

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

6th October, 2021.

9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alice McGarry (Convener), David Barratt, Bobby Clelland, Dave Coleman, Dave Dempsey, Sharon Green-Wilson, Tony Orton and Andrew Verrecchia.

**ATTENDING:** Claire Mackinlay, Area Housing Manager (South and West Fife) and Deborah Stevens, Lead Officer (Area Regeneration), Housing Services; Fiona McKay, Divisional General Manager, Health and Social Care; Alastair Mutch, Community Manager (South and West Fife) and Lisa Hemphill, Local Development Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services;

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Tommy Deans, BEAR Scotland; Graeme Paget, Transport Scotland; and Alan Goodwin, Amey (for para. 300 only).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Mino Manekshaw and Kate Stewart.

**297. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**298. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the South and West Fife Area Committee meeting of 25th August, 2021.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**299. PETITION - THE CAIRNS, CHARLESTOWN**

In terms of Standing Order No. 6.1 (2), the Committee considered a petition submitted by Mr. Alan Yates containing twenty-eight signatures relating to parking issues at The Cairns, Charlestown.

The Convener invited the Area Housing Manager, Housing Services to present her briefing paper in response to the petition.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed that:-

(1)/

- (1) detailed costings on bringing the road up to an adoptable standard be undertaken by the Transportation Service, including design costs, etc. and that, once these costings had been finalised, that a report on the position be brought back to Committee in February, 2022; and
- (2) consultation with the residents of The Cairns, Charlestown be undertaken once options had been identified but also to ascertain whether they had any alternative solutions to address the issues raised within the petition.

**300. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND – UPDATE**

Graeme Paget, Area Manager, Transport Scotland advised that he had regular liaison meetings with Fife Council and also with BEAR Scotland relating to the Queensferry Crossing.

Graeme then introduced Alan Goodman from Amey who gave a brief update on the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) position on the Crossing, advising that most complaints received were in relation to speed restrictions on the bridge coming on and staying on for too long. A brief update was given on the Variable Mandatory Speed Limits (VMSLs) system that had been used to look at traffic data and which system would automatically set speed restrictions when it detected queues forming. The system had only recently been used on this section of the A90 but had been removed after a few months due to fine tuning required on the system. The speed restrictions currently activated on the Crossing were therefore manually controlled by the Control Room and Mr. Goodman expected an update on the fine tuning configuration of the VMSL in the next month or so.

Graeme Paget also highlighted that drivers were sometimes unaware of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs)/breakdowns on the Crossing which also caused delays and took time to remove.

Tommy Deans of BEAR Scotland advised that the Control Room were always monitoring the traffic on the Queensferry Crossing and aimed to clear any RTAs/breakdowns away as soon as possible. It was also noted that the traffic signals on slip roads, coming off the main road, would shortly be integrated with the Transport Scotland system and their Control Room would be taking control of these. The traffic signals would be managed by the automated system and should adjust the traffic signals depending on the traffic flows.

Mr. Deans also advised that the cables on the north tower of the Queensferry Crossing were currently being cleaned by specialists, on a trial basis, to ascertain whether this process could reduce the chance of ice secretion. A Committee had also been set up to look at other options to reduce the risk of ice on the cables.

Various questions from members were then put to and answered by Mr. Paget, Mr. Goodman and Mr. Deans.

**Decision**

The Convener thanked Mr. Paget, Mr. Goodman and Mr. Deans for their detailed and informative briefings and looked forward to receiving an update in six to twelve months' time.

**301. ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF CARE INSPECTORATE INSPECTION AND GRADING PROCESS**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care advising members of the range of inspections that had been undertaken by the Care Inspectorate and highlighted the inspection grades awarded for care services within the South and West Fife Area.

It was noted that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Care Inspectorate suspended their routine care home inspection activity. However, whilst inspection activity was not in place, the Care Inspector for each service was in regular contact with all services to monitor care providers but also to offer regulatory support and guidance. Due to the suspension to inspection, it was noted that several care services had not been inspected since the last report to Committee.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the outcome of the inspection process and grades awarded to care services in Fife.

**302. SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - SOUTH EAST INVERKEITHING REGENERATION - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising members of progress with the regeneration of South East (SE) Inverkeithing.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the work undertaken so far with the regeneration of SE Inverkeithing.

**303. COMMON GOOD FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) advising members of the current status of the Common Good Funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2020/2021.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the information contained in the relevant Appendices for the various Common Good funds.

**304. AREA CAPITAL UPDATE REPORT 2021-2022**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) advising members of the current status of the additional capital investment awarded to the South and West Fife Area in the 2017-20 budget.

**Decision**

The Committee noted the information contained within the report and relevant Appendices for the capital funding allocations.

**305./**

**305. SETTLEMENT TRUST - ANNUAL UPDATE ON EXPENDITURE AND FUNDS HELD - 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising members on the position of the expenditure relating to the Settlement Trusts in their area. The report also provided a Fife-wide statement of funds held in both capital and revenue accounts as at April, 2021.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the expenditure statement for the financial year 2021/21 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) noted the funds available at the year end relating to amounts held as interest in revenue accounts and as capital;
- (3) noted the detail of the projects supported by the disbursement of these funds detailed in section 2 of the report; and
- (4) noted the acceptable uses for the funding as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

**306. NON-SETTLEMENT TRUST - ANNUAL UPDATE ON EXPENDITURE AND FUNDS HELD - 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising members on the expenditure position relating to the Non-Settlement Trust covering the South and West Fife Area. The report also provided a Fife-wide statement of funds held in both capital and revenue accounts as at April, 2021.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the expenditure statement for the financial year 2020/2021 detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) noted the funds available at the year end;
- (3) noted the detail of the projects supported by the disbursement of these funds detailed in section 2 of the report; and
- (4) noted the acceptable uses for the funding.

**307. SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021**

**Decision**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme 2021 which would be further updated as appropriate.

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