

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

25 June 2025

2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

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

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Izzy Scott-Trimmm, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Patricia Galfskiy, Policy Officer, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Mary McKay, Education Manager, Education Service; Manager; Alexander Anderson, Service Manager (Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing), Waste Operations; Stephen Duffy, Team Manager, Grounds Maintenance Dunfermline; Michael O’Gorman, Service Manager - Estates and Asset Management; Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management; Vivian Dyas, Co-ordinator (Programme and Financial Management); Josh Gomez, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South; Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Committee Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Euan Bell, Jamie McDonald and Steven Reid, Fire Brigade Union representatives, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (for para 190 only).

189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

190. DEPUTATION ON PROPOSED CUTS TO LOCHGELLY FIRE STATION BY FIRE BRIGADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Convener agreed, in terms of Standing Order No 12.0, that representatives from the Scottish Fire Brigade Union be permitted to address the meeting in relation to proposed cuts and loss of services at Lochgelly Fire Station. Members then asked a number of questions which were answered.

The Convener, on behalf of the committee, thanked the organisation's representatives for their presentation.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed that the Convener, on behalf of the committee, would write to the Chief Fire Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to extend an invitation to attend a future meeting of the committee, to address concerns raised by members on proposed cuts to services at Lochgelly Fire Station;
- (2) requested clarification from Legal and Democratic Services, in line with relevant legislation, to confirm what powers Fife Council as the Local Authority might have in determining whether the provision of services by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Fife were adequate; and
- (3) encouraged engagement in the public consultation on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service website noting that an 'open meeting' was being held on 4 August 2025, from 6pm to 8pm at Lochgelly Centre, at which officers of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would be available to discuss the proposed cuts to services at Lochgelly Fire Station.

191. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 30 April 2025.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the minute; and
- (2) acknowledged dissatisfaction from members relating to requests for information and the prolonged response time from some council officers.

192. PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT - B925 AND B981, CROSSGATES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services proposing to introduce a 20mph speed limit within Crossgates.

Decision

In the interests of road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit as detailed in drawing no. TRO25_32 (Appendix 1 to the report); and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the TRO within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

193. PROPOSED 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT - LOCHGELLY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation proposing to introduce 20 mph speed limits in various streets in Lochgelly.

Decision

In the interests of road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits as detailed in drawing nos. TRO25_23/PS (Appendix 1 to the report), TRO25_23/PN (Appendix 2 to the report) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the TRO within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

194. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) ANNUAL UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on Community Recovery Fund (CRF) projects being developed and delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area and seeking approval to redirect funds, where necessary, following project investigations/consultation.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress on projects being developed and delivered from the Community Recovery Fund budget (detailed at appendix 1 to the report);
- (2) approved reallocation of £211,900 of funding from existing projects identified at paragraph 2.2 of the report, to the following projects at (3) below;
- (3) approved the allocation of funding to projects as follows:
 - a. £35,000 to Lochgelly Brass Band for instrument replacement;
 - b. £10,000 to each of the six local Place Plans to support their delivery, totaling £60,000;
 - c. £10,000 to Knights Templar Goodwill Charity to support the work they deliver within the Cowdenbeath Area;
 - d. £40,000 towards an overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park;
 - e. £50,000 towards the Nethertown Gardens, Kelty play park project;
 - f. £5,000 towards the Save The Cage project;
 - g. £11,900 to Friends of Lochore Meadows to support their development plans for the park; and
- (4) approved the reallocation of any future underspend towards the overflow car park for Lochore Meadows Country Park (LMCP) and requested further discussion relating to funding for the future development of LMCP be deferred for discussion at a future meeting with the Executive Director, Communities, to be organised..

195. ANNUAL ROADS PROGRAMME 2024/25 - FINAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising on the delivery of the 2024-25 Area Roads Programme (ARP).

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report and appendices.

196. DOMESTIC WASTE, STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE - ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Protective Services and Head of Property Services reviewing the progress and performance of Domestic Waste, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Service for 2024/25. The report also outlined the Service planning objectives for 2024/25 and the direction of travel.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the continued Service development and performance in grounds maintenance, domestic waste collection and street cleansing services in 2024-25;
- (2) noted the plans to deliver local priorities and help communities shape their environment; and
- (3) agreed to refer to the Environment, Transport and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee to consider issues relating to members of the public being unable to book bulky uplifts due to restrictions on the number of booking slots per day.

The committee adjourned at 3.55 pm and reconvened at 4.10 pm

197. REPORT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Education Services providing details of the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area's schools during the school year 2023/24. The report also provided an overview of the range of strategies being developed to support key priorities to raise attainment.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2023/24; and
- (2) the strategies being implemented to raise attainment.

198. THE MINTO WOODLANDS PATHS PROJECT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing a summary update on the background and progress of the Minto woodland paths project.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) acknowledged the efforts and achievements of the working group who worked collaboratively to deliver the project.

Councillor Mary Lockhart left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

199. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services advising of action taken using the List of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) raised concerns that members were not advised in advance of property acquisitions, only becoming aware of transactions after they had taken place via this report to the area committee; and
- (3) members requested further detail from the Estates Service, outlining the process and associated timescales for property acquisitions.

200. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services relating to the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee Forward Work Programme;
- (2) requested an interim update report on the pilot scheme in Cowdenbeath area for 'No Wrong Door' outlining progress and next steps, to be submitted to the next meeting of the committee on 3 September 2025; and
- (3) requested a report on youth voice, youth forums etc in the Cowdenbeath area, by December 2025