

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 10.00am

Present

Councillor Jim THOMSON (Convener)

Councillor Alistair BERRILL (Substitute)	Councillor Graham LAMBIE
Councillor Martin EARL	Councillor Alastair MAJURY
Councillor Scott FARMER (Substitute)	Councillor Alasdair TOLLEMACHE
Councillor Chris KANE (Substitute)	Councillor Evelyn TWEED

In Attendance

Kevin Argue, Transport Development Team Leader
Carol Beattie, Chief Executive
Lorna Cameron, Chief Housing Officer
Carolyn Cooper, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Christina Cox, Service Manager – Planning & Building Standards
David Crighton, Land Services Manager
Carlyn Fraser, Roads & Land Services Team Leader
Graham Gibson, Senior Media Officer
David Hopper, Sustainable Development Manager
Lorraine MacGillivray, Service Manager
Gillian McKenzie, Accountant
Robert Plewes, Transport Scheduling Co-ordinator
Bruce Reekie, Senior Manager – Environment & Place
Brian Roberts, Senior Manager – Infrastructure
Craig Russell, Service Manager – Housing Management Development
Michelle MacDonald, Governance Officer (Clerk)
Louise McDonald, Committee Officer (Minutes)

The Convener advised that the petitioners for item 7 (A91 (Blairlogie) Petition Update) had sent an email to Committee Members and due to GDPR implications this would not be circulated further.

EH144 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Danny Gibson, Councillor Alasdair MacPherson and Councillor Ross Oxburgh. Councillor Chris Kane was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Gibson, Councillor Scott Farmer was in attendance as substitute for Councillor MacPherson and Councillor Alistair Berill was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Oxburgh.

EH145 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alasdair Majury declared an interest in Item 8 (Repair of Stone Wall along the Perth Road (B8033) Dunblane) as he expressed support and signed the petition.

EH146 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business brought forward.

EH147 MINUTES OF MEETINGS – 6 JUNE 2019

Decision

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.

EH148 ROLLING ACTION LOG

Following a Member query, officers agreed to ensure all columns within the action log were updated.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the Action Log.

EH149 A811 PETITION UPDATE

The purpose of the report was to update Elected Members on the road improvement works that had been undertaken on the A811 since the original petition was presented in February 2018.

Over 18 months, two main phases of road improvement works had been undertaken along the stretch of the A811 from Touch Home Farm to Kippen Station roundabout. Significant surface patching along the road edge and centre lines was undertaken followed by the installation of surface dressing beds in both 2018 and 2019. In May 2019 a new road surface was laid on the slip road leading off the A811 to the B8075 (Kirk Lane).

Existing road signs had been reviewed in line with national guidance and any damaged or missing signs had been replaced. These included three new directional Gargunnoch village signs at each of the three main points of access to Gargunnoch off the A811.

It was noted that re-lining would take place once weather conditions prevailed.

Following a member enquiry around safety concerns using the junction, officers highlighted there had been no accidents at the junction over the last 10 years, improvements had been made and it did not show as a difficult location and therefore would not score highly in service priorities. Members acknowledged the detail and asked for a further report to be submitted to the November Committee Meeting focussing on the junction and possible solutions to the safety concerns. It was also agreed that a report would be submitted to a future Committee Meeting on road safety, focussing on worst accident areas.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. note the level of road improvements undertaken on the A811 (Gargunnoch) since February 2018; and

2. instruct officers to monitor the junction and present a report to November Committee Meeting.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Environment and Place, dated 29 August 2019, submitted)

EH150 A91 (BLAIRLOGIE) PETITION UPDATE

Following a presentation of the A91 (Blairlogie) petition at the Environment & Housing Committee on 6 June 2019, Committee Members requested that officers investigate how a 30mph limit could be introduced to Blairlogie and provide a design for its installation. The report and appendices presented the findings of that investigation.

The Convener gave background detail to the email provided to the Members by Blairlogie Community Council.

The Roads & Land Service Team Leader advised that there had been a mixed reaction to the consultation with some residents advising that they were not aware of all options and therefore could not make an informed decision. Members of the community agreed that they wished for some form of action but there were varying concerns and feelings were split. It was therefore felt that a further consultation on all options was required to obtain clarity on community views. Members agreed that a more focussed consultation would allow Members to make an informed decision.

Concerns were raised around the report to Finance & Economy Committee being deferred due to the delay with requiring a further consultation. Members agreed that a report would be submitted to Finance & Economy Committee requesting the maximum amount, as detailed in Option C and therefore should an alternative option be selected, then the funding was available.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. note the contents of the report;
2. note the options presented;
3. note feedback from consultation with community; and
4. recommend a report to a future Finance & Economy Committee requesting the maximum funding, as detailed in Option C, subject to further community consultation.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Environment and Place, dated 21 August 2019, submitted)

EH151 REPAIR OF STONE WALL ALONG THE PERTH ROAD (B8033) DUNBLANE

The paper updated Elected Members on the works undertaken to the privately owned wall located on the B8033 in Dunblane following the Committee decision on the 11 April 2019 instructing officers to demolish the affected sections of wall and erect a post and wire fence.

Following the Committee decision to proceed with the demolition of the section of wall, the Community Council were approached by a local benefactor intimating they were willing to undertake the required repairs to the wall in order to preserve this local asset.

The repairs commenced in late June 2019 and carried on throughout the summer and were nearing completion, with some pointing works still outstanding. Following the completion of repairs to the wall, the temporary footpath closure notice on the adjoining footpath would be removed along with the temporary barriers.

Members thanked officers for their input and also requested that their thanks were passed on to the community and local benefactor.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. note the repair works undertaken to the wall by a local benefactor which will permit the adjacent adopted footway to be reopened for public use;
2. instruct officers to pass on the Council's thanks to the community and local benefactor; and
3. to close off the petition.

(Reference: Joint report by Senior Manager – Environment and Place, dated 29 August 2019, submitted)

EH152 PERFORMANCE & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The report contained the Environment and Housing Committee Scorecard that had been redesigned as a result of discussions with Elected Members and Senior Management Teams, it presented the latest information on the performance indicators overseen by the Housing and Environment Committee.

Following Member enquiries regarding various areas within the scorecard, officers agreed to ensure parking appeals reporting was consistent through the report, the number of parking PCNs issued figures were combined and data on commercial waste recycling were to be included in future reporting.

Following a discussion around dog fouling, officers agreed to include the number of dog fouling reports and statistics on verbal warnings issued for dog fouling were to be included in future reporting.

Members queried enforcement figures and officers highlighted that enforcement officers allow individuals the opportunity to rectify the situation before enforcing. Officers agreed to arrange a briefing on enforcement work and the different ways to enforce.

Following a Member query regarding response times from enforcement officers, a member suggested that officers could use bikes whilst on patrol. Officers agreed to investigate this.

Councillor Lambie requested further detail on pothole claims from 2018 and officers agreed to provide this.

Decision

Committee noted performance of reported indicators within the Committee Scorecard.

(Reference: Joint report by Senior Manager – Infrastructure, Senior Manager – Environment & Place and Chief Officer - Housing, dated 13 August 2019, submitted)

EH153 SAFER COMMUNITIES – ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The report provided an update to the Committee on enforcement action undertaken by the Safer Communities Team (SCT) since 30 April 2019.

Following Member enquiries regarding various areas within the report, officers agreed to ensure additional information on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Officers would be included in future reporting, descriptions of contraventions were reviewed with further narrative provided in future reporting and further detail on deployable cameras would be provided to committee members.

Following queries from Councillor Earl, officers agreed to confirm whether the main crossing point in Callander was one of the locations for CCTV and further detail on parking ticket appeals would be provided.

Discussion took place around CCTV and it was requested that a future report on the criteria for CCTV locations would be submitted to Committee.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of this report.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager - Infrastructure, dated 3 September 2019, submitted)

EH154 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – PROJECTED OUTTURN 2019/20

Housing Revenue Account

The projected outturn for 2019/20 showed expenditure of £21.955M against a budget of £21.956M. The level of balances retained by the Housing Revenue Account would remain at £986,000.

Housing Investment Programme

The 2019/20 Housing Investment Programme showed expenditure of £17.661M against a budget of £17.431M. The level of new borrowing required for the current year was £0.171M under budget at £6.057M.

The Chief Housing Officer advised that two business units were let on Goosecroft Road.

Following a Member query regarding Pearl Street, Callander, the Chief Housing Officer confirmed that residents would be moving into properties within the next week.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. note that expenditure on the Housing Revenue Account for 2019/20 was £21.955M,
2. to note that the year-end retained balances would remain at £986,000,
3. to note that expenditure on the Housing Investment Programme was £17.661M; and
4. to note that the borrowing requirement for 2019/20 was £6.057M.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer - Housing, dated 20 August 2019,

submitted) **EH155 FOOD SAFETY AND FEEDINGSTUFFS SERVICE PLAN 2019-2020**

The Service Manager presented the report and advised that Food Standards Scotland required Local Authorities to produce a Service Plan and to report on its implementation to the appropriate Council Committee.

Officers responded to a number of questions from Members and provided further detail on items within the report.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. approve the revised Food Safety and Feedingstuffs Service Plan (Appendix 1); and
2. note that Regulatory Service's Enforcement Policy was currently being reviewed.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager - Infrastructure, dated 3 September 2019, submitted)

EH156 ORDER OF MALTA DIAL-A-JOURNEY PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

The Transport Scheduling Co-ordinator presented the report and advised that the service was required to evidence compliance with the 'Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound' issued by the Accounts Commission and COSLA, and with the Council's 'Local Code of Practice: Following the Public Pound and Funding External Bodies', approved in December 2014.

The report offered an overview of the performance and activity of Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey (OMDAJ) according to the Funding Agreement. The report covered the period from 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Following a Member query, it was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future Committee meeting providing an update on the work with the Stirling Area Access Panel.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. note this Performance Report and the information contained at Appendix 1, attached; and
2. request officers to liaise with the Stirling Area Access Panel to demonstrate how well the service was meeting the needs of service users and identify if they could be effectively provided through alternative methods of delivery.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager - Infrastructure, dated 19 August 2019, submitted)

EH157 COMMUNITY PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN – DELIVERY TIMETABLE

At the meeting of the Environment & Housing Committee in June 2019 it was noted that the approved Community Parking Management Plan (CPMP) delivery timetable had absorbed slippages. Members therefore formally requested that a revised delivery plan was submitted to Committee for consideration.

Following a Member query regarding Balmaha, Officers confirmed that following discussions with the Chief Executive of the National Park and Senior Officers, the Parking Management Group was resurrected to co-ordinate how to manage the area.

Decision

Committee agreed the amended Community Parking Management Plan delivery timetable.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Infrastructure, dated 3 September

2019) EH158 REVISED REPAIRS POLICY 2019

The Chief Housing Officer presented the report and advised that the existing repairs policy was agreed in 2015 and had been reviewed and updated. The revised policy had only one change, namely the addition of a new 'urgent' category of repair. The effect of the proposed change would be a better use of resources with no reduction in the service to tenants. The Housing Advisory Group (HAG) had been consulted and agreed with the addition.

Officers responded to a number of questions from Members and provided further detail on items within the report.

Decision

Committee agreed to approve the revised Repairs Policy 2019.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Housing, dated 31 August 2019)

EH159 WINTER SERVICE PAPER

The purpose of the report was to advise Elected Members on the proposed amendments to the Winter Service policy in advance of the commencement of the winter maintenance season and to seek approval for those amendments and proposed changes.

Following Member enquiries around various detail within the report, Officers agreed to include further explanation of Priority 1 and Priority 4 within the policy and also agreed that engagement with communities would be considered for inclusion in next year's policy.

Following a Member query, it was agreed that Committee Members would be provided detail on the work around the B818.

Councillor Earl queried salt bins and Officers agreed to provide detail on the requirements for salt bins.

Discussion took place around the Tayforth Machinery and it was requested that a report be submitted to a future Committee Meeting on options around the Tayforth Machinery.

Decision

Committee agreed to:

1. approve the Winter Service 2019/20 policy amendments;
2. approve the re-prioritisation treatment of the A821 from a Priority 2 and Priority 4 to a Priority 1; and
3. approve the formal closing and reopening procedure of the A821 in extreme weather conditions.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Environment and Place, dated 3 September 2019, submitted)

The Convener declared the Meeting closed at 12.35pm