

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - ECONOMY TOURISM STRATEGIC PLANNING AND
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

9th September, 2021

10.00 am – 12.40 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Altany Craik (Convener), John Beare, Ian Cameron, Dave Coleman, Colin Davidson, Sharon Green-Wilson, Jean Hall Muir, Jane Ann Liston, Mino Manekshaw, Ross Paterson, David J Ross, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Keith Winter, Executive Director - Enterprise and Environment; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Morag Millar, Strategic Growth & City Deals Programme Manager, Peter Corbett, Lead Officer Economy, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Derek Crowe, Senior Manager (Roads & Transportation Services), Bill Liddle, Service Manager (Roads Maintenance), Phil Clarke, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management (South Fife), Assets, Roads and Transportation Services; Jackie Johnstone, Accountant and Lesley Robb, Lead Officer (Committee Services), Finance and Corporate Services.

174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted in terms of Standing Order 7.1.

175. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee of 10 June, 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

176. TRANSPORT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2019: UPDATE ON PROPOSED PAVEMENT PARKING BAN

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment updating Members on the progress towards implementation of the pavement parking ban proposal, that would be introduced as part of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the contents of the report and considered the potential implications and impacts of this legislative proposal for Fife.

177. WINTER GRITTING AND SNOW CLEARING SERVICES REVIEW AND UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising of the updated Winter Gritting and Snow Clearing Services - Policy Statement 2021-22, following a sub-group review of the policy and operational practices required to deliver Fife's winter services, in line with future budgets.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) agreed that the report resolved Motion 4, agreed at Fife Council on 25 February 2021 (previous Minute Reference - paragraph 217 of 2021 FC 253 - Fife Council meeting of 25 February 2021 - refers) that a Winter Review be completed in the usual manner and the outcome reported to the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee; and
- (2) considered the findings of the review and endorsed the Winter Gritting and Snow Clearing Services - Policy Statement 2021-22, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

178. LEADING ECONOMIC RECOVERY (LER) ACTION PLAN: PROGRESS UPDATE JUNE 2021

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability providing Members with an update on the progress against actions identified in the Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan, agreed by Policy and Coordination Committee on 4 March 2021 (previous minute reference paragraph 272 of 2021 PC 137 - Policy and Coordination Committee of 4 March 2021 - refers).

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) reviewed progress in relation to actions identified within the Leading Economic Recovery Action Plan;
- (2) recognised continuing uncertainties in terms of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, consequences of the EU exit, and associated government responses to both; and
- (3) noted that the outcomes of the Leading Economic Recovery workstream (which formed part of the Council's wider Reform and Recovery programme) have fed into the current refresh of the Plan4Fife, and that it remained/

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- (4) remained the intention to undertake a more detailed review of the Fife Economic Strategy in 2022.

Councillor Coleman joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 am and re-convened at 11:30 am, with all members present.

179. **FINAL UPDATE ON THE EXTENDED BUILD (APRIL 2018 - MARCH 2020) OF THE DIGITAL SCOTLAND SUPERFAST BROADBAND (DSSB) REST OF SCOTLAND (ROS) PROGRAMME**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability presenting the results of the extended build for Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) Rest of Scotland (RoS) programme to March 2020.

Motion

Councillor Manekshaw, seconded by Councillor Ross moved as follows:

“This Sub-Committee accepts the recommendations in the report.

While Sub-Committee applauds the significant progress that has been made in broadening the availability of Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) access throughout Fife, it is concerned that on current projections, at least 3% of domestic/business premises, which by definition are 'hard to reach', will have no such benefit without the availability of alternative solutions that are deliverable, affordable and sustainable.

As such alternative solutions must be fully compliant with the regulations that surround State Aid/Subsidy, it is important that all parties understand the boundaries.

The Sub-Committee therefore requests that Officers bring forward a report that describes the pertinent regulations with particular emphasis on how the funding provided to Angus Council, for a Community Network through Tay Cities Funding, does not trigger a challenge under these regulations.”

Amendment

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Beare moved an amendment to the motion as follows:

“This Sub-Committee accepts the recommendations in the report

While Sub-Committee applauds the significant progress that has been made in broadening the availability of Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) access throughout Fife, it is concerned that on current projections, at least 3% of domestic/business premises, which by definition are 'hard to reach', will have no such benefit without the availability of alternative solutions that are deliverable, affordable and sustainable and notes that the rolling out of the Scottish Government's £600m Reaching 100% (R100) programme will build/

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build on the success of the DSSB programme.

As such alternative solutions must be fully compliant with the regulations that surround State Aid/Subsidy, it is important that all parties understand the boundaries.

The Sub-Committee therefore requests that a Members briefing be circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee that describes the pertinent regulations with particular emphasis on how the funding provided to Angus Council, for a Community Network through Tay Cities Funding, does not trigger a challenge under these regulations.”

Following discussion, Councillors Manekshaw and Ross agreed to accept the amendment proposed by Councillors Craik and Beare. The Sub-Committee unanimously agreed the amendment.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) endorsed the report, Delivering on Our Commitment in Fife (Final) Report, dated June 2021;
- (2) noted that as a result of the DSSB programme 99.3% of homes and businesses in Fife have access to fibre enabled broadband and 97% have superfast access (greater than or equal to 24Mbps);
- (3) applauded the significant progress that had been made in broadening the availability of FTTC and FTTP access throughout Fife, but was concerned that on current projections, at least 3% of domestic/business premises, which by definition are ‘hard to reach’ would have no such benefit without the availability of alternative solutions that were deliverable, affordable and sustainable;
- (4) noted that the rolling out of the Scottish Government’s £600m Reaching 100% (R100) programme would build on the success of the DSSB programme;
- (5) noted that as such alternative solutions must be fully compliant with the regulations that surround State Aid//Subsidy, it was important that all parties understood the boundaries; and
- (6) requested a Members Briefing be circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee that described the pertinent regulations with particular emphasis on how the funding provided to Angus Council, for a Community Network through Tay Cities Funding, would not trigger a challenge under the regulations.

180. CONNECTIVITY UPDATE

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The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability presenting an update on activities by the Scottish and UK Governments to improve connectivity and proposed to investigate the options for the Council to ensure no one is left behind by these activities.

Motion

Councillor Manekshaw, seconded by Councillor Ross moved as follows:

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) notes the connectivity activity taking place because of investment by the Governments of Scotland and the United Kingdom;
- (2) is aware of the achievements of “Cupar Now” which is the UK and Scotland’s first and only Digital Improvement District;
- (3) understands that at Officer request, a business case has been presented to Fife Council that seeks funding for a two year pilot to deliver a ‘community benefit network’. Such a network deployed wirelessly across the five electoral wards of North East Fife and two wards covering Levenmouth – will enable essential and transformational support to be delivered as part of a fully monitored and evaluated pilot project; and
- (4) requests that Officers conduct a full and objective analysis of the Destination Digital business case/proposal, such report to be presented at the next meeting of this sub-committee.

Amendment

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Beare moved an amendment to the motion as follows:

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) notes the connectivity activity taking place because of investment by the Governments of Scotland and the United Kingdom;
- (2) is aware of the achievements of “Cupar Now” which is the UK and Scotland’s first and only Digital Improvement District;
- (3) understands that at Officer request, a business case has been presented to Fife Council that seeks funding for a two year pilot to deliver a ‘community benefit network’; and
- (4) requests that Officers conduct a full and objective analysis of the Destination Digital business case/proposal and presents this analysis in a report to a future meeting of this sub-committee.

Following discussion, Councillors Manekshaw and Ross agreed to accept the amendment/

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amendment proposed by Councillors Craik and Beare. The Sub-Committee unanimously agreed the amendment.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) noted the connectivity activity taking place because of investment by Governments of Scotland and the United Kingdom;
- (2) was aware of the achievements of “Cupar Now”, which was the UK and Scotland’s first and only Digital Improvement District;
- (3) understood that at Officer request, a business case had been presented to Fife Council that sought funding for a two year pilot to deliver a ‘community benefit network’; and
- (4) requested Officers conduct a full and objective analysis of the Destination Digital business case/proposal and presented the analysis in a report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

181. ENTERPRISE AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE SECTION/SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment presenting the performance scorecard for Planning, Business and Employability and Roads and Transportation Services for 2020-2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) considered the Planning, Business and Employability and Roads and Transportation Services performance information presented as appendix 1, 2 and 3 to the report;
- (2) considered if any further review work or scrutiny is required and the scope of that review;
- (3) noted the arrangements set out to fulfil the Council's obligation to comply with Audit Scotland's 2018 SPI Direction; and
- (4) noted the information regarding the workforce profile, presented as appendix 4 to the report.

Councillor Davidson left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

182. 2020-21 REVENUE MONITORING PROVISIONAL OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and/

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and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment providing Members with an update on the provisional outturn financial position for the 2020-21 financial year, for the areas in the scope of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Decision

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the current financial performance and activity, as detailed in the report.

Councillor Hall-Muir left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

183. 2020-21 CAPITAL MONITORING PROVISIONAL OUTTURN - ENTERPRISE AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment providing Members with an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the provisional outturn for the 2020-21 financial year, for the areas in the scope of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Decision

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the current performance and activity across the 2020-21 financial monitoring period, as detailed in the report.

184. 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment providing Members with an update on the projected outturn financial provision for the 2021-22 financial year, for the areas in the scope of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Decision

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

185. 2021-22 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - ENTERPRISE AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment providing Members with an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the provisional outturn for the 2021-22 financial year, for the areas in the scope of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee considered and noted the current performance and activity across the 2021-22 financial monitoring period, as detailed in the report.

**186. ECONOMY, TOURISM, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
SUB COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the contents of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee forward work programme.