

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – BLENDED MEETING**

**Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**11th May, 2023**

**10.00 a.m. – 12.40 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Eugene Clarke, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall-Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan-Radu, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Al Clark, Fiona Corps, Margaret Kennedy and Donald Lothian.

**62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order 7.1.

**63. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN**

**Decision**

The Council noted the verbal update from the Provost.

**64. MINUTE**

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved that the minute of the meeting of 16th March, 2023 be approved.

**Decision**

The Council approved the minute.

**65. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

Minutes of the undernoted Committees and Sub-Committees, as contained in the volume of minutes were submitted for accuracy:-

- (1) West & Central Planning Committee of 15<sup>th</sup> March and 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (2)/

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- (2) North East Planning Committee of 8<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (4) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- (5) Cabinet Committee of 9<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (6) Standards, Audit & Risk Committee of 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023.
- (7) Pensions Committee of 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- (8) Glenrothes Area Committee of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023.
- (9) Levenmouth Area Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (10) South & West Fife Area Committee of 1<sup>st</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (11) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- (12) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023
- (13) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (14) Environment, Transportation & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- (15) Education Scrutiny Committee of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.
- (16) Finance, Economy & Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- (17) People & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023.
- (18) Fife Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the minutes.

## **66. LEADER'S REPORT**

The Council considered a report by the Leader of the Council on a number of strategic issues. The Leader provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the report.

## **67. QUESTION TIME**

In terms of Standing Order 1.7, the questions put by members to the meeting, the written answers and supplementary questions are contained in Appendix 1 to the minute.

Councillor Ross, Leader of the Administration answered Questions 1, 7 and 8 (in place of Councillor Craik).

Councillor Wincott, Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change answered Questions 2, 4 and 6.

Councillor Hilton, Spokesperson for Education answered Question 3.

Councillor Erskine, Spokesperson for Communities and Leisure answered Question 5.

Councillor/

Councillor Graham, Spokesperson for Health and Social Care answered Question 5.

**68. COMMITTEE POWERS - FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF DUNFERMLINE & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services asking members to approve changes to the List of Committee Powers in relation to the Freedom of the City of Dunfermline and the Annual Accounts.

**Decision**

The Council agreed the proposed changes to the List of Committee Powers.

**69. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which required the Council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order 8.1.

**Motion 1**

Councillor Kathleen Leslie, seconded by Councillor Ellis, moved as follows:-

“Fife Council signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant in September 2020. Signing up to this, Council agreed that:

*The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.*

*Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.*

*This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.*

Council today notes that:

- There are children of serving Armed Forces personnel and veterans in nurseries and schools across Fife.
- That whilst in England there has been a Service Pupil Premium since 2011, no such equivalent exists in Scotland.
- Service families face specific and unique challenges in education.
- The/

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- The Service Pupil Premium is currently worth £310 per service child and has been established to provide pastoral care and can also support academic progress and attainment.

Council continues to recognise the value Service personnel, both Regular & Reservist, veterans and military families contribute to our communities and our country. In that, we fully support them.

Council, therefore asks the Council Leader to write (with the support of all other political groups) to the Scottish Government to request consideration is given to introducing a Service Pupil Premium as this would target the specific challenges faced by these children and young people.”

### Amendment 1

Councillor Tepp, seconded by Councillor Knox, moved as follows:-

“Add:

And asks that the Education Scrutiny Cttee produce a report highlighting how this would benefit children in Fife.”

### Amendment 2

Councillor Cavanagh, seconded by Councillor Walker, moved as follows:-

“Delete last paragraph and replace with

Council also notes that:

- Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the national approach in Scotland, and the approach used in Fife, which aims to ensure that all people supporting a child work together seamlessly to provide the right help at the right time. Through the GIRFEC approach within Fife, work has been undertaken in our schools to ensure that all children, including Armed Forces Children are supported with timely and appropriate interventions.
- Spending per pupil in Scotland, is now 18% higher than the rest of the UK with £8500 being spent per pupil compared to £7200 in England and Wales
- That support for children of Armed Forces Families is funded by the Scottish Government under the Additional Support for Learning scheme which addresses the specific challenges faced by children identified as having additional support needs.
- That support for the educational needs of children from Armed Forces families in Scotland is provided by the Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group who work in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Council therefore resolves to continue to offer all appropriate support to the children of service personnel.”

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

***With/***

***With the agreement of the Provost, the movers of both the motion and the amendments agreed to conjoin. The amended conjoined motion read as follows:-***

“Fife Council signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant in September 2020. Signing up to this, Council agreed that:

*The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.*

*Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.*

*This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.*

Council today notes that:

- There are children of serving Armed Forces personnel and veterans in nurseries and schools across Fife.
- That whilst in England there has been a Service Pupil Premium since 2011, no such equivalent exists in Scotland.
- Service families face specific and unique challenges in education.
- The Service Pupil Premium is currently worth £310 per service child and has been established to provide pastoral care and can also support academic progress and attainment.

Council continues to recognise the value Service personnel, both Regular & Reservist, veterans and military families contribute to our communities and our country. In that, we fully support them.

Council also notes that:

- Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is the national approach in Scotland, and the approach used in Fife, which aims to ensure that all people supporting a child work together seamlessly to provide the right help at the right time. Through the GIRFEC approach within Fife, work has been undertaken in our schools to ensure that all children, including Armed Forces Children are supported with timely and appropriate interventions.
- Spending per pupil in Scotland, is now 18% higher than the rest of the UK with £8500 being spent per pupil compared to £7200 in England and Wales
- That/

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That support for children of Armed Forces Families is funded by the Scottish Government under the Additional Support for Learning scheme which addresses the specific challenges faced by children identified as having additional support needs.

- That support for the educational needs of children from Armed Forces families in Scotland is provided by the Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group who work in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Council therefore resolves to continue to offer all appropriate support to the children of service personnel.

Council request the Education Scrutiny Committee to consider a report highlighting the benefits this would have for children in Fife and consider what further actions may then be necessary.”

### **Decision**

The Council agreed the amended conjoined motion unanimously.

### **Motion 2**

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Hoggan-Radu, moved as follows:-

“Fife Council notes the very serious and damaging environmental impacts of disposable vapes and recognises an increase in these electronic devices being discarded in communities and public spaces across the council area.

Notes that the health implications of these disposable vapes are not yet known, and is concerned with their marketing and advertising towards children and young people.

Notes that disposable vapes contain a range of precious materials, including lithium and copper which can be collected if recycled in a safe and appropriate manner but are designed in a manner that does not allow for them to be disassembled and their recyclable materials separated. Council also considers there is heightened risk of damage to infrastructure due to the potential combustion of batteries contained in the devices both at Council run facilities and within communities.

Further anticipates the publication of the Scottish Government’s urgent review into the environmental impact of disposable vapes, currently being undertaken by Zero Waste Scotland.

In light of the serious nature of these concerns, Council requests that the Chief Executive and the Leader of Fife Council to write on behalf of Fife Council, to Lorna Slater MSP, Scottish Government Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity, Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care and Chief Executive of Zero Waste Scotland, Ian Gulland, conveying Council’s view that a ban on the sale of so-called “disposable” vapes be introduced in Scotland as soon as practicably possible.”

### **Decision/**

**Decision**

The Council agreed the motion unanimously.

**Motion 3**

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Liston, moved as follows:-

**Sewage overflows in Fife**

“Council notes with concern that a number of sewage overflows took place in Fife last year, including at Cupar Haugh Park, Ironmill Bay and at St Andrews.

Council believes that both Fife’s pristine coast and rivers should be free from pollution and that every effort should be made to avoid contamination through sewage.

Council therefore asks the Council leader to write to Scottish Water to ask them to explain these overflow events as well as what efforts are being taken to mitigate their impact and prevent a repeat in the future.”

**Amendment**

Councillor Barratt, seconded by Councillor Verner, moved as follows:-

“Amend final paragraph to read:

Council therefore directs the Council leader to write to Scottish Water, to request that they attend an appropriate committee of the Council to allow them to advise how and why these overflow events occurred, what efforts are being taken to mitigate their impact, prevent future occurrences both at the named locations, and across the Scottish Water network in Fife.”

***With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept the amendment. The amended conjoined motion read as follows:-***

**Sewage overflows in Fife**

“Council notes with concern that a number of sewage overflows took place in Fife last year, including at Cupar Haugh Park, Ironmill Bay and at St Andrews.

Council believes that both Fife’s pristine coast and rivers should be free from pollution and that every effort should be made to avoid contamination through sewage.

Council therefore directs the Council leader to write to Scottish Water, to request that they attend an appropriate committee of the Council to allow them to advise how and why these overflow events occurred, what efforts are being taken to mitigate their impact, prevent future occurrences both at the named locations, and across the Scottish Water network in Fife.”

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Council agreed the amended conjoined motion unanimously.

**Motion 4**

Councillor Pryde, seconded by Councillor Hilton, moved as follows:-

**Provision of Hospice Service in Dunfermline & West Fife**

“That Council is aware of concern among communities in Dunfermline and West Fife regarding the future of hospice care at Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline; notes speculation that Fife Health and Social Care Partnership intends to close this service and shift all such care to the Queen Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy; supports moves by the Partnership to increase provision of home-based palliative care and values the homely setting provided by the hospice at Queen Margaret Hospital.

Council appreciates the work of staff to provide a home-based palliative care service at this most difficult time for both patients and their families but is concerned that this should be an alternative and not a replacement for local hospice provision. Council notes that members of Fife Council on Fife Health & Social Partnership Board may have an opportunity to oppose any move to close the hospice service at Queen Margaret Hospital and invites those members to consider the community concern when considering the Board decision.”

**Amendment 1**

Councillor Boubaker-Calder, seconded by Councillor Calder, moved as follows:-

Rename title of motion to “Provision of hospice and other services in Dunfermline’s Queen Margaret Hospital”

Adds “Council notes that at the recent City of Dunfermline Area Committee, a motion concerning reduction in service provision at Queen Margaret Hospital was agreed, reflecting broader local community concern about the level of hospice, and other service, provision in the hospital. Council supports the decision of the Committee to ask the Convener of the Committee to express those concerns in writing to NHS Fife.”

**Amendment 2**

Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved as follows:-

“Council also requests that the Council Leader write to the Health Secretary asking for detail on workforce planning for the future of the Queen Margaret Hospital.”

*The meeting adjourned at 12.25 p.m. and reconvened at 12.30 p.m.*

***With/***



***With the agreement of the Provost, the movers of both the motion and the amendments agreed to conjoin. The amended conjoined motion read as follows:-***

Provision of hospice and other services in Dunfermline's Queen Margaret Hospital

"That Council is aware of concern among communities in Dunfermline and West Fife regarding the future of hospice care at Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline; notes speculation that Fife Health and Social Care Partnership intends to close this service and shift all such care to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy; supports moves by the Partnership to increase provision of home-based palliative care and values the homely setting provided by the hospice at Queen Margaret Hospital.

Council appreciates the work of staff to provide a home-based palliative care service at this most difficult time for both patients and their families but is concerned that this should be an alternative and not a replacement for local hospice provision. Council notes that members of Fife Council on Fife Health & Social Partnership Board may have an opportunity to oppose any move to close the hospice service at Queen Margaret Hospital and invites those members to consider the community concern when considering the Board decision.

Council notes that at the recent City of Dunfermline Area Committee, a motion concerning reduction in service provision at Queen Margaret Hospital was agreed, reflecting broader local community concern about the level of hospice, and other service, provision in the hospital. Council supports the decision of the Committee to ask the Convener of the Committee to express those concerns in writing to NHS Fife.

Council also requests that the Council Leader write to the Health Secretary asking for detail on workforce planning for the future of the Queen Margaret Hospital."

### **Decision**

The Council agreed the amended conjoined motion unanimously.

## **70. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

It was noted that there was no business to be brought forward under this item.