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THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

31 August 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Brett (Convener), Neil Crooks, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Rosemary Liewald, Lea McLelland, Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Ryan Smart, Darren Watt and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services; Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services, Lisa McCann, Service Manager, Environmental Health (Food & Workplace Safety), Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Anne-Marie Cardle, HR Service Manager, Human Resources; Sharon Douglas, Community Investment Team Manager, Zahida Ramzan, Policy Co-ordinator (Equalities), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillor Ross Vettraino (for Paragraph 56) and Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

55. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 1 June 2021.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

56. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services providing an overview of the functions, responsibility and current challenges for Environmental Health in Fife.

The meeting adjourned at 11.00 a.m. and reconvened at 11.20 a.m.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

(1) to note the information in the report, including the impact of the Covid19 Pandemic on the Environmental Health activities and the current resource difficulties;

(2)/

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- (2) to note that the Head of Protective Services, in consultation with the Head of Human Resources and Head of Finance, would undertake a review of the staffing levels within Protective Services required to fulfil the Environmental Health statutory functions, giving cognisance to age profile, recruitment difficulties, salary, student training and succession planning;
- (3) to ask for a report to come back to the next Scrutiny Committee on the managing change exercise and the review of staffing levels; and
- (4) to express concern to the Administration on the current Environmental Health staffing levels, ask them to ensure that this was given a priority within the Council and to request that the Council leaders raise this nationally to support the focus on this area.

57. FIFE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THIRD SECTOR

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing an update on actions agreed previously to strengthen the relationship between Fife Council and Fife's third sector.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

58. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - UPDATE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on initial feedback received from community organisations on their experience of the community asset transfer process.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the contents of the report; and
- (2) that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

59. ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme which would be further updated as appropriate.
