

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

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

PRESENT

Councillor Neil Cameron, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Amber Dunbar, Councillor Jérémie Fernandes, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor David Gordon, Councillor Sandy Keith, Councillor Scott Lawrence, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Paul McBain, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor John Stuart

APOLOGIES

Councillor James Allan, Ms Anna Bamforth, Ms Jane Bartecki, Mr Ronald Tolmie

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance at the above meeting were the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Housing and Property Services, Housing Strategy and Development Manager, Property Asset Manager, Housing Needs Manager, Georgina Anderson, Senior Solicitor and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Service Officer as clerk to the meeting.

1. Chair

Councillor Amber Dunbar, as Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Committee, chaired the meeting.

2. Declaration of Group Decisions and Members Interests *

In terms of Standing Order 21 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 Committee 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 14 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
14	9 - Information on terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority.

4. Minute of the meeting held 9 May 2023

The minute of the meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee held on 9 May 2023 was submitted and approved.

5. Written Questions **

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6. Performance Report (Housing and Property 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.

7. Moray Affordable Housing Investment Programme

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of progress on the Affordable Housing Investment Programme in Moray.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to :

- i. note progress on the Moray affordable Housing Investment Programme;
- ii. note progress on the delivery of the Council's new build and acquisition programme;
- iii. the amended strategic approach to the Council's acquisition programme;
- iv. note progress on the delivery of housing at Bilbohall, Elgin; and
- v. note the Council's response to the Additional Dwelling Supplement Consultation.

8. Allocations Policy Annual Performance Report 2022-23

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the Council's Allocations Policy during 2022/23.

During consideration the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that there had been some updates to the data in Appendix I.

The Housing Strategy and Development Manager confirmed that she would circulate the details to Members.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed:

- i. to note the performance identified in the report; and
- ii. the allocations quotas for 2023/24 detailed at paragraph 5.5 of the report.

9. Decoration Allowance Policy

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided the Committee with an update on the requirement to review the Decoration Allowance Policy, and presented the Committee with an amended Policy for approval.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to:

- i. note the need to review the Decoration Allowance Policy to reflect changes in operational practice and process as set in Section 3; and
- ii. approve the amended Decoration Allowance Policy as set out in Section 4 and Appendix I

10. Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy Review

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised the Committee of the need to revise the methodology used when charging homeless households for temporary accommodation and presented a revised Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:

- i. to note the current practice and the requirement to review the Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy, as detailed in Section 3;
- ii. to approve the revised Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy, as set out in Section 5 and Appendix I for consultation;
- iii. that a consultation exercise on the revised Temporary Accommodation Charging Policy is undertaken with key stakeholders, as set out in Section 6; and
- iv. that an update report setting out the outcome of the consultation will be presented to this Committee in September 2023.

11. Housing and Property Services - Unaudited Outturn as at 31 March 2023

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the unaudited outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Services Other Housing Budget for the period up to 31 March 2023.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the unaudited outturn for 2022/23 for the period to 31 March 2023, consisting of a surplus balance of £2,465k for the HRA and an underspend of £188k for General Services Housing & Property.

12. Housing Investment Report 2022-23

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the actual audited outturn to 31 March 2023 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2022/23.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note the Housing Investment Programme audited outturn to 31 March 2023, as detailed in section 3 and Appendices I to VI.

13. Question Time ***

Councillor Fernandes sought clarification on whether the new firework control zones had been considered by officers and where they would be.

In response the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that this would sit with the Civic Licensing team and that she would pass on the query.

14. Building Services Trading Operation Budget 2022-23 - Budget Monitoring [Para 9]

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the unaudited budget monitoring information for the period to 31 March 2023 for the Building Services Trading Operation.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to note:

- i. the unaudited financial information for the period to 31 March 2023, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix I of the report; and
- ii. Building Services operating performance for the period to 31 March 2023, as set out in section 6 of the report.