

## 2022 CAC 3

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

31st August, 2022

2.00 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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

**ATTENDING:** Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods; Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area); Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Communities; Louise Whyte, Capital Projects Manager, Community Projects Team; Clare Hill, Parks Development Officer; Kevin O’Kane, Greenspace Partnership Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods; Craig Brown, Lead Officer, Housing – Cowdenbeath Area; Janet Scade, Lead Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods Cowdenbeath Area; John Rodigan, Senior Manager, Environment and Building Services; Ian Jones, Lead Consultant, Network Management; Sandy Anderson, Service Manager (Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing), Waste Operations; Michael Mcardle, Lead Professional – Estates; Tariq Ditta, Senior Manager - Catering and Cleaning Facilities Management; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

Prior to the start of business, the Convener welcomed Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb to his first meeting of the Committee as an elected member for Ward 7 and thanked ex-Councillor Gary Guichan for his contribution to the Committee during his time in office.

The Convener listed a number of events that had taken place during the summer throughout the Cowdenbeath area and showed gratitude and appreciation to all volunteers and event organisers for their hard work in providing an enjoyable experience for all in attendance.

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### 5. **MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 31st May, 2022.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

6./

## 2022 CAC 4

### 6. APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking nominations for member representation on those external organisations detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed member appointments to the organisations detailed in the appendix to the report - see appendix to the minute for details.

### 7. AREA CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement to allocate funds from the Area Capital Budget for projects including: Lochore Meadows Country Park Greenspace project; Footpath improvement including lighting enhancement in Lochgelly Public Park; and a contribution to the resurfacing of the car park at Hill of Beath ex-servicemen's club.

#### Decision

The Committee :-

- (1) accepted the revised recommendation that officers carry out a full community consultation across the Cowdenbeath Committee Area on the wider Lochore Meadows Country Park Development Plan with a focus on playpark, nature area and community event space proposals;
- (2) requested a report detailing the outcome of the above consultation for the Committee's consideration at its meeting on 1st February, 2023 of a contribution of £100k from the Area Capital Budget to the Lochore Meadows Country Park Nature Area project,
- (3) agreed to contribute £60k (from 22/23 revenue budget allocation £100k) from the Area Capital Budget to Lochgelly Public Park – Footpath and Lighting improvement project;
- (4) agreed to contribute £20k from the Area Capital Budget to the Hill of Beath car park; and
- (5) agreed to reallocate funding of £40k from previous area budget allocations.

### 8. PROPOSED ROAD ADOPTION - LOANHEAD AVENUE, LOCHORE

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager, Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to promote the adoption of a section of Loanhead Avenue, Lochore as detailed in the appendix to the report.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed to promote the adoption of the section of Loanhead Avenue, Lochore, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, under Section 1 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

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**9. COWDENBEATH TOWN HOUSE**

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Senior Manager, Property Services, providing an update on developments since the future of Cowdenbeath Town House was considered in February 2022, including an updated list of recommendations in the report regarding the proposed disposal of the Common Good property.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the options for the future of the Cowdenbeath Town House;
- (2) agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Committee that Cowdenbeath Town House be sold to Coalfields Regeneration Trust at the District Valuer's valuation (Committee noted that Cabinet Committee approval would be dealt with using the List of Officer Powers);
- (3) noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services had confirmed that consent from the Sheriff would not be required;
- (4) authorised further consultation, required under Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the formal 8 week notification process);
- (5) noted that the actions outlined above would be carried out with appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Senior Manager – Property Services, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services; and
- (6) agreed to an additional recommendation to include a condition in the legal terms and conditions that the Cowdenbeath Town House would be retained for Community Use in the future by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

**10. DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager Environment and Building Services relating to the challenges faced by the Domestic Waste Service, resulting in delayed household bin collections in the Cowdenbeath area and the mitigating actions to assist in resolving the situation.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) acknowledged the challenges faced by the Domestic Waste Service; and
- (2) noted the mitigating actions to assist in resolving the delayed collection service.

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## 2022 CAC 6

The Committee adjourned at 3.25 p.m.

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The Committee reconvened at 3.30 p.m.

### 11. AREA HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services advising that a revised Cowdenbeath Area Housing Services Plan for 2022/25 was in development and would be presented to the Committee by December 2022. An update on progress was provided on delivering service priorities and performance information for the financial year 2021/22 where figures were available at an area level.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) scrutinised the work progressed through the previous Area Housing Plan for the financial year 2021/22;
- (2) acknowledged the Cowdenbeath area performance for financial year 2021-22 outlined in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) noted the Expenditure for the HRA Locality Managed Budget for financial year 2021-22 outlined in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (4) agreed to invite officers from the Fuel Poverty Team to the next meeting of the Committee on 26th October, 2022, to provide an update on the support that is available for Fife Council tenants during the crisis period.

### 12. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Senior Manager - Property Services advising members of action taken using the list of officer powers in relation to property transactions.

#### Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

### 13. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Cowdenbeath Area Committee forward work programme.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the Cowdenbeath Area Committee forward work programme:
- (2)/

## 2022 CAC 7

(2) agreed to include the following reports:-

- Youth Provision across Cowdenbeath area to include Hill of Beath;
- Anti-social behaviour and safety/security in Cowdenbeath Area Public Parks;
- Flooding at King George V Park at Lochore Meadows;
- Lochgelly Town Hall repairs and improvements; and
- Update report on fencing repairs at Lumphinnans.

### 14. NOTICE OF MOTION

In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion had been submitted:-

“Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention Growing Committee notes that the Council agreed, with the Fife Partnership Board agreed (on 21.2.21 item 4b) to seek to address the issues of poverty in our communities/and improve outcomes by Services of the Council working together locally, and with communities to help tackle poverty in our communities and improve outcomes by targeting anti-poverty funding.

This work will build on lessons learned during the initial response and community support to the Covid-19 crisis and set out how those lessons can be built into the Plan for Fife strategy for the next three years. Committee also notes that the Community Grant Growing Scheme is one such scheme which will encourage community growing groups throughout Fife to develop projects and to provide support for existing and new growing projects. Committee recognises that the positive overall benefits of such projects and detailed and evidenced one such example being the Edible Estates projects:

<http://www.edibleestates.co.uk/benefits-of-community-growing/>

We are fully aware that Fife Council is therefore encouraging Community food growing groups, Community Orchards groups, Community Allotments and Community growing groups to work with our Locality Community and Learning Development Teams, and Allotment Team within Fife Council in developing and sustaining projects of this nature throughout Fife.

Area Committee request that Officers bring a report to a future Committee with a view to establishing and supporting a Community Growing Project, in conjunction with Forestry and Land Scotland, Fife Council and other Third Sector Funding bodies, on available land within the South Dundonald area of Cardenden.”

Proposed by Councillor Liewald  
Seconded by Councillor McLelland

### **Amendment**

## 2022 CAC 8

### **Amendment**

Councillor Erskine seconded by Councillor Lockhart moved as an amendment to delete the final paragraph of the Motion:-

"Area Committee request that Officers bring a report to a future Committee with a view to establishing and supporting a Community Growing Project, in conjunction with Forestry and Land Scotland, Fife Council and other Third Sector Funding bodies, on available land within the South Dundonald area of Cardenden."

Replacing this with:-

"Area Committee request that Officers bring a report to the 29th March 2023 Committee with a view to establishing and supporting potential Community Growing Projects, in conjunction with Forestry and Land Scotland, Fife Council and other Third Sector Funding bodies, across the Cowdenbeath Area"

### **Decision**

The conjoined motion and amendment were unanimously agreed.

## 15. NOTICE OF MOTION

In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion was submitted:-

"School Meals Committee notes the deputation and subsequent motion passed at the meeting on 1 May 2019 regarding school meals and the subsequent reports submitted to the Area Committee in October 2019 and January 2020, providing an update together with comments received from Lochgelly High School pupils on the quality and price of School meals and the free school meal lunch allowance.

The Committee requests officers present a final report to the Area committee meeting to be held on 1 February 2023, to provide an update on progress since May 2020, to include views from the core groups of young people identified at Lochgelly and Beath High Schools."

Proposed by Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb  
Seconded by Councillor Lea McLelland

### **Decision**

The motion was unanimously agreed.

## 16. PUBLIC QUESTION

In terms of Standing Order No. 6.1, the following public question was submitted to the Committee for consideration:-

**Submitted by Lochgelly Youth Forum –**

"We feel that all other Community Centres welcome young people to their buildings. We don't feel that the Lochgelly Centre is a welcoming environment for young people. We/

## 2022 CAC 9

We, Lochgelly Youth Forum are asking if someone else can oversee the running of the Lochgelly Centre. It is currently run by On@Fife and we don't think they are doing the best for young people and we would like to see CLD run the centre.

What can the Committee do to help our group with this?"

### **Response from Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods:-**

In the short term Communities and Neighbourhoods Service will organise a meeting with Fife Cultural Trust (FCT) and the Youth Forum to hear their concerns.

In the interim FCT are planning to work more closely with the youth forum. In this respect, FCT are planning to meet with them during late summer to update them on their awareness of the issue as well as how FCT wish to resolve this. The intention is to reassure them that FCT very much see the Youth Forum and Youth in general, as being a core priority for moving forward in terms of venue use.

To this end FCT will be hosting a series of community engagement meetings with them as well as the wider Community on the use of the venue and these will be taking place in the Autumn. FCT are currently finalising details of the programme as well as dates.

As part of the engagement FCT will endeavour to rebuild trust, provide clarity and develop a shared sense of ownership, ensuring that all users of the venue feel valued and see it as there to accommodate their needs.

### **Response from Head of Cultural Development OnFife:-**

OnFife are committed to ensuring Lochgelly Centre is a vibrant, accessible, and relevant community hub, which is 'of, by and for' the people of Lochgelly. We are working with Dundee and Angus College - Service Design Academy to deliver a bespoke package of activity that supports co design with communities and creates a collaborative vision. "The main goal of service design is to transform services. It puts people first, using creativity to solve problems and challenge assumptions. It creates environments where innovation happens."

To do this we will:

- Work with building users, and wider external stakeholders to evaluate the current environment, offering a radical solution to legacy challenges
- Establish a mindset shift and assess the current environment
- Work together to generate a legacy framework for how OnFife engages with the community
- Build trust, clarity, and a shared sense of ownership
- Create meaningful momentum
- Form a vibrant community that is relevant, welcoming, and inclusive
- Leave the community with the skills and a toolkit to facilitate future continued relationships for working in partnership and the development of services which are more 'of, by and for' the community

Timeline/

## 2022 CAC 10

Timeline for this work is currently planned for Oct - Dec 2022. This coincides with recruitment to the Community Engagement Worker post and a Lochgelly Centre Venue Manager post. From March 2023 OnFife will recruit a Relevance Instigator who will work across 3 pilot projects. One of these projects is Lochgelly, to do further community engagement work guided by the principles of the Of/By/For All Change Network for a further 12 months.

This is not an overnight fix. Our approach is without expectation or predetermined outcomes. Everything is to be discussed, influenced, challenged, and created with all community stakeholders. This will help us build an inviting, fair and exciting community hub in the heart of Lochgelly.

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