

# MORAY COUNCIL

## Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee

Tuesday, 22 March 2022

### Various Locations via Video-Conference

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Louise Nicol, Councillor Laura Powell, Councillor Derek Ross

#### **APOLOGIES**

Ms Anna Bamforth, Ms Jane Bartecki, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Maria McLean, Mr Ronald Tolmie

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Head of Housing and Property Services, Acting Housing Strategy and Development Manager, Building Services Manager, Legal Services Manager and Mrs L Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

#### **1 Chair**

Councillor Nicol, being chair of the Housing and Community Safety Committee, chaired the meeting.

#### **2 Acknowledgements**

The Chair acknowledged that this was the last meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee prior to the constitution of the new Council in May 2022 and thanked the Committee and Officers for their input over the last 5 years.

#### **3 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.

Councillor Divers declared an interested in Item 10 "Council New Build – Report on Tender – South Glassgreen Fyvie Green, Elgin" as his son is an employee of the Developer. There were no further declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

#### **4 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 13 of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Paragraph Number of Minute      Paragraph Number of Schedule 7a and Reason

11, 12 and 13

9

## **5      Minute of Meeting dated 8 February 2022**

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 8 February 2022 was submitted and approved.

## **6      Written Questions**

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

## **7      Housing and Property Services Service Plan 2022-23**

Councillor A McLean joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Under reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 19 January 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) invited the Committee to consider the Housing and Property Services Service Plan for 2022-23.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to approve the Service Plan for Housing and Property Services as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **8      Housing Investment 2021-22**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the budget position to 31 December 2021 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2021/22.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

1. the position as at 31 December 2021 with regards to the Housing Investment Programme for 2021/22, as detailed in Section 3 and Appendices I to VI of the report; and
2. the revised Housing Investment Programme projected outturn to 31 March 2022, as detailed in Section 3 and Appendices I to VI of the report.

## **9      Housing and Property Services Budget Monitoring - 31 December 2021**

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 22 February 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the budget position for the Housing Revenue

Account (HRA) and General Services Other Housing Budget for the period up to 31 December 2021.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

1. to note the budget monitoring report for the period to 31 December 2021; and
2. the service developments of £47,799 as detailed within paragraph 8.4 of the report.

## **10 Question Time**

Councillor A McLean sought clarification as to where tenants should seek advice in relation to energy efficiency and support with the rising cost of living and asked if this information could be displayed on the Council's social media platforms.

In response, the Head of Housing and Property Services advised that this information would be highlighted through the Housing Newsletter.

Councillor A McLean further thanked Mrs Matheson, Benefits and Money Advice Manager and her team for their continued work in providing an excellent service.

## **11 Council New Build - Report on Tender - South Glassgreen Fyvie Green, Elgin [Para 9]**

Councillor Divers, having declared an interest in this item, took no part in its consideration or decision.

Under reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of Moray Council dated 23 February 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented an evaluation of the tender received from the Council New Build Programme Phase 9 project at South Glassgreen/Fyvie Green, Elgin.

During discussion surrounding encouraging communities to grow their own food, it was queried whether gardens in Council new build houses could be provided with at least 1ft of top soil so that tenants can grow their own food.

In response, the Acting Housing Strategy and Development Manager advised that consideration would be given to amending the design guide to reflect that at least 1ft of topsoil is provided for tenants wishing to grow their own food.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

1. to accept the tender received from Springfield Properties PLC for South Glassgreen/Fyvie Green, Elgin;
2. to note that progress on the delivery of the Council's new build programme will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee; and
3. that consideration would be given to amending the design guide to reflect that at least 1ft of topsoil is provided for tenants wishing to grow their own food.

## **12 Council New Build Tender - Bilbohall, Elgin Phase 1 [Para 9]**

Councillor Divers re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 7 December 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented an update of the tender for the Council New Build Programme Phase 9 project at Bilbohall, Elgin.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

1. to grant the Head of Housing and Property delegated authority to accept the most advantageous tender for construction;
2. the financial implications of including passivhaus features within the housing specification; and
3. to note that progress on the delivery of the Council's new build programme will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

## **13 Building Services Trading Operation Budget 2021-22 - Budget Monitoring [Para 9]**

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the budget monitoring information for the period to 31 December 2021 for the Building Services Trading Operation.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

1. the financial information for the period to 31 December 2021, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix I of the report;
2. Building Services operating performance for the period to 31 December 2021, as set out in section 6 of the report; and
3. the revised projected outturn to 31 March 2022, as detailed in section 7 and Appendix I of the report.