

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - KIRKCALDY AREA COMMITTEE – KIRKCALDY - BLENDED MEETING**

Small Committee Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Town House, Kirkcaldy

07 February, 2023

2.00 pm – 4.45 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ian Cameron (Convener), Blair Allan, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Cameron, Rod Cavanagh, Judy Hamilton, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Carol Lindsay, Julie MacDougall, Nicola Patrick and David Ross.

**ATTENDING:** Julie Dickson, Community Manager (Kirkcaldy), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Susan Keenlyside, Service Manager, Sustainable Transport & Parking, Neil Watson, Lead Consultant, Roads & Lighting Asset Management, David Grove, Lead Officer Town Centre Development, Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South, Roads and Transportation Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business & Employability, Peter Corbett, Lead Officer - Economy, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant and Lesley Robb, Lead Officer - Committee Services, Finance and Corporate Services.

**28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Ian Cameron declared a connection relating to Para 32. - Supporting the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area, Area LCPB Underspend and Community Recovery, as Vice-Convener of the Adam Smith 300 Group, but having applied the objective test concluded that he had no interest to declare.

**29. MINUTE**

The Committee considered the minute of the Kirkcaldy Area Committee meeting of 22 November, 2022.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

**30. KIRKCALDY AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - REVIEW OF THE PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA 2019-2022**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating Members on the progress of the Local Community Plan (LCP) Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area for the period of 2019-2022.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee noted and commented on the efforts, challenges and achievements of projects under the agreed Plan4Fife themes, as identified in the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2019-22.

**31. KIRKCALDY AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA 2023-2026**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting agreement of the key priority areas for the revised Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2023-2026.

**Decision**

The Committee approved the six key areas of priority for the Plan 4 Kirkcaldy Area 2023-2026.

**32. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 KIRKCALDY AREA - AREA LCPB UNDERSPEND AND COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting approval to allocate funding for various projects from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Underspends and the Community Recovery Fund for the Kirkcaldy Area.

**Decision**

The Committee:

1. approved from the underspend in the LCPB budget, an allocation for Everyone Every Day of a total of £240,000, as match funding for overall project costs of £1,200,000;
2. approved the following projects from the Community Recovery Fund totalling £992,000:-
  - Rural Skills Scotland: £60,000;
  - Cosy Kingdom: £50,000;
  - Place Officer and resource for digital platform (Tourism and Town Centres) £300,000;
  - Adam Smith - tercentenary events and legacy proposals: Up to £100,000;
  - Additional Welfare Reform Support: £122,000;
  - Participatory Budgeting: £300,000;
  - Pathway to Prospects trainee posts: £50,000;
  - Fundraiser Post to support Kirkcaldy Foodbank: £10,000;
3. agreed that in respect of the requested funding, totalling £150,338.57, for the Safe Families project, a briefing note would be prepared and distributed to Members relating to the context of services similar to the Safe Families project and how these services are delivered by Fife Council and partner organisations;
- 4./

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4. agreed that the final decision to approve funding for the Safe Families project would be delegated to the Convener and Community Manager, following the briefing note issued to Members; and
5. noted that a 6 monthly progress report would be submitted to the Committee on all the projects allocated funding at this time.

### 33. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2023-24

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services identifying projects which were proposed for inclusion in the 2023-24 Area Roads Programme for the Kirkcaldy area.

#### **Decision**

The Committee ;

1. approved the report and the projects identified in appendices 1-3 of the report;
2. delegated authority to the Head of Roads and Transportation to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects, in line with the available resources/funding as the programme developed and in consultation with the Convener and Depute Convener; and
3. noted the projects detailed in Appendix 4.

*The Committee adjourned at 3:30 pm and reconvened at 3.40 pm*

*Councillor Hamilton rejoined the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

### 34. THE FUTURE OF THISTLE STREET AND ESPLANADE MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Business and Employability and the Head of Roads and Transportation Services detailing options available for the development of the Esplanade and Thistle Street multi-storey car parks in Kirkcaldy.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:

1. agreed that following a members' workshop held on 19 January 2023, the members' preferred option, of decommissioning both multi storey car parks, demolishing and clearing the sites, with a surface level car park developed on the footprint of Thistle Street site, with the Esplanade site made available for re-development, alongside the site of the former swimming pool, would be developed further by officers;

2./

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2. noted that the preferred option would require community engagement, the development of a detailed business case and financial governance approval prior to progressing further; and
3. noted that a further report detailing the outcomes from the commissioned market assessment would be submitted to a future meeting of Kirkcaldy Area Committee, date to be advised.

### **35. LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2022)**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability providing Members with an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Kirkcaldy Area. The information presented was intended to provide background and context to council activity within the area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

#### **Decision**

The Committee;

1. considered and commented on the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data; and,
2. recognised the ongoing economic challenges and uncertainty.

### **36. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising Members of the status of the Common Good Funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2021-22.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:

1. noted the information contained in the relevant appendices for the various Common Good funds;
2. offered comments on the information provided; and
3. agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trusts funds to suitable projects which may also include the amalgamation of individual trusts and where appropriate the dissolution of individual trusts, including the transfer of the funds to suitable third party organisations, who could provide similar support to local priorities.

**37./**

**37. 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.

**38. KIRKCALDY AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services supporting the Committee's consideration of the workplan for future meetings of Kirkcaldy Area Committee.

**Decision**

The Committee reviewed the workplan and agreed members would contact the Convener, Depute Convener or Committee Officer with suggestions for specific areas they would wish to see covered in future reports.

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