

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Special Meeting of the Moray Council

Monday, 04 March 2019

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

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor James Allan, Councillor David Bremner, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor Gordon Cowie, Councillor Paula Coy, Councillor Lorna Creswell, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Louise Laing, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Maria McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Amy Taylor, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor Ryan Edwards, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Ray McLean, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor Ron Shepherd, Councillor Walter Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

The Corporate Director (Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure), the Head of Direct Services, the Legal Services Manager, Mr Paul Connor, Principal Accountant and the Democratic Services Manager as Clerk to the Meeting.

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 Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

2 Resolution

Prior to agreeing the resolution Councillor Gatt stated that he wished to highlight as a matter of public record, that Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council had their report and Appendices A, C and E in public and therefore he wished to politely condemn Moray Council for excessive secrecy when, in his opinion, there was no need.

In response the Legal Services Manager advised that there had been discussions as Moray Council had been working jointly with both these Councils, however it was considered there are inherent difficulties in splitting the report between the open and confidential sections as it does lead to some confusion and the need to stop debate because it has crossed into an Appendix that is in the confidential section due to them being integral parts of the report and therefore the view was taken that it would be more appropriate to take the entire matter in confidence and to then agree an

appropriate press release, in discussion with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, following the meeting in order to allow full discussion and no confusion considering that there are matters which should remain in confidence.

Councillor Feaver stated that whilst she appreciated the advice given, the wording in the reports from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils was almost identical to the wording in the Moray Council report other than what is specific to Moray with percentages replacing figures giving the public information that shows that the council is dealing with a major project. She further stated that in her opinion if Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council can manage to split the report between the open and confidential sections, Moray Council can manage that also and would hope that in the future the council looked at how reports are presented without in her opinion such excessive secrecy which was not good for democracy.

Thereafter Council 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.

Paragraph of Minute	Paragraph Number	Paragraph Number of Schedule 7A and reason
3	8	Information relating to the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Authority
	9	Information on terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority.

3 Chair of the Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Councillor S Morrison.

4 Joint Energy from Waste Project (Contract Award and Inter Authority Agreement) [Paras 8 and 9]

- Information on proposed terms and/or expenditure to be incurred by the Authority;