

Emergency Governance Arrangements (Covid-19 Outbreak)

Friday 12 June 2020

Decision

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive.

In Consultation with

Joe Cullinane (Group Leader: Labour/Cabinet Member for Finance) (Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6); Marie Burns (Group Leader: SNP/Chair of Audit and Scrutiny) (Items 1, 2, 3 and 4); Tom Marshall (Group Leader: Conservative and Unionist) (Items 1, 3 and 4); Ian Murdoch (Nominated Independent Member representative) (1, 3 and 4); and Jim Montgomerie (Cabinet Member for Place) (Item 1).

1. Vacant and Derelict Land Fund

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed expenditure of funds allocated by the Scottish Government through the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund in 2020/21.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the Leader of the Council (as Chair of the Cabinet) and Councillor Montgomerie (as the relevant Cabinet Member). Consultation also took place with the political Group Leaders and with the nominated representative of the Independent Members. Of those Members who responded, all were supportive of the proposals contained in the report.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed as follows:

- (a) to note the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund award of £1.323M for 2020/21;
- (b) to approve the submission of a local delivery plan to the Scottish Government for the expenditure of funds in 2020/21, as set out in the report; and
- (c) that any major changes to the delivery plan would be agreed with the Portfolio Lead and the Chief Executive.

2. Annual Governance Statement

Submitted report by the Head of Financial and Customer Services seeking approval of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 which will be included within the draft Annual Accounts. The Statement was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with Councillor Burns (as Chair of Audit and Scrutiny) and with the Leader of the Council (as the relevant Cabinet Member), both of whom were supportive of the proposal. A copy of the report was also circulated to the membership of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Cullinane (as the Labour Group Leader) and Councillor Murdoch (as the Independent Member representative) and those who responded were supportive of the proposal.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

3. Committee Meetings

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services making recommendations to allow the resumption of committee meetings during the current COVID-19 crisis.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the political Group Leaders and with the nominated representative of the Independent Members. The political Group Leaders were supportive of the proposals. Some concern was expressed by the Independent Member representative with regard to the democratic process.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed that:

- (a) a small number of committee meetings, as referred to within the report, take place on a wholly remote basis (i) prior to the summer recess and (ii) immediately following the recess period, such meetings to be recorded for upload onto the Council's website;
- (b) it be remitted to officers to make such further adjustments to the committee timetable immediately following the summer recess period as may be required in light of (a)(ii) above;
- (c) it be remitted to officers to make appropriate arrangements to support Members and Officers to participate remotely in meetings, including such measures as providing hard-copy Agendas packs to participants, training/test meetings, remote meeting protocols and guidance notes for Chairs; and
- (d) necessary changes to the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Proceedings of the Council and Committees to accommodate remote/hybrid meetings, be the subject of a separate report.

4. Governance Arrangements to Support Remote/Hybrid Committee Meetings

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the exercise of emergency delegate authority to vary the Council's Standing Orders and further amend the Council's committee timetable in order to facilitate remote committee meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the political Group Leaders and with the nominated representative of the Independent Members. The political Group Leaders were supportive of the proposals. Some concern was expressed by the Independent Member representative with regard to the democratic process.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed that:

- (a) the Standing Orders relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and Committees be varied as set out in the report and at Appendix 1, in order to accommodate such remote access to committee meetings as may be necessary during the immediate COVID-19 pandemic and, subject to Council approval, in the longer term; and
- (b) the Council's committee timetable for the remainder of 2020 be subject to change as may be required in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Cabinet Roles

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on alterations to Cabinet Member portfolios.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the Leader of the Council as Chair of the Cabinet. The report was also circulated to the other political Group Leaders and the nominated representative of the Independent Members.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and following consultation with relevant Members, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed to note the alterations to Cabinet Member Portfolios as set out at Section 2.3 and detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Tender Reports

6.1 Award of Framework for the Provision of Employability and Skills

Submitted report by the Head of Financial and Customer Services on the outcome of the tendering exercise for Provision of Employability and Skills and the award of a framework.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the Leader of the Council as Chair of the Cabinet.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and consultation with the relevant Member, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed to the award of Contracts to Barnardos Scotland, CEIS Ayrshire, Impact Arts, SALUS, The Ayrshire Community Trust, The Lennox Partnership and The Workers Educational Association

6.2 Award of Contract for Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme Works

Submitted report by the Head of Financial and Customer Services on the outcome of the tendering exercise for the Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme and the award of a contract.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the Leader of the Council as Chair of the Cabinet.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and consultation with the relevant Member, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed to the award of the contract to McLaughlin & Harvey.

6.3 Award of contract for the Provision of an Unpaid Carers and Young Carers Support Service

Submitted report by the Head of Financial and Customer Service on the outcome of the tendering exercise for the Provision of an Unpaid Carers and Young Carers Support Service and the award of a contract.

In terms of the agreed decision-making process, the Chief Executive consulted with the Leader of the Council as Chair of the Cabinet.

Having considered the implications outlined in the report and consultation with the relevant Member, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Council, agreed to the award of the contract to Unity Enterprise