

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Moray Council

Wednesday, 26 September 2018

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

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Louise Laing, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Ray McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Amy Patience, Councillor Ron Shepherd, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor Walter Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were: Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Corporate Services), the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure), the Acting Corporate Director (Education and Social Care), the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Head of Financial Services and the Democratic Services Manager as Clerk to the Meeting.

Also in attendance: Maggie Bruce, External Audit

1 Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests *

In terms of Standing Order 20 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Leadbitter on behalf of the SNP Group declared that the SNP Group had discussed Item 7 - "Financial Planning 2019/20" on the agenda. Councillors Eagle and Alexander on behalf of the Conservative and Councillors Open Groups respectively also declared that their respective Groups had discussed Item 7. The Meeting noted that there were no further 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.

2 Resolution

The Council resolved that, in terms of Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives

be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item of business appearing at the relevant paragraph of this minute as specified below, so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Paragraph Number of Minute

7

Paragraph Number of Schedule 7A

1

The Chair stated that given the sensitivities around the budget proposals and the implications of these on the workforce, any decisions taken would need to be communicated with staff before announcing to the public, especially those which the proposals have a direct impact on. She further stated that any such decisions would be communicated to staff as a matter of priority following the meeting.

Meantime it was respectfully requested that any press releases issued by any member or group follow after the Council press release in order that time is given to communicate to staff the decisions taken through the appropriate channels rather than reading them through the press.

3 External Audit - Annual Report to Council on 2017/18 Audit

A report was submitted by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) providing the Council with a copy of the External Auditor's report to Council on the 2017/18 Audit.

On the invitation of the Chair, Maggie Bruce, External Auditor provided the meeting with a summary of the main elements of the audit work undertaken which included an audit of the key controls operating within the main financial systems and review of governance arrangements; audit work covering the arrangements for securing Best Value relating to financial management, financial sustainability and vision and leadership and an audit of the 2017/18 annual accounts, the section 106 charities it administers. She further outlined the key messages relating to the 2017/18 annual accounts, financial management and financial sustainability, governance and transparency and value for money and summarised the recommendations for improvement as outlined in the Action Plan at Appendix 1 of the External Auditor's report.

Following discussion the Council agreed to note the External Auditor's report.

4 Moray Council's Audited Annual Accounts for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

A report was submitted by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) submitting to the Council the Audited Annual Accounts for the Moray Council for the year ended 31 March 2018 and asking the Council to approve the sign off of the Annual Accounts.

Following consideration the Council agreed to approve the Annual Accounts, having regard to the Annual Report from the external auditor considered earlier at the meeting.

5 Moray Council's Connected Charities' Audited Annual Accounts for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

A report was submitted by the Corporate Director (Corporate Services) submitting to the Council for approval the audited Annual Accounts for Moray Council's Connected Charities for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Following consideration the Council agreed to approve the audited Annual Accounts for the Connected Charities for the financial year 2017/18.

6 Financial Planning 2019/20 Onwards [Para 1]

- Information relating to staffing matters;