

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

6th April, 2023.

10.00 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson (substituting for Councillor Linda Erskine), Dave Dempsey, Derek Glen, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Rosemary Liewald, Sam Steele (substituting for Councillor Carol Lindsay), Jonny Tepp, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance; Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities), John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Helen Wilkie, Service Manager and Ian Dawson, Business Change Manager, Housing Services; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment), Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Michael O'Gorman, Property Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services, Angela Logue, Head of Education and Children's Services, Avril Graham, Team Manager and Sarah Else, Education Manager, Education and Children's Services; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning and Alan Adamson, Service Manager, Health and Social Care; and Brian Blanchflower, Religious Representative, Church of Scotland.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Linda Erskine and Carol Lindsay and Alastair Crockett, Religious Representative, Cupar Baptist Church.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ross Vettraino declared an interest at para. 103 – Turbine Ground Lease, Melville Woods, Ladybank – being Chairman of the Board of Fife Resource Solutions.

94. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the Cabinet Committee meeting of 9th March, 2023.

Arising from the minute, the following points were raised:-

- para. 85 – Annual Uplift in Payments to Foster Carers for Financial Year 2023/24 – agreed that an item be placed on the Forward Work Programme for a report to be submitted in due course providing a comparable position with other local authorities in Scotland on payments and support provided to foster carers.
- para. 89/

- para. 89 – Licensing of Short-term Lets – Interim Update – provide a detailed timeline with regard to short-term let control areas, particularly within the East Neuk area, as soon as practicably available.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

95. COST OF LIVING - CONTINUING SUPPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) seeking agreement for priorities and next steps for the cost-of-living support following experience of the winter programme of support 2022/23.

The Executive Director (Communities) advised members that the figure within Appendix 5 of the report on products distributed via the Big Hoose should be 29,490 and not 2,949 as stated in the report.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed the priorities for the use of carry forward funding for 2023/24;
- (2) noted the proposals for developing support arrangements going forward; and
- (3) agreed to continue to implement a temporary Personal Vehicle Allowance payment from April 2023 to support staff with high business use of their personal vehicles.

96. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT FUNDING FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 2023/24

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking agreement for an approach to disbursing Fife's allocation of the Scottish Government's Placed Based Investment Programme Funding for financial year 2023/24. Details of the final award to local authorities have not been released by the Scottish Government, however, an indicative amount of £1.915m for 2023/24 was included in the notice of award of funds during 2022/23.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the background to the fund including likely conditions and timescales involved in delivering projects;
- (2) agreed the list of projects listed in Table 1 of report as those to receive investment from the fund during the financial year 2023/24, subject to final confirmation of funding to be made available by the Scottish Government. If funding was lower than predicted, then approved projects may be rolled forward to be delivered from the 2024/25, or later, funding allocation;
- (3)/

- (3) agreed that the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) be granted delegated authority to disburse funds to the agreed projects; and
- (4) agreed that there was some flexibility to allow movement of funds from one project to another, as necessary, with the agreement of the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) for changes above £100,000 and that, below this sum, movement was at the discretion of the Head of Business and Employability Services.

97. COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING - POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive which reasserted the Council's position on Community Wealth Building (CWB) as the primary guiding policy framework through which the organisation would align to deliver the economic, social and environmental benefits set out in the Plan for Fife.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the Community Wealth Building Policy Framework as set out at section 2 of the report;
- (2) remitted Heads of Service to review existing policy and practice, systems and processes against the CWB policy and to lead implementation and take any necessary action to redesign approaches;
- (3) noted progress in developing Community Wealth Building approaches in Fife and agreed that progress is reported back to Cabinet Committee every six months with the first report in October, 2023; and
- (4) noted that a Fife response to the Scottish Government's Community Wealth Building Bill consultation would be submitted in April, 2023 and reported to the Fife Partnership.

98. PROPOSED STATUTORY CONSULTATION TO RELOCATE THE EXISTING INVERKEITHING HIGH SCHOOL, HILLEN ROAD, INVERKEITHING TO A NEW SITE AT FLEET GROUNDS, SOUTH OF THE A985 (ADMIRALTY ROAD), ROSYTH

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) presenting, for approval of its content and to proceed to statutory consultation, the statutory Consultation Proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 relating to the relocation of Inverkeithing High School from the existing school site of Hillend Road, Inverkeithing to a new site south of the A985 (Admiralty Road).

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the content of the statutory Consultation Proposal in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 relating to the proposed relocation of Inverkeithing High School from the existing school site of Hillend Road, Inverkeithing to a new site south of the A985 (Admiralty Road), Rosyth at the Fleet Grounds, Rosyth;
- (2)/

- (2) authorised officers to proceed to statutory consultation in terms of the Consultation Proposal;
- (3) authorised officers to make such amendments to the Consultation Proposal (including the timeline) as may be necessary; and
- (4) noted that the Consultation Proposal would be brought back to a future Committee of the Council.

99. SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE - STRATEGIC EQUITY FUND 2023/24

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) providing an overview of the rationale and plan for use of the Strategic Equity Fund to support the closing of the poverty related attainment gap in Fife's educational settings in academic session 2023/24.

Decision

The Committee agreed planned projects and actions within the Strategic Equity Fund workstreams for session 2023/24 and the associated budget allocated to each.

100. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS AND SOCIAL CARE CHARGES FOR 2023-24

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care updating members with information on the proposed uplift in payments to third party providers and charges of Social Care Services for financial year 2023/24.

Motion

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor David Graham, moved that the recommendations detailed within the report be approved.

Amendment

Councillor Craig Walker, seconded by Councillor John Beare, moved that there be no increase in charges for Meals on Wheels and Community Alarms.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion – 13 votes

Councillors James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, David Ross, Jonny Tepp and Jan Wincott.

For the Amendment – 9 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, Derek Glen, Rosemary Liewald, Sam Steele, Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the proposed increase in the Free Personal and Nursing Care Allowance;
- (2) noted the proposed increase in hourly rates paid for service users in receipt of a direct payments, or for shared lives carers, to comply with the increase in living wage rate for 2023/24;
- (3) noted and approved the increase in rent charges for service users residing within staffed group homes or core and cluster services; and
- (4) approved the revised charges for Social Care Services for 2023/24.

The meeting adjourned at 11.35 am. and reconvened at 11.45 a.m.

101. ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING 2 (ESSH2) - DELIVERY PLAN UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services which was a follow-on from the previous report to the former Communities and Housing Services Committee in October, 2021. As agreed by that Committee, an Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing 2 (ESSH2) Board was set up and work to detail the requirements to meet the standard has been ongoing throughout 2022.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made with the Council's consultants (Energy Saving Trust and Changeworks) to develop the elements of the ESSH Delivery Plan 2023-32;
- (2) agreed the financial outcome from the HRA Business Plan 2022 review that the current requirement to meet ESSH2 by 2032 was not affordable to the Council based on the current rent-based funding model; and
- (3) agreed that a further report would be brought back to the Cabinet Committee by the Autumn following the outcome of the Scottish Government Review and the completion of the work with Energy Saving Trust and Changeworks.

102. NEW BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING: PROPOSED PHASE 4 (2024-29) PROGRAMME OPTIONS

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services, Head of Finance and Head of Property Services outlining the additional borrowing required to complete the Transitional Affordable Housing Programme (TAHP) and outlined the options for development of a Phase 4 Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 2024-29 and confirmed the outcome of the 2022 HRA Business Plan Review testing the affordability of the proposed programme.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) recognised Fife's success in delivering the number of units delivered to date by the Council and the Fife Housing Association Alliance (FHAA);
- (2) noted that the FHAA intended to deliver an additional 2,500 affordable homes across 2024-29 as part of the proposed Phase 4 AHP;
- (3) agreed that the existing Fife Council/FHAA Partnership Agreement be extended to May, 2029;
- (4) approved additional HRA borrowing of £38.778m required to complete Phase 3 and the Transitional Affordable Housing Programme (TAHP);
- (5) approved additional HRA borrowing of £10.5m to provide for the continuation of property acquisitions across 2023-26;
- (6) approved investment in a two year tranche of 500 council houses across 2024-26 requiring additional capital expenditure of £112.5m resulting in additional borrowing of £75m;
- (7) agreed the aspiration of extending to a five year council new build programme (2024-29) of up to 1250 properties subject to an affordability gateway review in 2025/26, including an examination of alternative funding sources to support the five year programme; and
- (8) agreed that the housing options detailed in Section 4 of the report would form the basis of the Phase 4 Programme.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Ross Vettraino left the meeting at this stage.

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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras. 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

103. TURBINE GROUND LEASE, MELVILLE WOODS, LADYBANK (PRIVATE REPORT)

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking approval to grant a lease of ground within the Lower Melville Woods landfill site, Ladybank.

Decision

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