

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

**Meeting Room 6, Civic Centre, Inverkeithing**

**25th January, 2023.**

**9.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Barratt (Convener), Patrick Browne, Dave Dempsey, Graeme Downie, Brian Goodall, Andy Jackson, Sarah Neal, Sam Steele, Andrew Verrecchia and Conner Young.

**ATTENDING:** Andrew Gallacher, Community Manager (City of Dunfermline Area), Mandy McEwan, Area Community Development Manager and Stephen Adamson, Project Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant, Flooding Shoreline and Harbours; and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dawn Lochhead, Flood Rescue Manager and Scott Fraser, Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Water (for para. 42 only).

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**41. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the South and West Fife Area Committee meeting of 23rd November, 2022.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**42. UPDATE ON FLOODING ISSUES IN DALGETY BAY**

Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant gave an update on the flooding issues in Dalgety Bay, particularly at Lade Braes. Mr. Haynes highlighted that ownership of the park resided with Barratt Homes and that Fife Council maintained the park via grass cutting and tree trimming. The flooding issues were caused by water coming into the park and then making its way over land towards Lade Braes in the south through back gardens which had affected a small number of properties. Mr. Haynes advised that meetings had been arranged with Fife Council, Scottish Water, Councillors and residents to ascertain the situation regarding the drainage. It was noted that the drainage within the park had degraded over time and ceased to collect water coming into the park which contributed to water going over the back of the park and into the properties. Fife Council and Scottish Water were currently working to find a way legally around the legislative impasse they found themselves in as both organisations wanted a safe and functional place for residents to live. Discussions were therefore ongoing with Scottish Water to look at an alternative solution to the situation.

Dawn Lochhead/

Dawn Lochhead, Scottish Water reiterated the update provided by Rick Haynes and confirmed that Scottish Water and Fife Council had had numerous discussions to try and address the flooding issues at Lade Braes. Ms. Lochhead pointed out that it was illegal for Scottish Water to knowingly permit a connection of land drainage to the public sewer and, as the connection at Lade Braes was no longer in operation due to lack of maintenance, this had exacerbated the flood risk to properties. Ms. Lochhead pointed out that the size and scale of the drainage that was being asked to be reconnected to the public sewer was different from what had historically been connected and also the context had changed in terms of flood risk and the increasing flood risk due to climate change. Scottish Water were therefore working within their legal boundaries to come to a solution on this issue with Fife Council.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) thanked Rick Haynes and Dawn Lochhead for their detailed updates; and
- (2) noted that Fife Council and Scottish Water would continue to meet to consider the legal and technical options that were open to them to mitigate the flooding at Dalgety Bay and provide regular updates to Ward Councillors.

**43. AREA COMMITTEE WORKSHOP**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service responding to a motion that was submitted and agreed by the Committee on 10th August, 2022.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed the following for further engagement on the future of decentralisation and People and Place Leadership:-

- (1) amend Committee Powers detailed under Section 7.2.2 to require service representation at both Area Committee and separate meetings as required, i.e. Estate walkabouts and People and Place Leadership meetings;
- (2) amend Section 7.1.7 of Committee Powers under the Terms of Reference to read "Providing local input as required prior to and following Council decisions";
- (3) that consideration be given to delegate greater powers to Area Committees to create more area commissioning budgets, including areas such as Cafe Inc.;
- (4) that a rationalisation process be undertaken for Area budgets to ensure an equitable split of resources, accounting for population, deprivation and rurality; and
- (5) that the role of the Area Services Manager be revisited with the Community Manager having greater authority or remit over other Services.

#### 44. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with the necessary information to allocate funding for various projects from the Community Recovery Fund, South and West Fife.

##### Motion

Councillor David Barratt, seconded by Councillor Brian Goodall, moved as follows:-

“Amend recommendation (2) to agree that officers utilise the budget identified to establish the following four posts for a period of up to two years:-

- Financial and Education Worker - £41,000
- Community Education Worker – Cost of Living - £108,000
- Welfare Support – Cost of Living x 2 posts - £176,000”

##### Amendment

Councillor Graeme Downie, seconded by Councillor Andrew Verrecchia, moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

##### Roll Call

##### **For the motion – 6 votes**

Councillors David Barratt, Dave Dempsey, Brian Goodall, Andy Jackson, Sarah Neal and Sam Steele.

##### **For the Amendment – 4 votes**

Councillors Patrick Browne, Graeme Downie, Andrew Verrecchia and Conner Young.

The motion was accordingly carried.

##### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) approve £30,000 to the Dalgety Bay Community Hub; and
- (2) agree that officers utilise the budget identified to establish the following four posts for a period of up to two years:-
  - Financial and Education Worker - £41,000
  - Community Education Worker - £108,000
  - Welfare Support – Cost of Living x 2 posts - £176,000

**45. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET REQUEST - OAKLEY UNITED - LIGHTING**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget for lighting at Oakley United Football Club Grounds.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to an allocation of £7,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget 2022/23 towards the project.

**46. SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023**

The Committee considered the South and West Fife Forward Work Programme 2023.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the South and West Fife Area Forward Work Programme;
  - (2) agreed to invite Education colleagues and Headteachers to Committee to discuss attainment within the South and West Fife Area;
  - (3) agreed that an update be sought from Assets, Transportation and Environment on when a report would be submitted to Committee on the Maintenance of Private Land by Private Landowners;
  - (4) agreed that a workshop be arranged with Roads and Transportation in relation to Flooding Issues in the South and West Fife Area; and
  - (5) agreed that an update be sought from Assets, Transportation and Environment in relation to the Urgent Motion that was agreed at Committee on 23rd November, 2022 on safety concerns at Main Street, Carnock and that a report be submitted to the next Committee meeting.
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