



MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held within the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, FK10 2AD, on THURSDAY 16 AUGUST 2012 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Alastair Campbell
Councillor Archie Drummond
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor George Matchett, QPM
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Jim Stalker
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Graham Watt
Councillor Gary Womersley

IN ATTENDANCE

Elaine McPherson, Chief Executive
Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
Stephen Crawford, Head of Facilities Management
Stuart Crickmar, Head of Strategy and Customer Services
Martin Dunsmore, Accounting and Budgeting Manager
Kenny Hutton, Service Manager Regeneration Services
David Thomson, Solicitor, Legal Services (Clerk to the Council)

1. Presentation - Strategy and Customer Services: Customer Service Excellence Reaccreditation

Before the start of business, the Leader of the Council presented staff from Strategy and Customer Services with an accreditation certificate for the Customer Service Excellence Quality Standard. On behalf of the Council, Councillor Gary Womersley congratulated the service on achieving the standard for the second year in a row.

2. Intimation - Kirkin' of the Council Service

The Provost intimated that a Kirkin' of the Council Service will take place on Sunday 7 October 2012 at 10.30 am at St John's Episcopal Church, Broad Street, Alloa. Elected Members will receive written notification in due course.

CC.21/35 APOLOGIES

None

CC.36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CC.37 MINUTES OF MEETING: THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on Thursday 28 June 2012 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on Thursday 28 June 2012 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings and signed by the Provost.

CC.38 COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONVENED SINCE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

At its meeting on 1 June 2012, the Council agreed that a standing item would appear on each Council agenda indicating which committees had convened since the previous Council meeting and also indicating whether minutes of those committee meetings had been placed on the Members' Portal.

The Council noted that due to the recess period, no committee meetings have taken place since the last Council meeting held on 28 June 2012.

CC.39 LEADER'S BRIEFING

The Council noted a briefing by the Leader of the Council covering the period from May-July 2012 which outlined relevant key issues and activities.

CC.40 TAKING CLACKMANNANSHIRE FORWARD - CORPORATE PRIORITIES

A report which presented draft corporate priorities for the period 2012-2017 to Council was submitted by the Chief Executive. The report set out the Administration's priorities for the period 2012-2017 and set them within the context of the priority outcomes which the Council has agreed with its community planning partners.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Voting

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Gary Womersley 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 members present voted as follows:

For the Motion (9)

Provost Tina Murphy
Councillor Gary Womersley
Councillor Craig Holden
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Irene Hamilton
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE
Councillor Archie Drummond

Abstain (Not voting) (9)

Councillor Alastair Campbell
Councillor Kenneth Earle
Councillor Gary Womersley
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Kathleen Martin
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Jim Stalker
Councillor Bobby McGill
Councillor George Matchett, QPM

Decision

Accordingly, the Council agreed by 9 votes:

- (a) to adopt 'Taking Clackmannanshire Forward' as its draft Corporate Plan covering the period 2012-2017
- (b) that a consultation exercise is undertaken on the draft document
- (c) to note that feedback on the consultation exercise and a final document will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 11 October 2012.

Action

Chief Executive

CC.41 BUDGET STRATEGY UPDATE

A report which updated Council on progress made in delivering its approved Budget Strategy was submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. The report focused on the revisions to the assumptions underpinning the indicative funding gap up to 2014/15, an update on 2012/13 outturn and savings delivery, and clarification of budget monitoring arrangements.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to:

- Note the progress made and associated timelines (set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report) for developing a menu of options for business case development and consultation using a standard template (attached as Appendix A to the report).
- Note the appointment of elected member representatives to the Capital Investment Forum and the meeting scheduled for 17 September 2012.
- Endorse the revised assumptions and updated scenario planning resulting in an indicative funding gap of £12.511m up to 2014/15 (set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report) (Table 2)
- Approve the proposed corporate and financial planning approach set out in Appendix B to the report.
- Note the current outturn position set out in paragraph 4.12 of the report.
- Note the progress in delivering 2012/13 planned savings (Appendix C)
- Note the progress in delivering 2012/13 approved political priorities (Appendix D)
- Endorse the proposed budget monitoring arrangements set out in Section 5 of the report.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

CC.42 CORPORATE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

A report which further clarified and developed the Council's scrutiny framework as managed through the Resources and Audit Committee and services committees was submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. The report focused on the establishment of a protocol to facilitate the scrutiny of decision making and signposted a number of new initiatives to strengthen and better support elected members in discharging their scrutiny roles.

In response to elected member queries in advance of the Council meeting regarding protocols for calling in decisions, the Chief Executive clarified the following points:

1. Reference in the report to a minimum of 4 members as a committee quorum figure (Paragraph 4.13), refers to 4 members of the Resources and Audit Committee.
2. Reference to "publication of the minute" (Paragraph 4.13) refers to the draft minute which will be circulated to members of the Resources and Audit Committee and *not* the minute which is ultimately published at the next meeting cycle.

Where the Resources and Audit Committee votes on its findings on a decision which has been called-in (Appendix B), the proposed approach is as follows:

1. Where the Resources and Audit Committee finds that the decision which it has called in is consistent with the Council's decision making principles and/or governance, the decision will be implemented.
2. Where the Resources and Audit Committee finds that the decision which it has called in is inconsistent with the council's decision making principles and/or governance, the decision will not be implemented and a report on the findings and recommendations of the Resources and Audit Committee will go back to Council to address.
3. Where there is no majority view either way in the committee, this will also be reported back to Council to be addressed.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Archie Drummond. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to:

- Endorse the underpinning principles set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report.
- Note the plans to hold a risk based planning workshop with Resources and Audit Committee members.
- Approve the proposed authority of the Convenor of the Resources and Audit Committee to request service committee convenors to attend the Resources and Audit Committee as set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report.
- Approve the call-in process set out at Appendix B to the report.
- Approve the call-in criteria proposed in paragraph 4.12 of the report.
- Agree the call-in operating parameters set out in paragraph 4.13 of the report.
- Agree the exemption of urgent decisions as defined by paragraph 4.14 of the report.
- Note the proposed developments to further improve the Council's scrutiny arrangements set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

CC.43 REPRESENTATION ON CoSLA EXECUTIVE GROUPS

A report which set out a request for elected member representation on CoSLA Executive Groups was submitted by the Head of Strategy and Customer Services. The Council had received a request from CoSLA seeking elected member representation on several Executive Groups; each local authority is allocated one place on each of the Executive Groups.

Motion

That the following nominations are made to the CoSLA Executive Groups on the basis of previously agreed political responsibility.

Executive Group

Community Well-Being and Safety -
Education, Children and Young People -
Health and Well-Being -
Regeneration and Sustainable Development -
Resources and Capacity -
Strategic Human Resources Management -

Nominees

Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Les Sharp
Councillor Donald Balsillie
Councillor Gary Womersley
Councillor Archie Drummond

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

Decision

The Council agreed to support the nominations to the CoSLA Executive Groups.

Action

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Councillor George Matchett, QPM, withdrew from the meeting during questions on the following item of business (11.55 am). Seventeen members remained present.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

In terms of paragraph 43 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and s50A(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public were excluded during consideration of the undernoted report on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of confidential information.

CC.44 NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST INITIATIVE

A report which sought Council approval for the tender received under the Scottish Government's National Housing Trust (NHT) Scheme.

Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Les Sharp.

Decision

The Council agreed unanimously to support the recommendations set out in the report.

Action

Director of Services to Communities

ENDS 12.05 pm