

## 2022 PCS 7

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

27<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Eugene Clarke (Convener), Naz Anis-Miah (Substitute for Ken Caldwell), Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Brian Goodall, Kathleen Leslie (Substitute for Peter Gulline), Allan Knox, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal (Substitute for Bailey-Lee Robb), Sam Steele, Ann Verner, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Linda Erskine and Judy Hamilton

**ATTENDING:** Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Corporate Development, Communities and Neighbourhoods, John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Housing Services; Tariq Ditta, Senior Manager - Catering & Cleaning, Shirley McKie, Service Manager - Hospitality, Facilities Management; Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Service Manager - Committee Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Blair Allan and Donald Lothian.

#### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 13. MINUTE OF MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the minute of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting of 16th August, 2022.

##### Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

#### 14. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities providing members with an update on the Council's response to the current cost of living challenges facing people in Fife.

##### Decision

The Committee noted and commented on the current and proposed measures following a review of the Council's response to the cost of living crisis.

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**15. CURRENT HOUSING ACCESS PRESSURES**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, which highlighted the range of current and anticipated pressures on the overall housing stock and the impacts this would have on housing allocations. The report outlined the proposed approach in managing housing allocations and noted the actions taken to improve access to housing.

**Decision**

The Committee: -

- (1) considered the current pressures on the housing system, and the growing demands on housing access and homelessness services;
- (2) considered the proposed allocations approach taken to mitigate the current pressures on the housing access system and noted the option to make recommendations to the Cabinet Committee on any adjustments that would need to be made to maximise opportunities for people in need of housing within Fife.
- (3) recognised the need for an increased focus on homelessness allocations to reduce pressures on temporary accommodations, and reduce the backlog of need within a severely constrained environment;
- (4) supported the approach to increase options to grow the housing stock, through the agreed approach to property acquisitions as approved by the Cabinet Committee on 25th August, 2022, and
- (5) agreed that a report on Maximising Housing Options would be brought back to the next meeting of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

**16. CAFE INC**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, providing members with an update on the Cafe Inc. holiday provision.

**Decision**

The Committee:

- (1) considered and commented on the performance of Cafe Inc over Summer 2022,
  - (2) noted the issues and options detailed in the report, and
  - (3) reinforced the importance of hot food provision on a 5 day a week basis and recognised the importance of having dialogue at area level to shape and finalise provision.
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