

# MORAY COUNCIL

## MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ELGIN

### **PRESENT**

Councillors J Cowe (Chair), M McLean (Depute), G Alexander, D Bremner, G Cowie, J Divers, C Feaver, G Leadbitter, S Morrison, R Shepherd and S Warren.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure), the Head of Direct Services, the Transportation Manager, the Environmental Protection Manager, the Acting Consultancy Manager, the Operations Manager (Harbours), the Planning and Economic Development Manager, Ms E Penny, Engineer (Traffic), the Legal Services Manager (Property & Contracts) as Legal Adviser to the Committee and Mrs L Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

### **1. 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 Members interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

### **2. EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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.

#### **Para Number of Minute**

#### **Para Number of Schedule 7A**

12

8 & 9

13

13

### **3. MINUTE OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED 20 MARCH 2018**

The Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee dated 20 March 2018 was submitted and approved.

#### **4. WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

#### **5. ELGIN TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) informed the Committee about the funding position for the Moss Street scheme of Elgin Transport Strategy (ETS).

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the deferral of the Moss Street scheme of Elgin Transport Strategy; and
- (ii) note that the developer obligation will be returned in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

#### **6. MORAY ROAD SAFETY PLAN 2018-2022**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) asked the Committee to approve the draft of the Moray Road Safety Plan 2018 – 2022.

During discussion surrounding the recently agreed budget proposals which had resulted in a reduction in spend in road safety education, the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign and a reduction in the number of School Crossing Patrollers (SCPs), it was queried whether this had been taken into consideration when preparing the draft Moray Road Safety Plan and whether any risk assessment had been carried out in light of the budget reductions.

In response, the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) advised that the impact on education was part of the work set out in the strategy and that the decision on reduction in the number of SCPs had been taken in accordance with recommendations found in national guidance and that a risk assessment would not be necessary within these parameters.

The Transportation Manager further advised that, in conjunction with national guidance recommendations in relation to SCPs, a thorough assessment of each area had been carried out which included assessing the number of people crossing the road and the volume of vehicles using the road when determining whether SCPs were required.

Thereafter, the Chair moved that the Committee agree to approve the Moray Road Safety Plan 2018-2022. This was seconded by Councillor Alexander.

As an amendment, Councillor Leadbitter moved that the report be deferred until a risk assessment has been carried out on the budget changes which have resulted in a reduction to the Safe Drive Stay Alive funding, road safety education funding and school crossing patrolling provision. This was seconded by Cllr Warren.

On a division there voted:

For the motion (6): Councillors Cowe, Alexander, Cowie, Feaver, M McLean and Shepherd

For the amendment (5): Councillors Leadbitter, Warren, Bremner, Divers and Morrison

Abstentions (0): Nil

Accordingly, the motion became the finding of the Committee and it was agreed to approve the Moray Road Safety Plan 2018-2022 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **7. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT – STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE AREAS**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) asked the Committee to agree the Council's response to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Flood Risk Management in Scotland – 2018 Consultation on Potentially Vulnerable Areas.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed the Council's response to the statutory consultation on the Potentially Vulnerable Areas, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

## **8. MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TOILETS**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) confirmed the decision taken by Moray Council to reduce the number of toilets and advised the Committee of the alternative management options which are being considered for the remaining toilet facilities.

During his introduction to the report, the Chair, in acknowledging events due to be held in some communities over the next few months where public toilets would be required, proposed a further recommendation to give delegated authority to the Head of Direct Services to grant licences for toilet facilities that remain serviceable, to occupy for community events, on terms which ensure full cost recovery and remove any potential liabilities for the Council. The Committee noted the comment made by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) that this opportunity would only be available for a limited time until the facilities which were closed and not taken on via Community Asset Transfers moved through the council's asset disposal process and remained serviceable.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the decision taken by Moray Council to reduce the number of public toilets to one facility funded by the council per community as part of the 2018/19 savings target;
- (ii) that the toilet at Cullen Harbour remains open during the current financial year in preference to the facility at Cullen Square as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report;

- (iii) that where there is a council operated toilet facility in a community, to give delegated authority to the Head of Direct Services to change the toilet to remain open if requested by the local Community Council/Association in consultation with local ward members and the Chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee, subject to any costs being budget neutral;
- (iv) to note the proposal to close further toilets subject to the introduction of Community Asset Transfers (CATS) and comfort schemes in order to deliver financial savings to Moray Council; and
- (v) that the Head of Direct Services is given delegated authority to grant licences for toilet facilities that remain serviceable, to occupy for community events, on terms which ensure full cost recovery and remove any potential liabilities for the Council.

## **9. SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) provided information about the ways the Council helps small and medium sized businesses tender for work in the public sector.

Following consideration, Committee agreed to note the support that is provided to support small and medium sized businesses tender for work in the public sector.

## **10. UNUSED LAND ADJACENT TO ELGIN RAILWAY STATION**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) informed the Committee of the options in relation to unused land adjacent to Elgin Railway Station and its potential uses as a car park.

During discussion surrounding the unused land, Councillor Leadbitter listed the potential benefits in terms of economic development by improving the land if it were to be used as a car park at the Railway Station. He acknowledged the costs involved in taking this forward and asked that the Transportation Manager liaise with Network Rail as to whether they had available funding that could be used to change the unused land into additional car parking at the Railway.

In response, the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) advised that the Transportation Manager had agreed to contact Network Rail to make them aware of the availability of the land which could potentially be used as additional parking at the railway but was otherwise unable to free up resources to take any further action without this impacting on work on corporate priorities.

The Chair moved that the Committee agree the recommendations as printed within the report subject to an addition to the second recommendation stating that the Council take no further action at this time should discussion between the Transportation Manager and Network Rail be unsuccessful.

There being no-one otherwise minded, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) note the contents of the report in relation to costs and benefits; and
- (ii) take no further action at this time should discussion between the Transportation Manager and Network Rail be unsuccessful.

## **11. QUESTION TIME**

Councillor Warren stated that she had noticed there was a building to let at the Industrial Estate in Buckie and asked for an update on the progress of the Industrial Estate.

In the absence of the Estates Manager, the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure) advised that this information would be circulated to members following the meeting.

## **12. BUCKIE HARBOUR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2018 [PARAS 8 & 9]**

A report by the Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning & Infrastructure) sought the Committee's approval to include infrastructure improvement projects at Buckie harbour in the 2018/19 Capital Plan, subject to a successful application for external funding.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the infrastructure improvement proposals detailed in the report; and
- (ii) recommend inclusion of the £140K spend in the 2018/19 Capital Plan to Moray Council subject to 75% grant funding.

## **13. DELISTING OF A PUBLIC ROAD AT MOSSTODLOCH/FOCHABERS [PARA 13]**

A report by the Acting Corporate Director (Corporate Services) asked Committee to agree to begin the statutory process to seek to "delist" a section of road at Mosstodloch/Fochabers, as detailed on the plan attached to report as Appendix 1, which the Council is currently responsible for maintaining.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposal to delist the section of road at Mosstodloch/Fochabers, as more particularly detailed in the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (ii) instruct the Legal Services Manager (Property & Contracts) to proceed with the statutory process set out in S.1 of the Roads (S) Act 1984.