

MORAY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of the Corporate Committee

Tuesday, 01 February 2022

Various Locations via Video-Conference

PRESENT

Councillor George Alexander, Councillor Frank Brown, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Tim Eagle, Councillor Claire Feaver, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Aaron McLean, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Amy Taylor, Councillor Sonya Warren

APOLOGIES

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Walter Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development), Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Head of HR, ICT and Organisational Development, Head of Housing and Property Services, Mr C Muir, Senior Officer (Economic Strategy and Development) and Mrs L Rowan, Committee Services Officer as Clerk to the Committee.

1 Chair

Councillor A McLean, being Chair of the Corporate 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 18 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

10 and 11 6, 8, 9 Information relating to terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person(s).

4 Minute of Meeting dated 30 November 2021

The Minute of the meeting of the Corporate Committee dated 30 November 2021 was submitted and approved.

5 Written Questions

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted.

6 Living Wage Accreditation Update

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 27 November 2018, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the current status of an application for Living Wage Accreditation and sought approval for the actions required to support pursuing an application in 2022.

Councillor Leadbitter welcomed the progress in the Council's application for Living Wage Accreditation and stated that it set a good example for other Employers in Moray to pay the National Living Wage and moved that the Committee agree recommendation 2.2 ii) that the Council apply the living wage locally with effect from 1 April 2022 if there is no national pay award at that time and make an application between April and November 2022 and iii) that the Council apply the living wage locally with effect from 1 April every year if there is no national pay award. This was seconded by Councillor Divers.

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

- (i) note the status of its Living Wage Accreditation application;
- (ii) apply the living wage locally with effect from 1 April 2022 if there is no national pay award at that time and to make an application between April and November 2022; and
- (iii) apply the living wage locally with effect from 1 April every year if there is no national pay award.

7 Young Person's Guarantee Scheme Application

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) informed the Committee of the Young Person's Guarantee Scheme (YPG) and requested approval to submit an application to be recognised as an employer committed to the YPG scheme which would raise the Council's profile with regards to ongoing work with young people.

Councillor Warren welcomed the report and moved that the Committee agree the recommendations as printed.

There being no-one otherwise minded, the Committee agreed to submit an application for the Young Person's Guarantee Scheme.

8 Procurement Process

Under reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee dated 7 December 2021, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) requested amendments to the Council's procurement process to allow for the recording of data relevant to the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Economic Recovery Plan for Moray.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed the proposed changes to the procurement process as outlined in para 4.3 and 4.4 of the report to allow for capturing additional information from contracted suppliers.

9 Question Time

Councillor Eagle made mention of the announcement from the Scottish Government to provide Local Authorities with a share of £120 million and sought clarification as to what share Moray would be entitled to.

In response, the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) advised that there had been no allocation made to Moray as yet however based on previous experience Moray should receive around £2 million. This was confirmed by the Council Leader.

10 9 Linkwood Place Elgin

A report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to approve the sale of 9 Linkwood Place, Elgin.

During discussion, Councillor Leadbitter welcomed the report and moved that the Committee agree the recommendations as printed. This was seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillor Cowe was of the view that, as one of the offers to purchase the property was from an established local company who is a long term tenant of the Council, then the property should be sold to this person so that the Council can support this local business and moved an amendment to the motion in these terms. In failing to find a seconder, Councillor Cowe's motion fell.

The Monitoring Officer was asked for advice on risks associated with the nature of operations proposed on the premises by one interested party and gave legal advice which was, in his view, sufficient to enable the Committee to take a decision. It was noted by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) that, while clearly the required standard of information was available, the Committee may nonetheless wish to have further information before they took a decision given the issue under debate.

Councillor Alexander, having considered the advice from the Monitoring Officer in relation to the issues raised surrounding the risk implications of the report, moved that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Corporate Committee to allow for the provision of a fuller risk summary. This was seconded by Councillor Cowe.

On a division there voted:

For the Motion (8):	Councillor Leadbitter, Brown, Divers, Feaver, Gatt, A McLean, Taylor and Warren
For the Amendment (3):	Councillor Alexander, Cowe and Eagle
Abstentions (1):	Councillor Morrison

Accordingly, the Motion became the finding of the Committee and it was agreed to:

- (i) approve a sale of 9 Linkwood Place, Elgin as detailed in Section 5 of the report; and
- (ii) authorise the Estates Manager and the Legal Services Manager to finalise detailed terms and conditions and conclude the transaction.

11 6 March Lane Buckie

Under reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the special meeting of Moray Council dated 15 December 2015, a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) asked the Committee to approve terms for the sale of the Council's interest in the building at 6 March Lane, Buckie and main terms for a 99 year ground lease of the site.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposals detailed in section 5 of the report; and
- (ii) authorise the Estates Manager and the Legal Services Manager to finalise the detailed terms and conditions and conclude the transaction.