

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee

Tuesday, 08 February 2022

Various Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Louise Nicol, Councillor Laura Powell, Councillor Derek Ross

APOLOGIES

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Housing and Property Services, Legal Services Manager, Building Services Manager and Lissa Rowan, Committee Services Officer, as Clerk to the Committee.

1 Chair

Councillor Nicol, being Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Committee, chaired the meeting.

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 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 13 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

4 Minute of Meeting dated 7 December 2021

The Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 7 December 2021 was submitted and approved.

5 Written Questions

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6 Housing Investment 2021-22

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the budget position to 30 November 2021 and the actual outturn to 31 March 2021 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed the:

- (i) position as at 30 November 2021 with regards to the Housing Investment Programme for 2021/22, as detailed in Section 3 and Appendices I to VI of the report;
- (ii) revised Housing Investment Programme projected outturn to 31 March 2022, as detailed in Section 3 and Appendices I to VI of the report; and
- (iii) Housing Investment Programme outturn to 31 March 2021, as detailed in Section 3 and Appendices VII to XII of the report.

7 Local Lettings Plan 2022-2027

Under reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 19 October 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided the Committee with the results of the consultation on the draft Local Lettings Plan 2022-2027 and presented the final Local Lettings Plan 2022-2027 for approval.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- (i) to note the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Local Lettings Plan 2022 – 2027 as set out in Section 4 and Appendix I of the report;
- (ii) to approve the final Local Lettings Plan 2022 – 2027 as set out in Appendix II of the report;
- (iii) the implementation of the Local Lettings Plan 2022 – 2027 with immediate effect; and
- (iv) to note that the operation of the Local Lettings Plan 2022 – 2027 will be reported annually to this Committee as part of the Allocations Policy Annual Performance Report.

8 Tenant Survey 2021

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the main findings of the 2021 Tenant Survey.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

- (i) the main findings of the Tenant Survey 2021; and
- (ii) that the Tenant Survey Improvement Plan will be reviewed in the light of the findings of the 2021 survey and an updated plan presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

9 Housing and Property Services Budget Monitoring - 30 November 2021

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the budget position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Services Other Housing Budget for the period up to 30 November 2021.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the budget monitoring report for the period to 30 November 2021.

10 Question Time

Under reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 7 December 2021, Councillor Gatt sought an update in relation to derelict properties in Moray.

In response, the Legal Adviser advised that a report was due to the meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee on 1 March 2022 on brownfield sites however this would not address ownership of properties.

The Head of Housing and Property Services advised that work is underway to bring vacant properties back into use and that he would provide Councillor Gatt with a list and status of Council owned properties.

With regard to the Council's Evictions Policy, Councillor A McLean sought clarification as to whether a criminal conviction would breach a tenant's tenancy agreement.

In response, the Head of Housing and Property advised that any criminal conviction could result in a tenant being evicted however the Council would need to demonstrate that appropriate measures had been taken to resolve the situation in the first instance.

11 Building Services Trading Operation Budget 2021-22 - Budget Monitoring

Under reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Growth, Housing and Environmental Sustainability Committee dated 8 June 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance)

presented the budget monitoring information for the period to 30 November 2021 for the Building Services Trading Operation.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note the:

- (i) financial information for the period to 30 November 2021, as detailed in Section 5 and Appendix I of the report;
- (ii) Building Services operating performance for the period to 30 November 2021, as set out in Section 6 of the report; and
- (iii) revised projected outturn to 31 March 2022, as detailed in Section 7 and Appendix I of the report.