

Motherwell, 12 February 2020 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McPake, Convener; Councillor Reddin, Vice-Convener; Councillors Anderson, J. Ashraf, Carragher, Cullen, Di Mascio, Douglas, Duffy, Goldie, Lennon, Logue, McManus, McNeil, Roarty, Stocks, Annette Valentine, Weir and Wilson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(a) Councillor Curran attended as a substitute for Councillor Gourlay.

CHAIR

Councillor McPake (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Executive Director (Enterprise and Communities); Head of Environmental Assets; Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions, and Committee Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Docherty, Doolan, Gourlay, Mooney and Woods.

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

TREE ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising (a) that the Council had a significant tree resource, much of which was mature or over mature, and (b) that across the Council, the full extent and condition of the tree resource was entirely unknown and not under any protective management; (2) intimating (a) that tree failure had been identified as a risk in the Environmental Assets Risk Register, and (b) that tree assets had a role in assisting the Council in achieving its aim of zero emissions by 2013, if feasible; (3) seeking approval for the establishment and implementation of a centralised and co-ordinated Tree Assessment Management Strategy, which would be developed in line with the draft objectives and approach outlined in the report, and (4) setting out the benefits to the Council of establishing a Tree Asset Management Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the approach to develop the Tree Asset Management Strategy, in line with the principles outlined in the report, be approved;
- (2) that the draft objectives, as detailed in the report, be approved as the Framework for Strategy Development for Trees and Woodlands in Council ownership throughout North Lanarkshire, and

- (3) that the consolidation of budgets used across Services over the previous five years to perform any tree or woodland management activities be approved.

MEMORIAL BENCHES AND STRUCTURES

3. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising that the Council received occasional requests from members of the public who wished to place a memorial bench or structure within a public open space; (2) intimating that most requests of this nature had been accommodated utilising informal procedures, which had resulted in the over provision and inappropriate siting of memorial benches or structures in some areas, maintenance difficulties and an ineffective recording of memorial information, and (3) seeking approval for the Installation of Memorial Benches and Structures within Public Spaces, Open Spaces and Cemeteries Policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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Decided: that the introduction of the Installation of Memorial Benches and Structures within Public Spaces, Open Spaces and Cemeteries Policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

UPDATE OF CEMETERIES MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT

4. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising that North Lanarkshire had approximately 90,000 memorials in its cemeteries and that this number was continually increasing due to new interments; (2) highlighting (a) that in line with other local authorities approximately 22% of memorials were found to be unsafe upon inspection, and (b) that as of January 2020, 20,904 memorials had been inspected with 4,680 still to be made safe; (3) intimating that the Council had implemented a Memorial Inspection Policy in 2001; (4) providing, in the Appendix to the report the Scottish Government guidance note entitled 'Burial Ground Memorial Safety – Guidance for Scottish Local Authorities' which was published in June 2019 and set out principles and guidance for local authorities to apply to their memorial management policies; (5) seeking approval to review the Council's existing Memorial Inspection Policy to ensure that it complied with the guidance issued by the Scottish Government, and (6) detailing that as of April 2020, grass cutting in cemeteries would be undertaken by the Environmental Asset Maintenance Service and that in order to ensure efficient delivery of this regime, the Service would ensure that the agreed management rules in relation to burial grounds were enforced.

Decided:

- (1) that the continued increase in the inspection of memorials and subsequent maintenance burden upon the Council be noted;
- (2) that the proposed review of the Memorial Inspection Policy, in line with the new guidance issued by the Scottish Government, be approved, and that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the approach in relation to the enforcement of management rules within cemeteries to enable efficient maintenance be approved.

ACT 2020 - ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TOGETHER

5. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2019, when a climate emergency across North Lanarkshire was declared and it was agreed that plans be brought forward to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030, if feasible, there was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions (1) intimating that the 26th United Nations Climate

Change Conference of Parties (COP26) would be held in Glasgow from 9 to 19 November 2020, with the aim of providing an international response to climate change; (2) advising that ENGIE, a global leader in low carbon energy and services, had approached the Council proposing to work in partnership in order to deliver a programme of high impact awareness raising and thought provoking events in the run up to, and coinciding with, the COP26; (3) setting out the aims of the partnership programme established with ENGIE; (4) detailing, in the Appendix to the report, the indicative North Lanarkshire Council Climate Change Events Programme 2020, and (5) seeking approval of (a) the outline programme of events, and (b) the next steps, as outlined in paragraph 2.10 of the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the outline programme of events, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the next steps, as outlined in paragraph 2.10 of the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the content of the report be noted.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

6. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising that the Council had been selected as one of two local authority delivery partners to pilot a new innovative partnership approach to the provision of clean energy for transport; (2) intimating that working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland Limited, Scottish Power Energy Networks and South Lanarkshire Council, proposals would be developed to procure, site and install an efficient network of community chargers across Lanarkshire offering universal community access; (3) detailing (a) the project principles and objectives, and (b) the rollout plan and associated timescales, and (4) seeking approval for the development and implementation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging hubs across North Lanarkshire, in partnership with Scottish Power Energy Networks, Transport Scotland Limited and the Scottish Government.

Decided: that the development and implementation of EV charging hubs across North Lanarkshire, in partnership with Scottish Power Energy Networks, Transport Scotland Limited and the Scottish Government, be approved.

NO BALL GAME SIGNS - COUNCIL MOTION

7. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2019, when it was agreed that the Council supported outdoor play and activity and that it would remove, where possible, "No Ball Game" signs and signs of a similar effect, and also requested that a report be submitted to the relevant Committee following consultation, with particular attention towards health and safety, location and local resident opinion, there was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) detailing the consultation and exercise undertaken in relation to the retention of no ball game signs; (2) summarising, in the Appendix to the report, the results from the consultation exercise; (3) highlighting that whilst there was considerable support for the wholesale removal of no ball game signs, a proportion still considered it appropriate to provide the signs for safety and other reasons; (4) confirming that the Service did not hold asset information regarding no ball game signs and to obtain this information would be a significant exercise and resource intensive, and (5) seeking approval (a) to remove no ball game signs, upon request, and (b) to retain no ball game signs where there were potential safety concerns.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;

- (2) that the removal of no ball game signs, upon request, be approved, and
- (3) that it be agreed to retain no ball game signs where there were potential safety concerns.

SERVICE CHANGES WITHIN THE WASTE SERVICE

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions (1) advising that whilst the current Waste Solution Service continued to undergo transformational change in order to deliver a more effective and efficient service, it still faced ongoing cost pressures amounting to £780,000 which were principally due to increased housebuilding and rising costs across the waste industry; (2) intimating that there were residents who presented bins where the lids were at almost 90 degrees due to the level of waste being placed in the bin and in that condition, the bins were not capable of being collected safely and bags had to be removed before being emptied; (3) proposing that in order to address this issue, a three month pilot project in two defined areas be initiated targeting areas where overloaded residual bins were continually presented; (4) outlining the process to be undertaken in terms of the pilot scheme; (5) highlighting (a) that, at present, any resident moving to a new build property in the Council area had to order the required number of bins and only paid the cost of the residual bin, which amounted to a cost for the Council of approximately £90,000 per annum, and (6) seeking approval to pass the cost of all bins for a new build property to the developer, which would be integrated within the planning process of all future new build developments.

The Head of Regulatory Services and Waste Solutions advised that further discussion was required with the Council's Planning and Legal Services to establish how the transfer of the cost of all bins to the developer would be integrated into the planning process for all future new build development.

Councillor McPake, seconded by Councillor Reddin, moved (1) that the approach, as detailed in the report, in order to address the problem of overloaded bins be supported; (2) that the transfer of the cost of bins for new build properties to the developer be supported; (3) that it be noted that further discussion was required with the Council's Planning and Legal Services to establish how the cost for new bins would be integrated into the planning process for all future new build development, and (4) that the report be remitted to the Planning Committee.

Councillor Cullen, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment, that the first recommendation in the report be amended as follows:-

Present a further report to Committee detailing the following:-

- (i) the prevalence of overloaded bins in North Lanarkshire;
- (ii) detailing the current procedure used to tackle the issue and the success of this procedure, and
- (iii) if a pilot is suggested, which area and what is the profile of this area in relation to (i) and (ii)."

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 17 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the approach, as detailed in the report, in order to address the problem of overloaded bins be supported;
- (2) that the transfer of the costs for bins for new build properties to the developer be supported;

- (3) that it be noted that further discussion was required with the Council's Planning and Legal Services to establish how the change would be integrated into the planning process for all future new build development, and
- (4) that the report be remitted to the Planning Committee.

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 him, under delegated authority, during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2019.

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