

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – GLENROTHES – BLENDED MEETING**

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

**4th May, 2023.**

**10.00 a.m. – 11.55 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson (substituting for Councillor Cara Hilton), Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Gary Holt, Kathleen Leslie (substituting for Councillor Dave Dempsey), Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jonny Tepp, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**ATTENDING:** Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Lesley Robb, Lead Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Carrie Lindsay Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) and Angela Logue, Head of Education and Children's Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Mhairi Mullen, Service Manager, Helen Wilkie, Service Manager and Ian Dawson, Business Change Manager, Housing Services; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning Manager, Health and Social Care; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) and Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities); and Mary Caldwell, Religious Representative, Roman Catholic Church.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Mr Juan Rodriguez, President of St. Andrews Student Association and Professor Richard Olver, Vice-Chair, Confederation of St. Andrews Residents' Association (for para. 107 only).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Dave Dempsey and Cara Hilton, Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Religious Representative, Church of Scotland and Mr. Alastair Crockett, Religious Representative, Cupar Baptist Church.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener advised that he had been contacted by two individuals who had requested they each present a statement to the Committee in relation to Item No. 5 on the published agenda – Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Review of the Overprovision Policy.

In terms of the Council's Standing Orders, there was no specific provision for deputations at the Cabinet Committee. The Convener, therefore, proposed a motion to suspend Standing Order Nos. 6.2 and 6.3 to allow the Committee to hear the 2 statements and that no questions would be taken in relation to two statements.

Councillor Hamilton seconded the motion.

The Committee unanimously agreed to accept the motion. The statements would be heard prior to officers' presentation of the report at para. 107.

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor Gulline, for transparency reasons, declared a connection relating to para. 107 - Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Review of the Overprovision Policy - as owner of tenanted properties. However, as none of the properties he owned were in Fife or had Houses in Multiple Occupation Licenses, he concluded that he had no interest to declare.

**105. MINUTES**

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 6th April, 2023.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii) Minute of the Appeals Sub-Committee of 17th April, 2023.

**Decision**

The minute was noted.

**106. WAID CLUSTER SCHOOL LEADERSHIP MODELS: OUTCOME OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) responding to a decision of the Cabinet Committee on 12th January, 2023 - to approve further consultation with parents/carers in the Waid Cluster on the full range of leadership models outlined in the School Leadership Models report, submitted to Cabinet on 15th December, 2022.

The report provided an overview of the outcome of the engagement with parents / carers, staff, pupils and other interested parties and provided recommended next steps to establish permanent and sustainable school leadership and management arrangements in the Waid Cluster area.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the engagement survey completed by parents/carers, staff, pupils and other interested parties in the Waid Cluster area; and
- (2) agreed the following recommended steps to establish permanent and sustainable school leadership and management arrangements in the Waid Cluster area:-
  - (a) continue with the single school leadership models at Waid Academy and Anstruther Primary School;
  - (b) sustain the joint leadership arrangement across Lundin Mill Primary School and Kirkton of Largo Primary School;
  - (c)/

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- (c) create a joint leadership arrangement between Pittenweem Primary School and Crail Primary School that would create a non-teaching Headteacher across the schools with a 50/50 split of leadership and management time to each school. This would remove the Teaching Headteacher post at Crail Primary School. The combined roll of both establishments would be  $96+96 = 192$  in August 2023. To support the transition to this model, a Principal Teacher would be funded. However, this would need to be reviewed in Summer 2024 to evaluate the financial sustainability of this additionality; and
- (d) create a joint leadership arrangement between St Monans, Elie and Colinsburgh Primary Schools. The combined roll of the three establishments would be  $18+39+103 = 160$  in August 2023. This would create a leadership model that was financially sustainable for all schools.

### 107. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO): REVIEW OF THE OVERPROVISION POLICY

Mr. Rodriguez, President of St. Andrews Student Association presented a statement to the Committee, on behalf of the Student Association, in relation to the terms of the published report.

Professor Olver, Vice-Chair of the Confederation of St. Andrews Residents' Association presented a statement to the Committee, on behalf of St. Andrews' residents, in relation to the terms of the published report.

The Committee then considered a report by the Head of Housing Services requesting a review of the housing policy for controlling HMO licence applications on the grounds of overprovision under Section 131A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (introduced by the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011). Whilst the policy was introduced strategically for Fife on 30th August, 2018, it was applied to St. Andrews from 11th April, 2019 with a commitment to review implementation after three years.

#### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the outcome of the review of the HMO Overprovision Policy in maintaining a "no growth" position in relation to provision of HMOs in the St. Andrews area;
- (2) agreed to maintain the strategic HMO Overprovision Policy for Fife under Section 131A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (introduced by the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Act 2011) within the defined HMO overprovision locality of St. Andrews;
- (3) approved a targeted approach within the current HMO overprovision policy to tackle the issue of student homelessness in St Andrews, to grant up to fifteen new HMO licences for a period of three years to accommodate students from September, 2023, managed by the University of St Andrews;
- (4) delegated the operational delivery of this targeted approach to the Housing Decision Panel; and
- (5)/

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- (5) agreed that a further report to review the situation would be presented to the Committee at an appropriate time during 2024.

### 108. TACKLING DAMPNES AND MOULD IN COUNCIL HOUSES - PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Environment and Building Services outlining the work to date that Council Services had taken in supporting the Council's landlord role, to ensure that the incidence of condensation, dampness and mould in Council houses could be more effectively mitigated for the wellbeing of council tenants and their families.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made to date in responding to all outstanding tenants' complaints since the tragic death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale;
- (2) agreed the proposed Approach and Action Plan, to mitigate the incidence of dampness, condensation and black mould more effectively in council houses;
- (3) agreed that the Approach and Action Plan would be supported by additional resources, sourced through existing HRA Revenue and Capital budgets in 2023/24;
- (4) agreed that a further report on Private Sector Tenants Housing Condition, in relation to dampness and mould be presented to the Cabinet Committee in Autumn 2023; and
- (5) agreed that a further review report on Tackling Dampness and Mould in Council Houses would be presented to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee, after the summer recess period.

### 109. SHARED LIVES FIFE - UPLIFT OF PAYMENT FOR LONG-TERM PLACEMENTS

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care providing information on the proposed uplift in payments made to Shared Lives Fife carers, who provided support and accommodation to adults within their own homes on a long-term basis.

#### Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to match the highest current payment rates for long-term placements within Shared Lives schemes in Scotland, i.e. Scottish Borders; the rationale for this was to encourage growth into service and attract new carers bringing Fife in line with being one of the best paying authorities; and
- (2) agreed to the removal of Level 2 from the graded rates and move to three graded payment levels of Low, Medium and High in line with the Scottish Borders' framework.