

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

**Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly**

**20 December 2023**

**2.00 pm – 4.10 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Lea McLelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

**ATTENDING:** Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Chelsey Brown, Margaret King and Fungai Moetsabi, Community Education Workers, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath); Kevin O’Kane, Greenspace Partnership Officer, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Sara Wilson, Service Manager, Roads Network Management, Roads and Transportation Service; Dorothy Smith, Enterprise and Business Development Manager, Economic Development; Laura Robertson, Finance Operations Manager, Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Finance and Corporate Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Lindsey Chisholm, Fife College (for para 99).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Alistair Bain and Mary Lockhart.

**92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**93. MINUTE**

The committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 1 November 2023.

Arising from the minute, relating to paragraph 91 (2) Cowdenbeath Area Forward Work Programme – the committee requested a workshop with representatives from Scottish Water, Fife Council Roads and Transportation Service and Flooding Service, to be held in January 2024, prior to the attendance of the service representatives at the meeting of Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 28 February 2024. The workshop would facilitate detailed discussion with members and officers regarding ongoing flooding issues across the Cowdenbeath area.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

**94. SPENDING ON ROADS OVER LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS IN THE COWDENBEATH AREA**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services providing an update on the spend relating to roads maintenance in the Cowdenbeath area during the financial years 2020-2023.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report;
- (2) requested a report detailing spend on road defect repairs (potholes, and so on), in the Cowdenbeath Area to be reported on an annual basis, accompanying the Area Roads Programme for the committee's consideration; and
- (3) requested that members receive similar data included in the report for the other 6 Area Committee boundaries, for the purpose of comparison.

**95. PLAY SPACES CATEGORISATION - COWDENBEATH AREA**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval for the Play Spaces Categorisation for the Cowdenbeath Area, which would create better quality and more inclusive play spaces.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the play spaces categorisation for the Cowdenbeath Area; and
- (2) noted an implementation plan was being developed and requested the implementation plan, including a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the committee by December 2024.

**96. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising of the status of the Common Good and Settlement Trust funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2022-23.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the appendices to the report, for the various Common Good funds and Trust funds; and

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- (2) agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trust funds to suitable projects which would include the amalgamation of individual trusts and, where appropriate, the dissolution of individual trusts including transferring the funds to a suitable third party organisation who would provide similar support to local priorities.

### 97. **COMMUNITY AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT HOLIDAY PROGRAMME – SUMMER & AUTUMN 2023**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service summarising the Community Learning and Development Summer and October 2023 programmes in the Cowdenbeath area.

A presentation was made by Community Education Workers from the Cardenden and Kelty areas, detailing various activities and programmes across the Cowdenbeath area during summer and autumn, highlighting the success of working with local partners. There had been a number of engagement sessions for all ages which were successful and popular in the communities.

Students from the Cardenden Youth Forum, supported by the Community Education Worker (Cardenden area), also made a presentation describing their experience of a trip to London in October 2023, where they had visited the Houses of Parliament and other landmarks in the city. The group had received support and funding from the Area Committee along with funding from other organisations, which had assisted with the trip.

#### **Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) thanked the Community Education Workers and Youth Forum members for their presentations which provided an insight into the valuable work of the Community Learning and Development Team, taking place across the Cowdenbeath area;
- (2) noted the content of the report; and
- (3) requested, in relation to the UN and Corporation legislation - Article 12 Youth Voice, a report for its consideration on how Fife Council would realise children's rights within the Cowdenbeath area - no later than September 2024.

*The committee adjourned at 3.30 pm and reconvened at 3.35 pm*

### 98. **AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Convener advised that this report - Area Budget and Project Progress - had been withdrawn as incorrect financial information had been included – a revised report would be submitted to the next committee meeting on 28 February 2024.

**99. COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4  
COWDENBEATH AREA 2023-2026 UPDATE**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing an update on progress delivering on the priorities agreed in the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026 and focusing on very early progress being made across the 3 priorities – Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement.

**Decision**

The committee noted the work delivered to date on the three agreed priorities detailed in the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026.

**100. COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the forward work programme; and
- (2) following concerns raised by pupils regarding the quality of school meals, agreed in terms of the remit of the Area Committee, under Committee Powers, Paragraph 7.2, to invite four pupils and their Depute Head Teacher, Cowdenbeath High School to address the committee in relation to the report on School Meals at the committee meeting on 28 February 2024.