

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – BLENDED MEETING

Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

16 May 2024

10.00 am – 2.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Andrew Verrecchia, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors John Caffrey, David Graham and James Leslie.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jane Ann Liston made a transparency statement in relation to Paragraph 127, question 7, below as she was a Fife Council appointee to William Gibson's Trust.

123. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN

Decision

The council noted the Civic Business Bulletin.

124. MINUTE

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved that the minute of Fife Council of 21 March 2024 be approved.

Decision

The council approved the minute subject to an amendment to page 2024.FC.131 to clarify a supplementary question.

125. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Minutes of the undernoted committees and sub-committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:-

- (1) West and Central Planning Committee of 6 March and 3 April 2024.
- (2) North East Planning Committee of 13 March and 10 April 2024.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 29 April 2024.
- (4) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 12 March 2024.
- (5) Cabinet Committee of 7 March and 4 April 2024.
- (6) Standards, Audit and Risk Committee of 14 March 2024.
- (7) Pensions Committee of 28 March 2024.
- (8) Glenrothes Area Committee of 27 March 2024.
- (9) Levenmouth Area Committee of 20 March and 23 April 2024.
- (10) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 23 April 2024.
- (11) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 30 April 2024.
- (12) North East Fife Area Committee of 24 April 2024.
- (13) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 17 April 2024.
- (14) South and West Fife Area Committee of 17 April 2024.
- (15) Education Scrutiny Committee of 5 March 2024.
- (16) Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 18 April 2024.
- (17) Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 19 March 2024.
- (18) Fife Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board of 2 February 2024.

Decision

The council noted the minutes.

126. LEADERS' REPORT

The council considered a report by the Leader of the Council on a number of strategic issues. The Leader provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members and also gave a brief update in relation to the Life Chances Programme and the Levelling Up Funding for the City of Dunfermline.

Decision

The council noted the Leader's report.

127. QUESTION TIME

In terms of Standing Order No. 9.3, the following questions were submitted.

Question 1 from Councillor Jonny Tepp

What work needs to be completed before the administration will be in a position to enforce a pavement parking ban?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

Work is currently ongoing within Roads and Transportation Services to identify and assess possible exemption areas and mitigation measures for displacement parking across Fife as part of the pavement parking ban. Once this is completed, a report will be presented to Cabinet Committee to seek approval from members regarding the principle of measures to be introduced.

Following Cabinet agreement, Area Committees will consider the proposals for their areas as part of the statutory Traffic Regulation Order process.

In parallel, operational matters such as the updating of parking management back-office IT systems would be required, specific training for parking enforcement staff, and any on-site signing and lining measures implemented.

Supplementary Question

Can we be assured that you are consulting with the waste teams to ensure the exemptions are in place for bin lorries to access certain streets?

Answer

Yes.

Question 2 from Councillor Jonny Tepp

What are the estimated costs of preparing to be ready to implement the pavement parking ban (please show the main costs and assumptions in arriving at this estimate) and what Scottish Government funding has been provided to complete this work?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The work in considering the pavement parking ban is ongoing and full costs have yet to be confirmed. However, in outline terms the known costs to date are estimated as:

Promotion of Exemption Orders (1 per Area Committee)	£14,000
Signing and Lining (Estimate)	£70,000
Parking Management IT Updates	£10,000
Printing Costs (new PCNs)	£4,000
Potential mitigation costs	to be confirmed

The Scottish Government has awarded Fife Council grant of £188,107 to undertake the work to develop the approach to the Pavement Parking Ban and survey of all streets in Fife. During 2023/24 £101,820 of this funding has been utilised to procure Consultants to undertake the development work. A request has

been submitted to Scottish Government to carry over the remaining £86,292 to 2024/25 for the ongoing work.

Supplementary Question

Are we in credit or debit in respect to the funding received and if we go into debit which fund will bear the brunt?

Answer

£86k remaining for outstanding work. If required the Service will identify where any further funding will come from.

Question 3 from Councillor Margaret Kennedy

The wider community and media have highlighted concerns in relation to violence in schools with thousands of violent incidents against council and school workers taking place in the UK since 2015. Additionally UNISON, nationally, have raised concern that their research has identified that workers in UK councils or schools are 75% more likely to be a victim of violence at work than other workers.

Information on this matter is now received by the Education Scrutiny every few months as part of the school violence reports. The reports include pupil on pupil and pupil on staff violence with trends indicating an increase in the past few years.

In terms of managing staff health and safety at work Fife Council has a legal duty to put in place measures to ensure that violence at work is never 'part of the job' irrespective of employees' roles. As Councillors we have a responsibility to ensure that our local services are delivered safely, by staff who feel protected and supported in the vital work they do for our communities.

- (a) How many reported incidents relating to violence and aggression, being directed towards all Council staff, have been recorded in 2023?
- (b) What proportion of these are relating to school staff?
- (c) Has there been any evidence of increasing or decreasing trends in relation to all Council staff?
- (d) What measures has Fife Council in place to support staff safety?

Answer (Spokesperson for Education)

A. How many reported incidents relating to violence and aggression, being directed towards all Council staff, have been recorded in 2023?

From the period 1 **April 2023** to 31 **March 2024** there were **5,185** recorded Violence Aggression and Threat incidents (VAT) directed towards all council staff.

B. What proportion of these are relating to school staff?

As a percentage of all incidents for the period **86%** or **4,444** incidents were relating to school staff.

C. Has there been any evidence of increasing or decreasing trends in relation to all Council staff?

There is evidence, from the Fife Council Health and Safety event recording system, that reported VAT incidents are increasing. All staff members are encouraged to report all VAT incidents. In 2022/23 3745 incidents were recorded and in 2023/24, 5185 were recorded.

D. What measures has Fife Council in place to support staff safety?

- Fife Council has a Health and Safety Framework that covers all services. It includes the identification of hazards and the mitigation of risk from these hazards. Part 2 of the Health and Safety Framework directs services to ensure risk profiling is undertaken and regularly reviewed - which includes undertaking and communicating risk assessments to implement any required control measures. (This includes the risk of VAT and any associated controls). Also to ensure the necessary instruction, training and supervision is in place to ensure staff safety.
- We know that the nature of the services we provide may occasionally place employees at increased risk from verbal abuse, intimidating behaviour or physical violence. All forms of violence, aggression and threat towards colleagues is unacceptable. FC is committed to a violence reduction hierarchy based on Elimination, Reduction and Control. To support this, FC has a range of supporting guidance which focus on reducing Workplace Violence and robust risk assessment.
- There's a continued focus within Education on the importance of reporting. A new reporting form was created last year to improve the process and make it easier for staff to report.
- The Heads of Education, in partnership with the Trade Unions, are holding cluster Wellbeing Roadshows during April and May 2024 for all staff groups. Supporting staff with Violence and Aggression is a key theme of these roadshows.
- There is also a focus in both the Education Health & Safety Forum, and Relationship and Behaviour Strategy Group, in terms of the Health and Safety responsibilities we have for our employees.

Question 4 from Councillor Gavin Ellis

In the last twelve-month period 1 April 2023 to 1 April 2024, can council confirm how many complaints it has received for fly tipped / dumped tyres? Also, how these items are removed from Fife's landscape - is it by a single staff member or a two-person crew - and what type of vehicle is used?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

We don't record the types of waste which have been illegally dumped, I am therefore unable to answer the first part of the question with any degree of accuracy.

Tyres are picked up by a two man crew who deal with fly-tipping. The vehicle used is a standard 3.5 tonne vehicle that is used in all areas of street cleansing. Tyres are taken to the nearest weighbridge and then taken to Entyre for recycling.

Supplementary Question

Can council advise? how much it has cost the Council to remove these tyres such as staff resources, fuel and disposal costs?

Answer

This information was to be provided following the meeting.

Question 5 from Councillor Gavin Ellis

In regard to a previous question by Councillor Dillon at full council on 21 March 2024 on the issue of control of dogs, it was reported that in 2023 there had been 610 reports resulting in 33 Dog control notices being issued and 71 warnings.

Can council confirm how many authorised officers we have to deal with the control of dogs Scotland Act 2010 and can it confirm how these are monitored in line with section 4 of the legislation that places a legal duty on the local authority to monitor dog control notices that have been issued. Is this done by contacting the dog owner regularly or by surveillance. Also, can council confirm out of these 33 DCNs that were issued how many have now been discharged in line with section 6 of the Control of Dogs Scotland Act 2010.

Answer (Spokesperson for Communities and Leisure Services)

- There are 2 x Dog Control Officers authorised to enforce the Control of Dogs (S) Act.
- Dog Control Notices are monitored in a variety of ways. These include talking to the dogs' owner, observation patrols and reports of breaches sent in by members of the public.
- None of these 33 DCNs have been discharged.

Question 6 from Councillor Al Clark

Given that the Scottish Government has regrettably rolled back its climate target to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by 2030, what assurances can Fife Council give that it will not do likewise but will continue its ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions in all its own buildings by 68% by 2030, considering the council declared a climate emergency in September 2019?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

Within available resources, we remain committed to meeting our net zero obligations in relation to our estate. We are doing this through investment in highly efficient new build projects such as Dunfermline Learning Campus as well as the retrofitting of our wider estate.

Supplementary Question

Are we still committed to net zero for all new house building?

Answer

The council is aiming to make the whole estate as energy efficient as possible for tenants. Suggest discussing further with Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services.

Question 7 from Councillor Jane Ann Liston

What is the full package for Fife Council care at home staff, specifically:

- (a) what is the hourly rate of pay for care at home workers at FC?
- (b) are FC care at home staff given sick pay? If yes, what are the terms.
- (c) what is the annual holiday allowance given to FC care at home staff?
- (d) Are FC care at home staff paid per total shift hours?
- (e) What mileage rate is paid to FC care at home staff using their own cars?
- (f) Are there any other benefits given to FC care at home staff?

In the interests of transparency I hereby declare that I am a Fife Council appointee to William Gibson's Trust, which has a company, Gibson Training and Care, that exists purely to help fund the running of the care home.

Answer (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care)

- (a) what is the hourly rate of pay for care at home workers at FC?

FC4 Grade which is currently £12.59 per hour up to £13.76 per hour

- (b) are FC care at home staff given sick pay? If yes, what are the terms.

Sickness entitlement is based on an employee's length of service as below:

Less than 6 months – 0 weeks full pay and 0 weeks half pay.
6 months – 1 year – 5 weeks full pay and 5 weeks half pay.
1 – 2 years – 9 weeks full pay and 9 weeks half pay
2 – 3 years – 18 weeks full pay and 18 weeks half pay
3 – 5 Years – 22 weeks and 22 weeks half pay
5 or more years – 26 weeks full pay and 26 weeks half pay.

Employees with less than 26 weeks service will not be entitled to receive sickness allowance but may be eligible to receive Statutory Sick Pay.

- (c) what is the annual holiday allowance given to FC care at home staff?

Employees with less than five years' service get 25 days of annual leave per year. Employees, who have five or more years' service, get 30 days of annual leave.

In addition to this, there are 8 fixed public holidays each year.

Entitlements will be pro rata for employees that do not work full-time contractual hours (36 hours).

(d) Are FC care at home staff paid per total shift hours?

Yes, Home Carers are paid for their contractual hours per day/week.

(e) What mileage rate is paid to FC care at home staff using their own cars?

For business travel by car, employees receive 45p per mile (for up to 9,999 miles in the year). Travel in excess of 10,000 miles in a year is paid at 25p per mile.

(f) Are there any other benefits given to FC care at home staff?

Nothing specific to Home Carers, corporate employee benefits will apply.

Supplementary Question

Would you agree that the quality of care provided by external bodies is at least as good as that provided by Fife Council staff but that it would be challenging for charitable providers of care and care at home to provide such generous terms without greatly raising the fees charged to service users?

Answer

Yes. I agree the service provided by all care staff across Fife is fantastic and should be welcomed. You will be aware of some of the challenges that we face in terms of recruitment and retention of staff who provide a vital role for our vulnerable people across the Kingdom and that is something I think we need to make sure we are doing more about in terms of pay and conditions.

Question 8 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what assessment it has made of the impact on Fife Council and its environmental policies of the SNP-Green former coalition government's decision to scrap its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2030 and 2040 as well as the yearly publication of Scotland's performance on emissions.

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

The changes to the Scottish Government Targets do not directly impact Fife Council's own policies and programmes. Fife Council remains committed to addressing the Climate Emergency and delivering our Climate Fife Strategy and Action Plan. However, we would note that it is still unclear if some of the wider policy positions taken as part of the Bute House Agreement will stay. Any decision on those would have potential, wider implications on funding available or legal duties for Fife Council.

Supplementary Question

Does the administration have any confidence left in the SNP Government to tackle the climate crisis given they have missed 8 of the 12 annual targets for cutting carbon emissions and have now ditched the targets totally?

Answer

I think the Administration like the Climate Change Committee had no confidence in the targets when they were originally set. The Climate Change Committee warned the Scottish Government that they had set unachievable targets at the outset but the hubris of ministers involved at the time they set the targets anyway only to face the humiliating climb down we have just seen. My hope is that the changing government in Holyrood that is shortly to come will focus on tackling climate crisis and forget the sound bites.

Question 9 from Councillor Julie MacDougall

Can Fife Council confirm if we now have clarity on the Active Travel Funding and the status of The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) the development of the Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan. How will the result of the recent consultation feed into our communities working with local groups and organisations shaping the vision for active travel in Fife affecting:

- Schools and Young People
- Workplaces
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Capacity and Capability Building

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The Council has allocated £156,712 of revenue funding for maintenance of cycleways and £537,571 of capital is available for development of the active travel network this year and £250,000 for following financial year.

Further funding applications are underway.

The LTS was approved by Fife Council Cabinet Committee on 30 November 2023. The consultation phase of the Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan (ATSAP) was concluded during February 2024. This will help to prioritise active travel projects and provide evidence of community support for proposals.

Schools, workplaces, and communities can use the ATSAP to promote walking and cycling locally, potentially seeking external funding. The Council supports community-led active travel projects and will continue assisting volunteer efforts. The ATSAP aims to be inclusive, supporting projects in areas with high social deprivation or transport poverty.

Supplementary Question

Will this funding be spread equally across Fife?

Answer

As far as possible but depends on projects that come forward and do try to get an even spread.

Question 10 from Councillor Robin Lawson

Across Fife there are large numbers of broken poles on road signage, just left on the roadside. This is both dangerous and unattractive. Will the Administration provide some extra funding to Roads and Transportation to repair or replace the broken signage before accidents happen?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

A backlog of defective road signs is being addressed and those that pose an immediate safety risk are being attended to. In terms of budget, approx. £145k has been set aside for road sign maintenance this year.

Question 11 from Councillor Robin Lawson

In 2022 I asked when Covid temporary measures introduced into Fife's towns would be removed or made permanent. Could we please have an update on this issue, including when temporary measures will be removed?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

In Crail and Townhill temporary arrangements have successfully been made permanent. In St Andrews, work is ongoing to develop proposals for the temporary measures to become permanent. The works to implement the permanent measures are anticipated to be undertaken in 2025. Temporary measures will remain in place until the permanent features are completed or removed altogether.

Supplementary Question

Can the work be progressed as a priority and publicise what will be allowed and where?

Answer

Work ongoing to try and find a solution that fits all stakeholders.

Question 12 from Councillor Robin Lawson

In many Fife towns the markings on parking bays and yellow lines marking parking restrictions are badly faded or worn out. This results in illegal parking which wardens are incapable of stopping. How much has Fife Council spent in each of the last three years on marking parking and no parking areas, and what is the planned spend for 2024/25?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

In 2021/2022, some £40,000 of parking related lining works were delivered throughout Fife. However, in each of the past two financial years (2022/23 and 2023/24), approximately £10,000 of works have been delivered annually due to issues with the reliability of the internal lining vehicle, turn-over of staff and availability of external contractors. In 2024/25 the delivery of parking related lining

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is programmed to return to normal levels with £50k identified to help renew lining throughout Fife.

Year	Issued	Actual
2021/2022	£50,094.12	£40,907.15
2022/2023	£50,000.00	£10,110.00
2023/2024	£36,500.00	£10,211.40

Question 13 from Councillor Rosemary Liewald

What is the expected lifespan of temporary repairs to road surfaces?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

Temporary repairs are intended to prevent further deterioration until a permanent solution is planned and can last weeks or months. There is however no definitive answer to this question due to many factors, such as weather, traffic type and volume, and supporting road condition.

Supplementary Question

What investigation is the service doing to make sure the temporary repairs last longer and reduce the damage to vehicles?

Answer

Will raise with the service as to what we are doing to monitor the situation. Aware there are issues with temporary repairs.

Question 14 from Councillor Rosemary Liewald

What has been the cost of temporary road patching for financial years 2018/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The costs of repairs relating to emergency P1 (24 hrs) and P2 (5 working days) for the previous 5 years are:

Activity	2018-19 Outturn	2019-20 Outturn	2020-21 Outturn	2021-22 Outturn	2022-23 Outturn
EMERGENCY PATCHING					
REPAIRS (£)	532,655	633,337	868,782	490,686	632,511

* Note 2020-21 outturn was higher due to the after effect of the Covid lockdown period

P1 repairs are generally temporary repairs whilst P2 repairs include both temporary and permanent repairs.

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The number of temporary patching repairs relating solely to P1 repairs are:

Activity	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
TEMPORARY REPAIRS	462	270	591	213	199
ESTIMATED COST (£)	43,890	25,650	56,145	20,235	18,905

Where possible the focus for road defect repairs is to undertake planned permanent repairs (P3 and P4 repairs) to allow works to be better planned and coordinated with existing resources. However, given the nature of P1 and P2 repairs and the need to safeguard the network for road users this level of spend has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years.

Supplementary Question

Why have the costs risen?

Answer

Costs have barely gone up and most likely due to inflation.

Question 15 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

With reference to the 'Road Asset Condition Inspections – Policy and Standards' policy approved in October 2019 by the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Committee, which came into force on 1 April 2020, how many Priority 3 road repairs were recorded, and how many repairs were not completed within the 3 month repair target in 2023/2024 financial year?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

2,956 road defects categorised as priority 3 were repaired throughout financial year 2023-24.

Of these, 2,141 (72.42%) were repaired within the target 3 month response time and 815 (27.58%) out-with the target 3 month response time.

Additional Context for Overall Repairs

2023/24 Versus 2022/23 total repairs

- **10732 jobs** completed up to 15 March 2024 - **additional 1,458 jobs** from 22/23 year end total (9274) - an increase of **15.7%**
- **67,474 m2** repaired up to 15 March 2024 - **additional 11,065 m2** from 22/23 year end total (56,409m2) - an increase of **19.6% in patching.**

Supplementary Question

Will you commit to clear the backlog in both Ward 7 and across Fife and keep local members updated on progress as and when it happens?

Answer

Yes.

Question 16 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

What action is the Environment Service taking to assist residents in ensuring that their domestic waste bins are not stolen from around their homes?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

It is not within the remit of Environment and Building Services to prevent bins being stolen. Any such theft should be reported to the Community Police and advice sought from the Safer Communities Team as to how residents can protect their property if thefts become a persistent problem in a particular area.

Supplementary Question

Do you agree that bin clamps should be met within the service budget not from the area budget?

Answer

Was not aware that bin clamps had been purchased but will check position with the Service and advise Councillor of outcome.

Question 17 from Councillor David Barratt

The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 gives councils power to introduce Firework Control Zones in which it would be a criminal offence for a member of the public to ignite a firework, including on private property such as a garden.

When will a report be brought to committee to allow the implementation of Firework Control Zones or providing communities advice on how Control Zones can be requested?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

The Community Safety Partnership is to look at this legislative framework with a view to setting out a framework for its application in Fife at its meeting on 12 June 2024. A briefing is being prepared for elected members on the scope of this with a view to a report coming to Cabinet thereafter.

Supplementary Question

We do appear to be behind other local authorities in this, why is that?

Answer

Only aware of Inverclyde having progressed their framework and are sharing best practice with them. We do have a bonfire framework group already in place which will link with the Community Safety Partnership.

Question 18 from Councillor Brian Goodall

How many Fife Council Houses are currently due to have completely new roof replacements and how many of these replacements are more than 5 years overdue, given the normal time schedule for roof replacements?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

There is funding in 2024/25 for 279 roofs - mostly blocks of flats or sheltered complexes and shares of mutual roofs with private owners. However, as a general guide we aim to deliver 279 roofs per annum. The Council's stock database shows that there are 1312 roofs which should be replaced over the next 3-5 years. This does not mean they need to be renewed immediately as the replacement programme is based on a combination of age and condition.

Housing, Finance and Building Services are currently reviewing the Council's HRA Capital Plan. The Senior Officers are looking to enhance the roofing replacement programme over the next 3 years.

Supplementary Question

Does the Administration recognise the link between the Council's approach on roofs and the numbers of cases we see of dampness and mould and the impact that can have on tenants health?

Answer

Yes, we do recognise that. There are a number of contributory factors to damp and mould including roof leaks etc. Our roof programme since 2012 has been responsive but now looking to move to a replacement programme which will be brought forward in the next year.

Question 19 from Councillor Brian Goodall

How many short-term repairs have been carried out on the roofs of Fife Council Houses where full roof replacement is overdue, given the normal time schedule for roof replacements?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

Building Services has advised that the average number of roofs ,where short term repairs are carried out, as described above, is 60 per annum. These then proceed to full replacement in-year.

Supplementary Question

Can we expect there to be an increase to the budget for minor repair to roofs or an increase to capital budget?

Answer

Roof repairs are often needed before a full replacement. Ramping up the roof programme this year.

Question 20 from Councillor David Barratt

What progress has been made towards providing pedestrian access at recycling centres since the budget decision in February 2024?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

Work on establishing a safe and efficient way to provide pedestrian access to recycling centres is still ongoing as resident safety at these sites is paramount.

Supplementary Question

We were advised work would be complete by March 2023. What has changed, why is it taking so long and will a paper come back to committee to scrutinise the operation of this?

Answer

The health and safety assessment at Cupar Recycling Centre highlighted a number of issues which had to be taken into consideration safety of pedestrians at other sites. A paper will come back to either Cabinet or relevant scrutiny committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 am and reconvened at 12 pm.

128. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – LISTS OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICER POWERS

The council considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which presented revised Lists of Committee and Office Powers for consideration and approval.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised of changes to paragraphs 8.1.10 and 8.1.18 which had been omitted from the List of Officer Powers.

Motion

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Leslie, moved to approve the recommendations in the report.

Amendment 1

Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Adams, moved as follows:-

Page 44 (13 of 30) – Area Committees Terms of Reference

Section 7.3.6 insert the following bullet point:-

- determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Page 48 (17 of 30) – Planning Committees

Section 9.2 delete the following bullet point:-

- determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Amendment 2

Councillor Beare, seconded by Councillor Glen, moved as follows:-

Page 36 (5 of 30) – Membership of Committees- Political Balance

2.1 Delete “If Council decide that membership will be allocated based on political balance, that calculation will be made as follows:-“

And replace it with:

“The default Council position will be that membership of Committees will be allocated on the basis of political balance (excluding any committee comprising all members of a geographic area) and that calculation will be made as follows:-“

Page 54 (23 of 30) Appendix 1 – General Provisions – Committee Membership

Table containing the Allocation of committee seats on the basis of political balance –

Delete “(made up of 6 spokespersons and 15 ordinary members) + Council Leader.”

Delete in ‘Total’ column “+ Council Leader”

Page 56 (25 of 30) Appendix 2 Membership and remits of Sub-Committees

Cabinet Committee and Sub-Committee (ii)

Delete “9 members” and replace with “8 members”.

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept Amendment 1 and for the purposes of the vote this became the conjoined motion.

Roll Call

For the Conjoined Motion – 37 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston,

Julie MacDougall, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For Amendment 2 – 32 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

The conjoined motion was accordingly agreed.

Decision

The council:-

- (1) noted the update to Paragraphs 8.1.10 and 8.1.18 of List of Officer Powers and approved the proposed changes to the Lists of Committee and Officer Powers as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report subject to further amendments as follows:-

List of Committee Powers

Section 7.3.2 – add 'establishing, agreeing and' at start of sentence.

Section 7.3.6 – add 'determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)'.

Section 9.2 – delete 'determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)'.

Appendix 1 – (5) amend wording to reflect that all members of the Pension Board should be invited to act as Observers.

List of Officer Powers

Paragraph 8.1.18 – add (Licensing of Short Term Lets) Order 2022 after Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;

- (2) delegated any consequential and non-substantive changes to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

129. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The council considered a report by the Head of Finance which presented a reviewed and revised set of Financial Regulations for consideration and approval.

Decision

The council approved the revised Financial Regulations as set out in the Appendix to the report to come into effect on 17 May 2024.

130. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requiring the council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 10.

Motion 1

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Pryde, moved as follows:-

Employers Pension Fund

Council:

1. Notes the reduction in employers pension contributions and welcomes the positive impact on finances for employers in the fund.
2. Notes that this was a result of a favourable triennial actuarial valuation with strong investment performance and a reduction in value of future liabilities meaning a modest reduction in employers contributions were possible.

Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

Motion 2

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Lawson, moved as follows:-

Reducing the default 30pmh speed limit to 20mph

Council:

1. notes the potential for a reduction in the default 30mph speed limit to 20mph;
2. notes and commends Fife's record in introducing 20mph limits and zones;
3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should result from local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and
4. asks Transportation Services to act accordingly in taking forward any changes.

Amendment

Councillor Glen, seconded by Councillor Barratt, moved as follows:-

Amend point 3 to read:-

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3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should **be informed by safety considerations and/or** local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept the Amendment subject to a minor amendment. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

Reducing the default 30pmh speed limit to 20mph

Council:

1. notes the potential for a reduction in the default 30mph speed limit to 20mph;
2. notes and commends Fife's record in introducing 20mph limits and zones;
3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should **be informed by safety considerations and** local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and
4. asks Transportation Services to act accordingly in taking forward any changes.

Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

Motion 3

Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved as follows:-

Supporting Our Communities from Flooding Across Fife

Council notes:

That the changing climate of Scotland has meant the frequency of severe storms has increased, meaning more and more areas are at high risk of flooding.

Communities like Cupar, Freuchie Mill and Rosyth have already been severely impacted by flooding events such as by Storm Gerritt. These communities have had to evacuate homes and close their businesses with no real timescales of when they can return.

The council is pleased with the current progress that has been done to deliver the property flood resilience grant scheme, initial survey work and what has been committed to in the council budget for 2024, however more needs to be done to support Fife communities.

The UK Government's Bellwin Scheme can provide local authorities extra funding for emergency situations, such as flooding or storm damage, but despite it being utilised by the Scottish Government 17 times over the last four years, it has only provided local authorities with funding twice.

Council believes:

1. More and more communities are at risk of being severely impacted by floods and it is vital that both Fife Council and national governments have strategies in place for when these incidents occur.
2. Fife Council cannot shoulder the financial burden of protecting our communities alone. The Scottish Government must do much more to ensure there is adequate funding in place should it be needed. The Scottish Government must also improve the engagement and communication between organisations such as SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities to improve collaborations in order to take a more proactive approach to flood mitigation.
3. Landowners and farmers can also play a crucial role in flood management, as they are often best placed to understand what is needed to manage the burns, rivers and other waterways on their land.

Council calls for the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government to:

1. conduct an immediate audit of the use of the Bellwin Scheme in Scotland, to ensure it is fit for purpose.
2. ensure the availability of additional grants and other forms of funding, which would be payable directly to homeowners and business owners in weather events beyond those classified as Amber by the Met Office.

Council calls for:

1. Officers to conduct a review to identify whether the current resource is sufficient for regular drain and gully clearing and will report back on the results to cabinet.
2. A continuation of its work to ensure all of its maps are up to date on all gullies and drains. This is likely to require further survey work to identify potential areas not currently being managed or maintained, this report will need to come back to cabinet committee.
3. A report on the consideration for roles related to flooding, specifically introducing a dedicated flood manager and a separate harbour & coastline manager. This report should be reported back to cabinet committee.

Amendment 1

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Wincott, moved as follows:-

Delete final "Council calls for:" and final 3 numbered paragraphs and replace with:

Council requests:

Officers to prepare a report for consideration by the Cabinet Committee on addressing flooding across Fife including consideration of the resourcing, mapping and effectiveness of drain and gully clearing, and overall staffing.

Amendment 2

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved as follows:-

After “ as amber by the Met Office”, add

Council also calls for the Council Leader to write to the Westminster Government demanding increased funding for revenue and Capital investment to develop sustainable financial strategies, for all areas including flooding, particularly as it has been highlighted by Alyson Stafford, director-general of the Scottish Exchequer, at Holyrood's Public Audit Committee, that Scotland will receive no capital consequential as a result of the recent budget while total funding will fall 8.7% in real terms by 26/27.

The meeting adjourned at 1.35 pm and reconvened at 1.45 pm.

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to conjoin with both amendments. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

Supporting Our Communities from Flooding Across Fife

Council notes:

That the changing climate of Scotland has meant the frequency of severe storms has increased, meaning more and more areas are at high risk of flooding.

Communities like Cupar, Freuchie Mill and Rosyth have already been severely impacted by flooding events such as by Storm Gerritt. These communities have had to evacuate homes and close their businesses with no real timescales of when they can return.

The council is pleased with the current progress that has been done to deliver the property flood resilience grant scheme, initial survey work and what has been committed to in the council budget for 2024, however more needs to be done to support Fife communities.

The UK Government's Bellwin Scheme can provide local authorities extra funding for emergency situations, such as flooding or storm damage, but despite it being utilised by the Scottish Government 17 times over the last four years, it has only provided local authorities with funding twice.

Council believes:

1. More and more communities are at risk of being severely impacted by floods and it is vital that both Fife Council and national governments have strategies in place for when these incidents occur.
2. Fife Council cannot shoulder the financial burden of protecting our communities alone. The Scottish Government must do much more to ensure there is adequate funding in place should it be needed. The Scottish Government must also improve the engagement and communication between organisations such as SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities to improve collaborations in order to take a more proactive approach to flood mitigation.

3. Landowners and farmers can also play a crucial role in flood management, as they are often best placed to understand what is needed to manage the burns, rivers and other waterways on their land.

Council calls for the Council leader to write to the Scottish Government to:

1. conduct an immediate audit of the use of the Bellwin Scheme in Scotland, to ensure it is fit for purpose;
2. ensure the availability of additional grants and other forms of funding, which would be payable directly to homeowners and business owners in weather events beyond those classified as Amber by the Met Office.

Council:

1. requests officers to prepare a report for consideration by the Cabinet Committee on addressing flooding across Fife including consideration of the resourcing, mapping and effectiveness of drain and gully clearing, and overall staffing; and
2. agrees that the Council Leader write to the UK Government demanding increased funding for revenue and Capital investment to develop sustainable financial strategies, for all areas including flooding.

Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

Motion 4

Councillor Bain-Lockhart, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved as follows:-

Impending Malnutrition and Famine in Gaza

"Before this crisis, there was enough food in Gaza to feed the population. Malnutrition was a rare occurrence. Now, people are dying, and many more are sick. Over a million people are expected to face catastrophic hunger unless significantly more food is allowed to enter Gaza." - WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus 03/2024.

"One in three children under two years old in the Northern Gaza Strip suffer from acute malnutrition, a sharp increase from 15.6 per cent in January, a nutrition screening conducted by UNICEF and its partners showed." – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 21/03/2024.

Council notes:

1. That Gaza is facing a humanitarian crisis leading to the population facing hunger, malnutrition, and disease.
2. That aid agency data indicates that children have died in Gaza due to malnutrition and dehydration.

Council therefore requests that the Council Leader writes to the Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister and COSLA President to state that Fife Council:

1. Supports the UN Security Council Resolution 2728 ('Demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan', supported by HM Government) of 25/03/2024 – but recognises that the timeframe for that is now past and therefore, urges HM Government and all political parties to add their voice to call for an immediate sustainable bilateral ceasefire.
2. Is concerned about reports of impending malnutrition and famine in Gaza and calls on HM Government to add its weight to growing international calls that the unhindered provision of sufficient humanitarian aid to prevent famine and disease must be expedited.
3. Allowing civilians to starve is morally wrong and we can no longer remain silent as the people of Gaza starve.

With the agreement of the Provost a representative from each political group spoke in support of the motion.

Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

131. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

It was noted that there was no business brought forward under this item.