

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FINANCE, ECONOMY AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes.

26th January, 2023

10.00 a.m. – 11.55 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Robin Lawson (Convener), Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Auxi Barrera, Ian Cameron, Rod Cavanagh, Eugene Clarke, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey (substituting for James Leslie), Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Stefan Hoggan-Radu, Gordon Pryde, Alistair Suttie and Ann Verner.

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director Finance and Corporate Services; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability; Alastair Hamilton, Service Manager Development Management, EPES Development Management; Peter Corbett, Lead Officer - Economy, EPES Economy Tourism and Town Centre; Donna Grieve, Accountant; Jackie Johnstone, Accountant, Financial Services Business Partnering; Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Allan Knox.

In the absence of the Convener, the Depute Convener, Councillor Lawson chaired the meeting.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

30. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 3rd November, 2023.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

31. BUDGET WORKING GROUP - NOTE OF MEETING - 17TH JANUARY, 2023

The Committee considered the Budget Working Group note of meeting of 17th January, 2023, outlining areas of potential interest raised by members for scrutiny. The following points of interest were discussed:

- the current budget process;
- update on the Capital Plan;

2023 FECSS 12

- the/
- the Revenue Budget and Budget Strategy; and
- recognition of budget challenges faced in 2024-26.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the Budget Working Group meeting note from Tuesday, 17th January, 2023; and
- (2) the Budget Working Group planned to meet in the late Spring/early Summer to focus on a review of the completed budget process and areas for improvement. A report detailing the outcome of the review would be submitted to the Committee, meeting date to be advised.

32. PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 11 (2021-2022): MINISTER'S FEEDBACK

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning providing a briefing on the performance of the Planning Authority as set out in Planning Performance Framework (PPF 11) over the period 2021/22 and the feedback received from the Scottish Government, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report; and
- (2) acknowledged progress made in the Planning Service on improvements to overall performance and the ongoing challenges the Service faced.

33. BUSINESS AND EMPLOYABILITY: SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability presenting the performance scorecard for the Business and Employability Service for the period 2021/22.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the arrangements set out in Section 1.0 of the report, to fulfil the Council's obligation to comply with Audit Scotland's 2021 Statutory Performance Indicators Direction;
- (2) acknowledged the Business and Employability performance information detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, including current Challenges, Priorities and Risks; and
- (3) noted a high-level overview of Business and Employability Key Performance Indicators included in Appendix 1 to the report, covering four lenses of performance: Local Government Benchmarking Framework

(LGBF) / Plan4Fife (P4F) indicators; Customer; Resources; and Service Operations.

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34. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - BUSINESS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2022/23 financial year, as at October, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

35. 2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - BUSINESS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2022/23 financial year, as at October, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted the current financial performance and activity detailed in the report.

36. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services updating members on the projected outturn financial position for 2022/23 for the Finance and Corporate Services Directorate.

Decision

The Committee noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

37. 2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2022/23 financial year for the Finance and Corporate Services Directorate.

Decision

The Committee noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

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38. FINANCE, ECONOMY AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee considered the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan;
 - (2) agreed to include the following reports on the Committee's Forward Work Plan, Committee meeting dates to be advised:-
 - Planning Section 75 Developer Contributions - including a list of Section 75 commitments held for various Council Services, consider the process for utilisation of funds and if there would be greater scope for community participation.
 - Capital Underspend – what is the process for dealing with Capital overspends in general, taking into account increases in inflation. Would there be pricing opportunities through this type of contract?
 - Property Utilisation – a member briefing note to include a break-down of vacant Council properties for each area, with a full report to be submitted to this Committee later in the year on the Asset Management Strategy.
 - (3) agreed to contact the Convener, Lead Officer and Committee Officer with suggestions for reports for future meetings of this Committee, within its remit.
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