

2022 LAC 3

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

14th September, 2022

10.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Davidson (Convener), Tom Adams, Ken Caldwell, David Alexander, Eugene Clarke, David Graham, John O'Brien and Alistair Suttie.

ATTENDING: Susan Keenlyside, Service Manager, Sustainable Transport and Parking, John Mitchell, Senior Manager - Roads and Transportation, Vicki Connor, Co-ordinator (Programme and Financial Management), Phil Clarke, Programme Manager, Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint, Sustainable Transport and Parking, Roads and Transportation Services; Ross Spalding, Service Manager, Kate Spalding, Technical Officer (Climate Change and Zero Waste), Climate Change and Partnerships, Economy Planning and Sustainability Service; David Paterson, Community Manager (Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Ronnie Ross, Headteacher, Levenmouth Academy, Education Services; Helena Couperwhite, Service Manager and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

Prior to the commencement of the formal committee business, the Convener asked members to observe a one-minute silence, to acknowledge and commemorate the sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September, 2022.

In terms of Standing Order 8.1(2), the Convener agreed to accept an Urgent Motion in relation to the proposed reduction in Stagecoach bus services across Fife.

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 Levenmouth Area Committee of 26th May, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL 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:

(1)/

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- (1) approved the appointments to external organisation as detailed in the Appendix to this minute; and
- (2) agreed that member appointment to the Levenmouth Local Tourist Association be deferred to allow for a discussion with the organisation on additional member representation.

7. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education, providing members with a summary report on the 2020/21 School Attainment across secondary and primary schools serving the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (3) were encouraged to engage directly with local schools to find out more about School Attainment and Achievement;
- (4) noted the details contained within this report in relation to the nature of this year's report due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic; and
- (5) noted the information provided in the secondary schools' reports as detailed in the report.

8. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2021-22 – FINAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, providing members with an update on the delivery of the 2021-2022 Area Roads Programme for the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report.

9. SGN H100 UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning, advising members on the progression of works and communications from Scottish Gas Network (the gas distribution network operator) and Fife Council.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report.

10. LEVENMOUTH RECONNECTED PROGRAMME LARGE GRANT FUND UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, updating members on the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme (LRP) Large Grant funding projects.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the current projects that had been assessed by the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme working group grant panel (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (2) noted the forthcoming strategic projects that were intended to seek funding from the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme fund (as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report); and
- (3) agreed to defer any large grant awards until all strategic projects funding requirements were known, which would allow the Committee to consider the best use of the grant funding within this round.

11. LEVENMOUTH CONNECTIVITY PROJECT ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, updating members on the progress of the Levenmouth Connectivity Project Active Travel Network, which included recent award funding by Sustrans.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the award of £2.6million by Sustrans to progress the detailed design of the Levenmouth Connectivity Project, and acknowledged that Fife Council had been allocated £1.3 million to develop the Active Travel Network to be located within or directly adjacent to the boundary of the public road;
- (2) the extensive community consultation that was programmed as part of the detailed design phase; and
- (3) that a funding application would be made to Sustrans and match funding sources for the construction stages of the programme.

12. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – HOPE CHEST STORAGE PROVISION

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, which sought agreement from members to contribute £7,900 from the Local Community Planning Budget for the provision of storage units for the Hope Chest, Wellesley Parish Church, Methil.

Decision

The Committee agreed to contribute £7,900 towards the cost of purchasing stand-alone steel storage units for the Hope Chest, based at Wellesley Parish Church, Methil.

13. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – LEVEN TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking approval from members for a contribution of £7,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget, Ward 21, for the cost of the erection and dismantling of the festive decorations in Leven Town Centre.

Decision

The Committee agreed a total contribution of £7,000 towards the cost of the erection and dismantling of the festive decorations for Leven Town Centre during November/December 2022.

14. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – TOBOGGAN ROAD TAYLOR STREET PLAY SPACES CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, seeking agreement from members for a contribution of £20,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget, towards the cost of the installation of adult fitness equipment at Taylor Street Park, Methil and would include the removal of the play park equipment at Toboggan Road, Methil.

Decision

The Committee agreed to contribute £20,000 for the installation of the adult fitness equipment at Taylor Street, Methil and the removal of the play park equipment at Toboggan Road, Methil.

15. URGENT MOTION

Proposed by: Councillor Eugene Clarke

Seconded by: Councillor Colin Davidson

The Committee notes the proposals submitted by Stagecoach to review Services across the Levenmouth area and the consultation deadline of 12 September 2022. It is understood that the impact of these proposed cuts are substantial and will affect the lives of many of our constituents who are reliant on bus transport for work and to access services.

In considering the options for a comprehensive Fife Council response to the Stagecoach proposal, it is noted that the agreed remit for Area Committee does not have any explicit powers to allow Area Committees to discuss concerns relating to a third party provided bus service even where they have significant impact on Levenmouth. The Committee requests that Council undertake an urgent cross-party review on the remits of Area Committees in line with the statement made in the Leader's report on devolution of powers to Area Committees at Fife Council on 9th June 2022 to address this perceived gap."

Decision

The Committee agreed the motion unanimously.

16. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising members of the action taken using the list of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

17. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) agreed to include a report on “update on Kirkland Care Village” to the Forward Work Programme – date to be advised; and
 - (2) noted the content of the Levenmouth Area Committee Forward Work Programme.
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