

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

7th December, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea McLelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Corporate Development Management Team; Gary Daniell, Area Community Development Team Manager; Patricia Galfskiy, Policy Officer; Lesley Kirk, Local Community Planning Support Officer, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath) and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

31. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 26th October, 2022.

Arising from the minute:-

- (a) with reference to Paragraph 24. – ‘Local Community Planning Budget Request, Phase 2, Lochgelly Band’ – the Committee noted that funding of £15,000 to Lochgelly Band for Phase 2 of planned Renovation Work for the Band Hall, would be allocated from the Ward 8 Local Community Planning Budget 2022/23;
- (b) with reference to Paragraph 26. (4) – relating to a Ward 8 Member workshop on road safety measures at Lochleven Road, Ballingry - requested an update from the Transportation Service as to whether a date had been arranged; and
- (c) with reference to Paragraph 26. (3) – relating to the requested report detailing revised road safety proposals for the B920, Lochleven Road, Ballingry – to seek clarification on the reason this report was not presented for the Committee’s consideration at this meeting.

Decision

The Committee otherwise agreed to approve the minute.

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32. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET, WARD AND ANTI-POVERTY BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods outlining the proposed allocation of remaining budgets from 2022/23 LCP, Ward and Anti-Poverty budgets as requested by members.

The Committee adjourned at 2.40 p.m. and reconvened at 2.50 p.m.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2) on a motion proposed by Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Liewald, agreed to the following amendments to the recommendations contained in the report:
 - (a) 'replace the wording of recommendation (2) of the report with the following:

'amend the table in Budget Proposal Summary – Para. 3.2 of the report - to increase funding for existing proposals and add in new proposals':

Ward Contingency Fund	£30,000
Cowdenbeath Shoe Box	£105,900
Deliverit/The Big Hoose	£20,000
Warm Spaces/Winter Provision	£20,000
Café Inc Expansion	£55,000
Community Food Projects	£80,000
Cosy Kingdom Area Resource	£65,000
CLD Activity Programme	£25,000
Breakfast Club/After School Expanded Provision	£60,000
Participatory Budgeting	£48,000
Pending Allocations	£10,000
Carry Forward to 2023/24	£1
Total	£518,901

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- (b) as a result of the amendment to the allocation of funding as detailed in the above table, the related Project Summaries at Section 4.0 of the report, be amended as follows:
- (i) **4.2 - Cowdenbeath Shoe Box (£105,900):** development of a pilot project to provide funding to support the provision of appropriate footwear for secondary, primary and nursery aged children to all schools in the Cowdenbeath committee area. See Appendices 6 and 7;
 - (ii) **4.5 - Cafe Inc Expansion (£55,000):** development of Café Inc service to include additional venues, the use of local volunteers and groups, and to supplement the food offering at identified sites;
 - (iii) **4.8 - CLD Activity Programme (£25,000):** funding to support the development of activity to engage young people, adult learners and families between Dec 22 and April 23. The funding will provide resources for expanded youth work activity, staffing costs and activity requested by all age groups. This will include the expansion of the 'Cooking on a Budget' programme;
 - (iv) **4.10 - Carry Forward to 2023/24 (£1):** additional projects may be identified early in 2023 and applications for this funding may be received. Where this occurs, Officers will agree funding under 5k and bring any requests over 5k to Area Committee. Any remaining unallocated funding will be carried forward to 2023/24 for consideration alongside LCP, Ward, Anti-Poverty and Community Recovery Fund budgets;
 - (v) **add 4.11: Breakfast Club/After School Expanded Provision (£60,000):** development of breakfast and after school club provision within all local schools across the Cowdenbeath committee area where possible, removing the cost to pupils and their families, helping to further alleviate pressure on families during the cost of living crisis and reducing the cost of the school day;
 - (vi) **add 4.12: Participatory Budgeting (£48,000):** development of participatory budgeting exercises within all local community areas, at £6,000 per local area, to allow all members of the community the chance to say where funding should be targeted, helping to further the Community Empowerment work in the Cowdenbeath Area and providing insight into where citizens would like further support in regard to the cost of living';
- (3) requested the relevant Council officers consult with members regarding the expansion of Café Inc in the Cowdenbeath Area, with particular focus and detail surrounding the additional venues, including food provision and the use of local volunteers and groups;

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- (4) requested that the Community Manager and relevant officers provide regular updates to members both between and at Area Committee meetings to allow for on-going scrutiny of project spend;
 - (5) agreed that funding for projects unable to be delivered before the end of the financial year (31st March, 2023) would be carried forward to the next financial year (2023-24);
 - (6) requested consideration of the establishment of a Working Group comprising officers with delegated powers and Ward Councillors, on an ad hoc basis, with the purpose of agreeing emergency funding applications over £5,000 - to avoid having to wait until the next scheduled Area Committee for approval; and
 - (7) with reference to the additional projects outlined at paragraph 2(a) above, agreed to consider a report at a future meeting outlining the impact on the Service, due to the increased staff resources required to deliver the projects, including any additional support this Committee might provide.
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