

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 30 January 2024. Minute of Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor McLellan, Convener; Councillor Yuill, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Blake (as substitute for Councillor Malik), Cooke, Farquhar, Greig, Houghton, Hutchison, Radley, Thomson, van Sweeden and Watson.

The agenda and reports associated with this minute can be found [here](#).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

1. The Convener proposed that the Committee consider item 14.1 (Site at Beach Esplanade – Proposed Alternative Use), item 15.1 (Council Financial Performance – Quarter 3, 2023/24 – Exempt Appendices), item 15.2 (Unrecoverable Debt – Exempt Appendices) and item 15.3 (Workplan and Business Cases – Exempt Appendices) with the press and public excluded from the meeting.

The Committee resolved:-

in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the above items so as to avoid disclosure of information of the classes described in the following paragraphs of Schedule 7(A) to the Act:- article 17 (paragraph 9), articles 18 and 19 (paragraph 6) and article 20 (paragraph 8).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest or transparency statements in respect of the items on today's agenda, thereafter the following was intimated:-

- (1) Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.5 (Complex Care Funding Profile Stoneywood) by virtue of him being the Chairperson of the Integrated Joint Board, however having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting; and
- (2) The Vice Convener advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.5 (Complex Care Funding Profile Stoneywood) by virtue of him being a member of the NHS Grampian Board, however having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

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DEPUTATION BY HAMISH MCDONALD, ABDN LIMITED

3. The Committee received a deputation from Mr Hamish McDonald, ABDN Ltd, in relation to item 14.1 (Site at Beach Esplanade – Proposed Alternative Use), article 17 of this minute refers.

Mr McDonald provided details on his proposal for a holiday lodge park development at the Beach Esplanade site, making reference to other high quality coastline lodge parks on the east of Scotland, including Seton Sands, Arbroath, South Links, Montrose and St Cyrus.

Mr McDonald provided background information to the proposal which commenced in July 2021 with an initial inquiry being made in relation to the site at the Beach Promenade which was well located and was ideal for a lodge park development with great access to facilities, local golf courses and the beach. He explained that there was a meeting with Council officers to discuss the proposal further and was told that the principle of the project made sense and the location would be suitable, however that would be subject to gaining planning approval and was therefore advised to submit a Pre-Application Advice Request. He indicated that the planning issues around the project were examined and he believed that there were positive solutions to all of these. He made reference to an Aberdeen Policy Panel report released in December 2021 which stated that the vision of Aberdeen tourism was to turn itself into an attractive city for cultural breaks and a gateway to the wider region and that this proposal would meet that vision for Aberdeen.

Mr McDonald indicated that in March 2022 it was agreed that additional information was required to consider the proposal further which resulted in an instruction to undertake an Economic Impact Assessment which revealed that since Covid, there had been a move towards UK holidays and Aberdeen did not cater for holiday lodge accommodation. The report also stated that the proposal would bring excellent economical benefits to Aberdeen, which identified employment opportunities for 81 jobs locally and 8 onsite positions, which could potentially bring £4.25M per annum of offsite tourism spend. He explained that the proposed economic value of employment gross value added generated by the development would also inject approximately an additional £2.14M into the local economy annually. He advised that the economic assessment based these figures on average occupancy rates of less than 45%, but in his opinion this was a very conservative estimate as Aberdeen had so much tourism potential to offer, and in addition the economic benefits were not relying on the oil and gas sector and was fully focussed on tourist accommodation.

Mr McDonald made reference to his previous experience in various other lodge parks indicating that at present he was involved in Stewart's Resort luxury development at St Andrews.

Mr McDonald explained that the proposed development in Aberdeen was entirely at his own risk, time, expense and effort with the project being entirely self funded with a

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reference confirmation from his chartered accountant, with the total completion cost exceeding approximately £20M.

He advised that there were other opportunities outwith Aberdeen, however he strongly believed in the proposal, being passionate about his home city and was keen to invest in something that Aberdeen did not have, noting that the location of the holiday park at the beach would be an amazing addition to the city. He explained that there would be no financial exposure or risk to Aberdeen City Council on the project and therefore requested that the Committee give full consideration to the proposal.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the deputation and to thank Mr Hamish McDonald for his attendance.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 22 NOVEMBER 2023

4. The Committee had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 22 November 2023.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the minute.

COMMITTEE PLANNER

5. The Committee had before it the Committee Business Planner prepared by the Interim Chief Officer – Governance (Legal).

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to remove item 5 (Public Art Guidance and Panel) and Item 7 (Belmont Cinema) from the planner, for the reasons outlined therein;
- (ii) to note the reason for deferral in relation to item 13 (Financial Settlement from Transport Scotland for the De-trunking of the A92/A96 (Haudagain Improvement)); and
- (iii) to otherwise note the Committee Business Planner.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON

6. The Committee had before it a Notice of Motion by Councillor Thomson in the following terms:-

That the Committee notes that:-

- (1) The pressure on organisations to pay the right amount of tax in the right place at the right time has never been stronger;

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- (2) Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct;
- (3) More than two-thirds (68%) of the Scottish public agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when undertaking procurement;
- (4) Around 15% of public contracts in Scotland have been won by companies with links to tax havens;
- (5) It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues; and
- (6) The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, cooperatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.

That the Committee believes that:-

- (1) Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn’t be;
- (2) Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies;
- (3) As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property;
- (4) Where substantive stakes are held in private enterprises, then influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned - e.g., no use of marketed schemes requiring disclosure under DOTAS regulations (Disclosure Of Tax Avoidance Schemes) or arrangements that might fall foul of the General Anti-Abuse Rule;
- (5) More action is needed, however, as current law significantly restricts councils’ ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services; and
- (6) UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct – doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

That the Committee resolves to:-

- (1) Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration;
- (2) Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities;
- (3) Ensure contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;
- (4) Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;

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- (5) Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- (6) Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position;
- (7) Promote Fair Tax Mark certification to any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- (8) Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride; and
- (9) Support calls for urgent reform of EU, UK and Scots law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

The Committee resolved:-

to Instruct the Chief Officer - Finance following consultation with the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord and the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services to bring a report back to the Finance and Resources Committee on 8 May 2024 on the implications of implementing the motion.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 3, 2023/24 - RES/24/031

7. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided the financial position of the Council as at Quarter 3 (31 December 2023) and the full year forecast position for the financial year 2023/24, including:-

- General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and capital accounts; and associated Balance Sheet; and
- Common Good revenue account and Balance Sheet

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the cash position that has been achieved for the General Fund and HRA to the end of Quarter 3 as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (b) note the Common Good financial performance to the end of Quarter 3 as detailed in Appendix 3;
- (c) note that the General Fund full year forecast position remains on track to achieve a full year outturn of 'on budget', and subject to any further financial shocks being experienced in the final quarter. Continuing action, as outlined in Appendix 2 will remain in place for the financial year;
- (d) note that the Council maintains financial resilience with the resources available on the Council Balance Sheet, the General Fund Reserves in particular. As at 31 March 2023 the uncommitted value of those reserves was £12m, the minimum that the Council Reserves Statement recommends and as approved by the Council.

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- (e) note that the HRA full year forecast position, as detailed in Appendix 2, is on target to achieve the approved budget, but continues to face challenging cost pressures as outlined in previous quarters and the 2024/25 HRA budget report, presented to Council in December 2023;
- (f) note that the Council relies on the Integration Joint Board (IJB) achieving a balanced budget, and that the IJB retains reserves to mitigate unplanned additional costs arising during the year, the Chief Officer – Finance has received assurance that the IJB will achieve a balanced budget for 2023/24;
- (g) note that the forecast for General Fund Capital budget continues to reflect the previously reported position, that spending it will be lower than its revised budget and Housing Capital expenditure while closer to budget is also expected to be lower than budgeted in 2023/24 as described in Appendix 2;
- (h) note that the non-teaching staff pay award has now been agreed and was paid to staff in December. The budgets, actuals, and forecasts in Appendices 1 and 2 now include the pay award figures. The final pay award has relied on additional funding from Scottish Government of £3.5m, and a further contribution from the Council of £1.2m, £0.88m of which will be funded by reserves in 2023/24 and refunded by Scottish Government in 2024/25.
- (i) note the transactions and approve the write off of debt as noted in exempt Appendix 5; and
- (j) approve, as per the exempt Appendix 6, the extension of a bank guarantee to Transition Extreme for a further 12 months, until 31 March 2025, to a revised value of £125,000. Note the expectation that plans beyond April 2025 will enable the removal of this guarantee and instruct the Chief Officer – Finance to review the position during 2024/25 and provide an update in the 2024/25 Quarter 3 Financial Performance report.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener, moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee:-

- (1) approve recommendations (a) to (h) and (j) as outlined in the report; and
- (2) note the write off position regarding Appendix 5 and instruct the Chief Officer - Finance to bring a report, on the circumstances surrounding those described in Appendix 5, including any other pertinent matters identified, to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee within two cycles.

During discussion, the Convener and Councillor Watson moved a joint motion, which was seconded by the Vice Convener, as follows:-

that the Committee:-

- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report;
- (2) acknowledge that in May 2022 Aberdeen City Council provided a loan in relation to Units C and E at Marischal Square 1, which was approved and authorised using delegated powers and funded through the Marischal Square Development Account; and

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- (3) instruct Internal Audit to carry out an investigation into the circumstances described in Appendix 5, and any pertinent matters, using delegated powers and funded through the Marischal Square Development Account, given the financial loss to Aberdeen City Council and potential failure to achieve best value for the public pound, and report back to Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee with any recommendation as deemed necessary.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the joint motion by the Convener and Councillor Watson.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

At this juncture, Councillor Hutchison advised that he had a connection in relation to this item by virtue of him being a Council appointed member on the Aberdeen Heat and Power Board. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

TORRY HEAT NETWORK - FUTURE OPERATIONS - RES/24/026

8. With reference to article 12 of the minute of meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee of 21 September 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided an update on the Torry Heat Network and sought approval for progressing the methodology in setting the heat sales price and to progress further commercial agreements which would benefit the viability of the wider heat network.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the current status of discussions held with Commercial Organisations and the potential additional opportunities with others to maximise the financial and carbon savings as the network is extended; and
- (b) delegate authority to Aberdeen Heat and Power to enter into heat supply agreements with both commercial and domestic customers, subject to the terms set by the Council's annual budget decisions; and approves the methodology for the setting of heat sales prices outlined in section 4.2 of this report.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

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ABERDEEN CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME - COM/24/020

9. With reference to article 9 of the minute of meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee of 21 September 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought approval of the allocation of Section 75 and Council Tax funds to the council's new build housing programme.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee approve the allocation of the £1,935,655 Section 75 and Council Tax monies, detailed at section 3.8 of the report, to the council house new build programme.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

UNRECOVERABLE DEBT - CUS/24/028

10. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Customer Services which provided details on the numbers and values of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit Overpayments, Penalty Charge Notices, Bus Lanes Enforcement Charge Notices, Service Income and Council House Rent debts made unrecoverable during 2022/23 as required in terms of the Council's Financial Regulations and sought approval of Non-Domestic Rates write offs in excess of £25,000.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) approve the listing of the Non-Domestic Rates debts in excess of £25,000 shown in Appendix 6 as unrecoverable and instruct the Chief Officer - People and Organisational Development and Customer Experience to write them off; and
- (b) note the Financial Regulations number, value and reasons for debts written off for Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, Housing Benefit Overpayments, Penalty Charge Notices, Bus Lanes Enforcement Charge Notices, Service Income and Council house rent during 2022/23.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

COMPLEX CARE FUNDING PROFILE STONEYWOOD - RES/24/032

11. With reference to article 7 of the minute of the previous meeting of 22 November 2023, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which sought an amendment to the 2023-2025 Housing Capital Programme to include provision for the construction of Complex Care accommodation at Stoneywood.

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The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the contents of the report;
- (b) approve the amendment to the 2023-2025 Housing Capital Programme to include Stonewood accordingly; and
- (c) note that the Chief Officer - Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership will present a report to Aberdeen Integration Joint Board on 6 February 2024 to seek approval for the changes highlighted in this report and for the costs for servicing the borrowing.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to include quarterly updates on progress to the Finance and Resources Committee, including the full funding profile for this development.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORT - COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES - COM/24/027

12. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which presented the status of key cluster performance measures and activity indicators relating to the Commissioning and Resources Functions and People and Organisational Development Cluster.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the report and provide comments and observations on the performance information contained in the report Appendix.

The Committee resolved:-

to note the performance information contained in the report Appendix.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL 2024/25 - COM/24/029

13. With reference to article 6 of the minute of meeting of 6 July 2023, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought approval for a visit to Stavanger in March 2024; and approval of proposed international travel by officers and elected members in order to support relevant City Growth activities in 2024/25.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) approve the Lord Provost/one Elected Member plus one officer to attend High Wind 2024 in Stavanger, Norway between 11-12 March 2024;

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- (b) approve international travel and overseas conference attendance to support City Development activity as detailed below, and subject to the maximum expenditure set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report:
 - (1) The Lord Provost plus one officer to attend the World Energy Council Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands between 22 – 25 April 2024;
 - (2) The Lord Provost plus one officer to attend the World Energy Cities Partnership AGM in Stavanger, Norway between 22 – 25 August 2024;
 - (3) One Elected Member plus one officer to attend the Hydrogen Dialogue Summit and Expo in Nuremberg, Germany between 4 – 5 December 2024;
 - (4) The Lord Provost/one Elected Member plus one officer to attend the World Energy Cities Partnership Board Meeting at CERA Week Conference in Houston, USA in March 2025;
- (c) approve international travel and overseas conference attendance to support Tall Ships 2025 as detailed below, and subject to the maximum expenditure set out in paragraph 4.2:
 - (1) Two officers to attend the Tall Ships Host Port Seminar (European location TBC), in July 2024;
 - (2) Three officers to attend Sail Training International and Tall Ships Conference (European location TBC), in November 2024;
 - (3) Two officers to attend a Tall Ships Site Visit in Dunkirk, France, in Spring 2025;
- (d) delegate authority to the Chief Officer – City Growth to authorise necessary and appropriate travel documentation and associated expenditure for the travel noted in (a), (b) and (c) above, provided costs do not exceed the budget referred to in Section 4 of this report and that all arrangements are made in line with current Council travel policies; and
- (e) agree that the outcomes of overseas activity proposed for 2024/25 will be provided to this Committee by way of an annual Service Update.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

At this juncture, Councillor Radley advised that she had a connection in relation to this item by virtue of her being a Council appointed member on the Visit Aberdeenshire Board. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting.

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UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - COM/24/030

14. With reference to article 7 of the minute of meeting of 7 December 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

UKSPF Communities & Place

- (a) notes that Committee have previously approved a Challenge Fund approach to delivering the Communities & Place strand which enables external organisations and Aberdeen City Council services to apply for funds which meet the criteria of the programme;
- (b) notes that £3.8m was made available for the Communities & Place strand – £1.9m of which has been allocated in previous rounds and approximately 70% of the £0.9m funding recommended for approval in this round is to be awarded to external organisations;
- (c) notes that if the below recommendations are approved there is £1m to be allocated within the Communities and Place strand by 31 March 2025;
- (d) instructs officers to report back to Finance & Resources Committee 13 March 2024 with recommendations on prioritising allocation of remaining funds;
- (e) awards up to £250,976 to Camphill School Aberdeen for a Fully Inclusive Outdoor Sensory Adventure Playground for children and young people with complex support needs;
- (f) awards up to £14,988.22 to Citymoves Dance Agency for the Strive project;
- (g) awards up to £129,259 to Flexible Childcare Services Scotland for the Flexible Childcare & Family Support hubs in Tillydrone and Cummings Park;
- (h) awards up to £67,080 to Visit Aberdeenshire for a Cruise Volunteer Programme;
- (i) awards up to £106,110 to Greyhope Bay for co-creating sustainable solution for energy transition at Greyhope Bay;
- (j) awards up to £15,000 to Aberdeen Inspired for the Aberdeen Union Street Upper Floors Feasibility Study;
- (k) awards up to £30,000 to Oldmachar Church of Scotland for an upgraded heating system to enable net zero aspirations; and
- (l) awards up to £275,000 to Aberdeen City Council to deliver a programme of events for Spectra, Scotland's Festival of Light 2025.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener moved:-

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee:-

- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report;
- (2) note that on 11 July 2023, Councillor Martin Greig announced £200,000 to deliver the SPECTRA event in 2024;

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- (3) note Councillor Martin Greig, Aberdeen City Council's culture spokesperson said: "The Spectra Festival has become a very popular event attracting thousands of people of all ages into our city centre. The event helps to ensure that our city is a vibrant and enjoyable destination. It would be great to build up partnerships with businesses and sponsors who can contribute towards Spectra. Sponsorship will offer the chance to raise their profile by reaching a considerable audience near and far. By working together, we can do so much more to promote and enhance our city for the benefit of all."
- (4) note that Spectra 2024 grants came from UKSPF, Lacer, Events Scotland, Paths for all and private public sponsorship totalling £223K plus the £200K noted above; and
- (5) agree that United Kingdom Government has come to the rescue thanks to their UKSPF Funding for the 2025 event and that additional grant funding and sponsorship is still to be agreed.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (8) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Greig, Hutchison, Radley and van Sweeden; for the amendment (5) – Councillors Blake, Brooks, Farquhar, Thomson and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the motion; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer – City Growth to provide further information to members in relation to Culture Impact Reports, specifically how officers evaluate the impact on the wider creative sector.

CAPITAL PROJECTS - QUEEN ELIZABETH II TRIBUTE - RES/24/036

15. With reference to article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Housing and Public Protection Committee of 1 November 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided information on the ongoing and future planned Council Capital projects which could be named in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) consider the option for capital projects that could be named after Queen Elizabeth II;
- (b) note the process for naming a Capital Project after Queen Elizabeth II; and
- (c) agree (1) which project to be named after Queen Elizabeth II and to instruct the Chief Executive to approach the Protocol and Honours Office with the decision of this Committee and report the outcome to a future Committee meeting; or (2) to take no further action.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener, moved:-
that the Committee:-

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- (1) note the capital projects that could be named after Queen Elizabeth II detailed in the report; and
- (2) agree that no suitable project can be identified at this time and therefore agrees to keep the naming of a future capital projects under consideration as projects reach completion.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Thomson, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee:-

- (1) approve recommendations (a) and (b) above;
- (2) agree to take no further action in relation to the five specific projects contained within the report; and
- (3) instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to develop proposals to consult with the people of Aberdeen to establish what residents think would be the best tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II and to report those findings to the most appropriate Committee by the end of the financial year 2025.

During discussion, the Convener and Councillor Watson moved a joint motion, which was seconded by Councillor Brooks, as follows:-

that the Committee:-

- (1) note the capital projects that could be named after Queen Elizabeth II detailed in the report;
- (2) agree that no suitable project can be identified at this time and therefore agrees to keep the naming of a future capital projects under consideration as projects reach completion;
- (3) agree to consult with the people of Aberdeen once an option is identified as a possible tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II and if the public are supportive, thereafter to report those findings to the most appropriate Committee; and
- (4) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital following consultation with the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord to circulate an annual Service Update on possible options.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the joint motion by the Convener and Councillor Watson.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - COM/24/025

16. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which presented procurement work plans where expenditure was included for the Children's and Family Services, Customer and Resources Functions to Committee for review and sought approval of the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contracts as contained in the Procurement Business Cases appended to the report.

The Procurement Business Case related to the following:-

- Vehicle Purchase Residential Homes for Children;

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- Additional Support Needs Advisory Project;
- Childminding Support Service;
- ServiceNow; and
- Bin Procurement.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) review the workplan as detailed in the Appendices for the Children's and Family Services, Customer and Resources Functions; and
- (b) approve the procurement business cases, including the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contract.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

In accordance with the decision taken at Article 1 of this minute, the following items were considered with the press and public excluded.

SITE AT BEACH ESPLANADE - PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE USE - RES/24/035

17. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided details on an unsolicited approach from a 3rd party seeking to lease or purchase a site at Beach Esplanade to develop as a 'Lodge Park' tourism accommodation facility.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) instruct the Chief Officer - Corporate Landlord to advise the applicant that the site is not considered suitable for this use, and accordingly, they would be unable to enter into discussions with the applicant for a lease or sale of the site; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to consider whether this type of use could be accommodated elsewhere within the masterplan work being undertaken around the Beach.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 3, 2023/24 - EXEMPT APPENDICES

18. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to relating to the Council Financial Performance – Quarter 3, 2023/24 report. (Article 7 of this minute refers)

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The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.

UNRECOVERABLE DEBT - EXEMPT APPENDIX

19. The Committee had before it an exempt appendix relating to the Unrecoverable Debt report. (Article 10 of this minute refers)

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendix.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - EXEMPT APPENDICES

20. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to the Work Plan and Business Cases report. (Article 16 of this minute refers)

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.

- **COUNCILLOR ALEX MCLELLAN, Convener**