

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

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

**1 June 2023**

**10.00am – 12.10pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Carol Lindsay, Lynn Mowatt (substituting for Councillor Rosemary Liewald), 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, Finance and Corporate Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services and Gavin Smith, Service Manager (Housing Management Executive), Housing Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Alison Laughlin, Economy Adviser, Business and Employability Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services (Early Years and Directorate Support); and Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager, Estates.

**APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Rosemary Liewald.

**URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CONVENER**

- In terms of Standing Order No. 3.8(2), the Convener advised of a report that he had agreed to accept as urgent business – Prescribing the Minimum Annual Number of Learning Hours – Consultation Response - due to the consultation deadline of 13 June which was before the next Cabinet meeting. The item was considered at para. 115 below.
- In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(2), the Convener advised of a motion that he had agreed to accept as urgent as a result of the announcement this week that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were proposing reductions in service appliances including fire engines and height appliances removed from across Fife. The motion was considered at para. 116 below.

**110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**111. MINUTES**

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 4th May, 2023.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii)/

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(ii) The following minutes were submitted for noting:-

- East Fife Education Trust Committee and West Fife Education Trust Committee of 22nd March, 2023
- Appeals Sub-Committee of 18th May, 2023

### **Decision**

The minutes were noted.

## **112. RESETTLEMENT OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN FIFE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing a general update in relation to all aspects of the work being co-ordinated through the Resettlement Core Group with a specific focus on the emerging pressures. The report sought approval to develop a former care home to provide medium-term accommodation to arrivals from Ukraine.

### **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed the partnership would support a regional approach to decommissioning accommodation by working closely with Migration Partnerships and colleagues in Edinburgh;
- (2) approved, in principle, the re-provisioning of a former Care Home for a 2-3 year period following consultation with Levenmouth Area Committee, subject to viability checks and confirmation of Scottish Government funding; and
- (3) noted that arrangements to replace Bridging accommodation with a more community-based response within MoD leased accommodation, as approved by the Cabinet Committee previously, were ongoing.

## **113. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ENERGY STRATEGY AND JUST TRANSITION PLAN**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking retrospective agreement on Fife Council's position on the Scottish Government Consultation on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.

*The meeting adjourned at 10.35am and reconvened at 10.50am.*

### **Motion**

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor Jan Wincott, moved that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

### **Amendment**

Councillor David Alexander, seconded by Councillor Derek Glen, moved amendments as detailed in the Appendix to this minute.

The mover of the motion agreed to accept the amendment.

### **Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) noted and agreed Fife Council's response to the consultation including the amended responses to items 20 to 26 and 36, 38 and 39, as detailed in the Appendix to this minute;
- (2) agreed that any outcomes affecting Fife Council and its strategies would be considered by Cabinet Committee ahead of implementation; and
- (3) agreed that the Fife consultation response informed change approaches and policy development for Leading Economic Recovery, Addressing the Climate Emergency and Tackling Poverty, together with the implementation of Community Wealth Building approaches

**114. FIFE ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023-30**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking approval of the Fife Economic Strategy 2023-2030.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) commented upon and approved the new Fife Economic Strategy 2023-30 and delegated to the Head of Business and Employability Services to make any minor amendments to the document ahead of publication;
- (2) noted that a delivery plan would be prepared by the Head of Business and Employability Services in liaison with the Plan4Fife Leading Economic Recovery Board and other key stakeholders;
- (3) noted that progress against the key priorities identified within the strategy would be monitored via regular reports to the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee; and
- (4) noted that approval for specific projects brought forward as part of the strategy and delivery plan would be sought from the relevant Committees as appropriate.

**115. URGENT ITEM - PRESCRIBING THE MINIMUM ANNUAL NUMBER OF LEARNING HOURS - CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) outlining the proposed feedback from Fife Council on the Scottish Government's document "Prescribing the minimum annual number of learning hours: consultation".

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) commented on and approved the consultation feedback on the minimum annual number of learning hours consultation; and
- (2) authorised officers to make such amendments to the consultation response as may be necessary.

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| 116. | <b>URGENT MOTION – SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CUTS</b>  |
|      | <p><u>Motion</u></p> <p>Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor David Graham, moved as follows:-</p> <p><b>"Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Cuts</b></p> <p>The Committee notes proposals announced by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to withdraw appliances from Methil, Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, including the high reach appliance from Kirkcaldy, as part of a budget cuts exercise.</p> <p>The Committee expresses its serious concerns about these proposals to withdraw appliances from Fife and mandates the Leader and Chief Executive to engage with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to express these concerns and to seek the withdrawal of these proposals".</p> <p><u>Amendment</u></p> <p>Councillor Ross Vettraino, seconded by Councillor John Beare, moved as follows:-</p> <p><b>"Scottish Fire and Rescue Service withdrawal of appliances</b></p> <p>The Committee notes proposals by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SRFS) to withdraw appliances temporarily or otherwise from Methil, Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, including the high reach appliance from Kirkcaldy.</p> <p>The Committee expresses its deep concern about the proposal to withdraw appliances from Fife and mandates the Council Leader (Cllr D Ross), the Spokesperson for People &amp; Communities (Cllr J Hamilton), the Convener of the People &amp; Communities Scrutiny Committee (Cllr E Clarke) and the Chief Executive of the Council to engage collectively with SRFS to express the concerns of the Committee and to seek the withdrawal of these proposals.</p> <p>The Committee also refers the matter to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee for their urgent consideration, inviting the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee (Cllr E Clarke) to consider adding the item to the agenda of the meeting on 7 June 2023 as urgent business. The Committee agrees that the Scrutiny Committee should also consider using its power to invite the Chief Officer of the SRFS, or their representative, to attend the Committee meeting on June 7th to allow members to examine the proposals".</p> <p>The movers of the motion and the amendment agreed to conjoin. The amended conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-</p> <p><b>"Scottish Fire and Rescue Service withdrawal of appliances</b></p> <p>The Committee notes proposals by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to withdraw appliances temporarily or otherwise from Methil, Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, including the high reach appliance from Kirkcaldy, as part of a budget cuts exercise.</p> <p>The/</p> |

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|  | <p>The Committee expresses its deep concern about the proposal to withdraw appliances from Fife and mandates the Council Leader (Cllr D Ross), the Spokesperson for Communities &amp; Leisure (Cllr L Erskine), the Convener of the People &amp; Communities Scrutiny Committee (Cllr E Clarke) and the Chief Executive of the Council to engage collectively with SFRS to express the concerns of the Committee and to seek the withdrawal of these proposals.</p> <p>The Committee also refers the matter to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee for their urgent consideration, inviting the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee (Cllr E Clarke) to consider adding the item to the agenda of the meeting on 8 June 2023 as urgent business. The Committee agrees that the Scrutiny Committee should also consider using its power to invite the Chief Officer of the SFRS, or their representative, to attend the Committee meeting on June 8th to allow members to examine the proposals".</p> |
|  | <p><b><u>Decision</u></b></p>   |
|  | <p>The Committee unanimously agreed the amended conjoined motion.</p>   |

### 117. PROPOSED DISPOSAL - ST. MARY'S PLACE, ST. ANDREWS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking approval to dispose of the formal local office at St. Mary's Place, St. Andrews.

#### **Decision**

The Committee approved the disposal on the terms detailed in the report.