

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

13th April, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 12.55 p.m.

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

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities; William Penrice, Research Team Manager, Zahida Ramzan, Policy Co-ordinator (Equalities), Communities & Neighbourhoods; John Rodigan, Senior Manager, Environment & Building Services; Derek Crowe, Senior Manager, Roads & Transportation Services; Sharon McKenzie, Head of Service, Barbara Cooper, HR Service Manager, Human Resources; Morag Ferguson, Head of Service and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

42. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 2nd February 2021.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

43. 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 information on the Council's community asset transfer policy and process, along with the number of community asset transfer (CAT) applications received to date, the number of approvals and refusals and any issues arising.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information provided on community asset transfer applications received to date; and
- (2) agreed that a working group, consisting of Councillors Crooks, Liewald, Erskine, Wincott, Heer and Docherty, along with Zahida Ramzan, be set up to examine the CAT Transfer process and the reasons for only two successful applications to date and report back to the committee on their findings.

44. TACKLING POVERTY - FUNDING ANALYSIS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities, presenting the findings of analysis into anti-poverty spending and the impact it had on alleviating the effects of poverty.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information presented in the report; and
- (2) agreed that a further report be submitted to the Committee later in the year.

45. MANAGING FOR HEALTH, WELLBEING AND MINIMISED ABSENCE (POST CORPORATE ABSENCE PROJECT)

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources providing an update on absence and related activity, including Statutory Performance Indicator (SPI) finalised results for 2019/20, plans for future progress in the context of managing in a post-COVID environment and statistical information on absence and SPI information, along with directorate scorecards.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the information contained in the report; and
- (2) that further update reports would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

The meeting adjourned at 11.46 a.m. and reconvened at 11.56 a.m.

46. PARKS, STREETS & OPEN SPACES SAVINGS 2013-2021

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing details in respect of savings taken from the Parks, Streets and Open Spaces (PSOS) budget over the last 8 years and highlighting the consequential environmental impacts.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the financial savings to the Parks, Streets and Open Spaces budget and the transformation in the operating model over the last 2 years to assist with delivering these; and
- (2) that a further update report would be submitted to the Committee in nine months time.

47. PRESSURES ON ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager (Roads and Transportation Services) advising of the current pressures on the Roads and Transportation Service and in particular, the implementation of the risk based approach to road inspections and repairs, related systems and other pressures impacting on service performance.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the current performance and activity as detailed in the report; and
- (2) agreed that a further report be submitted to the Committee prior to the Council Elections in May 2022.

Councillors Wincott, Ferguson and Liewald left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

48. ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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