

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

9th February, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 4.40 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Erskine (Convener), Alistair Bain, Alex Campbell, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea Mclelland and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Neil Watson, Lead Consultant (Roads & Lighting Asset Management), Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer - Traffic Management (South Fife), Assets Transportation & Environment, Roads & Transportation Services; Gary Daniell, Team Manager (Community Development), Patricia Galfskiy, Policy Officer, Alastair Mutch, Community Manager (South & West Fife), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Peter Corbett, Lead Officer Economy, Andrew Walker, Economic Adviser - Town Centre Development Unit, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Zoe Thomson, Quality Improvement Officer (Equity), Nicola Barker-Harrison, Depute Headteacher (Beath High School), Colin Lyle, Headteacher, (Kelty Primary School), Claire Wyatt, Headteacher (Denend School, Lochgelly Cluster), Education & Children's Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Gary Guichan and Sarah Roxburgh.

260. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

261. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 8th December, 2021.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

262. PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING (PEF)

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Pupil Equity Fund and updating members on the work of schools in the Cowdenbeath Area to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. The report presented an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Pupil Equity Fund within schools across the Cowdenbeath Committee Area.

Decision

The Committee agreed to: -

(1) note the content of the report;

(2)/

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- (2) note the aims of the interventions;
- (3) note the work of schools in developing their practice to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment gap; and
- (4) link directly with individual schools for further information as required.

263. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which identified the projects proposed for approval for the Area Roads Programme in the Cowdenbeath Area for delivery in the 2022-23 financial year.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) approved the proposals identified in Appendices 1-3 of the report;
- (2) noted that Foulford Road, Footway Widening scheme, would be moved to a Category 1, and Foulford Road, Speed Cushions, would be moved to a Category 2 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, Road Safety and Traffic Management Scheme List for 2022-23;
- (3) delegated authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme developed, in consultation with the Area Convener and Vice-Convener; and
- (4) noted Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.

The meeting adjourned at 3.29 p.m. and reconvened at 3.40 p.m.

264. LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2021)

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services providing members with an annual overview of the local economic profile for each of the seven local Committee areas using the latest available data.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) considered and commented on the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data contained the report; and
- (2) recognised the ongoing economic impact and uncertainty resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and recent UK exit from the European Union.

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265. LCP, WARD AND ANTI-POVERTY BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods which proposed options for the allocation of the remaining 2021/22 budget from the LCP, Ward and Anti-Poverty budget to the projects detailed in the report.

Decision

The Committee agreed to allocate the remaining 2021/22 budget to Option 1 as detailed in the report.

266. COWDENBEATH TOWN HOUSE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment regarding the future use of the Cowdenbeath Town House, High Street, Cowdenbeath, owned and held on the Common Good Account.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the options for the future use of the Cowdenbeath Town Hall;
- (2) agreed that Officers consult with key stakeholders on the proposals, to redevelop Cowdenbeath Town House as a Community Shop;
- (3) agreed that following the appropriate consultation with key stakeholders, if accepted, it be remitted to Officers to progress with the redevelopment;
- (4) agreed there would be phased approach to the redevelopment, starting with the Ground Floor and developing a feasible approach for the upper floor ensuring the historical integrity of the building;
- (5) authorised the Head of Legal Services to obtain any necessary consent from the Sheriff for the disposal, including by lease, in the first instance of the Cowdenbeath Town House; and
- (6) noted, should there be any proposal to sell the building at a future date, a report would be submitted to the Cowdenbeath Area Committee for consideration.

267. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted the draft forward work programme for the Cowdenbeath Area Committee.