

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the FINANCE & ECONOMY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2019 at 10.00am

Present

Councillor Alison LAURIE (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY
Councillor Scott FARMER
Councillor Danny GIBSON

Councillor Jeremy MCDONALD
Councillor Jim THOMSON

In Attendance

Jennifer Baird, Category Manager – Services for People (Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development)
Jim Boyle, Chief Officer – Finance
Karen Brown, Corporate Complaints Co-ordinator (Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development)
David Crighton, Land Services Manager (Environment & Place)
Pamela Forsyth, HR Advice & Policy Manager (HR)
Michael Grassom, Service Manager Safer Reducing Offending (Children & Families)
Mark Henderson, Senior Media Officer (Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development)
David Hopper, Sustainable Development Manager (Infrastructure)
Kristine Johnson, Chief Officer - HR
Kevin Kelman, Senior Manager – Schools & Learning (CEdO)
Drew Leslie, Infrastructure Development Manager (Infrastructure)
Shaun Marley, Rural Broadband Project Officer (Economic Development, Culture & Tourism)
Julia McAfee, Chief Officer – Governance
Steven McDonald, Economic, Growth Culture, Tourism & Events Service Manager (Economic Development, Culture & Tourism)
Isabel McKnight, Chief Officer – Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development
Stuart Oliver, Senior Manager - Economic Development, Culture & Tourism
Bruce Reekie, Senior Manager – Environment & Place
Brian Roberts, Senior Manager - Infrastructure
Scott Ross, Portfolio & Business Manager (Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development)
Lesley Sheasby, Quality Assurance Programme Team Leader (Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development)
Karen Swan, Committee Officer (Governance)
David McDougall, Governance Officer (Governance) (Clerk)

Also in Attendance

Gordon Bell, Chief Executive (Stirling Enterprise Park (STEP))
Mags Fenner, Go Forth Stirling
Andrew Mitchell, Go Forth Stirling

FE137 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Margaret Brisley. Councillor Danny Gibson was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Margaret Brisley.

FE135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FE139 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

FE140 MINUTES – FINANCE & ECONOMY COMMITTEE – 18 APRIL 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & Economy Committee that was held on 18 April 2019 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Minutes of the Meeting of Finance & Economy Committee that was held on 18 April 2019 were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

Agenda

The Convener intimated her intention to alter the order of the Agenda. The items were taken in the order minuted below.

FE141 STIRLING CITY CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (GO FORTH STIRLING) - UPDATE

The Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism submitted the report to Finance and Economy Committee with an update on the activities and actions of Go Forth Stirling – Stirling City Centre's Business Improvement District (BID).

A Business Improvement District (BID) was a business-led initiative within a defined geographical area where businesses, after a ballot, work collectively to invest using funds generated by a levy based on property rated value and levered funding, in defined projects that had been identified by businesses to improve their operating environment. These projects would be in addition to statutory services provide by the public sector.

Mags Fenner and Andrew Mitchell, Go Forth Stirling attended the meeting and updated Members on the work to date and proposed work for the future.

Following a query about the Stirling land train, Go Forth Stirling confirmed that a new route had been proposed and would be put out for consultation. The train, with new route, would also adopt a hop on/hop off service for a set amount.

Members congratulated Go Forth on their progress and the funding attained through Visit Scotland.

Committee thanked Mags Fenner and Andrew Mitchell for attending the meeting.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note recent progress made, by Go Forth Stirling, against the objectives and themes set out within the approved business plan; and planned areas of development for 2019.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE142 STIRLING ENTERPRISE LTD (STEP) ANNUAL REVIEW 2018/19

A report by the Senior Manager - Economic Development, Culture & Tourism submitted advised that Stirling Council currently used a number of Arms-Length External Organisations (ALEOs) and economic partnerships to deliver services with an economic development focus. This included Stirling Enterprise Park (STEP).

In order to ensure that the outputs of these organisations remained suitably aligned to the strategic objectives of Stirling Council, and represented best value, ALEOs report annually to Finance & Economy Committee.

Gordon Bell, Chief Executive Stirling Enterprise Park attended the meeting and spoke about the STEP's Annual Review for 2018/19.

He relayed to Committee that STEP purpose was the Start-up and growth advice, in the main, through the Business Gateway contract which STEP delivered on the Council's behalf. Funding secured through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) further supported this, with a focus on specialist and key sector support.

STEP also provided a number of in-house functions, including paid for training programmes, HR support, venue hire and management of business accommodation, including Stirling Enterprise Park (John Player Building), Wellgreen Business Centre and Enterprise House.

Following on from a Members' question, Gordon Bell confirmed that the commercial market had been through a period of decline. He explained that at the start of the year, there had been a great demand, but dropped off after six months, explaining that a number of small organisations were co-sharing.

He also confirmed that STEP had been working on a redevelopment plan for the John Player Building. The building required a number of improvements, in particular the roof. He noted that a previous plan that had been created would be reviewed for possible implementation.

Committee thanked Gordon Bell for attending the meeting.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE143 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the Rolling Action Log, with follow-up information being distributed for outstanding actions.

FE144 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FINAL OUTTURN

The Chief Officer – Finance presented Committee with a report of the final outturn position on the overall General Fund revenue budget position for 2018/19.

The report also asked the Finance and Economy Committee to recommend that Council approve the updating of the 2019/20 General Services Capital Programme budget to reflect additional carry forward commitments and virements.

Service budgets were reporting a net overspend of £178k, representing a favourable movement of £526k from the reported position in April.

The most significant Service variances included a £1.938M underspend arising from early intervention work in relation to child residential placements, an overspend of £688k in Waste Services and an overspend of £1.714M in relation to the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Corporate budgets were reporting savings from loan charges of £1.25M, offset partly by a budgeting shortfall in Council Tax income of £215k.

Following discussion on the original budget savings options (detailed at paragraph 2.33 of the submitted report), the Chief Officer – Finance confirmed that a briefing note would be circulated to all Committee Members on why they had not been met and what the alternative measures had been taken to achieve the budget deficit.

Committee also requested that a report, on the above stated subject, would be submitted to the next meeting of the Finance & Economy Committee.

Following a request for clarification on costings, the Senior Manager – Infrastructure confirmed that costings for the Old Viewforth Cycle Shed would be sought and forwarded to Members of the Finance & Economy Committee.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note the final outturn positions for Service and Corporate areas of the budget;

2. the final uncommitted General Fund reserves of £9.192m at 31 March 2019 (4.4% of General Fund budget); and
3. to recommend that Council approve the updating of the 2019/20 General Services Capital Programme budget to reflect additional carry forward commitments and virements of £3.743m as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer - Finance, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE145 GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 UPDATE

The Senior Manager – Infrastructure submitted a report that provided Committee with an update on the capital programme for 2019/20. The report also confirmed the projects which were being delivered spanning two financial years and confirmed the financial carry forward position for these projects. It was the first of the quarterly reports of the new financial year to Committee, with the majority of the projects still within the early scoping / design or consultation stages.

The General Services Capital Programme delivered significant investment in Stirling's infrastructure that enabled key projects which were required to support economic growth, support the development of our communities and improve the services the council delivered across the Stirling area.

Council agreed its new capital allocation for 2019/20 in February 2019, committing £25.261M for 2019/20. It included provisional assumptions on the level of budget carry-forward from 2018/19.

The final carry-forward position from 2018/19 into 2019/20 was £3.74M.

In addition, since council set its budget in February the council had been successful in securing additional external grant from Scottish Government, as follows:

- Cowie Regeneration Grant £.0983M
- Town Centre Regeneration Grant £1.077M
- Rural Tourism Fund Grant £0.240M

It provided a revised total capital budget for 2019/20 of £31.904M.

The Senior Manager – Infrastructure also confirmed that spend and profile of future years capital projects would be circulated to Members in July 2019.

In response to a number of questions raised by Members, details were confirmed that plans for flood elevation in Aberfoyle would be sent to the Scottish Government, a business case was being devised for the income generation at the Tolbooth, marketing promotion for food and drink production facilities at STEP was underway and clarity of the costings for the changing places (disabled changing facilities) was provided.

The Committee passed on thanks to the Senior Manager – Infrastructure and his team on the work entailed and success in securing additional grant funding.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note the content of the 2019/20 programme;
2. the carry forward allocations of funding for projects which span financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20 as noted in Appendix 1 to the submitted report; and
3. to note the additional external grants secured by the Council in this Year.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager - Infrastructure, dated 5 June 2019, submitted)

FE146 PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES PROGRESS REPORT

A report by the Chief Officer – Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development presented the recommended performance indicators to be reported to Finance & Economy Committee, in line with Council Priorities.

The Portfolio & Business Manager confirmed that the scorecards for the Finance & Economy Committee were under review and he would be working with the Convener and Vice Convener to make them more user friendly. He also clarified that a number of the targets on the scorecard were local derived rather than nationally.

The Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism confirmed that the “number of days’ duration stay for tourists” would be updated following the publication of the annual report later in June.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the performance of indicators within the Committee Scorecard (Appendix 1).

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE147 ANNUAL REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT WORK 2018/19

The report submitted by the Chief Officer – HR provided an account of the ongoing operation of the Supporting Attendance Policy and the Attendance Capability Procedure, with activity to prevent ill health and provide support when employees experience ill health. Analysing the reasons for absence enhanced our understanding of employees’ experiences and enabled the promotion of a caring culture, which valued our employees.

Levels of sickness absence had increased during 2018/19, however, it followed a national trend. An increase in long-term absence (beyond 20 days) had occurred, with increases in absence due to Heart, Cancer, Respiratory conditions, however 54% of employees experienced no absence during 2018/19. There had been a reduction in total days absent due to stress and musculoskeletal conditions.

It was noted by Members the number of “Return to Work” (RTW) forms that were outstanding and requested clarity that these interviews were happening. The Chief Officer – HR assured the Committee that management do have discussions with staff on return from sickness absence, that a new online return to work form had been introduced this year and more work needed to be done to ensure they were being completed.

Following a question regarding disciplinary action in relation to either stress or mental health issues, the Chief Officer – HR confirmed that where these concerns were raised, an appointment with Occupational Health was arranged, there would be liaison with the person’s General Practitioner if required, and support would be provided through the Attendance Capability Procedure which was about finding solutions to continue the working relations.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the content of the report and the action being taken to support employee attendance.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer HR, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

E148 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE INCLUDING DOMESTIC ABUSE

A report submitted by the Chief Officer – HR informed the Finance and Economy Committee of the development of the Gender Based Violence Policy including Domestic Abuse.

Gender based violence was violence directed against a person on the basis of their gender. Gender based violence covered different types of abuse including harassment and stalking, rape and sexual assault, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, trafficking and domestic abuse.

Although gender based violence was experienced mostly by women and perpetrated mainly by men, it did not mean it never happened to men, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, but did recognise that women and girls were disproportionately affected by gender based violence.

In response to a Members’ question, the HR Advice & Policy Manager confirmed a timetable of training across the Council would be actioned.

The Committee all agreed that the policy was a valued piece of work.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to approve the Policy developed relating to Gender Based Violence and Domestic Abuse.

(Reference: Report by Chief HR Officer, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE149 “TOWARDS COMMERCIAL EXCELLENCE”: COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2018 -2021 AND “TOWARDS COMMERCIAL EXCELLENCE”: COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development submitted a report noting Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 which required any public organisation which had an estimated regulated spend of £5M or more in any financial year to develop, publish and review a procurement strategy annually. The Act also required public organisations to publish an Annual Report on its regulated procurement activity in the previous financial year as soon as reasonably practicable after the financial year end.

The report sought approval for a revised corporate procurement strategy for the period 2018 – 2021 and Stirling Council's Commissioning & Procurement Annual Report 2019 which would enable compliance with mandatory requirements as laid out in the Act.

Stirling Council's influenceable external spend was in excess of £100M each year on goods, services and works.

Following discussion on the Procurement & Commissioning staff training, the Category Manager – Services for People confirmed a national tool was used to deliver in-house staff training, noting staff who were accountable for budgets were also trained.

It was noted that a section of the Commissioning and Procurement Strategy provided an overview of what would be included in the Community Benefits Policy but no specifics. The Committee agreed that a report covering Community Benefits detailing apprenticeships etc. would be submitted to a future meeting of the Finance & Economy Committee.

It was also agreed that a report on Procurement detailing the future challenges and the proactive measures taken by Stirling Council towards influencing a circular economy be submitted to a future Finance & Economy Committee.

The Committee noted that the "Construction Charter" would be required to be formally approved by Council/appropriate Committee.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note the content of the report;
2. to approve the revised version of Stirling Council's "Towards Commercial Excellence" Procurement & Commissioning Strategy 2018-2021; and
3. to approve Stirling Council's "Towards Commercial Excellence" Commissioning & Procurement Annual Report 2019.

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development, dated 14 June 2019, submitted)

At 12.10pm the Committee agreed to adjourn for a comfort break.

*The Meeting reconvened at 12.20pm with all Elected Members
(previously noted) present.*

FE150 COMPLAINTS, ELECTED MEMBERS & MP/MSP ENQUIRIES

The report submitted by the Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development presented the latest reporting information for Complaints, Elected Members Enquiries and MP/MSP Enquiries for the period April 2018 – December 2018.

Overall performance for all stages of complaints had increased over the past two years. During 2017/2018, 68% of Stage 1 complaints were answered on time and 85% of Stage 2.

Stirling Council had observed an increase in Elected Members enquiry numbers, with annual performance staying consistent and averaging 87% handled within timescale. Within the last quarter January to March 2019, it averaged 264 enquiries a month and performance was now approximately 90%.

Councillor Jim Thomson noted that a number of enquiries had not been actioned and would forward to the Complaints Team to be addressed.

In clarity to the respond time to both MP/MSP and Elected Members enquiries, the Corporate Complaints Co-ordinator confirmed 15 working days for MP/MSP and 5 working days for Elected Members enquiries.

It was also requested by Committee that when Elected Members responses were answered the original query/question be included along with the reference number due to the number of queries that the Members receive.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the performance (Appendices 1, 2 & 3 to the submitted report).

(Reference: Report by Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning & Customer Development, dated 5 June 2019, submitted)

FE151 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY MODEL

A joint report by the Chief Officer – Strategic, Commissioning & Customer Development and Chief Officer – Finance submitted proposal for a new process for Budget Planning within Stirling Council. It proposed a move away from Priority Based Budgeting and suggested a new and inclusive approach to Budget Planning. The key to making the process successful was planning early, running the process throughout the year and ensuring continued engagement and conversation with staff and members of the community. The aspiration was that it becomes the way the council communicates and operates.

Stirling Council would be facing significant financial pressure over the next 5 years. It was anticipated a reduction of 15% to our net Revenue Budget. It equates to £32 million over the next 5 years.

It was recognised that the current planning approach (Priority Based Budgeting) had served the Council well over the past 5 years and had contributed to financial sustainability to this point. However, the practice of taking list of cuts to services out for consultation, before budget setting would not form part of the proposed approach. A more inclusive methodology from the outset would inform and influence budget decision making throughout the calendar year.

Following discussion, Committee noted that previous ideas generated through the older process could be reconsidered to meet the deficit along with any new ideas generated.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to approve a multiple channel approach to Budget Planning for 2020/21 as detailed at paragraph 2.1 to 2.14 of the submitted report; and
2. to approve the next steps below detailed at paragraph 2.15 of the submitted report.

(Reference: Joint report by Chief Officer – Strategic Commissioning and Customer Development and Chief Finance Officer, dated 3 June 2019, submitted)

FE152 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2018/19

The Chief Officer – Finance provided a report that detailed the 2018/19 Treasury Management performance with the actual prudential indicators for this period. It served to evidence compliance with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19.

The Prudential Indicators for 2018/19 were originally approved in the Revenue Budget and Determination of Council Tax 2018/19 presented to Stirling Council on 22 February 2018. Following approval of the 2018/19 budget, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 included Prudential Indicators, was presented to, and approved by Finance & Economy Committee on 1 March 2018.

The CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code (2017 edition) recommended that Members receive reports on the Council's Treasury Management policies, practice and activities, including as a minimum, an annual strategy report, a mid-year report and an annual performance report.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the treasury management performance, including prudential indicators, for 2018/19.

(Reference: Report by Chief Finance Officer, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE153 DUNBLANE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (DISCOVER DUNBLANE LTD) UPDATE

A report by the Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism provided the Finance and Economy Committee with an update on the activities and actions of Discover Dunblane Ltd – Dunblane’s Business Improvement District (BID).

A Business Improvement District (BID) was a business-led initiative within a defined geographical area where businesses, after a ballot, work collectively to invest, using funds generated by a levy based on property rated value and levered funding, in defined projects that had been identified by businesses to improve their operating environment. These projects must be in addition to statutory services provided by the public sector.

Stirling Council, through the Finance and Economy Committee, agreed to support the development of a Dunblane BID and following the ballot process, which took place in January and February 2015, local businesses voted for the establishment of a BID, based on the proposed 5-year business plan.

Following the establishment of the BID Company (Discover Dunblane Ltd) and associated appointments, the BID commenced its initial term, from 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2020, during which it was tasked with delivering the 5-year business plan presented to local businesses in advance of the ballot process.

The maximum term any BID could serve was 5 years before a further ballot was required to proceed to a further term. The Directors of Discover Dunblane Ltd. had noted their intention to proceed with a ballot for a second term. The ballot process, with associated dates, was yet to be confirmed but would require to be concluded in advance of the end of the first term, on 30 April 2020.

Discover Dunblane Ltd had made a request to Stirling Council, to administer the required postal ballot process through in-kind support.

The Committee noted the progress made and requested that a yearly update report on development of Dunblane BID be submitted to Finance & Economy Committee.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note recent progress made, by Discover Dunblane Ltd, against the objectives and themes set out within the approved business plan; and planned areas of development for 2019;
2. to note that the Board of Directors of Discover Dunblane Ltd would seek a second BID term through a postal ballot in 2020; and
3. to agree that Stirling Council would provide in-kind support through facilitation of the proposed postal ballot process on dates to be agreed in 2020.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager, Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE154 STIRLING CITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism submitted a report that highlighted that Stirling City Centre was the hub of economic activity within the area and its continuing success and growth was vital to the health of the local economy. In recognition of this, the Economic Growth Service was, in partnership with a number of stakeholders, delivering a range of actions and projects designed to support sustainable and inclusive growth in our city.

The Stirling City Centre Economic Action Plan was approved in February 2018. This report provided an update on progress, highlighted key achievements and outlined plans.

The Committee agreed that the proposal was to be known as an “Action Plan” rather than a Strategy.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note the contents of the report;
2. to note that Officers would work with partners and stakeholders to develop a five-year City Centre Action Plan to be brought back to Finance and Economy Committee, for approval, on 21 November 2019.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE155 TOWN CENTRE FUND - CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION 2019-20

The Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism provided a report on the update of the Town Centre Fund – Capital Grant Allocation 2019-2020 and a recommended approach for Stirling.

Scottish Ministers, in exercise of their powers under defined legislation, had made a grant of £50,000,000 available to Local Authorities, payable in financial year 2019/20 for the purposes of driving local economic activity and to stimulate and support place based economic improvements to town centres.

The aim of the grant was defined as *“to invest inclusive growth which supports town centre to become more diverse and sustainable, creating footfall through local improvements and partnerships which encourage town centres to become more vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible places for their communities”*.

The confirmed allocation for Stirling Council was £1,077,000.

Members’ noted the allocation of funding for the more disadvantaged areas and praised the proposal. The Senior Manager - Economic Development, Culture & Tourism confirmed that the Locality Plan would be reviewed for the inclusion of St Ninians Toll and advise Members of the Committee accordingly.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Panel that would decide funding would also include consultation with the Opposition Spokespersons from Finance & Economy Committee and Community Planning & Regeneration Committee.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed:

1. to note the purpose of the Town Centre Fund-Capital Grant allocation 2019-20 and Stirling's allocation;
2. to agree that the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism service would develop funding guidelines which prioritise proposed investments which align with existing council priorities and demonstrate inclusive growth;
3. to approve the proposed allocation split of £600k to support our more disadvantaged communities and £477k to the rest of Stirling's towns and villages;
4. to delegate authority for funding decisions to a panel of senior officers comprising of the Chief Executive, Senior Manager - Infrastructure, Senior Manager - Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Chief Officer – Finance, in consultation with the Convener, Vice Convener and Opposition Spokesperson of Finance and Economy Committee and Convener, Vice-Convener and Opposition Spokesperson of Community Planning and Regeneration Committee; and
5. to note that an update report would be presented to Finance & Economy Committee in Early 2020.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

FE156 RURAL BROADBAND UPDATE

The report submitted by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism highlighted Stirling Council was committed to improving internet access and speed of connectivity across rural Stirling, recognising its importance in supporting sustainable communities and delivering economic growth.

The Council had committed both revenue and capital support to address the gaps in rural Broadband provision. The report gave an update on progress to date and future projects and activities.

Decision

The Finance & Economy Committee agreed to note the progress made by Officers.

(Reference: Report by Senior Manager – Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, dated 4 June 2019, submitted)

The Convener closed the Meeting at 1.30pm.