

GOVERNANCE

DECISION SHEET

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2023

| | Item Title | Committee Decision | Services Required to take action | Officer to Action |
|-----|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1.1 | <u>Admission of Burgesses</u> | None | | |
| 2.1 | <u>Notification of Urgent Business</u> | No urgent business | | |
| 3.1 | <u>Determination of Exempt Business</u> | No exempt business | | |
| 4.1 | <u>Members are requested to declare any interests or connections</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> to note the transparency statements which will be recorded in the minute. | | |
| 5.1 | <u>Deputation Requests</u> Two deputation requests have been received in relation to item 9.6 (Land Options Within the Energy Transition Zone), who wish to speak with reference to matters pertaining to governance, land options and St Fittick's Park:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torry Community Council • Mr Simon McLean | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> to note the deputation from Mr Simon McLean, on behalf of Torry Community Council, and thank him for his contribution. | | |
| 6.1 | <u>Minute of Meeting of Aberdeen City Council of 14 June 2023 - for approval</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> to approve the minute. | | |

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| 6.2 | <u>Minute of Meeting of Urgent Business Committee of 7 July 2023 - for approval</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> to note that the minute required to be updated to include the special circumstances regarding urgency, and that the amended minute would therefore be submitted to the next Council meeting for approval. | Governance | Martyn Orchard |
| 6.3 | <u>Minute of Meeting of Urgent Business Committee of 11 August 2023 - for approval</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> to approve the minute. | | |
| 7.1 | <u>Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee of 27 June 2023 - Local Government Transparency Code</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> (i) to note the current position regarding data publication and compliance; and (ii) to note that a report from the Chief Officer - Customer Experience and People and Organisational Development would be provided pending the outcome of Scottish Government consultation and further review. | Customer Experience People and Organisational Development Governance | Lucy McKenzie Lindsay MacInnes Karen Finch (business planner) |
| 8.1 | <u>Council Business Planner</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> (i) to note that the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning would issue a service update to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in connection with item 35 (Revised Council Climate Change Plan); (ii) to note that the Interim Chief Officer - Governance (Assurance) would investigate the situation with regard to a notice of motion by Councillor Houghton regarding the possibility of renaming Union Terrace Gardens after Queen Elizabeth II, which had | Strategic Place Planning Governance Governance | David Dunne Steph Dunsmuir (for info) Vikki Cuthbert/ Martyn Orchard |

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| | | <p>been considered at committee in November 2022, and which had called for a further report but was no longer appearing on any committee business planner; and</p> <p>(iii) to otherwise note the business planner.</p> | | |
| 9.1 | <p><u>City Centre and Beach Masterplan - Annual Update - COM/23/245</u></p> | <p><u>The Council resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note the progress made over the last 12 months to advance a wide range of projects contained within the City Centre and Beach Masterplan, and agree the updates provided to Sections 6, 8 and Appendix 1 of the Masterplan report (Appendix 1);</p> <p>(ii) to note the expected activity to be undertaken over the next 12 months, as set out in paragraph 3.19 of the report and within Section 8 of Appendix 1;</p> <p>(iii) to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to continue to keep the Masterplan report under review, and to provide another progress report to Full Council after 12 months; and</p> <p>(iv) in relation to Phase 2 of the Beach area, to note the summary of comments received on the initial public consultation exercise on how people currently use these areas, and instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to prepare a Development Framework for the Phase 2 areas, which would be reported back to Full Council before the end of 2024.</p> | Strategic Place Planning | David Dunne/ Claire McArthur |
| 9.2 | <p><u>Beachfront Public Realm Progress Report - Beach Park, Events Park and Broadhill - COM/23/270</u></p> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |

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| 9.3 | <u>Queen Street Outline Business Case - RES/23/242</u> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |
| 9.4 | <u>City Centre and Beach Masterplan: GENERATIONABERDEEN - COM/23/269</u> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |
| 9.5 | <u>Aberdeen Market - August 2023 Update - RES/23/249</u> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |
| 9.6 | <u>Land Options Within the Energy Transition Zone - RES/23/287</u> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |
| 9.7 | <u>Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council's General Fund 2023 - RES/23/250</u> | <p><u>The Council resolved:-</u></p> <p>(i) to note that the Scottish Government published its latest Medium Term Financial Strategy in May 2023. This indicated that while the Scottish Resource Budget was increasing up to 2027-28, in both cash and real terms, it was not expected to rise at the same rate as the spending bill, creating a growing funding gap over time;</p> <p>(ii) to note that in light of the deficit in the Scottish Budget forecast as part of the Scottish Government's MTFS, May 2023, and expectations for Local Government included in the Resource Spending Review, published in May 2022, the future funding assumption within the MTFS had been revised to flat cash for the period through to 2025/26, with a 1% increase thereafter. Further information would</p> | Finance | Jonathan Belford |

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| | | <p>be available once the Scottish Budget for 2024/25 was published in December 2023 and the Local Government Settlement was issued. At this point the MTFs model would be updated to reflect the latest data;</p> <p>(iii) to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the General Fund, 2023;</p> <p>(iv) to note that the Strategy relied on delivering its intentions contained in the TOM1.2 report [Council, August 2022, CUS/22/171] which described the approach the Council intended to take through transformation and multi-agency working to contribute towards closing the gap between income and expenditure forecast;</p> <p>(v) to note the reported impact that pay and price inflation and supply chain volatility was continuing to have on our current financial year [Finance & Resources Committee, August 2023, RES/23/255] and that the impact was anticipated to continue to have an effect on the future funding gap;</p> <p>(vi) to note that the commitments contained within the Partnership Agreement, adopted on 18 May 2022, as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process were prioritised and where appropriate the decisions taken by the Council had been incorporated into the MTFs to reflect the financial implications of those decisions;</p> <p>(vii) to note that a review was being undertaken of the Capital Programme, in light of the financial environment, and the best value considerations, with a report being provided to the Finance and Resources Committee in September 2023;</p> | | |

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| | | <p>(viii) to note that the current Capital Programme, as included in the Council Financial Performance Quarter 1, 2023/24 report, was the basis for capital financing costs and debt levels referred to in the MTFS and following the regular review of the Loans Fund Repayment Policy, approve the policy for 2024/25 and beyond as described in Table 5 of the MTFS;</p> <p>(ix) to note the 2024/25 Budget would be discussed and set by the Council in February/March 2024 following an extensive public engagement exercise as required by the Scheme of Governance and Budget Protocol. Councillors would be issued with full detail of the Phase 1 consultation referred to in Section 5.10 of the Appendix. For Phase 2 consultation, this would be based on the central scenario shown in the MTFS 2023 and the results of this would be reported to Council in December 2023;</p> <p>(x) to note that the Council's Financial Resilience Framework showed that the value of useable reserves had continued to rise on the back of additional funding being provided late in financial years for specific purposes. The General Fund had underlying resilience of £12m (uncommitted reserves) which was a falling percentage of the net General Fund budget. The Council should consider if, in the current financial climate, that was sufficient and decide during the 2024/25 budget setting process whether to budget for this to increase;</p> <p>(xi) to note that the strength of the Council Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023 (net worth is £1.5bn) was broadly similar to the year before. Key changes were a reduction in</p> | | |

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| | | <p>long-term pension liabilities (down £0.1bn) offset by an increase in total borrowing (up £0.1bn);</p> <p>(xii) to note that the Resilience Framework identified that the total value, and cost of servicing, debt was rising. The rising cost of debt would have to be managed and it was notable that short-term debt had risen during 2022/23, which had been a deliberate choice to avoid locking into rising interest rates for the long-term when financial forecasts would suggest the cost of borrowing reducing over the short to medium term;</p> <p>(xiii) to note that the options available to the Council for managing rising debt levels included reducing the scale and scope of the General Fund Capital Programme or extending it over a much longer period. With the costs rising, as noted at 2.12, these capital financing costs were forecast to become a larger proportion of the Council's net income. The Council must consider if the proportion of revenue resources allocated to capital financing was appropriate, as per the Prudential Code, and it should make changes as necessary as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process; and</p> <p>(xiv) to note that the Chief Officer - Finance would continue to develop the Financial Resilience Framework with a view to embedding it across the council's financial planning, financial monitoring and financial year end reporting arrangements.</p> | | |

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| 9.8 | <u>Council Diary and Committee Places - COM/23/233</u> | <p>The Council resolved:-</p> <p>(i) to approve the Council diary for 2024 appended to the report; and</p> <p>(ii) to agree, as a consequence of Councillor Crockett's resignation from the Labour Group, the revised allocation of committee places in Appendix 1 below.</p> <p>Appendix 1 : Revised Committee Place Allocations</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="524 427 1881 1476"> <thead> <tr> <th>Committee</th> <th>Partnership</th> <th>Labour</th> <th>Conservative</th> <th>Cllr Boulton</th> <th>Cllr Crockett</th> <th>Cllr Mrs Stewart</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Anti-Poverty and Inequality</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Audit, Risk and Scrutiny</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communities, Housing and Public Protection</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education and Children's Services</td> <td>8</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance and Resources</td> <td>8</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensing Committee</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Zero, Environment and Transport</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pensions</td> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning Development Management</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Committee | Partnership | Labour | Conservative | Cllr Boulton | Cllr Crockett | Cllr Mrs Stewart | Total | Anti-Poverty and Inequality | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | Audit, Risk and Scrutiny | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | Communities, Housing and Public Protection | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | Education and Children's Services | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | Finance and Resources | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | Licensing Committee | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | Net Zero, Environment and Transport | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | Pensions | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | Planning Development Management | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | Governance Martyn Orchard and Committee Team |
| Committee | Partnership | Labour | Conservative | Cllr Boulton | Cllr Crockett | Cllr Mrs Stewart | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anti-Poverty and Inequality | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Audit, Risk and Scrutiny | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Communities, Housing and Public Protection | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Education and Children's Services | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finance and Resources | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Licensing Committee | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Zero, Environment and Transport | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pensions | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planning Development Management | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | Staff Governance | 7 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | | |
| | | Urgent Business | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | | |
| | | Integration Joint Board | 3 (plus 2 subs) | 1 (plus 1 sub) | 0 (plus 1 sub) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 (plus 4 subs) | | |
| | | Total: | 83 (plus 2 subs) | 30 (plus 1 sub) | 20 (plus 1 sub) | 3 | 3 | 2 | 141 (plus 4 subs) | | |
| 9.9 | <u>Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot Board - COM/23/241</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> (i) to instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to continue to work collaboratively with officers in Aberdeenshire Council on the development of the North East Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot, recognising the strong history of partnership working between the two Councils on matters affecting the North East Region; (ii) to note the Terms of Reference for the newly formed Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot Board for the North East of Scotland; and (iii) to appoint two members of the Partnership to represent Aberdeen City Council on the Regional Land Use Partnership Board. | | | | | | Strategic Place Planning | | David Dunne/ David Berry | |
| 9.10 | <u>Public Health Scotland / North East Population Health Alliance Strategic Partnership Agreement - CUS/23/273</u> | <u>The Council resolved:-</u> (i) to agree that Aberdeen City Council be a signatory to the strategic partnership agreement; and (ii) to request the Chief Executive to provide the Council with an annual progress report on the | | | | | | Data and Insights Chief Executive | | Martin Murchie Angela Scott | |

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| | | strategic partnership agreement. | | |
| 10.1 | <p><u>Notice of Motion by Councillor Kusznir</u></p> <p>That the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the negative impact since 2022 of the South College Street Junction Improvements Project works on the businesses based on and around Palmerston Road, Palmerston Place and The Arches on South College Street; 2. Believes that small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of the UK, Scottish and Aberdeen economy; and 3. Therefore, instructs the Chief Officer - Finance to prepare a report outlining the options available to Councillors in encouraging businesses to remain within the area, including but not limited, to Non-Domestic Rate discounts for approval by Council. <p>(Deferred from Council meeting of 14 June 2023)</p> | Meeting adjourned - item to be considered on 11 September 2023. | | |
| 11.1 | <u>No exempt/confidential business</u> | No exempt/confidential business | | |

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Martyn Orchard - morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk