

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

29 June 2023

10.00am – 12.45pm

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, Rosemary Liewald, Sam Steele (substituting for Councillor Carol Lindsay), Jonny Tepp, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue and Commercial Services, Sharon McKenzie, Head of Human Resources, Barbara Cooper, Service Manager, Human Resources, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities) and Sheena Watson, Programme Manager; Ken Gourlay, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment), John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Services, Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services, Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services, Morag Millar, Programme Manager (Strategic Growth and City Deals), Economy, Planning and Employability Services and Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager (Estates), Property Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Carol Lindsay.

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

119. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cabinet Committee meeting of 1 June 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

120. REVENUE MONITORING - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2022-23

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing members with a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reported the provisional outturn for 2022/23.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the ongoing financial uncertainty arising from recovery from the pandemic and the current economic conditions which continued to be managed using one-off additional funding and from underspends;
- (2) noted the high-level financial position as detailed in the report;
- (3) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committees;
- (4) noted that £17m of general fund balances may be used for one-off investment in future; and
- (5) approved the suspension of the Budget Carry Forward Scheme for 2022/23.

121. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2022-23

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing members with a strategic overview of the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the provisional outturn for the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the provisional outturn position and that the level of financial risk continued to be heightened due to high levels of inflation and supply chain challenges;
- (2) that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2022/23 would be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committees of the Council; and
- (3) that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group.

122. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUNDING

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) providing an update on the use of the Community Recovery Fund to date and proposed funding for Fife wide initiatives.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the progress and spend on Area Community Recovery Funds; and
- (2) approved the provision of additional Fife wide support to community recovery.

123. RECOVERY TO REFORM - PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) building on the previously agreed framework for Fife's recovery from the pandemic and which set the direction for further change. This was carried out in line with the medium-term financial strategy and Plan for Fife aim to improve social justice through a community wealth building approach.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) endorsed the report as the basis for organisational change in the council over the medium-term;
- (2) noted that the current phase of redesign work would lead to proposals later this year for changes to operating arrangements; and
- (3) requested that the Chief Executive consider the organisational implications of the work detailed in the report and make representations, as appropriate, around organisation structure going forward.

124. COUNCIL TAX - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services presenting a proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on amending the charging criteria relating to council tax for dwellings that were deemed second homes and long-term empty properties.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) reviewed the proposed consultation responses contained within the report; and
- (2) authorised officers to submit the consultation to the Scottish Government following revisions to Questions 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

125. RIVER LEVEN REGENERATION - CAPITAL FUNDING

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to progress delivery of the initial phase of the River Leven Regeneration Programme (Leven Connectivity Projects and Riverside Park, Glenrothes) through the UK Government Levelling Up Funding (LUF) and Sustran's Places for Everyone Funding.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the option to investigate delivery of the River Leven Regeneration Programme through the SCAPE Civil Engineering Framework;

2023 CC 67

- (2) noted that delivery of the Mountfleurie Bridge was to be delivered separately through Network Rail and their contractor as an addendum to the Implementation Agreement for the River Leven Rail Bridge; and
- (3) noted that further reports would be submitted to this committee to consider the final Business Cases and delivery agreements.

126. FIFE'S DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services outlining the council's approach to support the development of, and investment in, digital infrastructure in Fife to improve coverage to tackle areas of poor connectivity to enable a digital economy, communities and places as outlined in the report.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress to date including the council's commitment to deliver demand stimulation and asset mapping (through the Infralink Exchange project) as detailed in Option 2 "quick wins";
- (2) agreed to proceed with the strategic intervention approach as recommended and described in Option 3 (anchor tenancy model using council premises including social housing stock and internet of things (IoT) requirements) as outlined in section 4 of the report; and
- (3) noted that the Outline Business Case for Option 3 would be subject to a further report to Cabinet Committee for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30am and reconvened at 11.45am.

127. OPPORTUNITIES FIFE PARTNERSHIP (OFP) EMPLOYABILITY PATHWAY 2022-25 COMMISSIONING

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services providing an update from the Opportunities Fife Partnership (OFP) regarding the recent commissioning of Employability Pathway activity using allocation from the No One Left Behind (NOLB), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the OFP's core budget. The committee was asked to approve the recommendations made by the OFP scoring panel and the Opportunities Fife Partnership for employability pathway delivery for the period 2023-25.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the recommended allocations to the preferred bidders for the delivery of employability activity and infrastructure support for the Employability Pathway as set out in the Appendix to this minute;
- (2) delegated to the Head of Business and Employability Services, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to complete all necessary contracting arrangements for the delivery of employability pathway programmes between 2023 and 2025;

2023 CC 68

- (3) delegated to the Head of Business and Employability Services, in consultation with the Opportunities Fife Partnership Executive, to amend funding levels to projects based on project performance and available resources, including such additional funding as may be made available from Scottish and UK Governments in year through No One Left Behind, UKSPF and any other relevant funding sources;
- (4) noted the consultation undertaken with service users, delivery organisations and the Opportunities Fife Partnership in the co-design of the refreshed Commissioning Framework for employability activity in Fife; and
- (5) noted the OFP Commissioning Framework for employability pathway services for the period 2023-2025 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

128. **REVIEW OF MOSSMORRAN AND BRAEFOOT BAY COMMUNITY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services providing an update on the review of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee as reported to the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee on 17 September 2020 and seeking approval for a change in the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the committee and associated groups.

Motion

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor Altany Craik, moved as follows:-

"Replace recommendation (iii) with:

- (iii) agree to continue to submit an annual report to the appropriate Area and Scrutiny Committees".

Amendment

Councillor John Beare, seconded by Councillor Rosemary Liewald, moved as follows:-

"Add the words "with the report circulated to all elected members and relevant Community Councils" at the end of the motion proposed by Councillor Ross.

The Committee unanimously agreed the amended conjoined motion.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report and, in particular, the large reduction in complaints following investment at the complex;
- (2) agreed to the proposed change in the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and associated groups; and

2023 CC 69

- (3) agreed to continue to submit an annual report to the appropriate Area and Scrutiny Committees with the report circulated to all elected members and relevant Community Councils.

129. COUNCIL EXECUTIVE TEAM (CET) RECRUITMENT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources setting out the arrangements for the recruitment to the post of Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) and confirming how the vacancy for the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) would be managed.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed the recruitment strategy for the post of Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) noting that the post would be retitled to Executive Director (Place) and that there would be a need to form an Appointments Sub-Committee;
- (2) agreed the post of Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) would be covered on a temporary basis pending a review of the wider operating model for Directorates; and
- (3) noted that a further report on organisational change linked to the senior leadership model would be submitted to Cabinet Committee in due course.

130. ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources which set out the key issues impacting current absence levels and identifying a wider range of considerations on health and wellbeing. The report provided an overview of the council's attendance management strategies and presented proposals and investment to strengthen them through the creation of an Attendance Support Unit, a model which was successful in reducing absence levels previously.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the issues impacting on absence levels;
- (2) agreed the proposed approach to establish additional support within Human Resources; and
- (3) approved the proposed investment level and funding proposal.

The Committee resolved, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paras. 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

131. DISPOSAL UPDATES - SITE SALE - ADMIRALTY ROAD, ROSYTH AND LEASE VARIATION - PITREAVIE PLAYINGFIELDS, DUNFERMLINE (PRIVATE REPORT)

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) providing an update on the revised disposal terms relating to the sale of an area of land at Admiralty Road, Rosyth and the variation of the terms of lease at Pitreavie Playingfields.

Decision

The committee noted and endorsed the disposals on the terms detailed within the report.