

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING

Council Chamber, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

3 April 2025

10.00 am - 1.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), Tom Adams (substituting for Councillor Mary Lockhart), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse (substituting for Councillor Stefan Hoggan), David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Sarah Neal, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Alan Adamson, Service Manager, Health and Social Care; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Mhairi Mullen, Service Manager and Deborah Stevens, Lead Officer, Housing Services; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning Services and Alastair Hamilton, Service Manager, Planning Services; Morag Millar, Service Manager, Carlene Simpson, Project Manager, David Grove, Lead Officer and Hilary Roberts, Lead Officer, Property Services; John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Services and Susan Keenlyside, Lead Consultant, Roads and Transportation Services; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Stefan Hoggan and Mary Lockhart.

352. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

353. MINUTES

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 6 March 2025.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii) The following minutes were submitted for noting:-

- Appeals Sub-Committee of 27 February 2025; and
- Education Appointments Committee of 5, 21 and 28 February 2025.

Decision

The minutes were noted.

354. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS AND SOCIAL CARE CHARGES FOR 2025/26

The committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care providing information on the proposed uplift in payments to third party providers and charges of Social Care Services for financial year 2025-26.

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 payment, or for shared lives carers, to comply with the increase in the living wage rate for 2025-26;
- (3) noted and approved the increase in rent charges for service users residing in staffed group homes or core and cluster services; and
- (4) agreed the revised charges for Social Care Services for 2025-26 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report but rejected the proposed charges for Telecare Equipment and Day Care Services noting the financial impact this would have on the Health and Social Care Partnership's budget and agreed to pass across offsetting funding of £0.595m to the Partnership from the £5.5m funding held back for Health and Social Care in the council's 2025/26 budget.

355. HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing interim proposals to amend the Allocations Policy. The proposals were aligned to the Housing Emergency while reflecting the Group's consideration of the current policy environment.

The meeting adjourned at 11.05 am and reconvened at 11.10 am.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed interim measures detailed in para. 2.5 of the report to be implemented as initial policy changes to mitigate the Housing Emergency;
- (2) agreed to further develop a simplified points banding system detailed in para. 2.6 of the report as the second stage of work for the Task and Finish Group with a report submitted back to this committee in Autumn 2025;
- (3) agreed that a report be submitted to the Task and Finish Working Group and thereafter to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Housing Allocation Appeals process; and
- (4) agreed that the reduction to a "single fair offer" be further considered by the Task and Finish Working Group.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 am and reconvened at 11.50 am.

356. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO): OVERPROVISION POLICY UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the operation of the HMO Overprovision Policy under section 131A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (introduced by the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011) within the defined HMO overprovision locality of St. Andrews.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the position with the operation of the HMO Overprovision Policy in maintaining a "no growth" position in relation to provision of HMOs in the settlement of St. Andrews;
- (2) noted the further work ongoing with the University of St. Andrews to establish housing need and demand in the settlement of St. Andrews;
- (3) noted that five additional HMO accommodation had been provided for a period of three years to accommodate students under the management of the University of St. Andrews from September 2023 to address student housing pressures in St. Andrews as approved at Cabinet in May 2023 and noting that one application was currently pending; and
- (4) agreed to discontinue the approach of the granting of up to fifteen licences under the management of the University of St. Andrews as this was considered as a short-term measure to accommodate students from September 2023 and noted that the University of St. Andrews had been consulted and had no objection to this amendment.

357. HOUSING REGENERATION COMPENSATION POLICY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking agreement and implementation of a revised policy for compensating those displaced by Housing Service regeneration projects from April 2025.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed the proposed revised compensation policy for Fife Council tenants rehoused as part of regeneration projects;
- (2) agreed the proposed revised compensation policy for private owners, private tenants and landlords whose properties the council sought to buy back as part of regeneration projects;
- (3) agreed Option 3 as the basis for the financial payments as detailed below; and:-

Sliding Scale Approach

Retain advance payments but use a sliding scale based on size of the household and the property being allocated, considering additional expenses:-

- single person moving to one bedroom property - £1,500
 - couple/single person with kids moving to two bedroom property - £1,750
 - larger households moving to three or four bedroom properties - £2,000
- agreed that the Housing Regeneration Compensation Policy be reviewed at least once per council term.

358. SHORT-TERM LET CONTROL AREAS: PROCESS AND OPTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services following the decision of the Cabinet Committee of 9 January 2025 requesting a report setting out a proposed process to take forward consideration of the need for a Short-Term Let Control Area (STLCA). The report detailed additional research and information and the proposed public consultation process to provide further evidence for the council thereafter to consider whether to promote the designation of STLCA's in Fife.

Amendment 1

Councillor Allan Knox, seconded by Councillor James Calder, moved as follows:-

"Agree officer recommendations but add a recommendation (6):

- (6) agrees to recommend to full Council that it amend Committee Powers to allow Area Committees to recommend a Short-Term Let Control Zone within their area to Cabinet Committee to make a final decision".

Amendment 2

Councillor David Barratt, seconded by Councillor Craig Walker, moved as follows:-

"Agree officer recommendations but amend recommendation (5) to delete the final sentence and add recommendation (6) to read:-

- (6) agrees to recommend to full Council that it amend Committee Powers to allow Area Committees to designate a Short-Term Let Control Zone within their area."

Roll Call Vote

For Amendment 1 - 13 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, David Ross and Jan Wincott.

For Amendment 2 - 9 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Rosemary Liewald, Sarah Neal and Craig Walker.

Having received a majority of votes, Amendment 1 was accordingly carried.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed the scope of the further research and data analysis to be used to inform a report considering whether to promote the principle of the designation of an STLCA, as set out in section 2 of the report;
- (2) agreed the approach in terms of public, community and business consultation to inform the wider context of the principle of promoting an STLCA, as set out in section 3 of the report;
- (3) noted the risk and benefits of the governance processes, as set out in section 4 of the report;
- (4) agreed the proposed timescale to undertake additional research and public consultation, as set out in section 6 of the report;
- (5) noted that a full assessment and evaluation of the risks and benefits of designation an STLCA in Fife was set out in the report presented to Cabinet in January 2025. A report to Cabinet in December 2025/January 2026 would further comprehensively address the risk and benefits of promoting an STLCA in Fife, following the public consultation process on the principle and the assessment of additional information as set out in this report. The report would consider whether to promote an STLCA in Fife or not; and
- (6) agreed to recommend to full Council that it amend the List of Committee Powers to allow Area Committees to recommend a Short-Term Let Control Zone within their area to Cabinet Committee to make a final decision.

359. **STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY, PROCEDURES AND CHARGES**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services seeking approval for the revised Street Naming and Numbering Policy, Procedures and Charges.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) the revised Street Naming and Numbering charges as detailed below to commence from 1 April 2025; and

Service	Current Charge (£)	Proposed charge (£) from 01/04/2025 (approx. 30%)
	<i>(per plot method)</i>	<i>(sliding scale method)</i>
Register new properties / addresses		
Charge per additional plot	8	n/a
1 new address	48	62.40
2-10 new addresses	56-120	104
11-25 new addresses	128-240	260
26-50 new addresses	248-440	520
51-75 new addresses	448-640	780
76-100 new addresses	648-840	1040
100+ new addresses	1040 <i>(based on 125 units)</i>	1300 <i>(based on 125 units)</i>
New street name(s)	200	260

- (2) the revised Street Naming and Numbering Policy and Procedures set out in Appendix 1 to the report with the following two amendments detailed in the Street Naming Consultation Process flowchart:-
- (i) the word "unanimous" to be added prior to the word "agreement" which would now read - if elected ward members do not reach unanimous agreement; and
 - (ii) if elected ward members do not reach unanimous agreement, the appropriate Area Committee would decide which name would be approved.

360. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FUNDING - FIFE'S PROPOSED PROJECTS 2025/26

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services seeking agreement for the prioritisation of Fife's allocation of the final year of the Scottish Government's Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) Funding. Details of the 2025/26 award to local authorities had not yet been released by the Scottish Government, however, in previous correspondence, £1.915m had been indicated by officials.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the background to the Place Based Investment Programme funding, the likely funding conditions and timescales to deliver projects;
- (2) approved the projects listed below:-
 - **Cowdenbeath Town House** (Priority 1) Refurbishment and CAT to BRAG for community use - Total Cost £2.361m / £1.200m PBIP request
 - **Riverside Park, Glenrothes** (Priority 1) - Phase 2 Pavilion - Destination Hub to support international scale Pump Track and events - Total Cost £5.295m / £0.315m PBIP request
 - **Silver Sands, Aberdour** - Tourism Destination Facilities (Priority 1) - Total Cost £1.30m / £0.40m PBIP request
 - **Kirkcaldy - Better Connections and Storytelling** (Reserve) - Total Cost £0.60m / £0.45m PBIP request; and
- (3) agreed that the Executive Directors (Place) and (Finance and Corporate Services) be granted delegated authority to finalise the investment for the agreed projects.

361. VACANT AND DERELICT LAND FUND - FIFE'S PROPOSED PROJECTS 2025/26

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services seeking approval for the recommendations for the investment of the council's allocation of Vacant and Derelict Land Fund in 2025/26 subject to approval by the Scottish Government of the Delivery Plan.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the criteria for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund and its role in unlocking other sources of funding for land remediation and preparation projects across Fife;
- (2) approved the recommendations for its use in Fife, subject to Scottish Government approval to secure release of the funds in 2025/26; and
- (3) delegated to the Executive Directors (Place) and (Finance and Corporate Services) to finalise the investment for the agreed projects prior to seeking Scottish Government Ministerial approval to secure release of funds within 2025/26.

362. FIFE TRANSIENT VISITOR LEVY

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing an overview of the Scottish Government Transient Visitor Levy legislation and to seek approval to commence early engagement on a potential visitor levy scheme for Fife, recognising the importance of tourism to the local economy and the need for engagement with relevant parties.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted how the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 and the powers granted to local authorities could be applied in Fife and the process for considering this;
- (2) noted that the Council agreed in the budget meeting on 20 February 2025 to ask officers to investigate the possibility of introducing a visitor levy for Fife and to undertake the necessary consultation;
- (3) acknowledged the importance of tourism to the local economy and the need for engagement with interested parties;
- (4) noted that a draft levy scheme would be developed using the intelligence gathered from initial engagement and information gleaned from early adopter councils such as City of Edinburgh which would then be brought back to the Cabinet Committee for approval before being subject to statutory consultation;
- (5) approved the approach and timeline detailed below; and:-

Early Engagement Period Incorporating forecasting research work and development of draft visitor levy scheme	April – December 2025
Committee Meeting Consideration of feedback from early engagement Decision on whether to proceed with statutory consultation	March 2026
Formal consultation period	12 weeks

Committee Meeting Consideration of feedback from formal consultation Decision on implementation of the levy	August 2026
Implementation period	18 months
Launch of visitor levy scheme (if implementation is agreed)	April 2028

- (6) agreed that a Task and Finish Working Group be set up to look at experience gained in other areas/countries following by a report to the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

363. EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE - REGIONAL PROCUREMENT

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services and the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services seeking approval for Fife Council to collaborate in a contract anticipated to involve eight Scottish local authorities to procure, manage and expand the public electric vehicle (EV) charging network across the South East and South West of Scotland.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the ongoing participation of Fife Council in a collaborative procurement process to engage a commercial partner via a concession-type contract through partnership with the regional local authorities listed in section 1.4 of the report;
- (2) agreed, in principle, to entering into an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) with one or more of the partnership authorities in relation to the service delivery period of the proposed contract and delegated authority to the Heads of Roads and Transportation Services and Revenue and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to negotiate and agree the terms of the IAA;
- (3) delegated authority to the Head of Roads and Transportation Services and Head of Revenue and Commercial Services for the commercial decisions relating to the commencement and conclusion of the procurement process which would be led by City of Edinburgh Council as a collaborative contract; and
- (4) noted that the outcome of the procurement would be considered (in private) by Cabinet Committee for approval prior to award.

364. CONSULTATION ON A LOCAL AUTHORITY GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) seeking views on Fife Council's draft response to the current Scottish Government consultation on a general power of competence for local authorities.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered and commented on the draft consultation response; and
- (2) delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to finalise the council's response and submit the consultation document.

365. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES

Decision

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.