

Minute of Meeting Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 14 September 2020	11:15	Remotely by MS Teams ,

Present

Councillor Denis Johnston and Councillor Alan Moir (both East Dunbartonshire Council); Councillor Alan Lafferty and Councillor Stewart Miller (both East Renfrewshire Council); Bailie Glenn Elder and Councillor Kenny MacLean (both Glasgow City Council); Councillor David Wilson (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Tom Begg (Renfrewshire Council); Councillor John Anderson and Councillor Alistair Fulton (both South Lanarkshire Council); and Councillor Lawrence O'Neill (West Dunbartonshire Council).

Chair

Councillor O'Neill, Convener, presided.

In Attendance

S Tait, Strategic Development Plan Manager and D McDonald, Assistant Strategic Development Plan Manager (both Strategic Development Plan Core Team); H Holland, Executive Officer – Land Planning and Development (East Dunbartonshire Council); G Shankland, Planning & Building Standards Manager (East Renfrewshire Council); S Taylor, Principal Planner (Glasgow City Council); S Jamieson, Head of Regeneration and Planning (Inverclyde Council); S Marklow, Strategy & Place Manager, K Festorazzi, Senior Accountant and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); T Finn, Planning and Building Services Headquarters Manager (South Lanarkshire Council); P Clifford, Planning and Building Standards Manager (West Dunbartonshire Council); and M Ferris, Senior Manager (Audit Scotland).

Apologies

Councillor Jim Clocherty (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Harry Curran and Councillor Agnes Magowan (both North Lanarkshire Council); and Councillor Marie McGurk (Renfrewshire Council).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Additional Item

The Convener intimated that there was an additional item in relation to the Audited Annual Accounts 2019/20 which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting. The Convener, being of the opinion that the item, which is dealt with at item 3 below, was urgent in view of the need to advise members of the position, authorised its consideration.

1 Minute

There was submitted the Minute of meeting of this Joint Committee held on 8 June 2020.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Revenue Budget Monitoring

There was submitted a joint revenue budget monitoring report by the Treasurer and the Strategic Development Plan Manager for the period 1 April to 21 August 2020.

The report intimated that gross expenditure was currently £7,000 underspent and income was currently £22,000 over-recovered resulting in a net underspend of £29,000. The projected year-end position was an underspend of £71,000, mainly due to the reduction in premises costs due to the move from West Regent Street to John Street and an over-recovery in income.

DECIDED: That the report be noted.

3 Update on Audited Annual Accounts 2019/20

Under reference to item 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Joint Committee held on 8 June 2020 there was submitted a report by the Treasurer relative to the audited annual accounts 2019/20.

The report intimated that on 21 May 2020, the Scottish Government released Finance Circular 10/2020, outlining the impact of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 on existing statutory regulations for the approval and publication of the annual accounts. Under this guidance, the Joint Committee was entitled to postpone the completion and approval of the unaudited accounts beyond 30 June 2020 but did not require to do so and consequently, the unaudited accounts of the Joint Committee were submitted for audit by 30 June 2020.

The guidance also allowed for the approval and publication of the audited annual accounts to extend beyond the usual statutory deadline of 30 September 2020 and provided discretion to authorities and their auditors to agree this locally. It was stated, however, that Scottish Ministers considered it reasonable that this date was “no later than 30 November 2020”.

The Joint Committee's appointed auditor, Audit Scotland, had indicated their intention to work towards completing the audit activity by 26 October 2020 allowing the audited accounts of the Joint Committee and the associated annual audit report to be authorised and published by that date.

DECIDED:

(a) That the revised deadline for the Joint Committee to approve and publish its audited accounts be noted; and

(b) That it be agreed that a meeting of the Joint Committee be held on 26 October 2020 to approve the audited accounts.

4 Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region

There was submitted a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager relative to the consultation on the Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS) for the Glasgow City Region, a copy of which had been issued to members in electronic format.

The report intimated that the draft FWS sought to set an appropriate policy context to support forestry and woodland planting and management across the Glasgow City Region and was intended to provide broad strategic locational guidance and environmental advice to those seeking to expand or manage woodlands. The preparation of a FWS for the City Region was one of the Scottish Ministers modifications to the current Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 placed a requirement on local authorities to prepare a FWS. This draft FWS would provide the strategic context for local FWS's.

The Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019/29 set out the Scottish Government's vision, objectives and priorities for the expansion of woodland and the development of the forestry sector to 2070 and set out targets for new woodland expansion across Scotland which were intended to contribute to increasing woodland cover to 21% of land area of Scotland by 2032. The draft FWS for the Glasgow City Region had been developed in order to understand and establish an appropriate regional target for woodland expansion by making a sustainable and achievable contribution to the Scottish Government's nation aspirations.

The role of forestry in contributing to the post COVID-19 Green Recovery including climate change had been recognised by the Scottish Government who had committed to continued investment in forestry and woodland planting and biodiversity protection and improvements as part of the delivery of nature based solutions to the crisis.

DECIDED:

(a) That following consideration of the draft FWS it be agreed that the draft FWS be subject to a six-week period of consultation during September/October 2020; and

(b) That following the consultation process, a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

5 Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments Proposed Clydeplan Response

There was submitted a report by the Strategic Development Plan Manager relative to the response to the Scottish Government's consultation on proposed changes to Scottish Planning Policy in respect of housing policy.

The report intimated that as a result of recent Court of Session and Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeal decisions, which impacted on the interpretation of housing planning policy, the Scottish Government had brought forward proposed amendments to Scottish Planning Policy, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The report set out the context of the proposed amendments and Clydeplan's proposed response to the consultation formed Appendix B to the report.

DECIDED: That, following consideration of the report, the response, which formed Appendix B to the report, be approved for submission to the Scottish Government as Clydeplan's response to the consultation on proposed changes to Scottish Planning Policy in respect of housing policy amendments.

6 Date of Next Meeting

DECIDED:

(a) That it be noted that, as agreed at item 3 of this Minute, a meeting of the Joint Committee would be held at 11.15 am on 26 October 2020 to approve the audited annual accounts 2019/20; and

(b) That it be noted that the next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held at 11.15 am on 14 December 2020.