

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

9th March, 2023.

10.00 a.m. – 12.55 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw (substituting for Councillor Lesley Backhouse), David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, David Graham, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Julie MacDougall (substituting for Councillor Altany Craik), Gordon Pryde (substituting for Councillor Cara Hilton), David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Morag Millar, Programme Manager (Strategic Growth and City Deals), Business and Employability Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services, Avril Graham, Team Manager and James Ross, Service Manager, Education and Children's Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and David Paterson, Community Manager (Levenmouth), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Gavin Smith and Mhairi Mullen, Service Managers (Housing Management Executive), Housing Services; John Rodigan, Head of Environment and Building Services and Sandy Anderson, Service Manager, Environment and Building Services; Michael McArdle, Lead Professional (Estates), Property Services; Bill Lindsay, Service Manager, Planning Service; Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services; and Alastair Crockett, Religious Representative, Cupar Baptist Church.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Lesley Backhouse, Altany Craik, Peter Gulline and Cara Hilton and Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Religious Representative, Church of Scotland.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Judy Hamilton declared an interest at para. 87 – Support for Voluntary Organisations – being a Board member of Shopmobility.
- Councillor David Graham declared, as a matter of transparency and with reference to para. 91 – Community Investment Funding – Fife Ice Arena – that he was a Management Team Member of the Ice Hockey UK Referee Section. However, as he considered the connection under the Councillors' Code of Conduct was so insignificant and remote, he remained and participated in the meeting.

81. MINUTES

(i) Cabinet Committee of 9th February, 2023

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

(ii) Minute of the Education Appointment Committee of 10th February, 2023.

Decision

The minute was noted.

(iii) Minutes of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 14th December, 2022 and 20th February, 2023.

Decision

The minutes were noted.

82. REVENUE MONITORING 2022-23

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing members with a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reporting on the current forecast position for 2022-23.

Motion

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor David Graham, moved that the recommendations detailed in the report be approved.

Amendment

Councillor David Alexander, seconded by Councillor John Beare, moved that the discretionary fees and charges detailed in recommendation (iv) be frozen for one year.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion – 11 votes

Councillors James Calder, Fiona Corps, Linda Erskine, David Graham, Judy Hamilton, Gary Holt, Julie MacDougall, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp and Jan Wincott.

For the Amendment – 9 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, John Beare, Derek Glen, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

Abstention

Councillor Dave Dempsey.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the ongoing financial impacts arising from recovery from the pandemic which continued to be managed using one-off additional funding and from underspends;
- (2) noted the high level financial position as detailed in the report;
- (3) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committees; and
- (4) agreed that discretionary fees and charges be capped at 5%.

83. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE - PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which provided a strategic financial overview of the Capital Investment Plan and advised on the projected outturn for the 2022-23 financial year.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the projected outturn position and that the level of financial risk was heightened due to high levels of inflation and supply chain challenges;
- (2) that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2022-23 would be submitted to relevant Scrutiny Committees of the Council; and
- (3) that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group.

84. FIFE'S UK SHARED PROSPERITY INVESTMENT PLAN

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking approval for the Fife's UYK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan for 2023-25.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved Fife's UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan and the interventions for 2023/24 and 2024/25 set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report;
- (2) noted that there would be an Annual Review of the UKSPF in Quarter 2 of 2024/25 and quarterly reports of progress. Also noted that the UK Government required these by the Investment Priorities, Interventions and Fife's four UK Parliamentary Constituencies; and
- (3) delegated to the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Services) and (Enterprise and Environment) to deliver Fife's UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan within the operational parameters set out in the funding award.

85. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO FOSTER CARERS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) providing members with information on the proposed uplift in payments to foster carers, supported lodging carers and kinship carers (LAC Kinship).

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to a 5% increase in the maintenance payments made for children in a foster care and supported lodging setting; and
- (2) to an uplift of 5% in the fees paid to foster carers including supported lodging carers and kinship carers.

86. STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORTS ON THE PROPOSALS TO REZONE THE SECONDARY CATCHMENT AREAS OF BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL AND MADRAS COLLEGE AND THE PROPOSAL TO REZONE THE PRIMARY CATCHMENT AREAS OF CARNEGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TOUCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) presenting, for consideration by members, the statutory Consultation Reports in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College from 30th June, 2023 and, in respect of the proposal to rezone the primary catchment areas of Carnegie Primary School and Touch Primary School from 30th June, 2023. The report also sought approval to proceed with the recommendations contained within the Consultation Reports appended to the report.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the proposal to rezone the secondary catchment areas of Bell Baxter High School and Madras College from 30th June, 2023; and
- (2) approved the proposal to rezone the primary catchment areas of Carnegie Primary School and Touch Primary School from 30th June, 2023.

87. SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting recommendations for the level of support to voluntary organisations for the period 2023-2026 within the Directorates of Communities, Education and Children's Services and Enterprise and Environment.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted that within Appendix 2 – YMCA – Amalgamation of Accommodation Projects – the figure within column 2023/24 should be £694,524.60 and not £689,973.81 as stated; and
- (2) approved the level of funding to voluntary organisations as detailed in the Schedules attached to the report.

88. SILVERBURN PARK, FLAX MILL REGENERATION PROJECT, LEVENMOUTH

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement on the business plan approach being recommended for the Silverburn Park, Flax Mill Regeneration Project.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed business plan Option 3 as noted in the Appendix to the report;
- (2) agreed that because of VAT partial exemption implications, that there would be a transfer of the partially completed Flax Mill property to Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT) at the point where £3.8m (the Council's full financial contribution to the project) of refurbishment work had taken place;
- (3) noted the proposal would use an advance payments framework to facilitate the project;
- (4) noted that Cabinet Committee approval was required to change the original proposal of transfer on completion of all works, previously agreed at the Assets and Corporate Services Sub-Committee on 27th January, 2022; and
- (5) noted that FEAT, supported by Fife Historic Buildings Trust (FHBT) would lead the project.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m. and reconvened at 11.50 a.m.

89. LICENSING OF SHORT-TERM LETS - INTERIM UPDATE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Head of Protective Services updating members on the decision at the Cabinet Committee on 22nd September, 2022 to provide a six month interim post implementation review on the Short-term Let Licensing Policy under The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022. The review was to allow for an earlier view on the operation of additional conditions, pending a full review at twelve months.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the progress on the implementation of the Short-term Let Licensing Scheme from 1st October, 2022 and initial review of the "additional conditions"; and
- (2)/

- (2) the intention to review the initial implementation of the policy and operation of the scheme and report back to Cabinet by November, 2023 pending a full review after three years of operation in 2025.

90. DOMESTIC WASTE SERVICE - SINGLE SHIFT PATTERN

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) presenting the management proposal to return to a single shift pattern in the Domestic Waste Service.

Decision

The Committee approved:-

- (1) a new operating model for domestic waste collection which would see the end of the twin shift system and the introduction of a single shift pattern. The workforce would be deployed on a four day working week; and
- (2) the revised capital investment requirement of £3.12m for thirteen new refuse collection vehicles, subject to delivery of the revenue savings outlined in the report.

The Committee resolved, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act whose relevant paragraph(s) are set out opposite the heading to each item.

91. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING - FIFE ICE ARENA (PRIVATE REPORT) (Para. 6)

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services advising on community investment funding for Fife Ice Arena.

Decision

The Committee agreed the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Rosemary Liewald left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

92. TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT LAND AT NORTH FOD, DUNFERMLINE (PRIVATE REPORT) (Paras. 8 and 9)

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and Head of Property Service advising on a proposed transfer of land at North Fod, Dunfermline from the General Fund Account to the Housing Revenue Account to support the development of additional housing for the Affordable Housing Programme.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the transfer of the site at North Fod, Dunfermline from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account as detailed in the report; and
- (2) noted that further reports on the details surrounding the development of the site would be reported in due course.