

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

20th October, 2022.

10.00 a.m. – 12.35 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Graeme Downie (substituting for Councillor David Graham), Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall (substituting for Councillor Craig Walker) Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Kathleen Leslie (substituting for Dave Dempsey), Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Julie MacDougall (substituting for Councillor Jan Wincott), Jonny Tepp and Ross Vettrano.

**ATTENDING:** Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services), Emma Lennon, Accountant and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment), Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services, Alan Paul, Senior Manager, Property Services, Ronnie Hair, Property Investment and Development Manager, Economic Development and Michael O’Gorman, Service Manager, Estates; Helen Wilkie, Service Manager (Housing Condition and Supply), Gavin Smith, Service Manager (Housing Access) and Paul Darcy, Project Manager (New Build Housing), Housing Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Dave Dempsey, David Graham, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**31. MINUTES**

(i) **Cabinet Committee of 22nd September, 2022.**

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

(ii) Minutes of the Education Appointment Committee of 22nd February, 22nd April and 14th September, 2022.

**Decision**

The minutes were noted.

**32./**

**32. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-2028**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking authority for the submission of Fife's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24 - 2027/28 to the Scottish Government which Plan was revised and updated annually for a rolling five-year period.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24 - 2027/28 based on the priorities and principles outlined in the report; and
- (2) authorised the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services, to amend or substitute projects within the SHIP as and when required.

**33. VOLUNTARY SECTOR RECURRING GRANT 6 MONTHS EXTENSION: FRONTLINE FIFE (1ST OCTOBER, 2022 - 31ST MARCH, 2023)**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services requesting approval to extend Frontline Fife's recurring grant for the second six months of the current financial year.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the work undertaken and positive progress made between Frontline Fife and the Housing Services Commissioning Team to reach agreement on service provisions to be commissioned in year;
- (2) agreed the level of funding being recommended for the second half of the current financial year; and
- (3) agreed to further discussions on reconfiguring the organisation's temporary accommodation provision in year 2023/24.

**34. RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN PROGRESS AND SCALING UP HOUSING FIRST**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services advising of progress relating to the ongoing implementation of Fife's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). The report also set out the priorities agreed through the RRTP Programme Board with a specific focus on the expansion of the Housing First Test of Change.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the ongoing pressures on housing and homelessness services as a direct and indirect result of the pandemic;
- (2)/

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- (2) noted that progress in implementing the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) Transformational Change programme had been delayed but that progress was now being made;
- (3) agreed to upscale Housing First by enhancing the Test of Change approach and the investment in new service provision to prevent homelessness; and
- (4) agreed that the briefing paper being produced for the Scottish Government on homelessness and statutory compliance be provided to members as soon as possible and that a further examination of solutions be provided to members once this was available.

### **35. ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT - FIFE AND KUJASWKO-POMORSKIE, POLAND**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking approval for entering into a Co-operation Agreement between Fife Council and the Voivodeship of Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the existing collaboration arrangements in place between Fife Council and the Kujawsko-Pomorskie region;
- (2) approved the co-operation agreement between Fife Council and the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship; and
- (3) agreed that an annual report be provided to the appropriate Committee reviewing the agreement.

### **36. EMPLOYEE SUPPORT (LIVING WAGE AND BUSINESS MILEAGE)**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources outlining actions to address the cost of living challenges facing employees with specific reference to payment of the Real Living Wage and the cost of fuel associated with business mileage.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) implement the revised Real Living Wage rate for all eligible employees from 14th November, 2022;
- (2) implement a temporary twelve-month car users allowance in line with the principles outlined in the report and to backdate this payment to all eligible employees with effect from April, 2022; and
- (3) further explore the option of monthly pay rather than four weekly pay in consultation with employees.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.40 a.m. and re-convened at 11.55 a.m.*

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The Committee resolved, under Section 50(a)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of part 1 of schedule 7A of the Act.

### **37. THE KIRKCALDY CENTRE, KIRKCALDY - PROPOSED LEASE RENUNCIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Business and Employability Services and the Senior Manager, Property Services seeking approval to secure the early termination of two leases in respect of a car park and toilet block at the Kirkcaldy Centre which would facilitate the demolition of the centre and initiate redevelopment of a key town centre site.

#### **Decision**

The Committee :-

- (1) approved the proposal to renounce the leases between the Council and the landlord of the Centre;
- (2) approved the proposal to fund the consideration on the basis that monies would be met from Council balances and noted that the balance would be funded from Place Based Investment, as approved at the Policy and Co-ordination Committee; and
- (3) approved the Business Case in respect of the proposal to secure the renunciation of the leases.

### **38. SITE SALE - ADMIRALTY ROAD, ROSYTH**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking approval to sell an area of land at Admiralty Road, Rosyth which would allow the combined site to be sold for a supermarket development.

#### **Decision**

The Committee approved the disposal on the terms detailed in the report.

### **39. LEASE VARIATION - PITREAVIE PLAYING FIELDS, DUNFERMLINE**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking approval to vary the lease of the Pitreavie Playing fields.

#### **Decision**

The Committee approved the lease variation on the terms detailed in the report.

### **40. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME - 30 NEW HOUSES - MANSE ROAD, SPRINGFIELD**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking authority to continue negotiations and conclude legally binding agreements for the development of 30 new affordable houses at Manse Road, Springfield as part of the ongoing implementation of the Transitional Affordable Housing Programme 2022-24.

#### **Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to authorise the Head of Housing Services, the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to conclude negotiations and enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction:-

- (1) for the acquisition of the site of the proposed housing development of 30 new affordable houses for social rent at the site known as Manse Road, Springfield;
  - (2) for the direct award of a construction consent contract for the construction of 30 new affordable council houses for social rent at the site known as Manse Road, Springfield; and
  - (3) to suspend the Contract Standing Orders - Scheme of Tender Procedures 2018 in terms of Contract Standing Order No. 6.1 in respect of the proposed direct award of the construction contract on the grounds of the special circumstances detailed in the report.
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