

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Special Meeting of the Corporate Committee

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

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

PRESENT

Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Amber Dunbar, Councillor Jérémie Fernandes, Councillor Sandy Keith, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Paul McBain, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Bridget Mustard, Councillor Kathleen Robertson, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor John Stuart, Councillor Draeyk Van Der Horn

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Democratic Services Manager and Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bridget Mustard.

2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests

In terms of Standing Order 21 and 23 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. Resolution

The meeting resolved that under Section 50A (4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting for Item 6 of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Paragraph Number of the Minute	Paragraph Number of Schedule 7A
6	Para 1 Information relating to Staffing Matters Para 9 Information on terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority Item 10

	Information relating to the identity of the Authority as the person offering any particular tender for a contract
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4. Corporate Risk Register

The meeting had before it a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) providing the Committee with an update on the Council's Corporate Risk Register.

Councillor Mustard moved that Committee agree to quarterly reporting to Committee on the 4 risks which have a score of 20 to enable Committee to address issues along with Officers and should Committee agree this be reviewed in 6 months.

Councillor Van Der Horn sought clarification on why the risks above 16 were not being included.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the intention was for the Corporate Risk Register to be more dynamic and it was felt that reporting on risks 20 or above was hoped to be striking a manageable balance.

The Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance further added that he had discussed the issue with Internal Audit and it had been confirmed that the 3 monthly updates would be for the risks 20 and over, however the update would include all risks and would allow members the opportunity to seek assurances on all risks not just the ones identified as high.

On the assurances of both the Chief Executive and the Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Councillor Van der Horn confirmed he was happy to accept the recommendation moved by Councillor Mustard.

Following further consideration and there being no one otherwise minded the Committee unanimously agreed to:

- i) approve the updated Corporate Risk Register dated September 2023 attached as Appendix 2 to this report; and
- ii) quarterly reporting to Committee on the 4 risks which have a score of 20 to enable Committee to address issues along with Officers; and
- iii) review the frequency of reporting in 6 months time.

5. Workforce Culture

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Executive informing the Committee of the findings of the Chief Executive into the existing frameworks and options available to facilitate engagement between Elected Members, Chief Officers and recognised Trade Unions on matters of mutual interest in relation to workforce culture.

Councillor Mustard informed the Committee of an error on Page 41 of the papers, the Joint Consultative Committee has 7 Elected Members and not 10 as stated.

In introducing the report the Chief Executive confirmed that the preferred option in the recommendations would be 2.1 (ii) a.

Following lengthy consideration the Committee unanimously agreed to:

- i) note the findings set out in para 3.5 and 3.6 of the report;
- ii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader and Head of HR, ICT and Organisational Development to establish, an arrangement of informal but structured engagement between Elected Members, Chief Officers and recognised Trade Unions on workforce culture; and
- iii) note the outputs of the Culture Working Group and to formally bring the Culture Working Group to a close.

Councillor Dunbar joined the meeting during the discussion of this item.

6. Best Value Progress Update [Para 1, 9 and 10]

The meeting had before it a report by the Chief Executive recommending to Committee how to take forward recommended actions to be added to the Best Value Assurance Review Strategic Action Plan and to commence one recommendation in particular.

Following consideration the Committee unanimously agreed to:

- i) note the 9 recommendations in the Briefing Note attached to this report (Appendix 1);
- ii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader to scope and tender for the external support required by Recommendation 2 in the Briefing Note;
- iii) note the other 8 recommendations in the Briefing Note will be integrated along with the appropriate actions and activities into the Best Value Action Plan, which will be reported to the scheduled meeting of this Committee on 7 November 2023;
- iv) support this work going forward, agree to authorise the re-engagement of the external support previously commissioned; and
- v) homologate the action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader and the expenditure to date.