

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING COMMITTEE held in the DRUMMOND ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020 at 10.00 am

Present

Councillor Jim THOMSON (Convener)

Councillor Neil BENNY (Substitute)

Councillor Martin EARL

Councillor Danny GIBSON

Councillor Graham LAMBIE

Councillor Alasdair MACPHERSON

Councillor Alastair MAJURY

Councillor Alasdair TOLLEMACHE

Councillor Evelyn TWEED

In Attendance

Yvonne Anderson, Procurement Specialist

Richard Callender, Planning Officer

Christina Cox, Service Manager, Planning & Building Standards

David Crighton, Roads & Land Operations

Carlyn Fraser, Roads & Land Services Team Leader (Network)

Graham Gibson, Senior Media Officer

Dorothy Irvine, Urban Designer/Planner

Drew Leslie, Senior Manager - Infrastructure

Lorraine MacGillivray, Service Manager

Gillian McKenzie, Accountant

Isabel McKnight, Chief Operating Officer Communities & Performance

Bruce Reekie, Senior Manager – Environment & Place

Brian Roberts, Chief Operating Officer Infrastructure & Environment

Craig Russell, Service Manager – Housing Management Development

Gregor Wightman, Private Sector Housing Manager

Michelle MacDonald, Governance Officer (Clerk)

Louise McDonald, Committee Officer (Minutes)

EH184 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ross Oxburgh. Councillor Neil Benny was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Oxburgh.

EH185 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EH186 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

EH187 MINUTES OF MEETINGS – 14 NOVEMBER 2019 AND 16 DECEMBER 2019

Decision

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Meetings held on 14 November 2019 and 16 December 2019 as a correct record of proceedings.

EH188 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Action Log provided an update on actions from previous meetings. The following information was provided for inclusion:

EH136 – Report on Dog Fouling Byelaw to be presented to next Committee Meeting.

EH152 – Data to be included in the report for the next Committee Meeting.

EH114 – Update to be provided to Elected Members.

EH159 – Change Expected Completion date to June 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the Rolling Action Log.

EH189 A91 (BLAIRLOGIE) PETITION UPDATE (2)

Following presentation of the A91 (Blairlogie) petition update at the Environment & Housing Committee on 12 September 2019, Committee Members requested that officers consult with the community of Blairlogie to determine if and how a 30mph speed limit could reasonably be implemented on the A91 at Blairlogie.

A public meeting was held in Blairlogie Reading Room on 20 November 2019, following the public meeting, it was agreed that Stirling Council would offer the residents of the Blairlogie conservation area, as those most affected by the proposed scheme, an opportunity to provide their views on the options.

Through the consultation, residents were asked to decide between two options and 41 responses were received. Of the responses received, 24 were in favour of implementation of option 1 whilst 17 were in favour of option 2, retaining the 40mph speed limit.

Discussions with partners on the viability of the implementation of Option 1 (amended Option C), had confirmed that Clackmannanshire Council, Police Scotland and the Safety Camera Programme would not object to the required Traffic Regulation Order being made.

Following a Member query around the use of speed cameras, it was noted that Police Scotland considered that cameras were still an option but a discussion with Transport Scotland was required.

Motion

“The Committee agreed to:

1. note the contents of this report and appendices;
2. proceed with implementation of a 30mph limit, with the infrastructure detailed in Appendix 1 with a trial of locations of traffic islands during the 12 week period amending the related Traffic Regulation Order (TRO); and
3. officers to review the process of dealing with community requests in relation to speeding.”

Proposed by Councillor Jim Thomson and seconded by Councillor Evelyn Tweed

Amendment

In terms of Standing Order 63, Councillor Danny Gibson, having moved the removal of the trial of locations of traffic islands from the recommendation, but having failed to find a seconder, requested that his dissent be recorded.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. note the contents of the report and appendices;
2. proceed with implementation of a 30mph limit, with the infrastructure detailed in Appendix 1 with a trial of locations of traffic islands during the 12 week period amending the related Traffic Regulation Order (TRO); and
3. officers to review the process of dealing with community requests in relation to speeding.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Environment and Place, dated 28 January 2020, submitted)

EH190 PERFORMANCE & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The report contained the Environment & Housing Committee Scorecard that had been redesigned as a result of discussions with Elected Members and Senior Management Teams.

The report presented the latest information on the performance indicators overseen by the Environment & Housing Committee.

Following a Member query on how to reassure the public that the Council were recycling it was agreed that detail of the Council's recycling would be included in the calendars to be issued to residents and via social media.

A Member queried the recording of historic pot hole claims and it was agreed that a review of pot hole claims recorded on the Committee Scorecard would be undertaken.

A discussion took place around the average time to process a planning application and it was noted that due to resource issues there had been a dip in processing applications but this had now begun to improve. Officers agreed to provide further detail to Committee Members on the figures recorded under 'Average Time to Process Planning Application'.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the performance of reported indicators within the Committee Scorecard.

(Reference: Report by Chief Operating Officer – Communities & Performance, dated 13 January 2020, submitted)

EH191 SAFER COMMUNITIES – ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The report provided an update to the Committee on enforcement action undertaken by the Safer Communities Team (SCT) between 1 October 2019 and 16 December 2019.

A discussion took place around payment solutions for parking and it was noted that work was ongoing to identify the need on the communities and the payment options available. It was hoped to implement card payment machines as soon as possible. Officers agreed to include detail of the rollout timetable for card payment parking machines in the Information Bulletin.

Following a Member query around dog fouling tickets it was noted that resources were being put to use in hotspot areas with an informal approach first and owners given an opportunity to pick up first.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of this report.

(Reference: Report by Chief Operating Officer – Infrastructure & Environment, dated 10 January 2020, submitted)

Councillor Evelyn Tweed left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

EH192 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – PROJECTED OUTTURN 2019/20

Housing Revenue Account

The projected outturn for 2019/20 showed expenditure of £21.963M against a budget of £21.900M. 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 £18.618M against a budget of £17.431M. The level of new borrowing required for the current year was £635,000 over budget at £6.863M.

Following a Member query regarding support services partnership costs it was agreed that a breakdown of support services partnership costs would be provided to Councillor MacPherson.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. note that expenditure on the Housing Revenue Account for 2019/20 was £21.963M;
2. note that the year-end retained balances would remain at £986,000;
3. note that expenditure on the Housing Investment Programme was £18.618M; and
4. note that the borrowing requirement for 2019/20 was £6.863M.

(Reference: Report by Chief Operating Officer – Communities & Performance, dated 13 January 2020, submitted)

EH193 SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON HOUSING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT & THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

Approval was sought on the revised Supplementary Guidance, based on the comments received and incorporated from the consultation, on the previously published guidance documents for Housing in the Countryside and Flood Risk Management & The Water Environment.

Following a discussion around the request for a business plan it was agreed that the wording be changed in Appendix 1 to read, “The intended associated land management activity will be capable of supporting the occupiers as their main source of income. (A business plan is likely to be requested).

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

1. approve Council responses to comments received on draft Supplementary Guidance on Housing in the Countryside and for these to be incorporated into finalised Supplementary Guidance, as set out in Appendix 2, to be adopted as part of the Stirling Local Development Plan; and

2. approve Council responses to comments received on draft Supplementary Guidance on Flood Risk Management and the Water Environment and for these to be incorporated into finalised Supplementary Guidance, as set out in Appendix 3, to be adopted as part of the Stirling Local Development Plan.

(Reference: Report by Chief Operating Officer – Infrastructure & Environment, dated 7 January 2020, submitted)

*At 12.30pm the Committee agreed to adjourn
in terms of Standing Order 74*

*The Meeting reconvened at 12.40pm
with all Elected Members (previously noted) present, with the exception of
Councillor Evelyn Tweed.*

The Committee resolved under Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

EH194 ROADS MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS FRAMEWORK FOR STIRLING, FALKIRK AND CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCILS

The aim of the Roads Maintenance and improvements Framework contract for Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils was to secure the services of a range of high quality and specialist contractors to call upon when the works were unable to be carried out in house (or by another local authority).

Officers noted a spelling error within the appendix under Lot 3 and also noted additional detail which was to be included under Lot 9.

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

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the award of the Roads Maintenance and Improvements Framework, which would be accessed by Stirling Council.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Environment & Place, dated 24 January 2020, submitted)

The Convener declared the Meeting closed at 12.55pm