

2021 EFCSC 14

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

2nd February, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.40 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Brett (Convener), Neil Crooks, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Rosemary Liewald, Fay Sinclair, Ryan Smart, Darren Watt and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue & Commercial Services, Caroline MacDonald, Procurement Service Manager, Revenue & Commercial Services, Finance & Corporate Services; Stuart Fergie, Programme Manager (Commercialisation), Communities and Neighbourhoods; John Mills, Head of Service, Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Housing Access & Homelessness, Housing Services; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

35. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 27th October 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

36. SHORT TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020-21

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing information to allow members to review and scrutinise the financial strategy that had been developed for the Council in order to ensure a sustainable financial position in the short term following the significant financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the content of the report on the short-term financial strategy which had also been presented to the Policy and Co-ordination Committee on 7th January, 2021.

Councillor Darren Watt joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

37. ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing details of the Council's approach to meeting Scottish housing regulatory requirements, particularly in the identification of areas of non-compliance in the Scottish Social Housing Charter, as reported to the Scottish Housing Regulator through the Annual Assurance Statement.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) To note the approach to housing performance improvement, particularly in addressing the areas of non-compliance with the Scottish Social Housing Charter; and
- (2) that members be kept advised of any areas where Fife Council was not in the top quartile.

38. COMMERCIALISATION PROGRAMME - PROCUREMENT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services advising of progress on the "Transforming Fife Council's Procurement Service" project as part of the Commercialisation Programme and wider Changing to Deliver Programme over the past 6 months.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) the progress made in transforming the Council's Procurement Service;
- (2) the Scotland Excel Year 2 progress report;
- (3) that Scotland Excel had now exited from Fife;
- (4) the financial benefits being delivered and on target to be delivered;
- (5) that the Programme would close in March 2021 with all procurement project follow on activity falling into Business as Usual activity; and
- (6) that a further update report would be submitted to the Committee in 6 months.

39. HOUSING ACCESS RECOVERY PLAN

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services outlining progress in implementing the Housing Access Recovery Plan which was supported by the Convener and Vice Convener of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee on 19th September, 2020 as a response to the significant and damaging impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on housing operations and supply.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress in terms of housing supply and demand; and
- (2) that a report on the revised private sector leasing scheme be provided once the scheme had been considered by the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee.

**40. ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD
WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme which would be further updated as appropriate.
