

# **ELECTED MEMBER SOUNDING BOARD**

Minute of Meeting of the Elected Member Sounding Board held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday 3 April 2020 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors M Lyle, P Barrett, C Purves, A Bailey and G Laing; K Reid, Chief Executive; B Renton, Gold Commander.

In Attendance: S Hendry, Corporate and Democratic Services.

## **1. ITEM FOR DECISION**

### **(i) DECISION MAKING AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive briefing the Sounding Board on the current decision making structure and elected member engagement in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

KR provided a summary of the report. Councillors Purves and Bailey raised concern about the current decision making process remaining in place beyond the immediate future, and suggested using virtual / online meetings, or basic meetings involving social distancing. Both Councillors Lyle and Barrett commented that COSLA were having discussions with the Scottish Government regarding the determination of planning applications and other quasi-judicial meetings.

#### **Resolved:**

- The contents of the report be noted with similar future updates to be provided on a weekly basis;
- It be agreed that no meetings involving social distancing to take place; the current procedures to remain in place and be reviewed following the April recess; and virtual meetings to be investigated (resource dependent) with a view to holding a meeting of the Planning and Development Management Committee week commencing 27 April 2020.

## **2. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **(i) GENERAL UPDATE BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GOLD COMMANDER**

KR / BR advised members of the following:

- A relaxation from the Scottish Government on the requirement of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare and a re-evaluation from August 2020;
- Work was taking place with the Council's ALEOs to assist with additional staff for re-tasking to critical areas.
- Children's Activity Centres were now set up for key workers in five areas with further provision also being investigated;

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) being provided to Waste Services operators in all vehicles to reduce the spread of infection following national guidance;
- A new website Tayside Cares ([www.taysidecares.co.uk](http://www.taysidecares.co.uk)) created to provide information, advice and assistance regarding Coronavirus for citizens living in Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross;
- A database of volunteers being established and co-ordinated by the Council to support vulnerable people across the Perth and Kinross area, involved in such activities as the distribution of food parcels across rural areas to essential people;
- Further support in terms of welfare, business grants, and support to self-catering businesses;
- The by-election for Ward 11 caused by the resignation of former Councillor Dave Doogan provisionally scheduled to take place on 26 November 2020.

**(ii) SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE / DECISIONS USING CHIEF EXECUTIVE EMERGENCY POWERS**

There was submitted and noted a copy of the guidance / legislation that had been considered by Gold Command as at 3 April 2020.

There was also submitted and noted a record of emergency decisions taken by the Chief Executive / Depute Chief Executive / Executive Directors as part of the current crisis that set out the power exercised, date, reasons and Council function.

**(iii) STATISTICS**

There was submitted and noted a copy of latest statistics in relation to Council activity responding to the Coronavirus situation as at 3 April 2020.

**(iv) SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND UK GOVERNMENT CORONAVIRUS ACT CHANGES**

There was submitted and noted the latest analysis on the impact to the Council of both the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and the UK Coronavirus Act 2020.

**(v) FINANCIAL UPDATE**

There was submitted and noted a report by the Chief Executive advising members of the financial support and resilience arrangements being put in place nationally to support local communities, businesses and key suppliers during the current pandemic. The report also summarised how these arrangements were being implemented and the further financial measures taken under delegated authority to support local citizens and businesses. It was agreed that future similar reports would be submitted on a regular basis.

**3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**(i) GROUP LEADERS Q & A**

There was no further discussion.

**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 10 April 2020