

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee

Tuesday, 07 December 2021

Various Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, 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

Ms Anna Bamforth, Ms Jane Bartecki, Councillor Maria McLean, 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, Legal Services Manager, Building Services Manager, Housing Services Manager, Housing Needs Manager, Housing Strategy and Development Manager, Acting Housing Strategy and Development Manager, and Lindsey Robinson, Committee Services Officer, as Clerk to the Committee.

1. Chair

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

2. Emergency Response - Storm Arwen

The Committee joined the Chair in expressing their thanks to the Head of Housing and Property Services and the Emergency Response Team for all of their hard work during Storm Arwen.

3. 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.

4. 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

13

9

5. Minute of Meeting 19 October 2021

The Minute of the Meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Committee dated 19 October 2021 was submitted and approved.

6. Written Questions

The Committee noted that no written questions had been received.

7. Performance Report (Housing and Property Services) - Period to September 2021

Under reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the Moray Council dated 7 August 2019, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the performance of the service for the period to 30 September 2021.

Following lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to note:

- i. performance in areas of Service Planning, Service Performance and other related data to the end of September 2021;
- ii. the action being taken to improve performance where required; and
- iii. compliance with the Scottish Social Housing Charter with inclusion of the Annual Assurance statement and publication of the Scottish landlords Annual Performance Report.

8. Moray Home Energy Efficiency Programme

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) provided the Committee with details of progress on the Moray Home Energy Efficiency Programme.

Following consideration, where Officer's answered questions on the grants available to homeowners to raise their properties EPC and the qualifying criteria, the Committee agreed to note the progress made on the delivery of the Moray Home energy Efficiency Programme.

9. Moray Affordable Housing Programme

Under reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Economic Growth, Housing and Environmental Sustainability Committee dated 8 June 2021

and paragraph 5 on the Minute of the Meeting of this Committee dated 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of progress on the Affordable Housing Programme in Moray.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- i. to note progress on the Moray Strategic Local Programme 2021/22 programme;
- ii. to note progress on the delivery of the Council's new build programme;
- iii. to note progress on delivery of housing at Bilbohall, Elgin; and
- iv. that the site at Elgin South (Fyvie Green) is added to the main programme.

10. Housing and Property Service Budget Report - 30 September 2021

Under reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the Meeting of the Council dated 18 February 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) presented the budget position for the Housing Revenue Budget (HRA) and general Services Other Housing Budget for the period up to 30 September 2021.

Following consideration, where Officer's answered questions on the minor variations in the budget and staffing, the Committee agreed to note the budget monitoring report for the period to 30 September 2021.

11. Housing Investment 2021-22

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informed the Committee of the budget position to 30 September 2021 for the Housing Investment Programme for 2021/22.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to note:

- i. the position as at 30 September 2021 with regards to the Housing Investment Programme for 2021/22; and
- ii. that a revised Housing Investment Programme projected outturn to 31 March 2022 will be presented to this Committee on 8 February 2022.

12. Question Time

Councillor Aaron McLean sought clarification on whether there were any mobile CCTV cameras available to go to the places where anti-social behaviour was taking place.

In response, the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that there were no mobile cameras and that there were challenges with the current CCTV feeds. There will be information circulated to Members regarding this

as part of the budget setting process. She also confirmed that there is a working group undertaking a review of the Community Safety strategy.

Councillor Mclean sought further clarification on who the public should contact with regards to anti-social behaviour.

In response, the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) confirmed that members of the public should contact the Community Safety Team or the Housing Officer for the area.

Councillor Creswell sought an update on the derelict properties and Airbnb owners taking up properties that people could be living in.

In response, the Head of Property Services advised that the team are meeting to look at the derelict properties but this has been delayed. He also confirmed that a paper will be coming to the Committee on empty homes and the impact of this. The Legal Service Manager advised that there was a difference in the way derelict and vacant homes were dealt with. The planning service are looking at this but there are significant issues and it will take time and money.

Councillor Gatt sought clarification on whether a paper on derelict properties would include the Council owned properties.

In response, the Legal Services Manager advised that it would be more town centred based and wider issues would need to be considered in a further report.

13. Building Services Trading Operation Budget 2021-22 -Budget Monitoring Report [Para 9]

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 September 2021 for the Building Services Trading Operation.

Following consideration, where Officers answered questions on external painting, central heating replacement, trade vacancies and staff safety, the Committee agreed to note:

- i. the financial information for the period to 30 September 2021, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix 1 of the report;
- ii. Building Services operating budget performance for the period to 30 September 2021, as set out in section 6 of the report; and
- iii. the revised projected outturn to 31 March 2022, as detailed in section 7 and Appendix 1 of the report.