

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

7 September, 2023

10.00am - 12.45pm

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Ken Caldwell (substituting for Derek Glen), Ian Cameron (substituting for Jan Wincott), Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Lynn Mowatt (substituting for David Alexander), Sam Steele (substituting for Craig Walker), Jonny Tepp and Ross Vettraino.

ATTENDING Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue and Commercial Services, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Stephen Smith, Project Manager (Trauma Informed Practice), Human Resources, Helena Couperwhite, Democratic Services Manager and Lesley Robb, Lead Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director, (Communities), Diarmuid Cotter, Head of Customer and Online Services, Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Debbie Chapman, Capital Projects Manager, Communities; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services, Avril Graham, Team Manager and Vivienne Sutherland, Principal Psychologist, Education and Children's Services; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Property Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Hilary Roberts, Lead Officer (Tourism), Business and Employability Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors David Alexander, Derek Glen, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

140. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

141. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cabinet Committee meeting of 10 August 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

142. BUDGET 2024-27 UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which provided members with an update on the General

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Fund Revenue Budget for 2024 onwards following the publication of the Scottish Government's updated Medium Term Financial Strategy and the impact on the council's financial planning assumptions and their planned approach to achieve a sustainable and balanced budget.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the updated financial planning assumptions;
- (2) the continuing uncertainty around those planning assumptions; and
- (3) the planned approach to achieve a sustainable and balanced budget for 2024-25 onwards.

143. REVENUE MONITORING 2023-24

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which provided members with a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reported on the current forecast position for 2023-24.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the high-level financial position as detailed in the report;
- (2) noted that there were ongoing financial impacts arising from the current economic climate which continued to be managed by services with an element of protection from inflationary risk being accounted for centrally;
- (3) instructed services to mitigate overspends as far as possible and ensure strong financial management;
- (4) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committees; and
- (5) requested that scrutiny committees ensured an appropriate level of support and challenge in relation to financial reports.

144. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN - PROJECTED OUTTURN 2023-24

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which provided a strategic financial overview of the Capital Investment Plan and advised on the provisional outturn for the 2023-24 financial year.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the Capital Investment Plan re-profiling to deal with carry forward budgets from 2022-23 into later years of the plan as detailed in Appendix 1;
- (2) noted the projected outturn position and that the level of financial risk continued to be heightened due to high levels of inflation and supply chain challenges;

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- (3) noted that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2023-24 would be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committees of the council;
- (4) noted that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group; and
- (5) noted the updated prudential indicators provided and that these would be reported on a quarterly basis.

145. **DEVELOPING A TRAUMA INFORMED WORKFORCE**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Customer and Online Services which updated members on current and planned organisational development activity in Fife aimed at reducing the impact of psychological trauma, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on individuals, workforces and communities in response to a request from council on 16 March 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the trauma informed approach being undertaken and the training plans outlined in the report; and
- (2) that elected members be encouraged and supported to undertake the appropriate learning including the Scottish Trauma Informed Leaders Training (STILT).

146. **STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE INVERKEITHING HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE EXISTING SCHOOL SITE OF HILLEN ROAD, INVERKEITHING TO A NEW SITE SOUTH OF THE A985 (ADMIRALTY ROAD, ROSYTH) THE FLEET GROUNDS, ROSYTH**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education and Children's Services which presented the statutory consultation report in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the proposal to relocate Inverkeithing High School from the existing school site of Hillend Road, Inverkeithing to a new site, south of the A985 (Admiralty Road, Rosyth), The Fleet Grounds, Rosyth. The report also sought approval to proceed with the recommendation contained within the consultation report.

Motion

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

To agree officers' recommendations with the addition of the following at recommendation number 2 "and officers are requested to bring back an options appraisal report, with costings, for the future development of community use and swimming facilities for South and West Fife to the January meeting of the Cabinet Committee".

Amendment

Councillor Barratt, seconded by Councillor Beare moved as an amendment to the motion, to accept officers recommendations with the addition of the following:-

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“Cabinet notes that a commitment was made in November 2020 to bring back a report on the retention, refurbishment and investment into the existing Community Use facilities in Inverkeithing and notes no such report has since been presented.

Cabinet agrees the loss of the school to Inverkeithing will have an impact to the town and notes the strong community desire that the council should make a commitment to retain community facilities on the site of the existing school.

Cabinet therefore requests that as part of the Fife-wide review of leisure facilities and the delivery model of Community Use in South and West Fife, that specific consideration of maintaining or replacing the existing community use and sports facilities in Inverkeithing should be included.”

Prior to any vote being taken, Councillors Ross, Hilton, Barratt and Beare agreed to conjoin the motion and amendment.

Decision

The committee, having unanimously agreed to approve the conjoined motion and amendment:-

- (1) approved the proposal to relocate Inverkeithing High School from the existing school site of Hillend Road, Inverkeithing to a new site, south of the A985 (Admiralty Road, Rosyth), The Fleet Grounds, Rosyth with the proposed date for implementation of this proposal being for academic session August 2026;
- (2) noted that a commitment was made in November 2020 to bring back a report on the retention, refurbishment and investment into the existing Community Use facilities in Inverkeithing and that no such report had since been presented;
- (3) agreed the loss of the school to Inverkeithing would have an impact to the town and noted the strong community desire that the council should make a commitment to retain community facilities on the site of the existing school;
- (4) noted that a review of leisure, cultural services and facilities would be undertaken across Fife to inform future strategy and service delivery which would include the delivery model of Community Use in South and West Fife and requested officers bring an options appraisal, with costings, for the future development of community use and swimming facilities for South and West Fife to the January 2024 meeting of the Cabinet Committee; and
- (5) requested that as part of the Fife-wide review of leisure facilities and the delivery model of Community Use in South and West Fife, that specific consideration of maintaining or replacing the existing community use and sports facilities in Inverkeithing should be included.

147. FIFE TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-30

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking approval of the Fife Tourism Strategy 2023-30.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) commented on and approved the new Fife Tourism 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 an annual action plan would be prepared by the Lead Officer for Tourism in liaison with the Fife Tourism Partnership Board and other key stakeholders;
- (3) noted that progress would be monitored and reported via an annual briefing note to all elected members and to the appropriate committee of the Council; and
- (4) agreed to support and facilitate the success of Fife Tourism Strategy, Fife Council would, as per strategic priority 1, assist communities in creating a strong sense of place and develop a policy for approval by elected members, which would seek to facilitate the return, upon request, items of local, cultural or historical significance including Common Good items, to augment local displays or local Heritage Centres.

148. SIGNING THE GLASGOW DECLARATION ON CLIMATE ACTION IN TOURISM

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services informing members of the importance of embracing sustainable tourism policies and to seek approval for the Fife Tourism Partnership to become a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism.

Decision

The committee agreed to the Fife Tourism Partnership becoming a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism.

The meeting temporarily adjourned at 11.50am and reconvened at 12.05pm with all members present.

149. COWDENBEATH LEISURE CENTRE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with an update on progress on refurbishment and enhancement of Cowdenbeath Leisure Centre.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the council's agreed capital plan allocation of £7.793m to the project;
- (2) approved the integration of the library service (operated by Fife Cultural Trust) into the leisure centre and noted that a capital receipt opportunity

would be generated by vacating the standalone library on the High Street;
and

(3) approved the project Business Case as detailed in the report.

150. COUNCIL TAX - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services which presented a proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on increasing council tax multipliers for higher banded properties.

Motion

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craik moved to accept officers' recommendations in the report.

Amendment 1

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

To change the submissions in the consultation response to the following:

- Q1 – change response to “No”
- Q1 – change reasons for your answer section to “During a cost of living crisis we should not be considering significant Council Tax increases on properties.”
- Q3 – change response to “There should be no additional increase in Council Tax for these bands”
- Q8- change response to “Fife Council believes that this will have a detrimental impact on our communities.”
- Q10 – amend reasons for your answer section to include the following “Fife Council believes that the Scottish Government should instead look into improving the funding formula to help better support communities in terms of equality and wellbeing. The Scottish Government should look at the long-promised abolition of the unfair Council Tax and replace with a fairer system. These changes as proposed further entrench the unfair system that currently exists”.

Amendment 2

Councillor Beare, seconded by Councillor Backhouse moved a further amendment to the response to Q10 to amend the wording in this section and replace the term “Scottish Government” with “Scottish Parliament”.

Councillors Ross and Craik subsequently agreed to withdraw the motion and with the consent of the Convener, Councillors Calder, Tepp, Beare and Backhouse agreed to conjoin the first and second amendment.

Decision

The committee, having unanimously agreed the conjoined first and second amendment:-

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- (1) reviewed the proposed consultation responses contained within the report;
- (2) agreed the following changes to officers' recommended consultation response
 - Q1 – change response to “No”
 - Q1 – change reasons for your answer section to “During a cost of living crisis we should not be considering significant Council Tax increases on properties.”
 - Q3 – change response to “There should be no additional increase in Council Tax for these bands.”
 - Q8- change response to “Fife Council believes that this will have a detrimental impact on our communities.”
 - Q10 – amend reasons for your answer section, paragraph 2 to change the term used from “Scottish Government” to Scottish Parliament”
 - Q10 – amend reasons for your answer section to include a third paragraph with the following “Fife Council believes that the Scottish Parliament should instead look into improving the funding formula to help better support communities in terms of equality and wellbeing. The Scottish Parliament should look at the long-promised abolition of the unfair Council Tax and replace with a fairer system. These changes as proposed further entrench the unfair system that currently exists.”; and
- (3) authorised officers to submit the amended consultation response to the Scottish Government.