

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

Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

15 June, 2023

10.00am – 12.25pm

PRESENT: Councillors Allan Knox (Convener), Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, 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 and Corporate Services; Sharon McKenzie, Head of Human Resources, Barbara Cooper, Service Manager, Human Resources Service; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Carlene Simpson, Project Manager, Strategic Growth City Deals, Business and Employability; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Mary Stewart, Service Manager, Major Business and Customer Service, Economy, Planning and Employability ; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

49. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of meeting of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 30 March 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

50. BUDGET WORKING GROUP - NOTE OF MEETING - 6 JUNE 2023

The committee considered the Budget Working Group note of meeting of 6 June 2023.

Decision

The committee noted the Budget Working Group meeting note from 6 June 2023.

51. ANNUAL ABSENCE AND WELLBEING UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources providing an update on absence and related absence and wellbeing activity since the report to the Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 1 February 2022.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the update and actions since absence information was last reported in February 2022;

- (2) noted that, following a number of reports and feedback from services, the Reform Board had agreed to take proposals to Cabinet Committee to strengthen corporate support for Attendance Management; and
- (3) agreed that an interim progress report be submitted to the committee at its meeting on 25 January 2024.

52. BENEFITS REALISATION PLAN - FIFE INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION INVESTMENT (I3) PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report providing information on the Benefits Realisation Plan for the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme, funded through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, summarising the approach and the benefits achieved by March 2022.

Decision

The committee noted the information provided in the report.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30am and reconvened at 11.40am.

53. MANAGEMENT OF DEVELOPER OBLIGATION FUNDS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability providing an overview and update in respect of Developer Obligation Funds (Section 75 Funds) which were held by the council through payments associated with planning permissions to mitigate the specific impacts of approved developments.

Decision

The committee agreed that the Planning Services lead a review of the process for management of Developer Obligation Funds and examine the options for utilising Historic Developer Obligation Funds.

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

The Committee considered the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Work Plan;
- (2) that reports relating to the council's preparedness to deal with issues around ransomware and the interim progress report on Absence and Wellbeing would be added to the Forward Work Programme; and
- (3) that work was ongoing to spread the large number of annual reports due around October 2023 over several meetings to allow time for proper consideration to be given to each one.