

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Special Meeting of the Moray Council

Tuesday, 15 March 2022

Remote Locations via Video Conference,

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Louise Nicol, Councillor Laura Powell, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor Amy Taylor, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Ray McLean, Councillor Walter Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer.

Mr Paul Reilly, Accounts Commission and Mr Brian Howarth, Audit Scotland were also in attendance at the meeting.

1. Chair

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Shona Morrison.

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. Pre-Election Period

The Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance reminded all Members about the pre-election publicity restrictions, and the guidance that members should have received.

He further added that the meeting must not be used to foster support for a political party or be seen to influence the outcome of the election in any way.

He further advised that there is always the option to move the meeting into confidence if required.

4. Ukrainian Crisis

The Council joined the Chair in expressing their condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and expressed deep sympathy for the crisis currently taking place in Ukraine and the difficulties being faced by its people.

The Chair further added that she had requested a report to the next meeting of Moray Council on 6 April 2022 to update the Council on the co-ordinated response the Council is taking along with its partners to support this humanitarian crisis. She further thanked Councillors Warren and Cowe for bringing and urgent notice of motion forward but due to this being a special meeting the Standing Orders do not allow for the notice of motion to be heard but hoped that by bringing a report to the next meeting, it would allow for an open discussion to take place.

5. Moray Council Best Value Progress Report

A report by the Chief Executive asked the Council to consider the Best Value Progress Report on Moray Council by the Controller of Audit (Appendix 1) and the Findings of the Accounts Commission (Appendix 2).

Following consideration the Council agreed:

- i) to welcome the good progress evidenced by the Best Value Progress Report and to sign off the Strategic Action Plan (Appendix 3) in accordance with para 5.1 of the report;
- ii) to note the findings of the Accounts Commission; and
- iii) that the views of the meeting and the Findings together with the approach to developing indicative areas for action as set out in paras 5.3 to 5.8 of this report that continues planned improvement and addresses the high level areas of improvement outlined to be taken forward to the Moray Council following the local government elections in May 2022.