



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held via MS Teams, on WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2021 at 9.00 am.**

**PRESENT**

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Denis Coyne  
Councillor Chris Dixon  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor Darren Lee  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
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 Colligan, Strategic Director (Transformation)  
Ann Margaret Black, Chief Officer of Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integrated Joint Board  
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer  
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager - Housing (Place)  
Iain McDonald, Senior Manager - Environment (Place)  
Michael Hilarion, Senior Manager - Property (Place)  
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager - Development (Place)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager – Partnership & Transformation (Partnership & Performance)  
Carla MacFarlane, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Pamela Morrison, Audit Scotland  
Maariya Akhtar, Audit Scotland  
Lindsay Thomson, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)  
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership and Performance)

The Provost advised the Council of the passing of Harry Brown, former Provost of Alloa Town Council and expressed her sympathy for his family.

The Provost advised that as the previous day had been the National Day of Reflection, that the Council would observe a minutes silence to mark the first anniversary of the country going into lockdown and in remembrance of the people who had died during the coronavirus crisis.

**CC.379            APOLOGIES**

None.

**CC.380            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**CC.381            TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2021/22**

The report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 and Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

**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:

1. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 and prudential indicators for the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements attached as Appendix A;
2. Approve the revised Borrowing Strategy to support additional capital investment (paragraph 5.6);
3. Note that no changes are proposed to the accounting policies for the Loans Fund (Appendix A, paragraph 1.3);
4. Note that as part of the Council's commitment to Wellbeing Economy and Community Wealth Building, future investment decisions will consider ethical investment opportunities. (Appendix A, paragraph 5.1); and
5. Note the investment portfolio position as at 31st January 2021 (Appendix B).

**Action**

Chief Finance Officer

**CC.382            GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/22**

The report, submitted by the Administration, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive presented the Administration's General Services Budget for 2021/22. The report built on the regular update reports and briefings presented to Council and the Audit and Service Committees throughout the year, including those covering the Be the Future Transformation Programme. The Council's financial sustainability continued to be the focus of member and trade union briefings held during the year, especially in the context of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Motion**

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

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

## **Amendment**

That Council agree

1. That a new recommendation is added (2.1.15) as follows:-

2.1.15 To establish a “fabric fund” for which eligibility criteria will be developed and brought back to Council and to earmark a revenue reserve for the fabric fund of £111,000 for repairs and maintenance at the following facilities:- Centenary Hall, Tillicoultry; Coalsnaughton Hall; Devonvale Hall, Tillicoultry; Cochrane Hall, alva; Dumyat Centre, Menstrie; Tullibody Civic Centre; Burgh Mews (Glebe Hall), Alloa; and Clackmannan Hall.

2. That a new recommendation is added (2.1.16) as follows:-

2.1.16 To establish a permanent circular economy officer post at a cost of £55,000 (subject to job evaluation) within the Economic Development Team.

3. That a new recommendation is added (2.1.17) as follows:-

2.1.17 To fund the commissioning of feasibility study at a cost of up to £50,000 on the need for very sheltered housing provision in Clackmannanshire, as part of the review of the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA), which will be used to update the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) Strategic Housing Function.

4. That the proposed amendments increase the budget gap by £216,000, Council therefore agrees that recommendation 2.1.11 is amended to reduce the discretionary element of the transfer to the HSCP by the same amount thereby reducing the transfer from £19.875m to £19.659m.

5. That the section 95 officer makes consequential amendments to the proposed budget summarised at recommendation 2.1.2 and appendix C to reflect these amendments and sustain a balanced position.

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

## **Voting on the Amendment**

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Matchett QPM asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 18 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the elected members present voted as follows:

### **For Amendment (5)**

Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Derek Stewart  
Councillor George Matchett QPM  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Kathleen Martin

### **Against Amendment (13)**

Provost Tina Murphy  
Councillor Les Sharp  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Mike Watson  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor Graham Lindsay

Councillor Darren Lee  
Councillor Denis Coyne  
Councillor Chris Dixon

On a division of 5 votes to 13, the amendment was defeated.

### **Decision**

The Council unanimously agreed:

1. the proposals for demand pressures (Appendix B);
2. the General Services Revenue Budget for 2021/22 (Appendix C);
3. the policy savings set out in Appendix D;
4. the 2021/22 Income and Charging Strategy and Register of Charges and the Schedule of Funding to Voluntary Organisations which maintain charges and awards in line with 2020/21 levels (Appendices E and F);
5. the utilisation of £0.885m from General Reserves (paragraph 7.13);
6. the utilisation of £0.729m Capital Receipts from the Capital Receipts Reserve (paragraph 7.13);
7. to top up the existing Transformation Fund by £0.091m from General Reserves (paragraph 7.9);
8. to commit £0.030m from the Transformation Fund to support the Community Wealth Building Workforce Development project (paragraph 7.14);
9. to establish an earmarked reserve of £1.200m to cover general in-year pressures and to top up the Organisational Change Fund by £0.200m from uncommitted reserves (paragraph 7.9);
10. the continued utilisation of Capital Receipts to fund the permitted element of severance costs (paragraph 7.16);
11. a net resource transfer of £19.875m for HSCP in respect of 2021/22 and to maintain the additional sum of £0.250m earmarked for transformation (paragraph 7.26);
12. the General Services Capital Programme (Appendix J);
13. that paragraph 5 of Standing Orders is amended to provide that the Leader is the service lead for transformation (and City Region Deal as previously agreed by Council) and to allocate responsibility for the financial strategy to the Depute Leader of Council;
14. that on undertaking the planned review of Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation during 2021/22, the revised Scheme explicitly reflects the role of Portfolio Conveners in respect of service led Transformation.

### **The Council also unanimously agreed to note:**

- the approved Transformation Programme (Appendix A)  
  
the policy priorities and investment highlighted in section 4 and, as embedded within this proposed Budget

- the level of Council Tax for 2021/22, resulting in Band D Council tax of £1,304.63, (Appendix H), as approved by Council on 4 March 2021
- that progress on the Be the Future Programme will continue to be reported regularly to Council through specific Be the Future update reports
- the summary of recent budget engagement activity detailed in section 5
- that there has been no increase to the weekly rent for the travelling persons site, recently transferred to HRA management (Appendix E)
- the anticipated level of uncommitted reserves of £3.968m by 31 March 2021, prior to setting the 2021/22 budget (paragraph 7.8)
- that £0.885m of uncommitted General Reserves have been applied in setting the 2021/22 budget
- that £0.729m of Capital Receipts have been applied in setting the 2021/22 budget
- that £0.301m remains within the Economic Stimulus Fund to support economic recovery
- the balance of £3.956m in uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves, after setting this budget, which equates to 3% of net expenditure in line with the minimum level set by the Council's approved Reserve Strategy (paragraph 7.13)
- the cumulative indicative gap of £13.656m to 2025 following setting this budget, and a funding gap of £5.980m in 2022/23 (Exhibit 10)
- that the budget proposed for 2021/22 aims to deliver the Scottish Government's settlement package measures (paragraph 7.20)
- the demand pressures for the HSCP totalling £2.222m (Appendix I)
- that the agreed Capital Programme will remain under review and any changes required as a result of the property asset review and/or finalised business cases will be reported to Council (paragraphs 9.5 and 9.8)
- that during 2021/22, the Council will work towards securing Living Wage accreditation.

**Action**

Administration, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive

**CC.383 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021/22 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), presented the Housing Revenue account budget and Housing Capital Programme for the financial year 2021/22 and highlighted the key factors influencing the budget. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget setting process is subject to statutory, regulatory and governance requirements. The report sought approval for the 2020/21 HRA Income and Expenditure revenue budget and rent levels, as defined within the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

**Motion**

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

Moved by Councillor Craig Holden. Seconded by Councillor Jane McTaggart.

## **Decision**

The Council agreed to:

1. Approve the summary revenue budget 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1;
2. Approve the Housing (HRA) capital programme 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 2;
3. Approve HRA Borrowing Requirement 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Earmarked Investment, as set out in appendix 4, noting that, subject to paragraph 3.23 - 3.26 of this report, a sum of £700k has been earmarked for a projected required investment in the Primrose Street Development in 2021/2022; and
4. Note that the service will be seeking external assistance to review the HRA Financial business plan during 2021/22.

## **Action**

Strategic Director (Place)

***The Provost adjourned the meeting at 11.00 am. When the meeting resumed at 11.05 am, 18 members remained present.***

## **CC.384 LEISURE PROVISION IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE: UPDATE**

Following Council's consideration of a paper entitled Leisure Provision in Clackmannanshire on 11 February 2021; the report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance), provided an update.

## **Motion**

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

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

## **Amendment**

That Council agree to add a new recommendation as follows:-

- 2.2 That Council agree that the working group referenced at paragraph 3.6 consult Zero Waste Scotland to explore whether the recommissioning of the current Leisure Bowl Facility is a desired option for future leisure provision or, alternatively, in the context of the Circular Economy of Buildings, how the onsite materials left after decommissioning of the Leisure Bowl building are recycled.

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark.

Councillor Holden raised a point of order that the amendment was contrary to Standing Order 17.1 in that it attempted to alter the decision made by Council at its meeting held on 11 February 2021, which was within the six month period from the date of the original decision.

Councillor Holden asked for a recess. The Provost agreed to adjourn the meeting for a recess at 10.35 am. When the meeting resumed at 10.45 am, 16 members remained present. Councillor George Matchett QPM and Councillor Derek Stewart were not present at the meeting following the recess.

The Clerk advised that the wording of the amendment was not contrary to the decision made by Council on 11 February 2021 to cease current leisure provision from Alloa Leisure Bowl. Therefore, the amendment was competent.

Councillor Dave Clark moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

### **Voting on the Amendment**

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Dave Clark asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 16 members present who were eligible to vote. On the roll being called, the elected members present voted as follows:

#### **For Amendment (3)**

Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Kathleen Martin

#### **Against Amendment (13)**

Provost Tina Murphy  
Councillor Les Sharp  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Mike Watson  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor Graham Lindsay  
Councillor Darren Lee  
Councillor Denis Coyne  
Councillor Chris Dixon

On a division of 3 votes to 13, the amendment was defeated.

### **Decision**

The Council unanimously agreed to note the contents of the paper.

Ends: 12:25 pm

