

Motherwell, 1 May 2019 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McPake, Convener; Councillors Anderson, J. Ashraf, Carragher, Di Mascio, Docherty, Doolan, Douglas, Goldie, Gourlay, Kerr, Lennon, McLaren, McNally, Reddin, Roarty, Annette Valentine, Weir and Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors H. McVey, Curran, Duffy and Pettigrew attended as substitutes for Councillors Fannan, Logue, McNeil and Stocks respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor McPake (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions, Head of Environmental Assets, Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions, Business Manager (Environmental Design, Technical Solutions and Transportation) and Committee Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

B. Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport).

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cochrane, Fannan, Logue, McNeil and Stocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. Councillor Douglas declared an interest in paragraph 5 by virtue of being a shareholder of Dignity Crematoria Limited, left the meeting and took no part in the determination of this item.

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

2. There was submitted a report by the Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions (1) advising that an exercise had been undertaken to assess the Council's strategies, policies and plans which were in place to support achievement of the Council's priorities, during which it had been identified that the Council lacked an overarching Environment Strategy; (2) intimating that the purpose of the Environment Strategy was (a) to bring all policies with an environmental purpose under a single strategy, and (b) to ensure that the Council maximised the achievement of its priorities and contributed to overall national environmental objectives; (3) detailing the policies included within the Environment Strategy; (4) seeking approval for the proposed Environment Strategy, a copy of which was appended to the report, and (5) highlighting (a) that further monitoring reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee, and (b) that each policy and plan, included within the strategy, would be approved and monitored at the relevant Committee.

The Convener proposed that, in addition to the two recommendations detailed within the report, a further recommendation be added to remit the report to the next meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee, which was agreed by the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Environment Strategy, as detailed within the Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the next meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee for final approval, and
- (3) that the report be noted.

CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the meeting of the former Infrastructure Committee on 8 November 2017, when the Carbon Management Plan 2017/19 had been agreed, there was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions (1) seeking approval of the Carbon Management Plan 2019/22, as outlined in the Appendix to the report; (2) advising that the Plan continued the focus on the reduction of carbon emissions via the delivery of targeted energy efficient projects; (3) highlighting that the Plan was a vehicle to ensure that the Council fulfilled its duty to contribute to national carbon reduction targets, and (4) confirming that the Carbon Management Group would continue to monitor and report on progress against the identified reduction targets and its contributory projects.

Decided: that the adoption of the Carbon Management Plan 2019/22 be approved.

DUMBRECK AND GARRELL RESTORATION AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

4. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising that significant external funding had been secured, via the Scottish Government Water Environment Fund, in order to improve the river quality and habitat at Dumbreck Marsh Local Nature Reserve; (2) detailing that the project would restore the river channel back to its original course through the Dumbreck Local Nature Reserve, restore and maintain the wetland character of the site, and provide quality habitat for wildlife and flood storage for the immediate area; (3) intimating that the project also provided opportunities for health and wellbeing benefits, flood alleviation, cultural and natural heritage conservation, and education; (4) summarising, in Appendix 1 to the report, the community consultation process undertaken from 2017 to date; (5) confirming that the points raised during the consultation process had been considered and carried through to the project design, and (6) highlighting (a) in Appendix 2 to the report, the indicative design for the project, and (b) that, subject to planning permission, the river restoration work was due to commence during 2019.

Decided: that the content of the report and the ongoing project development be approved.

Councillor Douglas, prior to consideration of the following item of business, declared an interest by virtue of being a shareholder of Dignity Crematoria Limited, left the meeting and took no part in the determination of this item.

CEMETERIES SERVICE BURIAL SPACE NEEDS AND CHILD BURIAL FEES

5. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising that there were 15 operational cemeteries in North Lanarkshire, of which seven offered new lairs, further details of which were contained in the Appendix to the report; (2) highlighting (a) that Bedlay Cemetery was closed to new lairs and was awaiting an extension, subject to a Section 75 Agreement with an

adjacent housing development; (b) that three further cemeteries, Cambusnethan, New Monkland and Coltswood Road, would all run out of space within the next 8 years, and (c) that all cemeteries currently offering new lairs would run out of space within 17 years; (3) setting out the three available options in order to increase burial space; (4) seeking approval (a) of the approaches detailed within the report in order to secure adjacent land for the extension of Bedlay, New Monkland and Coltswood Road cemeteries, and (b) to develop a new cemetery for Wishaw at Pather Farm, and (5) advising that, as of September 2018, the Service had removed burial and cremation fees for children aged under 18 in accordance with the Scottish Government's joint agreement with COSLA.

The Committee requested further information in relation to Bedlay Cemetery and, in particular, clarification regarding (a) the terms of the Section 75 Agreement, and (b) the 20 year capacity (once developed) as referred to in Appendix 1 to the report. Thereon, it was agreed that further information and clarification in relation to this matter would be provided to the Committee.

Councillor McPake, seconded by Councillor McNally, moved (1) that the existing provision of new lairs be noted; (2) that the approaches detailed in the report to secure land for the extension of Bedlay, New Monkland and Coltswood Road cemeteries be approved, and (3) that the development of a new cemetery for Wishaw at Pather Farm be approved.

Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Carragher, moved, as an amendment, that the second recommendation in the report be amended to "agree the approaches detailed to secure land for the extension of Bedlay and New Monkland cemeteries but to continue the investigations into the land at Coltswood Road to see if the land can be returned to leisure use".

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 13 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the existing provision of new lairs be noted;
- (2) that the approaches detailed in the report to secure land for the extension of Bedlay, New Monkland and Coltswood Road cemeteries be approved;
- (3) that the development of a new cemetery for Wishaw at Pather Farm be approved, and
- (4) that it be agreed, that further information be provided to Members of the Committee in relation to Bedlay Cemetery and, in particular, clarification regarding the terms of the Section 75 Agreement and the 20 year capacity (once developed) referred to in the Appendix to the report.

MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP FOR TRANSPORT – OUTCOME REPORT

6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the meeting of the Council held on 29 March 2018, when it was agreed that a Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) be established to investigate the feasibility of a Council run transport network, there was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) setting out, in Appendix 1 to the report, the Terms of Reference for the MOWG; (2) advising that the MOWG had focused on three main themes (a) the proposed Transport Bill; (b) the existing Transport Network, and (c) opportunities to enhance travel options, and (3) seeking approval (a) for the Head of Environmental Assets to work with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and bus operators on the development of a Bus Service Improvement Partnership along the Coatbridge – Airdrie – Plains corridor, and (b) to target the development of community transport as a way to enhance travel options for local communities.

The Convener welcomed Bruce Kiloh, Head of Policy and Planning (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport) to the meeting. Bruce Kiloh spoke to the report and answered Members' questions. Thereon, the Convener thanked all Members who had served on the MOWG.

Decided:

- (1) that the work undertaken by the MOWG and the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that the Head of Environmental Assets engage with SPT and bus operators on the development of a Bus Service Improvement Partnership along the Coatbridge – Airdrie – Plains corridor, and
- (3) that it be agreed to target the development of community transport as a way to enhance travel options for local communities.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, the Convener extended an invitation to all Members of the Committee to attend a meeting in relation to this year's review of the Winter Service Policy. The Convener advised that it was his intention to hold two meetings over the coming weeks in relation to this matter and that a formal invitation would be issued to Members in due course.

STRATHCLYDE PARK EVENTS 2019

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets providing an update on (a) rowing events scheduled at Strathclyde Park during the summer of 2019, and (b) the ongoing work by Scottish Rowing to promote Strathclyde Park as a world class rowing course and on initiatives to widen access to rowing.

Decided: that the report be noted.

FLEET PROCUREMENT - NINE PRECINCT SWEEPERS

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions seeking approval to award the contract for the provision of nine precinct sweepers to AEBI Schmidt for the sum of £637,182.

Decided: that the contract for the provision of nine precinct sweepers be awarded to AEBI Schmidt for the sum of £637,182.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

9. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions providing, in the Appendix to the report, details of contracts which had been awarded by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions, under delegated authority, during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2019.

Decided: that the content of the report and Appendix be noted.