

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

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

30 March, 2023

10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

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

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Raymond Johnston, Service Manager - Professional Services, Property Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business & Employability, Morag Millar, Programme Manager, Strategic Growth & City Region Deals, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Jay Wilson, Accountant, Jackie Johnstone, Accountant, Finance Services; Elizabeth Mair and Emma Whyte, Committee Officers, Legal & Democratic Services, Finance & Corporate Services.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

40. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Finance, Economy & Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 26 January 2023.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

41. MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Finance and the Head of Property Services in response to a request for further information on management of capital construction projects, including how they were priced in a wider sense and whether it would be possible to look at fixed price contracts. The report also summarised the Council's approach to the delivery and management of construction projects and project overspends that arose from time to time. Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, gave a presentation highlighting the main issues.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the information contained in the report and presentation; and
- (2) that a briefing note providing examples of recording of community wealth building initiatives in construction projects would be circulated to members.

42. TAY CITIES DEAL ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services presenting the second annual performance report on progress by the Tay Cities Region Deal for the period 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the information contained in the report and the progress on activity in North East Fife; and
- (2) that this was a draft report until approved by the Tay Cities Joint Committee on 24th March, 2023.

43. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN – FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, providing an update 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.

44. 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.

45. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN – PLANNING SERVICE, 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 projected outturn financial position for the 2022/23 financial year, as at December 2022, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report; and
- (2) that the Head of Planning would issue a briefing note providing further information on recruitment and workforce planning.

46. 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 December 2022, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

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

47. FINANCE, ECONOMY AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services outlining a draft workplan for future meetings of this Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Work Plan;
- (2) that reports arising from suggestions received from members, including those relating to procurement and green freeports, would be added to the Forward Work Programme for appropriate future Committee meeting dates; and
- (3) that a large number of annual reports were currently scheduled for October 2023 and these would be spread over several meetings to allow proper consideration to be given to each one.
