



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held via MS Teams, on THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 9.30 am.

PRESENT

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Martha Benny
Councillor Dave Clark
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Darren Lee
Councillor Graham Lindsay
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor George Matchett QPM
Councillor Jane McTaggart
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Mike Watson

IN ATTENDANCE

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)?
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)
Fiona Duncan, Chief Social Work Officer
Lindsay Sim, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager (Place)
Chief Inspector Audrey Marsh, Police Scotland
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager (Development)
Lawrence Hunter, Energy and Sustainability Strategy Officer
Wendy Forrest, HSCP Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement
Ewan Murray HSCP Chief Financial Officer
Lee Robertson Solicitor
Lindsay Thomson, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)
Melanie Moore, Committee Services (Partnership and Performance)

Pastor David Fraser, Religious Representative (Appointed Member)
Rev Sang Y Cha, Religious Representative (Appointed Member)

The Provost advised Council that a special meeting had been called so that the business for September could be split over two meetings – 10 and 24 September 2020. Standing Orders provide that special meetings agendas should be restricted to items requiring a decision before the next ordinary meeting and it was noted that this did not apply to every agenda item on this agenda. Notwithstanding, those items did require to be considered by Council given their strategic importance. On this basis and the Provost invited Council to agree to suspend Standing Order 6.6 (concerning the agenda for special meetings) and this is unanimously agreed.

CC.333 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Chris Dixon and Councillor Helen Lewis

CC.334 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CC.335 CLACKMANNANSHIRE LOCAL POLICE PLAN 2020 - 2023

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director, Partnership and Performance was presented to Council for consideration. Chief Inspector Audrey Marsh was in attendance to answer questions.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendation as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the Clackmannanshire Local Policing Plan for 2020-23.

Action

Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance)

CC.336 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (HSCP) REMOBILISATION PLAN AND RENEWAL PLAN

The report, submitted by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, presented to Council the Health and Social Care Partnership Re-mobilisation Plan and Renewal Plan as part of the response to COVID-19.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council agreed to note:

1. The approach laid out in the two Plans;
2. The activity being undertaken by HSCP officers to progress the work through existing planning and oversight structures to ensure progression of activity;

Action

HSCP Chief Officer

The Provost adjourned the meeting at 10.25 am. When the meeting resumed at 10.35 am, 15 members remained present.

CC.337 COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

The report, submitted by the Senior Manager Legal and Governance, presented a number of matters to Council relating to the scheduling of Council and Committee meetings and also sought authority to review Standing Orders.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. To change the date of the December Council meeting from 17 December 2020 to 10 December 2020
2. That the Emergency Decision Making Forum (EDMF) should continue as a permanent committee to take decisions in an emergency, noting that it is likely to meet only in exceptional circumstances.
3. To note that the usual cycle of committee meetings will begin from next month and all that all meetings will continue to be held using MS Teams until at least January 2021 when there will be a further review and
4. To note that this paper gives notice for a proposal to change to Standing Orders for the next full meeting of Council in October 2020.

Action

Senior Manager, Legal and Governance

CC.338 FINANCE UPDATE

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, provided Council with an update on key issues impacting Council in the current and future years. The key issues covered within the paper are:

- The current year's outturn position for the Council, as at June 2020, in respect of both General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budgets;
- The achievement of savings to date, for the current financial year 2020/21.
- The impact of COVID-19;
- Proposed strategy to ensure a balanced position for 2020/21, including the presentation of a new capital budget for 2020/21 and an update on the Council's reserves position;
- An indicative budget timetable for 2021/22;
- Some specific additional requests for Council governance to support the delivery of priority activity.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Donald Balsillie. Seconded by Councillor Ellen Forson.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve:

1. The amendments to the Capital Budget for 2021 financial year and revised Capital Budget for 2020/21 (set out in a paragraphs 3.12 & 3.13 and Appendix 13);
2. A contribution of £100k from the capital programme as the Council's contribution to the running costs of the City Region Deal Regional Programme Management Office (RPMO) (paragraphs 3.11 and Table 1);
3. The proposed strategy to deliver financial balance for the current financial year, noting that regular updates will be provided through a Budget Strategy report to each Council meeting (paragraph 4.4);
4. The proposed earmarked reserve of £1.5m from uncommitted reserves to cover additional COVID spend in 2020/21 as a contribution to delivering a balanced budget position for the current year (paragraph 4.10);
5. Additional funding for the HSCP for support to the CFO, £5k from uncommitted reserves for 2020/21 and ongoing increase of £10k from 2020/21 (paragraph 6.2);
6. To delegate a sum of £250k from uncommitted reserves to the Senior Leadership Group to allow additional resources to be implemented in respect of priority resourcing needs/residual unmet need previously reported (paragraph 6.3);
7. To increase the Transformation Fund by £500k (new balance £742k) to facilitate the delivery of planned work required to deliver transformation proposals (paragraph 6.5);
8. To improve revenue spend of up to £29,635 for the City Region Deal Flexible Skills Project (paragraph 6.5).

The Council agreed to note:

1. The significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both capital and revenue outturns and the delivery of planned savings, alongside the range of continuing uncertainties in respect of localised outbreak, impacts, potential additional funding and fiscal flexibilities (sections 3 and 4);
2. The GF revenue spend is forecasting an overspend of £2.511m for the year to 31 March 2021;
3. That the Clackmannanshire locality of the Health and Social Care Partnership (H%SCP) is forecasting an underspend for the year of £(0.478)m;
4. That the GF Capital Programme has had a fundamental review for the 2020/21 year and future years are being reviewed in detail as part of budget preparations for 2021/22;
5. That the HRA forecast revenue surplus over budgeted surplus for the year is £(0.221m) to 31 March 2021;
6. That the Capital programme for HRA is currently forecasting an underspend of £(0.585)m;
7. Progress in delivering the £3.343m savings programme (for 2020/21), is currently forecast as 72%, by 31 March 2021;
8. the forecast financial commitments against Covid-specific funding as at 19 June;

9. The HRA revenue and capital virements of £19k and £50k respectively to fund essential homeworking equipment which have been undertaken in line with financial regulations (paragraph 3.20 and Table 3);
10. The requirement to maintain a balanced budget (paragraph 4.4);
11. The 2020/21 Budget timetable;
12. That subject to the approval of the requests detailed in paragraphs 6.2 to 6.5 the balance remaining on the Council's uncommitted revenue reserves is £0.03k above minimum level and is equivalent to £3.880m or 3% of net expenditure.

Action

Chief Finance Officer

CC.338 LEARNING ESTATE: PROGRESS REPORT

The Provost congratulated Lorraine Sanda on her recent post of Strategic Director (People).

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place) and the Chief Education Officer provided provided Council with an update on the position reported at the special meeting of council on 10 July 2020 and presented further information on ABC Nursery and Park Primary Nursery, and also the CSSS building at Bedford Place in Alloa. The report also provided an update on the works at the former St Bernadette's Primary School, now known as The Orchard, Tullibody.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. To note that there will be a consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (the 2010 Act) for ABC Nursery;
2. The consultation will contain a proposal to close ABC Nursery permanently;
3. To note that the consultation proposal will be prepared by education officer in consultation with the People and Place Convenors;
4. To rephase £1,013,876 of the existing 2020/21 budget for Park Primary Nursery extension into 2021/22 and approve an additional £463,009 of capital funding for this project with 2021/22;
5. Subject to approval of the above notes that the legal contract with Hub East Central Scotland Ltd ("hubbo") (due to expiry on 31 December 2020) will be extended to an appropriate date and the value increased to £8,362,252 to facilitate the works to Park Primary/Nursery School together with other outstanding ELC bundle works.
6. To note that a further report on the Bedford Place building will come to Committee/Council as appropriate.

Action

Strategic Director (Place) and Chief Education Officer

CC.339 CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020-23

The report, submitted by the Chief Social Work Officer, updated Council with regard the Children's Services Plan 2020-23 in terms of the option of deferring the new plan. This will enable the service to amend and adapt the plan following a consultation process that includes the COVID response and the outcomes of The Independent Care Review - The Promise, so that a new two year Children's Services plan 2021-23 can be produced.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

Decision

The Council agreed:

1. To note that work on the 2020-23 Children's Service Plan had been progressing until the outbreak of Covid-19;
2. To note that the Scottish Government had advised councils that they can take up the option of deferring finalising the new plan;
3. To note that deferral will allow the partnership the opportunity to undertake proper consultation and will also allow the plan to address the impacts of COVID 19 on children and to incorporate the outcome of the Independent Care Review – The Promise;
4. To note that, Clackmannanshire Council will submit a statement to Scottish Government by 30 September 2020 setting out its intention to defer finalisation of the new plan. The statement will then be published on the Council's website;
5. To note the revised timetable for developing and finalising a new two-year plan (2021-23) is 30 April 2021 and note that the plan will therefore be considered by Council at its meeting on 22 April 2021.

Action

Chief Social Work Officer

CC.340 CITY REGION DEAL – REGIONAL ENERGY MASTERPLAN

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided Council with a summary of, and progress with, the Regional Energy Masterplan, a project which forms part of the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

1. Note the objectives and outputs of the Regional Energy Masterplan project;
2. Note and endorse progress to date and the approach being taken by the Project Delivery Group to start work on the Regional Energy Masterplan.

Action

Strategic Director (Place)

Ends 12.08 hours

