and Development), Principal Climate Change Strategy Officer, Ms J MacDonald, Sustainable Travel Officer, Legal Services Manager and Mrs L Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

1 Chair

Councillor Macrae, being Chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee, chaired the meeting.

2 Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

3 Minute of Meeting dated 6 September 2022

The Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee dated 15 November 2022 was submitted and approved.

4 Written Questions

The Committee noted the following written question which had been submitted by Councillor Mustard and subsequent response from the Council:

Road Safety Measures – Roseisle

At the public meeting held in October 2022, Roseisle residents raised their concerns about speeding and general traffic issues within the village. Residents asked for improved road signage and consideration by the council to reduce the current speed limit of 50 down to 40 or 30.

What progress has been made since this meeting to consider the residents requests?

RESPONSE

We will continue to work in partnership with Police Scotland, and will carry out a speed survey for the western approach to the crossroads in Roseisle. Specific instances of speeding and poor driving should be channelled through Police Scotland. The results of these surveys will be shared with the community and Police Scotland who may choose to undertake further investigation of any non-compliance of the speed limits. The results of the speed surveys will also inform whether any further action is required with regards to the roadside environment. We have limited resource for these surveys and need to have a prioritised survey plan across Moray.

There are no plans to change the speed limits, which have been set in line with the council's policy and national guidance on the setting of speed limits. Whilst we appreciate and share a commitment to road safety, the level of incidents at the B9013/C25E is no worse than any other rural junction.

The use of the roads by HGVs is as to be expected of roads of this type. Following previous concerns raised by the community, video surveys were undertaken earlier this year which did not highlight any movements or driving behaviour that we would not expect to occur at a junction like this. A one-way system for tankers was raised at the public meeting and was addressed by Diageo and one of the local HGV operators who confirmed that the roads and the access layout at the Defco pumping station means that they have to approach from the south to carry out appropriate and safe turning manoeuvres for their vehicles.

In relation to improvements we have been working on a design for a footway along the frontage of the Village Hall to assist with pedestrian movements, and are aiming to complete the physical works this financial year. We have also removed some ironworks which may have contributed to vibration issues with positive feedback from residents. The Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey and other inspections do not show any defects or road profile issues. We have a potential small scheme for surface dressing in the area, but this is subject to future funding.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Mustard asked if consideration could be given to the provision of a speed indicator device and improved road signage.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that speed indicator devices are a tool used by the Service in accordance with Council policy in relation to road safety and agreed to circulate this policy to Members. With regard to the provision of improved road signage, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services agreed to discuss this further within the Service.

5 Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 7 December 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to approve the Active Travel Strategy for Moray which sets out the Council's vision and action plan over the next 5 years for Active Travel in Moray.

During discussion surrounding some of the active travel methods in Moray, it was noted that the Strategy and Action Plan did not feature many initiatives in the Buckie and Keith areas. It was also noted that the Council had successfully taken part in the Scottish Working Journey Challenge and it was queried why there was no mention of this in the Strategy.

In response, Ms MacDonald, Sustainable Travel Officer advised that there was a lot of work taking place in the Buckie and Keith areas in relation to promoting active travel and agreed to include further detail in relation to active travel initiatives in Keith and Buckie within the Strategy. Ms MacDonald further confirmed that the Council had successfully participated in the Scottish Working Journey Challenge and agreed to include this within the Strategy.

During further discussion surrounding cycle paths in Moray, it was noted that often these markings could not be clearly seen and it was queried when these would be surveyed.

In response, Mrs Anderson, Senior Engineer (Transportation) advised that Moray has a few short sections of carriage way cycle paths and that she would provide further information regarding including the provision of on carriage cycle paths during the road markings refresh programme.

With regard to the Vision statement of the Strategy that active travel is the automatic, obvious choice for everyday journeys, Councillor Cowe stated that, whilst this was the vision of the Strategy, providing cycle paths in Moray is often hampered by land owners who resist working with local communities in achieving an active travel route and moved that an additional recommendation be included stating that, in the event of land owner resistance, action is taken for a public path delineation order to obtain the necessary land in which to build an active travel route.

In response, the Legal Services Manager advised that the Committee were being asked to approve the Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan and that adding this recommendation would have an unknown financial implication for the Council. She advised that there were other ways in which to bring Councillor Cowe's motion to the Council for consideration such as a further report or Notice of Motion, where a fully informed decision could be made.

On hearing the advice from the Legal Adviser, Councillor Cowe agreed to withdraw his motion.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the consultation that has taken place with Stakeholders; and
- (ii) the Active Travel Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, as the policy position for Moray Council and as a forward programme of activity subject to appropriate funding being available, subject to:
 - further detail being included in relation to active travel initiatives in Keith and Buckie;
 - reference being made to the Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge
- (iii) that further information be provided regarding including the provision of on carriage cycle paths during the road markings refresh programme.

6 Local Flood Risk Management Plan Cycle 2 Findhorn Nairn and Speyside 2022-2028

Councillor Cowe left the meeting at this juncture.

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 4 December 2018, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the proposed publication of the Final Report on the Local Flood Risk Management Plan for Cycle 1 and of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan Cycle 2.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- (i) the final report on Cycle 1 for the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (the Plan), for the Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside (FNS) Local Plan District;
- (ii) with the agreement of Highland Council, to publish the Final Report;
- (iii) the Plan for Cycle 2 for the Findhorn, Nairn and Speyside Local Plan District; and
- (iv) with the agreement of Highland Council, to publish the Plan.

7 Local Flood Risk Management Plan Cycle 2 North East 2022 2028

Under reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 4 December 2018, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the proposed publication of the Final Report on the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan for Cycle 1 and the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan for Cycle 2.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- (i) the Moray Council content of The Local Flood Risk Management Plan (the Plan) Final Report, for the North East (NE) Local Plan District for planning

Cycle 1; and

- (ii) the Moray Council content of the Plan for the NE Local Plan District for planning Cycle 2.

8 Update on Council Sandbag Policy and Property Protection Products

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 25 November 2014, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to approve a revised policy on the issue of sandbags.

During discussion surrounding public access to sand-bags for those affected by flooding, it was queried whether there was any assistance available to those tenants or home owners who could not afford to purchase sandbags.

In response, Mr Burnish, Senior Engineer (Flood Risk Management) advised that the Scottish Flood Forum Charity can provide support to those affected by flooding.

On hearing the response from Mr Burnish, it was asked that this information be provided on the Council's website.

In response, Mr Burnish agreed to include information regarding support available from the Flood Forum Charity on the Council's website.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) the updated Council policy on the issue of sandbags and property protection set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (ii) to note the property level protection products that were previously sanctioned at committee are now available to purchase; and
- (iii) that information regarding support available from the Flood Forum Charity, be included on the Council's website.

9 Nature Restoration Fund Long Term Plan

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 6 September 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to approve delegated authority to the Head of Economic Growth and Development to spend grant monies from the Nature Restoration Fund, within the identified priority areas.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the challenge of achieving the full benefit of the Nature Restoration Fund each year, due to the short timescale between receipt of the fund and requirement for all project to be completed;
- (ii) delegate authority to the Head of Economic Growth and Development to spend direct grant monies from the Nature Restoration Fund, within the

identified priority areas, for the remaining three years of the fund with annual progress reports delivered to this Committee; and

- (iii) approve the approach outlined in Paras 5.7-5.9 of the report recognising that staffing constraints will limit the Council's ability to develop projects and funding bids to protect and enhance biodiversity.

10 Order of Business

The Chair noted that item 9a) Climate Change Strategy Update on the Supplementary Agenda had been issued electronically however had not been printed for those Members who receive printed agenda copies and sought the agreement of the Committee to take this item at the end of the meeting to allow a short adjournment to consider the contents of the report. This was agreed.

11 Annual Report on Energy Strategy Actions

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of this meeting dated 19 October 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) set out the annual energy and water performance of the Council's non-domestic building portfolio in 2021/22.

During discussion surrounding gas consumption for various properties within the Council's property estate, it was queried why Buckie Swimming Pool was not grouped within the sports facilities or secondary schools grouping.

In response, the Property Asset Manager advised that this was how the information had been presented historically and that he would give further consideration on how to refer to Buckie Swimming Pool in future reporting.

Thereafter, the Committee joined the Chair in commending the Service for the savings achieved through the street lighting programme and thereafter agreed to:

- (i) note the Annual Energy Report for 2021/22 set out in the report;
- (ii) note that in 2021/22 the Council's energy consumption in non-domestic operational properties increased by 14.2%, and the energy bill increased by 19.7% (£543,809);
- (iii) approve the revisions made to the council's Heating Policy at Appendix 2 of a 1°C reduction in the temperature set point from 20°C to 19°C and to take account of revised ventilation requirements; and
- (iv) approve the interim update of Energy Policy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to align with the mandatory targets set by the Scottish Government and agrees that officers review the Energy Policy and Strategy in order to align its goals with the Route Map to Net Zero and the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES);
- (v) that consideration be given on how to refer to Buckie Swimming Pool in future reporting.

12 Economic Development Annual Review 2021-22

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 21 January 2020, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented to Committee the Economic Development Annual Review for 2021/22 which provided an overview of the primary economic development activity in Moray in which Moray Council has either been a lead or key partner.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to approve the publication of the Economic Development annual Review for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

13 Suspension of Standing Orders

The Chair sought the agreement of the Committee to suspend Standing Order 75 to allow the meeting to continue beyond 12.45 pm. This was agreed.

14 Performance Report (Economic Growth and Development Services) - Period to September 2022

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Moray Council dated 7 August 2019, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2022

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the:

- (i) performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2022; and
- (ii) actions being taken to improve performance where required.

15 Performance Report (Environmental and Commercial Services) - Period to September 2022

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 7 August 2019, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2022.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the:

- (i) performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2022; and
- (ii) actions being taken to improve performance where required.

16 Marine Safety and Operational Update Q2 2022-2023

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 20 March 2018, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee on matters of Marine Safety and compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) for the period Q2 year 2022/23.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the safety performance, fulfilling its function as Duty Holder under the Port Marine Safety Code.

17 Forres Town Centre Improvement Plan - Funding Opportunity

Under reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 21 June 2022, a report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) in terms of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, on the Chair certifying that, in his opinion it required to be considered on the grounds of urgency in order to give early consideration to the request for approval to submit applications to National Lottery Heritage Fund by the deadline of 17 November and to Historic Environment Scotland by the deadline of 15 December 2022.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the submission of applications for the Development Phase and if successful, to consider a further report in 2023/24 concerning submission of applications for the Delivery Phase; and
- (ii) note that £20,000 is proposed as potential Council match funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

18 Question Time

Under reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 6 September 2022, Councillor Warren queried where Action Logs and Minutes from Harbour Advisory Committee meetings could be found.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that she would liaise with colleagues to find an accessible place to store these.

Under reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 6 September 2022, Councillor Warren queried whether the Dial M Service could be promoted within sheltered housing accommodation.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that the Dial M Service is promoted through community forums and that this would continue with the use of printed materials where required.

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 6 September 2022, Councillor McBain sought an update in relation to the future of Cloddach Bridge.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that, as agreed at the last meeting of this Committee, a productive meeting had taken place where a temporary life extension project was being appraised and that this would be circulated to community representatives and brought to the next meeting of this committee with associated costs.

Councillor Divers noted that only 2 levels of car parking in the St Giles car park are currently being utilised and queried whether this would be adequate to accommodate the Free After 3 initiative in the run up to Christmas.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that she was confident there would be adequate parking provision at the St Giles car park.

Councillor Divers queried which service is responsible for advertising on roundabouts in Moray as this is considered to be a potential funding source.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that she had responsibility for this and that she would provide Councillor Divers with an update in relation to the number of vacant advertising sites available.

19 Climate Change Strategy Update

Councillors McBain and Warren left the meeting at this juncture.

Under reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 6 April 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided an update on actions approved within the Climate Change Strategy (CCS) for 2020-2030, consultancy studies, staffing and next steps in order to achieve the Council's declaration of being net zero by 2030.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the updates on the CCS actions.