

Cowdenbeath Area Committee

Due to Scottish Government Guidance relating to Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely



Wednesday, 28th April, 2021 - 2.00 p.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct members of the Committee are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **MINUTE** – Minute of Meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 10th March, 2021. 3 – 7
4. **HOUSING PLAN - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT** – Report by the Head of Housing Services 8 – 17
5. **PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS** – Report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment 18 – 19
6. **COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** 20 – 21
7. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Question 1.

The Bells Project, an ongoing saga of over 10 years now has surely dragged on long enough? This simple project, to mount two of our community's historic church bells in a cairn at the entrance to Lochore Meadows must surely be completed this year?

Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

Morag Ferguson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

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21 April, 2021

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THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

10th March, 2021

2.02 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Erskine (Convener), Alistair Bain, Alex Campbell, Gary Guichan, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea Mclelland and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Peter Corbett, Lead Officer Economy, Economy, Planning and Employability Services; Neil Watson, Lead Consultant (Roads and Lighting Asset Management), John O'Neil, Team Manager - City of Dunfermline, South West Fife & Cowdenbeath, Phil Clarke, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management (South Fife), Allan Maclean, Lead Consultant Sustainable Traffic and Travel, Assets Transportation and Environment, Roads and Transportation Services; Ian Laing, Park Manager (Cowdenbeath), Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Communities and Neighbourhood; Ronan Capon, Senior Active School Co-ordinator, Education and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Bailey-Lee Robb, MSYP.

210. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

211. MINUTE - MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE OF 13TH JANUARY, 2021

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 13th January, 2021.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

212. PRESENTATION - ACTIVE SCHOOLS PROJECTS

The Committee considered a presentation by Ronan Capon, Active School Coordinator, relating to Active School Projects.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) welcomed and noted the presentation; and
- (2) agreed to continue to promote and support the ongoing active school project.

213./

213. COWDENBEATH AREA ECONOMIC PROFILE (FEBRUARY 2021)

The Committee considered a presentation and report by the Head of Business and Employability providing an annual overview of the local economic profile for the Cowdenbeath Committee Area using the latest available published data.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) welcomed and noted the presentation;
- (2) noted the issues raised from the current analysis of available data;
- (3) noted support given to businesses during 2019-2020;
- (4) recognised the ongoing economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and European exit; and
- (5) agreed to receive further updates on the delivery of Fife Council's Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan in relation to the Cowdenbeath Area.
- (6) agreed to an additional recommendation to include that officers would look at the allocated resources within the Cowdenbeath Area in order to develop and deliver the economic profile within the Cowdenbeath Area.

214. GRASSLANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service detailing the proposed changes to the management of grassland in the area and the outcome of the community consultation and engagement exercise.

Decision

The Committee, acknowledging the analysis of the public consultation and engagement exercise on the changes to the management of grassland, agreed to amend the recommendations in the report to read – where Ward 7 Cowdenbeath and Ward 8 Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty alternative grassland proposals are not accepted, areas proposed would revert back to amenity grassland maintenance regimes.

215. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2021-22 - DRAFT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment identifying the proposed projects for approval for the Area Roads Programme in the Cowdenbeath area for delivery as part of the 2021-22 financial year.

Decision./

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) approved the report and appendices 1-3 of the report;
- (2) delegated authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects, in line with available resources/funding as the programme developed, and in consultation with the Area Convener and Vice Convener; and
- (3) noted appendices 4 - 6 of the report.

216. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme for Cowdenbeath Area Committee, which would be updated as appropriate.

217. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Questions were submitted (in terms of Standing Order No 6.1.) by Mr Tom Kinnaird, resident of Benarty.

Question 1

Following on from my earlier question to the Committee at their meeting in October of 2020, the response given as to why the Lochty Burn passing to the south of the new homes at Kirkland Farm, Ballingry could not be fenced off is because a fence would hinder rescue efforts should a young child fall into the burn. Do the individual committee members agree with this answer and does the committee accept the liability which comes from taking this stance should a fatal accident occur?

Response

Councillor Erskine outlined Fife Council's position regarding liability. It was noted that the acceptance of questions would be at the discretion of the Convener and, considering that this question had been asked and answered already, the Convener had the discretion to refuse to accept another question on the same subject. There was also no obligation on individual committee members to provide supplementary answers to questions and no liability would be attached to the committee members in the event of an accident. Councillor Erskine accepted and acknowledged the additional and supplementary question and subsequent additional responses were noted.

A detailed answer was provided to the question at the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 14th October, 2020 (minute ref. Para. 190 of 2020.CAC.86 referred).

Supplementary./

Supplementary to this previous response, a further response was provided – that Transportation Development Management (South Fife) had requested the erection of a maximum of 4 pedestrian barrier panels at the rear of the footway/cycleway as it crossed the Lochty Burn. The request was made in terms of Condition 1c of the Roads Construction Consent granted to Springfield Properties.

Question 2

The Mary Pit Head at Lochore Meadows Country Park, constructed in 1920, had just passed her centenary without celebration but cordoned off by security fencing due to falling masonry from the structure. As owners, Fife Council has a duty of care for this Scheduled Monument, not least because of her historical and heritage significance to the local area, Fife and Scotland, but also due to the fact that the site is also a grave. Historic Scotland holds funds for the maintenance of assets such as this but for whatever reason, Fife Council have neglected their duty to apply for the costs of works and carry out routine maintenance in order to prevent the structural degradation we are seeing now. Warnings were given years ago but fell on deaf ears. What is the plan now?

Response

Fife Council was not approached at any time, by any organisation, expressing a wish to hold a celebratory event for the centenary of the Mary Pit Head in late 2019 or early 2020. Indeed, the winding gear frame was constructed above the second shaft (No. 2) in 1919 and completed in late 1919, attracting publicity on 9th January, 1920. Notwithstanding that, the safety of the public is paramount, and any number of celebrations had been curtailed or cancelled in 2020 for public safety reasons. Falling masonry would be the sort of public safety crisis which would necessitate the cordoning off of the pit head. Had a celebration been scheduled to coincide with the actual anniversary and prior to June 2020 the Pit Head would have been intact and no fencing was in place.

Fife Council are the current custodians of the Pit Head and whilst owners of scheduled monuments have no duty to maintain or improve management of their sites we are aware of the significance of the monument and have liaised with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) from the day that the masonry fell and in the weeks following. A bid to HES for financial assistance to effect repairs to the monument was turned down in December, 2020 on the basis that - 'Your expression of interest highlights that work is required to explore the extent of the damage to the structure whereas our Historic Environment Repair Grant supports the delivery of repair works rather than investigations into the extent of repairs required. We would expect all investigations to have been completed at the point of application in order to inform the proposals and provide estimated costs for the repairs.' We, therefore, must await the end of the lockdown period before we engage in the next step in the process.' This process commenced in June 2020 and, largely because of the global pandemic, progress in identifying a solution had not been as fast as desired.

Given./

Given that the process to repair 'concrete cancer' requires a full investigation to assess the extremities of the weakness, the removal of all cracked concrete, the cutting away or sandblasting of the exposed metal frame, the installation of replacement steel, the replacement of the concrete and a sealant, which is a specialised job involving scaffolding and an item of expenditure easily approaching c £200,000, all during a pandemic it may be premature to suggest that someone has neglected their duty between June and January.

It is emotive to suggest the site of the Pit Head is a grave. The shaft and the mine workings undeniably bore witness to a large number of very tragic accidents and deaths, but thanks , on many occasions at great personal risk to their extremely brave fellow workers, all of the dead and injured were brought to the surface. No single instance where the dead were abandoned below ground can be found.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the questions submitted by Mr Tom Kinnaird and the respective response; and
- (2) noted that costs be obtained to get an engineering survey completed for repair works to the Mary Pit Head monument.

28th April 2021

Agenda Item No. 04

Area Housing Plan Update

Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

Wards Affected: 7 & 8

Purpose

Members approved the Cowdenbeath Area Housing Services Plan 2017/19 in December 2017. A revised Plan for 2021/23 will be presented to Committee once there has been the opportunity to consult on future priorities for the Cowdenbeath Area.

This report provides an update on progress in delivering service priorities and performance information for the financial year 2020/21 where figures are available at an Area level.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Scrutinise and comment on the work progressed through the previous Area Housing Plan for the financial year 2020/21.
- Comment on Cowdenbeath area performance for the financial year 2020-21 outlined in Appendix 1
- Note the Expenditure for the HRA Locality Managed Budget for 2020/21 outlined in Appendix 2.

Resource Implications

Work is taking place within agreed HRA local and capital budgets.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal / risk implications arising from this report.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA Checklist is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Local tenants were involved in the development of the Area Housing Plan through local groups and events, as well as taking part in walkabouts with staff and members. We have also used feedback from the annual tenant survey to develop the plan. A similar approach will be taken for the development of the Cowdenbeath Area Housing Services Plan for 2021/23.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members approved a report in December 2017 which outlined the 2017/19 Cowdenbeath Area Housing Plan and set out how we intended to:
 - Understand and address housing needs in the area
 - Deliver effective housing management
- 1.2 The Council has a vision to create a fairer Fife where all residents live good lives, make informed choices and have a sense of control so that they can reach their full potential and where all children are safe, happy and healthy. At the heart of the Plan for Fife is the aim to reduce inequalities and to promote fairness in everything that we do. It is recognised that having a fairer Fife will benefit everyone. Housing Services as the largest landlord in Fife can improve the lives and opportunities of its tenants through effective neighbourhood management and community led improvement initiatives. We have a key role to work in partnership with others to reduce poverty in Fife and to ensure that we are acting 'one step sooner'.
- 1.3 This report includes measures to outline how well we are performing and addressing housing need in Cowdenbeath. Performance figures for the financial year 2020-21 are provided where this is available at an Area level. It also outlines how staff have adapted to deliver services during COVID lockdown. Housing Officers are now able to be more visible in local communities as we work our way through the Recovery Plan.
- 1.4 It is proposed that a revised Cowdenbeath Area Housing Plan be produced for 2021-23. This will outline future priorities that are informed through discussions at Ward Meetings and reflect the views of our local communities.

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 This report will focus on the following Plan for Fife headings-
 - Opportunities for all
 - Thriving places
 - Community led services
- 2.2 Attached to the report are two appendices –
 - Appendix 1 is a summary of Cowdenbeath Area performance information 2020-21

- Appendix 2 provides information on the expenditure of the 2020/21 locally managed budget allocation.

2.3 Opportunities for all

- The periods of lockdown during 2020/21 were a difficult and challenging time for many in our communities. Housing Services worked in partnership with others to help vulnerable households to obtain necessities such as food and prescriptions. We also provided advice and support to tenants who were worried about their rent. Housing Services focused on delivering business critical services. This included gas safety inspections, emergency repairs, dealing with anti-social behaviour, welfare checks, urgent allocations to homeless applicants, prioritising a transfer -led allocations approach to keep the housing market moving and support to older people in sheltered housing. Staff in the Cowdenbeath Team volunteered for redeployment to critical parts of our business.

Throughout this time, we have had to adapt to change and new ways of working. It has presented us with the opportunity to become more agile and review how we operate. We will focus going forward on improving the condition of our estates and addressing the welfare needs of our tenants.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of key performance information for the Financial Year 2020/21. The following areas are highlighted –

- Our percentage of rent loss due to empty houses figure has increased slightly at 1.41% and sits below the Fife average of 1.53 % We continue to have a focus on reducing delays for new tenants setting up home and minimising rent loss over the period.
- Void properties were turned around and reallocated in 2020/21 within 52 days compared to the Fife average of 58 days. This is an area where performance has declined due to COVID restrictions where only single trades could work in a void property. We are working hard to recover this performance. We need to minimise rent loss to ensure a more efficient management of our stock to drive savings in the Housing Revenue Account which is reinvested to improve tenant services and build new homes.
- Allocations to each housing list category:
 - 53.56 % to homeless,
 - 31.62 % to transfer,
 - 14.82 % to the housing list
- Allocations to Homeless applicants increased over the period in line with Council policy to move families faster out of temporary accommodation into secure tenancies. While we will maintain a focus on homelessness, as we work through our recovery plan, we will give an overriding priority to increase housing transfers through an enhanced transfer led approach to housing allocations. This is not a

change in policy, but in line with our Maximising Housing Options Approach, we need urgently to increase turnover and create more housing opportunities for a range of housing needs groups

- Due to the pandemic we have been limited in opportunities to facilitate moves where tenants are under occupying larger family sized properties. The Tenant Incentive Scheme (TIS) was used to assist 6 tenants with the costs associated with moving home. Practical help can be provided with the things that can sometimes be a barrier for people wishing to downsize and this includes removal costs, decoration, new carpets, furnishings and white goods. As restrictions are eased, we will continue to engineer moves where suitable properties can be identified to match the preferences of tenants who are under occupying and who have indicated they may be prepared to move.
- The Property Acquisition Policy has been used over the last year to buy back 4 family sized former council houses. This has been used to provide permanent housing for homeless families. We continue to actively look at opportunities to return larger former council properties back to stock to meet the housing needs of families in the Cowdenbeath area and where transfer chains can be created.
- The number of abandoned properties shows a decreasing trend with 19 compared to 29 for the same period last year. To improve tenancy sustainment the Housing Management Officers, offer a Tenancy Assistance service to tenants to help tenants to sustain their tenancies This support continued throughout the pandemic with telephone support and visits when restrictions allowed. We continue to make referrals for longer term and specialist housing support through our partner agencies.
- The number of routine repairs completed within timeframes is 5.2 days which is a slight improvement from the previous year with the figure for resolving emergency repairs showing a decrease by over 1 hour to 2.27 hours.
- The table on Appendix One shows the recorded breaches of Tenancy actions for anti-social behaviour. Most complaints are of a low level and involve estate management or environmental type issues that are quickly resolved. The Community and Housing Services sub committee of 21st January 2021 approved a revised Housing Policy on tackling anti-social behaviour. There will be changes to the first point of contact response to antisocial behaviour complaints and case management of more complex cases with increased resources to improve the response to anti-social behaviour complaints.

2.4 The Housing team have been at the forefront of tackling poverty in the Cowdenbeath Area and assisting vulnerable tenants whose normal life has been disrupted due to the current pandemic.

- Improving rent collection rates continues to be a challenge and for Cowdenbeath the end of year figure was 97.68 % which is comparable to the Fife wide average of 97.73%. In mitigation rent arrears collection processes were suspended for the first 4 months of lockdown. The percentage of tenants in arrears who have made

arrangements with us to repay their debt was 21% by the end of last year which is similar to the Fife wide average of 21%.

- The rent arrears in Cowdenbeath at the end of the last financial year were reduced from £ 979,483 to £ 926,752. This reflected the efforts made by staff to increase contacts with tenants with a view to resolving their difficulties. It will be a challenge to sustain this level of reduction going forward.
- It has been a priority for staff to work with tenants in debt within their patches and to liaise closely with Revenues Officers. A preventative approach is taken to support new tenants and promote early intervention. New UC claimants receive a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) of 2 weeks rent and are offered an incentive of a further 2 weeks DHP if they pay their rent when they receive the first UC housing costs payment and sign up for their subsequent housing costs to be paid direct to Fife Council. At the accompanied viewing for new tenant's staff discuss affordability with new tenants, the Welfare Fund and other options for sourcing household items. Through the Locality Managed Budget household items and other practical help can be provided to new tenants in need who are struggling to set up their home.
- There were no evictions in the Cowdenbeath area in this financial year due to the introduction of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act which prevents the eviction of tenants for rent arrears until the 31st March 2021. It was recognised that we needed to assist tenants facing financial pressures during the pandemic. The rent arrears process was suspended for several months and a shift in focus to reach out to tenants who were experiencing a disruption to their employment. Advice and assistance were offered to those who were self-employed, faced redundancy or part of the governments furlough scheme. A total of 288 rent allowances were awarded to tenants in the Cowdenbeath area and this amounted to over £80,000.

2.5 Community Led Services

Tenant engagement is critical for the Housing Service to receive feedback and to deliver community led and relevant services. Tenants indicated to us that they wished to be more involved in improving their local areas and this will be reflected in the new Area Housing Plan going forward.

- Due to the Covid restrictions we were unable to progress with our area walkabouts. Where restrictions allowed, area staff walked their estates to identify improvements and react to any estate management issues as a result of limited services and opportunities for residents.
- Participation in Tenants & Residents meetings were affected by the pandemic. We will look to pick up on more regular attendance as restrictions are eased. The patch-based HMO was a regular visitor to Cedar House, Lumphinnans and provided support during the Covid outbreak at the complex.

- The weekly “The Well” at the Clearing on Cowdenbeath High Street, a Health & Social Care Partnership initiative aimed at promoting health and wellbeing was cancelled due to the pandemic. Health & Social Care Partnership Core Group meetings are in the process of being re-instated and Housings future involvement in “The Well project” will form part of the discussions.
- Following lessons learned from a multi-disciplinary approach to the most vulnerable in our communities during the pandemic, Housing Services along with other key services have been key in developing a People and Place Leadership local delivery model. The People and Place Leadership Teams will work collaboratively to understand our places and the people who live there. The Teams will provide support and services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, families and local communities delivered by a range of partners working as “one organisation”. Both groups will focus delivery on the following key areas; tackling poverty and crisis prevention, leading economic recovery, sustaining services through new ways of working. In Cowdenbeath membership of both Groups have been established and monthly meeting are being held to develop this new approach.

2.6 Thriving Places

The pandemic has restricted opportunities within the Cowdenbeath area to maximise Housing Service Locality Managed budget spend. In 2020-21 we committed £191,508 of our Housing Initiatives budget across the Cowdenbeath Area to support a wide range of different projects as follows:

- Hillview, Cowdenbeath- Creation of 7 parking bays
- Benarty Avenue, Ballingry- large scale tree removal
- Foulford Road, Cowdenbeath-Garage site- resurface road
- Dundonald Park, Cardenden- large boundary fencing
- Pretoria Place/Taylor avenue- erect single handrail down steps
- Cullaloe View, Cowdenbeath Lock up site demolition (April)
- All areas- small scale fencing work, garden maintenance, garden improvements, tree management, environmental clean-up works, landscape improvements

In addition, £40,000 of the budget has been used to support vulnerable tenants who required help to sustain their tenancy, and tenants who are engaging with Housing Officers through our Tenancy Assistance service.

Area teams are offered the opportunity to make a bid for funding from Housing’s Opportunities Fund. Submissions must include projects that have been identified using the Place Standard Tool. Cowdenbeath Area team were awarded funding to deliver 2 separate projects as follows:

- Blackburn Drive, Cowdenbeath- Renew wall, upgrade steps – award £134,832
- Cardenden Road, Cardenden remove dead trees (H&S issue), renew fencing- award £67,859.37

- 2.7 Information on how the Housing Service Locality Managed budget has been allocated for the Financial Year 2020/21 is contained in Appendix 2.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Our aim is to be a top performing social landlord in Scotland. Through the new Area Housing Plan, we will identify local issues and plan to address these. This is intended to encourage member scrutiny of our work to address those concerns and demonstrate improved outcomes. The plans can be updated to reflect where member scrutiny shows a need to quicken the pace of improvement.

Background Papers

No papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

Report Contact

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Appendix 2

Housing Service Locality Managed Budget 2020/21 Cowdenbeath Area

The Locality Managed budget is used for three priorities which are:

- Estate Management
- Tenancy Sustainment
- Improvement Projects

Estates Management

The budget is used to deal with estate management related issues and is mainly reactive. Examples of this type of work would include managing open space areas on housing land, tree maintenance, fencing, removal of fly tipping and looking after garage sites.

Tenancy Sustainment

This involves supporting tenants to sustain their tenancies and ensuring balanced communities. Due to the impact of welfare reform we are having to take a more proactive role in this area. We can offer practical help to vulnerable tenants through tenancy assistance. The budget can be used in certain circumstances for clearing properties and providing help to source essential household items. The focus of this type of intervention is to work closely with other partner services to meet any gaps in provision.

Improvement Projects

The projects are identified through estates walkabouts, consulting with our tenants, and through working with Tenants and Residents Associations. These are usually proactive works to improve the local environment for our tenants. Examples would be lighting, parking provision, improvements to bin store areas, lock ups and communal areas and environmental improvements.

Expenditure to date

The budget for 2020/21 was £364K and there was a £132,492 underspend at the end of this year due to Covid restrictions. The table below shows how the expenditure was proportioned.

Estate Management & projects	52%
Tenancy Sustainment	11%
Underspend	37 %

The budget for 2021/22 has been set at £362,319

Monitoring

Project work will be considered through discussions with elected members and issues identified at walkabouts. If the allocation of funds needs adjusted in line with the reactive nature of the budget, then this can be highlighted through further update reports.

Appendix 1 – 2020-21 Performance

Indicator	Cowdenbeath 2020/21	Fife 2020/21
average days to turnaround an empty property	52	58
% of the rent lost due to empty houses	1.41%	1.53%
rent collection rates	97.68%	97.73%
% of agreements	21%	21%
% allocations to homeless households	53.56%	-
% allocations to transfer	31.62%	-
number of abandoned tenancies	19	115
number of evictions	0	0
number of reported breach of tenancies	168	-

Breach of tenancy details	Category	Description of behaviours
Amount 80 Responded in timescale 80	Cat B Serious Anti-Social Behaviour	Verbal abuse; frequent/ongoing serious disturbances - i.e. loud music, parties, shouting & swearing; drug dealing.
Amount 69 5 referrals to Safer Communities due to repeat offending	Cat C Nuisance/Minor Anti-Social Behaviour.	Occasional noise; family disputes affecting neighbours; behaviour of children; household noise; first complaints or infrequent disturbances; smell of drugs.
Amount 19 All cases were responded to within the 2 working day timescale.	Cat D Extreme Behaviour -	Physical violence/assault/unprovoked attack; Threats of violence; Aggressive behaviour causing fear; drug charges/cultivation; hate

		incidents; immediate threats; Serious anti-social behaviour where Court action is being sought.
132 cases	Estate management complaints	Reports of untidy gardens, dumping of rubbish and stairwells in poor state.

28 April 2021

Agenda Item No. 05

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment

Wards Affected: 7 and 8

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of action taken using the list of officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from these transactions, as any expenditure is contained within the appropriate Service budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications arising from these transactions.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required and is not necessary for the following reasons: the items in this report do not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

All consultations have been carried out in relation to this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1** In dealing with the day to day business of the Council there are a number of matters relating to the purchase, disposal and leasing of property and of property rights. This report advises of those transactions dealt with under powers delegated to officials.

2.0 Transactions

2.1 Acquisitions

2.1.1 43 Cartmore Road, Lochgelly

Date of Acquisition:	30 November 2020
Price:	£105,000
Seller:	Anne Marie McNab & Others

2.1.2 31 Main Road, Cardenden

Date of Acquisition:	26 February 2021
Price:	£100,000
Seller:	Jaclyn Ramsay

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1** These transactions are reported back in accordance with the List of Officers Powers.

List of Appendices

1. N/A

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:

N/A

Report Contact

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Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 16th June, 2021			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
School Attainment and Achievement update	Education Service	Lynn Porter, Jacqueline Price	Workshop organised in May 2021 Reports to go to Committee after 12th April 2021 - Jacqueline Price
Annual Performance Updates from Safer Communities, Police and Scottish Fire and Rescue	Communities	Lisa Taylor, Liz Watson-SC	Expected Oct/Dec 21
Response to Food Provision	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh, Gary Daniell	Gary Daniel

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Local Community Plan Annual Update and Budget Outturn 2020/21	Communities and Neighbourhoods Service	Sarah Roxburgh	
Area Capital Update Report 2019-2020	Finance and Corporate Services	Eleanor Hodgson	EH 20.11.19 - no update required as capital budget spent.
Update on School Meals from Core Group, L/G & C/B High Schools	Education and Children's Services	Neil Finnie	Convener requested update from core group at agenda planning meeting 15.01.20 Neil Finnie 18.08.20 - no progress due to Covid, temporary catering measures in place until at least Oct 2020, no update available at present due to Schools home learning.

Unallocated			
Title	Service(s)	Contact(s)	Comments
Pupilwise and Parentwise Surveys 2018-2019	Education and Children's Services	Jacqueline Price	Annual reporting - last submitted 19.09.18, survey done on a 3 year basis, next report due September 2021.
Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)	Education and Children's Services	Sarah Else	Workshop held on 27th May, 2019, covering this, facilitated by Lynne Porter, elected members present. Future report to be confirmed.
Area Roads Programme - final	Roads and Transportation	Neil Watson	Expected Sept/Oct 21
Parks Street and Open Spaces Annual Review 2021			Annual Review at committee Jan 2020, Structure review, next report tbc.
Complaints Update 2020/21			Annual Complaints update, expected Sept/Oct 21