

ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Monday 1 June 2020 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors M Lyle, P Barrett, C Stewart, A Bailey and G Laing; B Renton, Gold Commander; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); and G Paterson, Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care.

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

Apologies: K Reid, Chief Executive; K Donaldson, Acting Chief Operating Officer.

1. NOTE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The note from the previous meeting of 25 May 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

2. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- BR advised that work was taking place with NHS Tayside on Test and Protect. Similar to Dundee City and Angus Councils, PKC were providing six environmental health officers to support NHS Tayside if necessary to assist with contact tracing for a 4-6 week period.
- BR reported that the North Inch golf course had re-opened the previous week.
- BR advised that PKC were making a weekly data set submission to COSLA, this would also be submitted to the sounding board on a weekly basis for information.
- BR reported that the Council's bid for £1.1 million from the Scottish Government's Spaces for People fund had been approved. Administered by Sustrans, the grant would enable a series of 34 proposals to move forward aimed at improving safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists in Perth and 12 other communities around the Perth and Kinross area, as well as maintaining physical distancing during the current coronavirus pandemic. The next stage would be further discussion with community councils, businesses and the public about the proposals. Following a query by Councillor Stewart in relation to any safety issues, BR stated that PKC were following national guidance and this would be discussed as part of the next steps.
- BR noted that as it was National Volunteering week from 1 June, a short video was being prepared to celebrate the work of volunteers across Perth and Kinross.

3. CARE HOMES UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer / Director – Integrated Health and Social Care providing an update on activity within care homes and

a summary of the key information and themes reported to the Scottish Government.

A link to a report on the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic that was considered by the Perth and Kinross Integration Joint Board on 29 May 2020 was also circulated for information.

GP advised that more data would be added to future sounding board reports as it became available. In relation to a concern raised by Councillor Stewart about the figures showing a drop in the month of May for testing and re-testing, GP advised that he would seek to provide this further detail in the report for the next meeting.

Members noted the reports.

4. FLY-TIPPING UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Housing and Environment) providing an update on issues related to fly-tipping in Perth and Kinross during the COVID-19 pandemic and proposing the re-introduction of the Fly-Tipping Fund to assist private landowners and community organisations to tackle the issue in the short term.

Councillor Stewart raised a query about the level of funding available and whether any issues could be tackled by Council staff. BR confirmed that Council staff were already engaged in similar issues on land owned by the Council but did not currently operate on privately owned land.

Members endorsed the approach that the Council re-introduce the Fly-Tipping fund, as detailed in the report, with a total fund of £20,000.

5. SOCIAL GOOD CONNECT

There was submitted and noted a briefing note on the Social Good Connect (SGC) project. SGC comprised a number of businesses across Tayside and Fife working together to offer support to Councils and community groups under a "One Business Community, Ready to Serve" banner.

Following a query by Councillor Barrett, BR confirmed that she would enquire whether further case studies were available.

6. FINANCE UPDATE

There was submitted and noted a report by the Head of Finance updating members on any significant financial issues arising from the Scottish Government's, or Council's, response to COVID 19 since the last meeting of the Board, together with any financial actions taken under delegated authority. The report also provided an update on the financial implications and consequences to date.

It was agreed that future reports would be submitted on a fortnightly basis.

Following a query by Councillor Barrett, BR agreed to link into the correct online link on page 37 of the report for funding for community organisations.

7. EMERGENCY POWERS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

There was submitted and noted the record of decisions taken under emergency powers as of 1 June 2020.

8. LATEST GUIDANCE / LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY GOLD COMMAND

There was submitted and noted the latest guidance / legislation considered by Gold Command as of 1 June 2020.

9. LATEST STATISTICS

There was submitted and noted the latest statistics as of 1 June 2020.

10. MEMBERS Q AND A

Following a query by Councillor Laing on dates for the service sounding board meetings, BR confirmed that these were being circulated to relevant members today.

In relation to a query from Councillor Stewart on whether Community Councils would have access to the members' briefing on traffic modelling for the Cross Tay Link Road planning application, BR agreed to look into this, as well as whether it would be possible for the Council's IT staff to support Community Council meetings taking place via MS Teams.

Following a brief discussion on timescales for physical committee meetings taking place in the Council Chambers, as well as looking into the possibility of hybrid meetings, it was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting. SD referred to recent helpful information that been produced by the Improvement Service on Hybrid meetings.

Councillor Laing enquired as to whether the current proposed dates for the 2 Council by-elections could come forward, BR agreed to pass this to the Returning Officer.

Councillor Barrett raised a concern from the Citizens Advice Bureau about European Social Funding and enquired about communications surrounding this, BR agreed to look into this further.