

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**CABINET**

**Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 13 May 2021.**

**Present:**

Councillor Tony Buchanan (Leader)  
Councillor Caroline Bamforth  
Councillor Danny Devlin

Councillor Colm Merrick  
Councillor Alan Lafferty

Councillor Buchanan, Leader, in the Chair

**Attending:**

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Phil Daws, Head of Environment (Strategic Services); Gillian McCarney, Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer); Sharon McIntyre, Committee Services Officer and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

Councillor Paul O’Kane.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1636.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**LAND AT 48-58 MAIN STREET, NEILSTON**

**1637.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 12 March 2020 (Page 1149, Item 1241 refers), when the Cabinet, amongst other things, had agreed to the transfer of land to the front of the shops at 48-58 Main Street Neilston from the shopkeepers to the Council at nil value, the Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, advising that the shopkeepers had reconsidered and no longer wished to dispose of the ground to the Council as previously outlined.

The Cabinet noted that the shopkeepers no longer wished to transfer the land to the Council.

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT – LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**1638.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment providing an update on the development and implementation of the East Renfrewshire Council model for the distribution of the Scottish Government’s Local Authority Discretionary Fund.

The report outlined that East Renfrewshire Council had administered over £17 million of COVID-19 business support grants since March 2020.

It was explained that the Council was originally allocated £539,846 from the Scottish Government's Local Authority Discretionary Fund in December 2020, and that following agreement by the Council, the Director of Environment in consultation with the Leader of the Council had prepared an eligibility and distribution scheme for the fund locally. Details of the approved scheme were circulated to all Elected Members in February 2021.

It was further explained that in March 2021 the Scottish Government had announced additional funds to Local Authorities for the Local Authority Discretionary Fund to enable them to provide additional support for businesses in their area. East Renfrewshire Council had been allocated a further £1,254,281.

For the additional funds received in March 2021 it was proposed that top-up payments would be made to local eligible businesses who had already received support from the Local Authority Discretionary Fund. Broad details of the previously approved eligibility criteria for the fund and proposed payments accompanied the report.

Councillor Bamforth requested information on the businesses who had been refused or had been found not to be eligible for the Local Authority Discretionary Fund to be circulated to members of the Cabinet.

Having heard from the Head of Environment (Strategic Services) and following various Members welcome the additional funding for businesses during this extremely difficult time, the Cabinet:-

- a) approved the proposal that the additional grant received of £1.254 million be used for top-up payments to those eligible businesses that had already received a grant; and
- b) noted that Council staff had administered over £17 million of COVID-19 business support grants since March 2020.

## **GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL UPDATE**

**1639.** In view of the late circulation of the report, Councillor Buchanan proposed that consideration of the report be continued to the next meeting of the Cabinet scheduled on 3 June 2021.

Having heard the Director of Environment in support of the proposal for continuation, the Cabinet agreed to continue the consideration of the report to the meeting of the Cabinet on 3 June 2021 to allow time for Cabinet and other elected members to review the paper.

## **ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME 2021/22**

**1640.** The Cabinet considered a report by the Director of Environment, which advised of the major additional Roads Works Programme in relation to Carriageway and Footway Resurfacing for 2021/22.

The report outlined that the 2021/22 proposed roads works programme would use the additional capital resources of £3 million made available to improve the roads condition across the authority. The majority of the additional funding would be directed towards C class and unclassified roads. A proposed Roads Works Programme covering major carriageway and footway resurfacing accompanied the report.

Having heard from the Head of Environment (Chief Planning Officer), Members welcomed the additional capital resources of £3 million to improve the roads condition across the authority.

In response to Councillor Devlin who raised the poor condition of some roads held on the Housing Revenue Account and whether they could be included in the General Fund Programme, the Director of Environment explained that he had sought legal advice which confirmed that this was not permitted. He advised that work had started looking into the possibility of the transfer of roads held on the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund.

Members were in agreement that a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet to consider options for the possible transfer of roads held on the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund.

The Cabinet approved the roads resurfacing works programme.

CHAIR

