

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Communities Committee

Wednesday, 09 October 2019

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

PRESENT

Ms Jane Bartecki, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Louise Laing, Mrs May McGarrie, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Derek Ross

APOLOGIES

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Ray McLean, Councillor Sonya Warren

IN ATTENDANCE

The Acting Head of Housing and Property; the Building Services Manager; the Housing Needs Manager; Gillian Henly, Senior Housing Officer (Policy); Daska Murray, Senior Housing Officer (Policy) and Caroline Howie, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the meeting.

1 Chair of Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Louise Laing.

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 Resolution

The meeting 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 items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs 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

15 and 16

Paragraph Number of Schedule 7A and Reason

9 Information on terms proposed or to be proposed by or
to the Authority

4 Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

5 Minute of Meeting dated 27 August 2019

The Minute of the Communities Committee dated 27 August 2019 was submitted and approved.

6 Homelessness Policy Review

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting dated 23 April 2013 a report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) provided the Committee with an update on the coming into force of provisions within the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 and amendments to the Homelessness Policy to align with the new provisions. It informed Committee of national policy development and future legislative changes.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- i. to note that the legal duty to carry out an intentionality investigation as part of an assessment of homelessness will become a power;
- ii. that the Council uses its power to investigate intentionality as part of a homeless assessment;
- iii. to approve the revised Homelessness Policy as set out in Section 4 and appendix 1 of the report;
- iv. to note the national policy developments and future legislative changes set out in Section 6 of the report; and
- v. to note that further changes will be required to the Homelessness Policy in accordance with the changes set out in Section 6 of the report.

7 Housing Investment 2019-20

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) informed the Committee of the budget position to 31 August 2019 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2019/20.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the position as at 31 August 2019 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2019/20.

8 Housing and Property Services Budget Monitoring - 31 August 2019

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the special meeting dated 27 February 2019 a report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) presented the budget position for the Housing Revenue Account and General Services Other Housing Budget for the period up to 31 August 2019.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the budget monitoring report for the period to 31 August 2019.

9 Question Time ***

Under reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting dated 27 August Councillor Gatt sought an update on his concern that minutes were a record of decisions rather than a record of discussions.

In response, the Chair advised that the Manager was still on long term sick and this would be raised with her on her return.

The Clerk advised the Head of Service had taken the decision that this should wait until the manager's return and offered to raise this again with the Head of Service.

Councillor Gatt advised he would raise the matter with the Head of Service.

10 Building Services Trading Operation Budget 2019-20 - Budget Monitoring [Para 9]

Under reference to paragraph 19 of the Minute of the meeting dated 2 April 2019 a report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) presented the budget monitoring information for the period to 31 August 2019 for the Building Services Trading Operation.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the:

- i. financial information for the period to 31 August 2019, as detailed in appendix I of the report;
- ii. Building Services operating performance, Business Plan 2017 - 2020 and financial improvement update as set out in sections 6 and 7 of the report; and
- iii. Building services Direct Labour Organisation Improvement Plan 2019/20, as detailed in appendix II of the report.