

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

**28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

**2.00 p.m. – 2.40 p.m.**

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

**ATTENDING:** Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Russell Gray, Housing Manager - Cowdenbeath, Lyn Murray, Lead Officer, Area Housing Management, Housing Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Alistair Bain.

**218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**219. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 10th March, 2021.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**220. HOUSING PLAN - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

*Councillor Lockhart joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services which provided an update on progress in delivering service priorities and performance information, at an area level, for the financial year 2020/21, following the approval of the Cowdenbeath Area Housing Services Plan 2017/19 in December, 2017. The report also advised that a revised Plan for 2021/23 would be submitted for the Committee's consideration once there had been an opportunity to consult on future priorities for the Cowdenbeath Area.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the work progressed through the Area housing Plan for the financial year 2020/21 as outlined in Appendix 1;
- (2) noted the detail outlined in Appendix 1 of the report on the Cowdenbeath area performance for the financial year 2020/21; and
- (3)/

- (3) noted the expenditure for the HRA Locality Managed Budget for 2020/21 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

**221. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which advised members of action taken using the list of officer powers in relation to property transactions.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the content of the report.

**222. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**Decision**

The Committee noted the draft forward work programme for the Cowdenbeath Area Committee.

**223. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

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

**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?

**Response**

The response to the question was: Yes. This project, which has a significant history, would be undertaken this year once the tender process was complete. It was confirmed that the design favored by the Bells Project Group would be the one which was delivered. There was a shortfall in funding for the project, however, Councillors have supported the proposal to provide the balance of funding to support this historic project. It is right and proper that this Area Committee pays tribute to the Bells Project Group who have been steadfast in their desire and determination to bring this to a positive conclusion and preserve a significant part of the heritage of the Benarty Area.

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, extended thanks to: Margaret Feely; Gibson and Beveridge; Grace Skinner; Cathy Kinch; Evelyn Smith; Mary Clarke; Mary and Stephen Nardone; and passed on the Committee's best wishes to Veronica Connelly who was ill in hospital and was desperate to see the project completed.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the question submitted by Mr Tom Kinnaird and the response.