

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – REMOTE MEETING

17th June, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 12.35 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, David Barratt, John Beare, Tim Brett, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Bobby Clelland, Dave Coleman, Bill Connor, Altany Craik, Neil Crooks, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, John Docherty, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, David Graham, Fiona Grant, Sharon Green-Wilson, Gary Guichan, Garry Haldane, Jean Hall-Muir, Andy Heer, Zoe Hisbent, Linda Holt, Gordon Langlands, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Mino Manekshaw, Karen Marjoram, Alice McGarry, Lea McLelland, Tony Miklinski, Derek Noble, Dominic Nolan, John O'Brien, Tony Orton, Ross Paterson, Bill Porteous, Graham Ritchie, David Ross, David J Ross, Fay Sinclair, Ryan Smart, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Brian Thomson, Andrew Verrecchia, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt and Jan Wincott.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Mick Green, Judy Hamilton, Margaret Kennedy, Mary Lockhart, Kate Stewart and Richard Watt.

238. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

239. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN

There was circulated at the meeting a Civic Business Bulletin, a copy of which is appended as Appendix 1 to the minute.

240. MINUTE

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Beare, moved that the minute of the meeting of Fife Council of 20th May, 2021 be approved.

Decision

The Council approved the minute.

241. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

The minutes of the undernoted Committees and Sub-Committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:-

(1) Central and West Planning Committee of 12th May, 2021.

(2)/

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- (2) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 20th November 2020.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 10th May, 2021.
- (4) Policy and Co-ordination Committee of 13th May, 2021.
- (5) Education, Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of 25th May, 2021.
- (6) Glenrothes Area Committee of 19th May, 2021.
- (7) Levenmouth Area Committee of 19th May, 2021.

Decision

The Council noted the minutes.

242. CO-LEADERS' REPORT

The Council considered a report by the Co-Leaders on a number of strategic issues. The Co-Leaders provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members.

Decision

The Council noted the report.

243. QUESTION TIME

In terms of Standing Order 1.7, the questions put by members to the meeting, the written answer and supplementary questions, are contained in Appendix 2 to the minute.

Councillor Lothian joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

244. WORK OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Council considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services which provided members with an update on the work undertaken by the Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and the Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee in sessions 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The report also advised of the proposed work programmes for the Committees for the coming year, as required in terms of the List of Committee Powers.

The Provost allowed the Conveners of both Scrutiny Committees to update members on the work of their respective Committees and answered questions from members.

Decision

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The Council noted the report.

Councillor Holt left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 a.m. and reconvened at 11.25 a.m.

245. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which required the Council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order 8.1.

The Provost advised the Council that, at the request of the mover, Motion 2 had been withdrawn.

Motion 1

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Brett, moved as follows:-

Single Use Plastics at Schools

“Council notes that Fife Council initially agreed to phase out the removal of single-use plastics at the Environment, Protective Services & Community Safety Committee in August 2018. The committee approved further changes to reduce single-use plastics in 2019 by cutting single-use plastic cutlery, cups, straws and cable ties from use by Fife Council, Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Sports & Leisure Trust.

Council further notes that the ‘Cut it out’ campaign has made progress in reducing use of single use plastics. However single use plastics are still used for a number of items in schools, including in the delivery of school meals.

Fife Council also notes Motion 1 of the Council meeting of 12 November 2020 which showed our commitments for climate change education and the subsequent report made to the Education and Children’s Services Subcommittee made on 11 May 2021.

Fife Council believes that it is critical for our environment to redouble our efforts to remove single use plastics.

Fife Council asks for the Education and Children’s Services Directorate to redouble it’s efforts to remove single use plastics from schools. This is not only important for the environmental impact but also from an educational point of view, as we seek to move away from damaging single use plastics.

Council calls for a further paper in the future to the Education and Children’s Services Subcommittee which will include details on both the plan to remove these single use plastics as well as full details on progress so far.”

Amendment/

Amendment 1

Councillor Leslie, seconded by Councillor Darren Watt, moved as follows:-

“Fife Council notes, Motion 3 of 8th March 2018 calling for transitioning away from single-use plastics commencing at Fife House and Rothesay House and the subsequent Amendment that a Council Zero Waste Resources Strategy would be considered by the Environment, Protective Services & Community Safety Committee.

Fife Council also notes the commitments made in Motion 7 of 13th December 2018 to continue working towards the removal of all avoidable single-use plastics from all Council services.

Fife Council recognises the work that has continued to be done by community groups, schools, elected representatives and Council officers to reduce single-use plastics – whilst recognising that much of this has been fraught with delays in implementation due to the pandemic.

Fife Council asks for a paper to the Education & Children’s Services Sub-Committee to outline progress until now in all Fife schools to transition away from single-use plastics including, but not exclusive to, school meal provision. Additionally, requests for detail on measures taken to ensure safe, through signage & education, recyclable disposal of single-use face coverings to minimise environmental impact.

Fife Council asks for a report to the Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee to detail progress made throughout all Council buildings to this date on the reduction in single-use plastics.”

Amendment 2

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved as follows:-

“Add a sentence to the second last paragraph ""council also recognises the important roles catering services and facilities management have in moving away from single use plastics”

And change the final paragraph to

"Council calls for further papers to the Education and Children’s Services Sub-Committee and the Assets and Corporate Services Sub-Committee which will include details on both the plan.....as is until the end.”

The movers of the motion and both amendments agreed to conjoin and the conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

Single Use Plastics at Schools

“Council notes that Fife Council initially agreed to phase out the removal of single-use plastics at the Environment, Protective Services & Community Safety Committee in August 2018. The committee approved further changes to reduce single/

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single-use plastics in 2019 by cutting single-use plastic cutlery, cups, straws and cable ties from use by Fife Council, Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Sports & Leisure Trust.

Fife Council notes, Motion 3 of 8th March 2018 calling for transitioning away from single-use plastics commencing at Fife House and Rothesay House and the subsequent Amendment that a Council Zero Waste Resources Strategy would be considered by the Environment, Protective Services & Community Safety Committee.

Fife Council also notes the commitments made in Motion 7 of 13th December 2018 to continue working towards the removal of all avoidable single-use plastics from all Council services.

Council further notes that the 'Cut it out' campaign has made progress in reducing use of single use plastics. However single use plastics are still used for a number of items in schools, including in the delivery of school meals.

Fife Council also notes Motion 1 of the Council meeting of 12 November 2020 which showed our commitments for climate change education and the subsequent report made to the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee made on 11 May 2021.

Fife Council believes that it is critical for our environment to redouble our efforts to remove single use plastics.

Fife Council recognises the work that has continued to be done by community groups, schools, elected representatives and Council officers to reduce single-use plastics – whilst recognising that much of this has been fraught with delays in implementation due to the pandemic.

Fife Council asks for a paper to the Education & Children's Services Sub-Committee to outline progress until now in all Fife schools to transition away from single-use plastics including, but not exclusive to, school meal provision. Additionally, requests for detail on measures taken to ensure safe, through signage & education, recyclable disposal of single-use face coverings to minimise environmental impact.

Council also recognises the important roles catering services and facilities management have in moving away from single use plastics and asks for a report to the Assets and Corporate Services Sub-Committee and Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee to detail progress made throughout all Council buildings to this date on the reduction in single-use plastics."

Decision

The conjoined motion was agreed unanimously.

Motion 3

Councillor/

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Councillor Tepp, seconded by Councillor Brett, moved as follows:-

“Council are disappointed that the PO and Spar have not been able to find a way to continue the provision of the 6 Post Offices in Fife proposed for closure in the next few months and calls on the Co-Leaders to write to the Post Office and urge them to continue talks with Spar to reverse this decision and if this is not possible find alternative ways to provide a Post Office service for the affected communities.”

Amendment 1

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor David J Ross, moved as follows:-

Append the following paragraph

“Council commends the sterling service offered by individual retailers who provide Post Office counters in premises across Fife and asks for a report to the relevant committee on how Fife Council might aid and encourage others to do likewise”.

Amendment 2

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Beare, moved as follows:-

“Council notes and expresses its disappointment and concern that in June 2021 the Post Office and Spar have announced the removal of counter services from six communities in Fife: East Wemyss, Thornton, Balmullo, Ladybank, Newport on Tay and Tom Morris Drive in St Andrews.

Council notes that the Convenor of Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee has written to Spar and Post Office expressing our desire to work with all parties to find a solution to the proposed closures that will adversely impact on our communities and their ability to access vital cash services.

Council also notes that the Convenor of Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee has written to both UK and Scottish Government Ministers to convene a round table to bring parties together, should it be necessary, to resolve the withdrawal of service.

Council agrees to endorse continuing action in relation to the withdrawal of Post office services which reaches into many communities in Fife and requests a briefing note and updates from Economic Development to be shared with members on progress towards retention and reprovision of services where they have been lost recently.

The mover of the motion agreed to accept both amendments in place of the motion with an additional sentence. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

“Council notes and expresses its disappointment and concern that in June 2021 the Post Office and Spar have announced the removal of counter services from six/

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six communities in Fife: East Wemyss, Thornton, Balmullo, Ladybank, Newport on Tay and Tom Morris Drive in St Andrews.

Council notes that the Convenor of Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee has written to Spar and Post Office expressing our desire to work with all parties to find a solution to the proposed closures that will adversely impact on our communities and their ability to access vital cash services.

Council also notes that the Convenor of Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee has written to both UK and Scottish Government Ministers to convene a round table to bring parties together, should it be necessary, to resolve the withdrawal of service.

Council agrees to endorse continuing action in relation to the withdrawal of Post office services which reaches into many communities in Fife and requests a briefing note and updates from Economic Development to be shared with members on progress towards retention and reprovision of services where they have been lost recently.

Council commends the sterling service offered by individual retailers who provide Post Office counters in premises across Fife and asks for a report to the relevant committee on how Fife Council might aid and encourage others to do likewise.

Council agreed to take forward any action on a cross party basis including working with MPs and MSPs.”

Decision

The conjoined motion was agreed unanimously.

246. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

Remote Committee Meetings Update

With the agreement of the Provost, the Chief Executive provided members with a brief update on the continuation of remote Committee meetings.

The Chief Executive reminded members that it had been agreed in March, 2021 to continue with remote Committee meetings due to Scottish Government guidance, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive to review the situation should Scottish Government advice change.

At the current time, public health restrictions remain at Level 1 with a move to Level 0 likely to be delayed until late July, meaning the advice from Scottish Government was to continue to work from home where possible.

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It was noted that a briefing on the outcome of the blended meeting solution (including feedback from political groups) would be issued to members during the recess.

Members were advised that meeting appointments would be issued via Teams until the end of the calendar year subject to the outcome of the review and any further guidance from Scottish Government.