

## URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, 25 October 2021. Minute of Meeting of the URGENT BUSINESS COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor Laing, Convener; and Councillors Cameron, Grant, Hutchison, MacKenzie (as substitute for Councillor Lumsden), Alex Nicoll, Wheeler (as substitute for Councillor Boulton) and Yuill.

The agenda 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 URGENT BUSINESS

1. In terms of Section 1.3 of the Committee Remit and in accordance with Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Committee was informed that it had to determine (1) that the item on the agenda was of an urgent nature; and (2) that the Committee required to consider the item and take decisions thereon.

#### **The Committee resolved:-**

to agree that the report on the Hydrogen Hub Preferred Bidder was of an urgent nature and required to be considered this day to enable members to consider the matter at the first available opportunity.

### DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

2. The Committee were requested to determine that item 3 on the agenda (Hydrogen Hub Preferred Bidder Appointment), be considered in private.

#### **The Committee resolved:-**

in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of item 3 (Hydrogen Hub Preferred Bidder Appointment), so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in paragraphs 6 and 10 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. Members were requested to intimate any declarations of interest in respect of the item on the agenda.

#### **The Committee resolved:-**

to note that no declarations of interest were intimated.

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**HYDROGEN HUB PREFERRED BIDDER APPOINTMENT**

4. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which provided an update on details of the strategic procurement process undertaken to identify a preferred bidder for a joint venture partner to deliver the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub (AHH).

**The report recommended:-**

That the Committee -

- (a) note the public procurement exercise undertaken to appoint a preferred bidder to be the Council's joint venture partner for the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub;
- (b) approves the appointment of the Preferred Bidder;
- (c) instructs the Head of Commercial and Procurement, following consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance to progress all further work to conclude the contract terms and agreements with the Preferred Bidder, as outlined in section 5;
- (d) instructs the Head of Commercial and Procurement to report to City Growth and Resources Committee in February 2022 on the structure of the proposed contracts, the expected return on investment to the Council and detail on the joint venture structure, governance, obligations and risk; and
- (e) notes that a joint press release will be issued by the Council and the Preferred Bidder following the conclusion of this Urgent Business Committee.

**The Committee resolved:-**

- (i) to approve recommendations (a) to (d);
- (ii) to agree that a joint press release would be issued by the Council and the Preferred Bidder following the conclusion of the Urgent Business Committee;
- (iii) to instruct the Chief Officer - City Growth to continue to engage and lobby for additional external funding from both the UK Government and the devolved Scottish Government and note that the Leader of Aberdeen City Council would engage in discussions during COP26 in Glasgow with both UK and Scottish governments regarding obtaining additional funding for Aberdeen's Hydrogen Hub;
- (iv) to note that the Strategic Commercial Manager would provide via email clarification on the date when it was agreed to enter into a procurement exercise to identify and appoint a Joint Venture partner for the development of the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub; and
- (v) to note that the Chief Officer – Finance would circulate by email information relating to the existing level of funding from the EU, UK Government and Scottish Government for the Hydrogen project.

- **COUNCILLOR JENNIFER LAING, Convener.**