

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

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

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Environmental and Commercial Services), Head of Economic Growth and Development, Head of Housing and Property Services, Legal Services Manager, Moray Access Manager, Senior Officer Economic Strategy and Development, Business Adviser/Community Wealth Building Officer, Senior Engineer (Transportation) and Democratic Services Manager.

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 Orders 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 Minute of Meeting dated 2 May 2023

The minute of the meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee dated 2 May 2023 was submitted and approved.

4 Written Questions

In terms of Standing Orders 36 a written question was submitted in the following terms:

QUESTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR WARREN

The new weighbridge that has been installed at Buckie Harbour is still not yet operational, with lorries having to find an alternative service provider, which is causing inconvenience and added time for drivers. There are also concerns regarding the ease and safety for larger lorries to be able to drive directly off once weighed, using the new bridge. Can you confirm how long lorries have been unable to use this facility, what the issues are that are causing the delay, the expected timeline for the opening of the weighbridge and that it will be suitable for all sizes of lorries to drive on/drive off in a safe manner?

RESPONSE

The final verification of the new weighbridge was programmed for w/c 12 June, however the Council was unable to complete the calibration, as the equipment required to undertake the necessary tests was not available. An alternative date for this work to be undertaken is currently being scheduled.

Following the installation of the weighbridge a number of test runs were undertaken to assess safe use for HGVs. These tests were largely successful. Currently, plans are being drawn up to undertake additional test runs using HGV's of various sizes, weight and type, to confirm that it is safe and operational for use for vehicles that will be using the weighbridge on a regular basis.

Councillor Warren sought clarification on how long lorries have been unable to access the weighbridge at Buckie Harbour, the loss of income to the Council and would there be any compensation to the Harbour for the delays.

In response the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services confirmed that the weighbridge replacement was completed earlier in the new year and there have been some issues along with resolving the issues with the testing have meant some delays, however an update would be provided to Committee in the future. She further added that even with the issues indicated, income for Harbours is up on previous years.

5 Core Paths Action Plan 2023-2026

Under reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of this committee dated 21 January 2020, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the formulation of the Core Paths Action Plan 2023-2026, in partnership with the Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum (MLOAF), which includes the use of the funding to employ a Core Paths Ranger for a period of 27 months commencing October 2023.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) the proposals and outputs contained in the attached Moray Core Paths Action Plan 2023-2026 and associated appendices; and
- (ii) the employment of a Core Paths Ranger to implement the Plan for a period of 27 months commencing October 2023.

6 A940 Grantown Road Forres Traffic Regulation Order for Extension and Amendment of Speed Limit

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to consider an objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order "Moray Council (A940 Grantown Road, Forres – Proposed 40 / 30mph Speed Limit) Order 2022".

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) over-rule the outstanding objection outlined in Appendix 3 and approve the Traffic Regulation Order; and
- (ii) authorise the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and Legal Services Manager to make the undernoted order:

"Moray Council (A940 Grantown Road, Forres – Proposed 40/30mph Speed Limit) Order 2022".

7 Pavement Parking Proposed Exemption Order

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) sought approval of the Committee to begin the consultation process for a proposed Exemption Order to introduce locations across Moray where there are to be exemptions from the enforcement of the new Pavement Parking legislation which is part of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 "Moray Council (Pavement Parking Exemptions) Order 2023.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposed Exemption Order at the locations shown in Appendix 2 to this report from Pavement Parking legislation and instruct the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and Legal Services Manager to begin the statutory process; and
- (ii) instruct the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services and Legal Services Manager to make and implement the Order if, following the consultation period, there are no outstanding objections.

8 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund Strategy and Expansion Plan - Pathfinder Project Update

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 7 February 2023, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) sought approval of the Committee to join the Pathfinder Project for the provision and operation of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure following the completion of market testing.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to join the Pathfinder Project for the provision and operation of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

9 Performance Report (Environmental and Commercial Services) Period to 31 March 2023

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the Service for the period to 31 March 2023.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of March 2023; and
- (ii) note the actions being taken to improve performance where required.

10 Performance Report (Economic Growth and Development Services) Period to March 2023

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the Service for the period to 31 March 2023.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note performance in the areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of March 2023; and
- (ii) note the actions being taken to improve performance where required.

11 Moray Community Wealth Building Strategy and Action Plan

Under reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 19 October 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) sought approval of the draft Moray Community Wealth Building Strategy (CWB) as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, ahead of public and stakeholder consultation with the final strategy and action plan being reported back to this Committee at its meeting on 5 September 2023, following the consultation.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to approve the draft Moray Community Wealth Building Strategy and Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1; and
- (ii) that the final strategy will be reported back to this Committee at the meeting on 5 September 2023, following the consideration of issues received via a 6 week public consultation.

12 External Grant Funding Updates

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Council of external funding updates including the Crown Estate

Coastal Community Fund, Business Loan Scotland and Heritage & Place Programme and the opening of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Round 11 with a deadline of 21 June 2023, for Stage 1 applications.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the Crown Estate Coastal Community Fund 2023/24 allocation towards electrical upgrades at Buckie Harbour and Coast to Country project, as outlined in paragraph 3.1;
- (ii) give delegated authority to the Head of Economic Growth and Development Services to allocate funds returned from the Business Loan Scheme in 2023 to initiatives that encourage local spend and boost the local economy;
- (iii) note that the Heritage and Place Programme applications for the Development Phase to deliver Forres Town Centre Improvement Plan were successful;
- (iv) the opportunity to submit a multi-year project proposal for Elgin Town Hall (Growth Deal Cultural Quarter) to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund 2024/25, in addition to the requests by Dufftown and District Community Association, Portgordon Community Trust, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust, The Cabrach Trust and Forres Area Community Trust to act as lead applicant, with no financial implications except the Cultural Quarter application; and
- (v) approve the submission of Stage I applications as set out in (iv) above, and if successful, submission of Stage II applications.

13 Depot and Store Review

Under reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee dated 6 September 2022, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided the Committee with an update on progress of the depot and store review and sought approval for some initial actions in relation to early rationalisation.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the update;
- (ii) approve the progression of early rationalisation of the properties in line with the vacant and surplus procedure; and
- (iii) note that the outline business case will be reported before 31 December 2023.

14 Information Reports

The Committee noted that no Information Reports had been called in.

15 Question Time

Councillor Keith expressed concern about the lack of progress on dualling the A9 trunk road.

In response, Councillor Macrae, as Chair of the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Transport Minister to seek an update.

Councillor Gordon stated that residents in Aberlour are concerned that the current flood alleviation scheme is no longer adequate and requested the proposed works are brought forward and for costs to be obtained to carry out improvement works.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services confirmed that the flood scheme in Aberlour was built for a specific purpose and that it does work. The recent incident in Aberlour was as a result of surface water and that responsibility does not sit wholly with the Council.

She further added that there had been a meeting with local representatives, Community Association and the Community Council and a public event is scheduled for later in August which will cover a whole range of topics including surface water and flooding. Following the meeting, it was confirmed that the meeting with local representatives, Community Association and the Community Council was scheduled for 22 June 2022.

Councillor Divers sought an update on when the feedback from the meeting with Councillors and Community Councillors on illegal parking will be received as it had been promised before recess.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services confirmed the feedback will be circulated before recess.

Councillor Van Der Horn asked if some investigation could be carried out into the plant die off at the woodland in Kinloss. There had been a sewage outflow into Findhorn Bay which was reported to Scottish Water and he would like confirmation if the 2 events are linked.

In response, the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services asked that Councillor Van Der Horn speak to her following the meeting and provide some more information and she would arrange for it to be looked into.

Councillor Warren sought an update on the CCTV roll out in town centres.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) confirmed the following:

Elgin is complete and excellent live camera feeds received within police operation room.

Forres is complete and excellent live camera feeds received within police operation room.

Lossie - camera and associated equipment is now installed, broadband at Lossie however is inadequate for upload speeds for quality live feeds, so although receiving pictures in the operation room they are not of the quality expected. An alternative means of transmitting the pictures has been identified and we will swap

to mobile signal whilst the issue with the broadband is being investigated. Expect better quality live feed pictures by 23 June 2023

Keith – cameras installed, encryption equipment to be installed by 30 June 2023 and due to lack of broadband capacity within Keith, an alternative picture delivery model has been identified. With some suitable boosting a mobile solutions is possible. Expected live feeds by 30 June 2023

Buckie – at time of update (19/6/23) 50% of the necessary cameras, radio links and encryption has been installed. Expected live feeds over broadband by 30 June 2023.

However due to the high quality of the live picture feeds now being and about to be completed the broadband capacity at the police station requires to be upgraded. Investigations are underway to determine what is in place and what needs to be upgraded is planned to be completed by week ending 23 June 2023 and instructions given to BT to undertake necessary.