

Finance and Resources Committee

ABERDEEN, 5 July 2023. Minute of Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE. Present:- Councillor McLellan, Convener; Councillor Yuill, Vice-Convener; and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Fairfull, Farquhar, Greig, Macdonald, Malik, Massey (as substitute for Councillor Houghton), Radley 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.

At this juncture, Councillor Malik moved as a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Macdonald:-

That the Committee refer item 9.7 (City Centre Six Monthly Update – Streetscape Programme) simpliciter to Council to comply with Councillor Hutchison’s agreed motion in 2021 where all matters relating to the City Centre Master Plan are agreed at Council.

On a division, there voted:- for the procedural motion (5) – Councillors Farquhar, Massey, Macdonald, Malik and Watson; against the procedural motion (8) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Fairfull, Greig, Hutchison and Radley.

The Committee resolved:-
to reject the procedural motion.

DETERMINATION OF EXEMPT BUSINESS

1. The Convener proposed that the Committee consider item 13.1 (Union Street Partnership Ltd), item 14.1 (Workplan and Business Cases - Exempt Appendices), item 14.2 (Craighill and Kincorth Housing Delivery - Exempt Appendices) and item 14.3 (Cruyff Court Tillydrone Update - Exempt Appendix) 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 8 of the minute of the adjourned meeting of 6 July 2023 (paragraph 6), articles 19, 20 and 21 of this minute (paragraph 8).

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

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 were intimated:-

- (1) the Vice Convener advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.4 (Union Street Empty Shops Grant Scheme) and 13.1 (Union Street Partnership Ltd) by virtue of him being a volunteer on Our Union Street and agenda item 9.7 (City Centre Six Monthly Update – Streetscape Programme) by virtue of him being a member of Cycling UK and the AA. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;
- (2) Councillor Macdonald advised that she had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.4 (Union Street Empty Shops Grant Scheme) by virtue of her being volunteer Leader on Our Union Street. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;
- (3) Councillor Cooke advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.6 (Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound Policy Update) and agenda item 11.1 (Reconfiguration of working arrangements with Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) as an observer on Sport Aberdeen Board. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;
- (4) Councillor Greig advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.6 (Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound Policy Update) by virtue of him being a Council appointed member on Aberdeen Performing Arts Board. Having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting;
- (5) Councillor Fairfull advised that she had a connection in relation to agenda item 9.6 (Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound Policy Update) and Item 11.1 (Reconfiguration of working arrangements with Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) by virtue of her being a Council appointed member on Aberdeen Performing Arts Board. Having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest and would not be withdrawing from the meeting; and
- (6) Councillor Hutchison advised that he had a connection in relation to agenda item 11.1 (Reconfiguration of working arrangements with Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) by virtue of him being a Director on 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.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

PETITION - INSTALLATION OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE BARS (CALLISTHENIC STATION) IN DUTHIE PARK

3. The Committee had before it the following petition which had been submitted by Mr Eduardo GalvisGarcia:-

“To install some Physical Exercise Bars (Callisthenic Station) e.g., Dip Bars, Pull-ups bars, Monkey Bars, Wall Bars, Pummel Horse. in Duthie Park in order to help to look after the community physical & mental health as well as their budget during this cost-of-living crisis by promoting healthy lifestyle initiatives within the park without incurring on expensive fitness centre memberships. Having a callisthenic station in Duthie Park would facilitate and encourage regular physical activity. It would promote a healthy lifestyle and would be a venue for families to be active together as well as encouraging new friendships and community engagement.

During COVID-19 when gyms and leisure facilities were closed, parks became the only place where individuals could keep active. Even though there are no longer COVID 19 restrictions in place, and gyms have reopened, many individuals are still attending Duthie Park to do regular physical activity. Some choosing not to return to indoor fitness facilities, recognising the mental health benefits of being outdoors and enjoying nature. Local Government can help communities to look after their physical & mental health as well as their budget during this cost-of-living crisis by promoting healthy lifestyle initiatives within their parks. Not everyone can afford expensive fitness centre memberships.

One such initiative, is to provide/install callisthenic station equipment in Duthie park (push up bars, parallettes, etc). These fitness stations can benefit both physical and mental health. They can reduce high blood pressure, help manage weight, reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, as well as, improving bone and muscle strength, increases balance, flexibility and fitness. Having a callisthenic station in Duthie Park would facilitate and encourage regular physical activity.

It would promote a healthy lifestyle and would be a venue for families to be active together as well as encouraging new friendships and community engagement. It is recognised that regular exercise improves mental health, promoting good mental health well-being - reducing the risk of depression, cognitive decline and delays the onset of dementia. It is also a way to encourage teenagers and youngsters to avoid sedentary behaviour and low levels of physical activity that can have negative effects on their health, well-being, and quality of life. Calisthenics exercise is not only for youngsters starting calisthenics at age 40 or 50 can help you to stay in shape and improve your overall level of fitness. Most importantly of all, this initiative is inclusive, it is for everyone. Callisthenic stations in parks offer effective cross-generational open space development with low investment compared to complex sports facilities.

They are extremely sturdy and hard-wearing with low maintenance/repairs. They are an easy to install free infrastructure e.g., Dip Bars, Pull-ups bars, Monkey Bars, Wall Bars, Pummel Horse. Callisthenics offers effective training using body weight alone rather than

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

conventional gym equipment, using the practice of repetitions of movement to help build muscle whilst burning calories and improving fitness. Calisthenics can be a warm-up or cool-down for another fitness routine or sport, or it can be a workout in its own right.

There are many examples of good global government initiatives in communities where calisthenics stations have been developed within parks on this website. For instance, a good example can be seen in London, Steel Warriors Finsbury Park (13 Endymion Road, Harringay, London, N4 1EE, United Kingdom) <https://calisthenics-parks.com/spots/15357-en-calisthenics-gym-london-steelwarriors-finsbury-park>

The website below is an excellent example of an Irish company that supply the different equipment and design layout needed for a Callisthenic Station:- <https://www.outfit.ie/calisthenics>”

The Committee received a presentation from Mr GalvisGarcia and also Ms Grainne McGrath, who also responded to questions from members.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the petition and thank the petitioners for bringing the matter before the Finance & Resources Committee; and
- (ii) to agree to instruct the Chief Officer – Operations and Protective Services to prepare a report on the feasibility, options and associated costs of installing public exercise equipment at all public parks, including but not limited to Duthie Park, and report back to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 5 September 2023.

DEPUTATIONS FROM GAVIN CLARK (ABERDEEN CYCLE FORUM) AND LIBBY HILLHOUSE (DISABILITY EQUITY PARTNERSHIP)

4. The Committee had before it a deputation by Gavin Clark, Aberdeen Cycle Forum in relation to agenda item 9.7 (City Centre Six Monthly Update – Streetscape Programme).

The Convener advised that a further deputation from Mr Hussein Patwa, Disability Equity Partnership in relation to agenda item 9.7 (City Centre Six Monthly Update – Streetscape Programme) had been received, however it was not submitted on time and was therefore not competent in terms of Standing Order 14.1 (two clear working days before the Committee meeting). He indicated that having heard the explanation from Mr Patwa in this regard and in terms of standing order 14.11, that on this occasion, he would be minded to accept the deputation on to the agenda to help facilitate discussion on this item. Furthermore, he intimated that Mr Patwa was now unable to attend the meeting today and that Ms Libby Hillhouse and Mr Graham Findlay would instead be representing the Disability Equity Partnership.

The Committee resolved:-

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

to note the information provided and that the deputations would be heard immediately prior to the consideration of the report (article 13 of this minute refers).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 17 MAY 2023, FOR APPROVAL

5. The Committee had before it the minute of meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee of 17 May 2023.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) in relation to article 10 of the minute regarding Union Terrace Gardens, to note that the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord had still to circulate details of the public toilet opening hours to members of the Committee via email, including how this information would be articulated to members of the public; and
- (ii) to otherwise approve the minute.

COMMITTEE PLANNER

6. The Committee had before it the Committee Business Planner prepared by the Interim Chief Officer - Governance.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to note the reasons for the delay in relation to item 11 (Financial Settlement from Transport Scotland for the De-trunking of the A92/A96 -Haudagain Improvement), item 14 (School Estate Plan: Hazlehead/Countesswells Secondary School Provision – Outline Business Case) and item 15 (Proposals for Investment for Works at Riverbank School to Accommodate the Relocation of St. Peter's School); and
- (ii) to otherwise note the planner.

WORK PLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - COM/23/194

7. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which presented procurement work plans where expenditure was included for the Customer and Operations Functions 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 Cases related to the following:-

- Customer Experience Platform;
- Third Party Payments; and
- Recycling & Residual Waste Skips.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) review the workplan as detailed in the Appendices for the Customer and Operations Functions;
- (b) approve the procurement business cases, including the total estimated expenditure for the proposed contract; and
- (c) note the content of Appendix 3 - 3.10 Memos (Exemption Urgency).

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations contained within the report;
- (ii) to note that the Head of Commercial and Procurement would circulate responses to questions relating to (1) Appendix 3 – Technical Exemptions - Hydrogen Supply Agreement; and (2) Appendix 5 – Third Party Payments; and
- (iii) to agree that the Workplan and Business Cases report be considered as the last public item on future agendas, to allow questions on the exempt appendices to follow straight after and to instruct the interim Chief Officer – Governance (Assurance) to amend future agendas accordingly.

SALE OF UNION TERRACE GARDENS GATES TO BIRKHALL ESTATE FOR REUSE - COM/23/191

8. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought delegated authority to sell a set of cast iron gates which were removed from Union Terrace Gardens as part of the refurbishment works to the Birkhall Estate for reuse in the estate gardens.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) delegate authority to Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to sell a set of cast iron gates from the dountaking from Union Terrace Gardens as part of the refurbishment works to the Birkhall Estate for reuse in the estate gardens; and
- (b) delegate authority to Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning to sell the gates for an appropriate price. This was currently thought to be £500 given the current condition of the gates.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

DENIS LAW LEGACY TRAIL - COM/23/212

9. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning, which provided an update on Phase 1 of the Denis Law Legacy Trail and sought instruction to develop Phase 2.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) approve the progression of Phase 1 of the Denis Law Legacy Trail; and
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – City Growth to develop a business case for Phase 2 delivery of the murals, including identifying external funding opportunities, and report back to Finance and Resources Committee 22 November 2023.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) to agree to instruct the Chief Officer – City Growth to obtain the necessary agreements from the Denis Law Legacy Trust as noted at 5.1 of the report before proceeding to spend public money on this project to include confirmation that appropriate intellectual property rights/licences for design of the trail and images licence have been agreed for phase 2 delivery of the murals, and including identifying external funding opportunities, and report back to the Finance and Resources Committee on 22 November 2023.

UNION STREET EMPTY SHOPS GRANT SCHEME - COM/23/192

10. With reference to article 18 of the minute of meeting of Council of 14 December 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning, which provided an overview of the Union Street Empty Shops Grant Scheme and sought delegated authority for relevant Chief Officers to make and approve grant awards.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee -

- (a) note the launch of the Union Street Empty Shops Grant Scheme, with objectives and conditions as detailed in the body of the report;
- (b) approve the establishment of a Review Panel for the scheme; and
- (c) delegate authority to the Chief Officer - City Growth and Chief Officer – Finance, in consultation with the Convenor of the Finance and Resources Committee, to approve grant awards up to a maximum amount of £35,000.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendations; and
- (ii) that the Chief Officer - Governance write to Councillor Malik confirming the legality of the application exclusion process.

LOCAL AUTHORITY COVID ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND - COM/23/221

11. With reference to article 11 of the minute of meeting of the City Growth and Resources Committee of 21 June 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought approval to allocate unspent monies from the Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery Fund.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) award up to £35,000 to the Enhanced Business Support/Community Wealth Building support project;
- (b) award up to £60,000 to undertake feasibility of a Community Bank/Micro Credit Scheme;
- (c) award up to £105,000 to the Aberdeen City Council Events project;
- (d) award up to £50,000 to Spectra; and
- (e) delegate authority to Chief Officer - City Growth, following consultation with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor of Finance and Resources Committee, Director of Commissioning and Director of Resources, to award LACER grants of up to £25,000 for remaining LACER funds.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

FUNDING EXTERNAL BODIES AND FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND POLICY UPDATE - RES/23/215

12. With reference to article 8 of the minute of meeting of the Audit Risk and Scrutiny Committee of 11 May 2023, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which sought approval of the amended and updated Following the Public Pound Code of Practice.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) approve the updated Following the Public Pound Code of Practice as appended to the report; and
- (b) approve the Following the Public Pound Code of Practice to be amended to a Council Policy.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

CITY CENTRE SIX MONTHLY UPDATE - STREETSCAPE PROGRAMME - RES/23/209

13. The Committee received two deputations from (1) Mr Gavin Clark, Chair of Aberdeen Cycle Forum and (2) Ms Libby Hillhouse and Mr Graham Findlay, Disability Equity Partnership.

Mr Clark in his presentation, outlined the aims of Aberdeen Cycle Forum and advised that they had around 600 members and made reference to the Council meeting in

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

December 2022, when his fellow-campaigner, Rachel Martin was in attendance and presented to members.

He indicated that at the aforementioned Council meeting, Ms Martin pleaded not to approve plans for Union Street which did not include a segregated cycle track and that Councillors sympathised with that plea. He indicated that in the past 6 months or so, Officers and Designers were working under instruction to produce plans which would include a segregated cycle track, and that Aberdeen Cycle Forum and other stakeholders had been involved throughout that process and had the opportunity to input at various stages.

Mr Clark advised that a bi-directional cycle track on one side of the street only would not have been their first choice, but given the other constraints, they were told it was really the only feasible option for segregation. He intimated that they had accepted that compromise was required on all sides and therefore they supported the design now presented. He explained that they now had something which was in line with the Transport Hierarchy and which met current design standards.

He advised that the key was that this would create a segregated cycle track where cyclists were kept separate from vehicular traffic and separated from pedestrians indicating that it was not the whole solution to the city's transport problems, but it would be a big step in the right direction and could hopefully be the start of a high-quality network of segregated routes which would allow so many more people to use a bicycle as an everyday means of transport whether for shopping, commuting to work or education, for leisure, for fitness or just for enjoyment.

Mr Clark indicated that segregation from traffic opened up cycling to many more people who currently did not feel safe on the roads and cycling should not be the preserve of a hardened minority who were inured to cycling in traffic as he was, it should be accessible for all ages and abilities.

Mr Clark intimated that cycling could of course have multiple benefits: greater uptake of cycling contributes to improved air quality and to carbon reduction targets. He explained that increased levels of cycling had been shown to boost local economies and increase footfall in shops and that people who cycle regularly tended to be healthier and so place lower demands on the NHS, therefore most of these positives were not just for the individual on the bike, they benefitted everyone.

He advised that he understood that one of the trickiest design details to resolve had been how to route the cycle track around bus stops and the solution proposed was that a bus-stop bypass, as he called it, was also known as a floating bus stop. He explained that essentially this meant that the cycle track went behind the bus stop, and pedestrians cross the cycle way to get to the bus stop and when doing so, they had priority over cyclists. He explained that this approach would be novel to Aberdeen, but it was not new. He indicated that it was the preferred approach in Transport Scotland's design manual

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

Cycling by Design (2021) and it had been used successfully elsewhere. He explained that they were ubiquitous in the Netherlands, and common elsewhere in Europe.

Mr Clark made reference to a pilot/trial scheme in Oxford Road, Manchester, for which a comprehensive review paper was published in 2016 and generally the design was found to be a success with high levels of satisfaction and low levels of conflict between users. He advised that the Transport Hierarchy clearly put the most vulnerable at the top of the pyramid, however the design proposed did include numerous mitigations to address concerns.

He intimated that there would be a learning process for all users, and equally no design would ever be perfect although he thought that the designers had gone as far as they could in making it a safe environment for everyone, and they have followed published design guidance. He explained that they could never entirely eliminate the risk of collision between a pedestrian and a cyclist, (although the Manchester trial showed the likelihood of collision was very low – there were none at all in their monitoring period) the alternative of putting cyclists back on the carriageway with buses vastly increased the risk of harm and the severity of outcome.

He indicated that there would be many design details to be resolved, not least a safe and convenient way for cyclists to cross back to the south side of the street to continue their journey as necessary.

Mr Clark advised that the city centre currently had an issue with illegal electric mopeds, which may be masquerading as cyclists but they were not, and in his view and in law, those types of users should not be on a segregated cycle track. He intimated that he did not think that was an issue which could be resolved today but thought it was worth mentioning in case members were visualising those types of user when he referred to cyclists.

In conclusion, he thanked the Council for having the courage to re-visit the plans presented in December, and those officers and designers who had worked hard to find what appeared to be the best available compromise.

Mr Clark responded to a number of questions from members.

The Committee then heard from Ms Hillhouse and Mr Findlay (North East Sensory Service), on behalf of the Disability Equity Partnership.

Ms Hillhouse advised that she was employed by NESS but was also a member of the Disability Equity Partnership and explained that they had a meeting with the City Centre Master Planning Team on Friday to explore some of the mitigations around the design of the bi-directional cycle lanes and bus bypass design which they had serious concerns about.

She indicated that the city centre should be a space for everyone including people who were blind or deaf (over 2500 people in Aberdeen known to them), and explained that 1

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

in 5 of the population had some kind of disability (around 50,000 in Aberdeen) that may impact on their mobility and their confidence to get out and about, many of whom relied on public transport and do not have the freedom of choice to either access car or cycle travel.

She intimated that in relation to the bi-directional cycle lanes, they did not agree in having segregated cycle lanes and they were limited to the constraints which were available to them on Union Street, therefore having two cycle lanes across, particularly if you are visually impaired was incredibly difficult, as a visually impaired person would not be able to see a bicycle approaching and in a busy environment, not hear it and therefore someone who was hard of hearing would not be able to hear a bicycle approaching until they were very close.

She advised that depending on the design of the streets, people who were visually impaired would rely on tactile information to understand where they were in relation to what was going on around them and they questioned whether some of the design mitigations had enough tactile information to ensure people know where they were so they could keep themselves safe.

She indicated that some of the research which we had not been able to critique suggested that the incidences of conflict between cycles and people with disabilities was very low, however we were aware that it was significantly higher for people with visual impairment and it was also about the perception of risk for people who were visually impaired/deaf and hard of hearing or otherwise have another disability.

She explained that people who were visually impaired/deaf and hard of hearing had many barriers on a daily basis which they had to deal with and more likely to be dependent on public transport. She advised that Union Street was a major route through Aberdeen and an interchange place for the City, therefore not being able to see what was coming towards you and probably not being able to hear what was coming towards you caused great anxiety for people who may already be stressed and anxious and don't feel confident to get in and about a busy environment.

Miss Hillhouse advised that they believed that the bi-directional cycle lane would be putting in an additional barrier which would leave people feeling unsafe and uncomfortable to go into that area to use the public transport network down Union Street and would stop them accessing both the city centre and other parts of Aberdeen.

In conclusion, she advised that they had appreciated the engagement which they had, including many discussions with the City Centre Master Planning Team and welcomed the consultation, but they noted that there were other options available, which would require compromises, which could put pedestrians at the top of the hierarchy again. They believed that this model would put pedestrians second in the hierarchy behind the cyclist which was not what the hierarchy was intended to do and members of their community who were particularly vulnerable and social excluded would find it difficult to access the bus transport network through Aberdeen City.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

Ms Hillhouse and Mr Findlay responded to questions from members.

Having heard both deputations, the Convener on behalf of the Committee, expressed his thanks for their comments and input.

With reference to article 16 of the minute of meeting of Council of 14 December 2022, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided a six-month update on progress with the city centre streetscape programme (Union Street Central, Market to Guild Street and Schoolhill/Upperkirkgate).

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) note the progress update and instruct the Chief Officer (Capital) to present an update report to this Committee pending completion of Financial Close of the Union Street Central project;
- (b) agree the inclusion of a segregated cycle lane in Union Street Central consistent with emerging proposals for Union Street East and Union Street West; and
- (c) instruct the Chief Officer (Capital) to continue engagement with key stakeholders in the development of the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage 4 Technical Design.

The Convener, seconded by the Vice Convener moved:-

that the Committee –

- (1) approve the recommendations contained within the report;
- (2) instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to continue to engage with stakeholder groups as the detail of the bus stop crossing design develops and is implemented on street, including involving them in monitoring and evaluation during first year of operation; and
- (3) agree the inclusion of any necessary underground infrastructure to accommodate the future erection of a signalised crossing should it be deemed appropriate following the post completion monitoring and evaluation.

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

that the Committee note the decision of Council on 13 December 2021, following a Notice of Motion by Councillor Hutchison, that all decisions relating to the Masterplan should be made by Full Council, and agrees as the Committee are being asked to determine a position at 2.1 and 2.2 of the report, to send this report to the next Council meeting to allow Full Council to debate the merits or otherwise of these recommendations.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (8) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Fairfull, Greig, Hutchison and Radley; for the amendment (5) – Councillors Farquhar, Macdonald, Malik, Massey and Watson

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to adopt the motion; and
- (ii) to request that the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning circulate details of the Core Path status of Union Street and what that status would mean for those wishing to cycle

In terms of Standing Order 34.1, Councillor Malik intimated that he would like this matter to be referred to full Council in order for a final decision to be taken. Councillor Malik was supported by Councillors Farquhar, Macdonald, Massey and Watson.

CRAIGHILL AND KINCORTH HOUSING DELIVERY - RES/23/200

14. With reference to article 9 of the minute of meeting of 1 February 2023, the Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which provided an update on the options for the continued delivery of Council led housing projects at Craighill and Kincorth.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (a) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to arrange for the redesign of both schemes with the Value Engineering options implemented. These options should be developed to retain the Gold Standards environmental criteria;
- (b) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to arrange for the resubmission of new planning applications, for both sites, to take account of the value engineered options;
- (c) following approval of (b), instruct the Chief Officer – Capital to arrange for the retender of both sites;
- (d) note that the preferred approach will be to progress both sites simultaneously as single phase developments but there is an acceptance that some project phasing maybe required on one or both sites to spread the capital commitment over a number of years; and
- (e) note the necessary financial commitments that will be necessary to ensure delivery of both sites. Refer to Appendix B.

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

that the Committee approve the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Macdonald, moved as an amendment:-

that the Committee –

- (1) note the previous Administration's decision to allocate £250m gross to deliver 2,000 Council houses and welcomes the Partnership's commitment to deliver on the previous Administration's ambitious policy;
- (2) note a net spend of £124m has delivered or is delivering:-
 - 283 Homes in Dyce;

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

- 92 Homes in Great Northern Road;
 - 369 Homes in Summerhill; and
 - 583 Homes in Bridge of Don.
- (3) approve recommendations 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 within the report; and
- (4) instruct the Chief Officer – Capital, following the receipt of tenders, to report back to the next available Finance and Resources Committee meeting to allow members to confirm that the tenders ensure financial affordability for the HRA account.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (8) – the Convener, the Vice Convener and Councillors Allard, Cooke, Fairfull, Greig, Hutchison and Radley; for the amendment (5) – Councillors Farquhar, Macdonald, Malik, Massey and Watson.

The Committee resolved:-

to adopt the motion.

CRUYFF COURT TILLYDRONE UPDATE - RES/23/199

15. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Resources which sought approval to progress with the Tillydrone Cruyff Court project subject to additional funding.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee –

- (i) vire the necessary monies from the budget savings following the retender of the Replacement Riverbank Primary School project (noted previously as circa £6m) to ensure the full scope of the project can be delivered; and
- (ii) instruct the Chief Officer - Capital to complete a further procurement exercise to target delivery this financial year.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendations.

At this Juncture, the Convener proposed to suspend Standing Order 40.2 (Length of Meetings) to enable the meeting to continue beyond six hours.

The Committee agreed unanimously to suspend Standing Order 40.2.

CLUSTER RISK REGISTERS AND ASSURANCE MAPS - COM/23/213

16. The Committee had before it a joint report by the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning, the Chief Officer - City Growth, the Chief Officer – Finance, the Chief Officer – Capital, the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord and the Head of Commercial and

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

Procurement which presented the Cluster Risk Registers and Assurance Maps to provide assurance that risks were being managed effectively within each Cluster.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the Cluster Risk Registers and Assurance Maps set out in appendices A to N.

The Committee resolved:-

- (i) to approve the recommendation;
- (ii) that the Chief Officer – Corporate Landlord review the scoring in relation to the condition of operational property estates (page 202 of the agenda);
- (iii) that the Chief Officer – Finance review the scoring in relation to the delivery of financial services (page 180 of the agenda); and
- (iv) that the Chief Officer – City Growth provide details to the members of the Committee in relation to why Perception of Place did not align with the Risk Appetite Statement (page 221 of the agenda).

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK REPORT – COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES - COM/23/190

17. 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.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee note the performance information contained within the report appendix.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO BBC ON BELMONT STREET - COM/23/197

18. The Committee had before it a report by the Director of Commissioning which sought approval for the erection of a commemorative plaque on 15-17 Belmont Street to mark the site of the BBC's first radio broadcast in Aberdeen.

The report recommended:-

that the Committee approve the erection of the proposed commemorative plaque at 15-17 Belmont Street, Aberdeen.

The Committee resolved:-

to approve the recommendation.

Finance and Resources Committee

5 July 2023

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

WORKPLAN AND BUSINESS CASES - EXEMPT APPENDICES

19. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to the Workplan and Business Cases report (article 7 of this minute refers).

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.

CRAIGHILL AND KINCORTH HOUSING DELIVERY - EXEMPT APPENDICES

20. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to the Craighill and Kincorth Housing Delivery report (article 14 of this minute refers).

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendices.

CRUYFF COURT TILLYDRONE UPDATE - EXEMPT APPENDIX

21. The Committee had before it exempt appendices relating to the Cruyff Court Tillydrone Update report (article 15 of this minute refers).

The Committee resolved:-

to note the information contained within the exempt appendix.

- **COUNCILLOR ALEX MCLELLAN, Convener**

The Convener, in terms of Standing Order 36.6, advised that he was adjourning the meeting and that it would resume on Thursday, 6 July 2023 at 2.00pm.