

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
BLENDED MEETING**

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

29 February 2024

10.00 am – 4.25 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Eugene Clarke (Convener), Darren Watt (Vice-Convener) Jonny Tepp, Blair Allan, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Eugene Clarke, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Donald Lothian, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele and Ann Verner.

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director - Communities, Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods; Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Paul Short, Service Manager and Helen Wilkie, Service Manager - Housing Supply Regeneration & Stock Condition, Housing Services; Emma Lennon, Accountant, Alison Binnie, Finance Business Partner, Helen Guthrie, Accountant, Finance & Corporate Services; Emma Walker, Senior Manager, Fife Sports & Leisure Trust; Jeremy Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust; Paul Murphy, Chief Executive and Iain Evans, Golf Courses Manager, Fife Golf Trust; Heather Stuart, Chief Executive, Fife Cultural Trust; Jennifer Rezendes, Principal Social Work Officer and Audrey Valente, Chief Finance Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership; Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillor Judy Hamilton and Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan, Police Scotland.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Jan Wincott.

98. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Alastair Cameron made a transparency statement relating to Para 103 and Para 104 as he was a member on Fife Golf Trust and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Jonny Tepp made a transparency statement relating to Para 105 as he was a member on Fife Cultural Trust.

Councillor Donald Lothian made a transparency statement relating to Para 104 as he was a member of Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Julie MacDougall made a transparency statement relating to Para 104 as she was a member of Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

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Councillor Brian Goodall made a transparency statement relating to Para 104 and Para 106 as he was a Director on Fife Coast and Countryside Trust and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Peter Guilline made a transparency statement relating to Para 104 as he was a member on Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Sam Steel made a transparency statement relating to Para 105 as she is a member on Fife Museum Forum.

Councillor Lynn Mowatt made a transparency statement relating to Para 105 as she was a member on Fife Cultural Trust.

99. **MINUTE**

The committee considered the minute of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting of 16 November 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

100. **CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

Decision

The committee noted that Councillor Tepp had replaced Councillor Knox as a member of this committee and welcomed him to his first meeting.

The committee thanked Councillor Knox for his contribution to the work of the committee during his membership.

101. **POLICE SCOTLAND LOCAL POLICING PLAN - ANNUAL REPORT**

The committee considered a report by the Chief Superintendent of Police Scotland providing members with an oversight of the performance within the Fife Division of Police Scotland.

Decision

The committee noted the performance as detailed in the report.

Councillor Darren Watt, entered the meeting during consideration of the above item. Following consideration of this item, he was appointed as Convener to chair the remainder of the meeting.

102. **COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS ANNUAL REPORT**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the annual performance reports for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Service for 2022/2023.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the arrangements set out in Section 1 of the report to fulfil the Council's obligation to comply with Audit Scotland's 2021 SPI Direction;
- (2) considered and noted the performance information as detailed in the report; and
- (3) noted the current challenges, priorities and risks for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Service as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

103. FIFE GOLF TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing oversight of the performance, key future plans and challenges for the Fife Golf Trust during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Decision

The committee noted the key future plans, challenges, and performance for the Fife Golf Trust.

The meeting adjourned at 11.50am and reconvened at 12.00 noon.

104. FIFE SPORTS AND LEISURE TRUST (FSLT) - ANNUAL REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on the performance of the Fife Sport and Leisure Trust for 2022/2023 (its fifteenth year of operation).

Decision

The committee noted the performance information for the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.

Councillor Alex Campbell left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

105. ONFIFE (FIFE CULTURAL TRUST) – ANNUAL REVIEW

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on the performance information for OnFife (Fife Cultural Trust) during the period 1 April 2022-31 March 2023.

Decision

The committee noted: -

- (1) the continued development and performance of the Fife Cultural Trust (OnFife) in 2022/2023; and
- (2) that an update report on the pilot initiatives would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

106. FIFE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the annual performance information for the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust for 2022/2023.

Decision

The committee noted the performance information for the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust.

Councillors Cameron, Clarke and Mowatt left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

The meeting adjourned at 1.40 pm and reconvened at 2.10 pm

107. CAFÉ INC- SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the improvements and changes from the Scrutiny Working Group reviewing Café Inc.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the work undertaken by the Café Inc Scrutiny Working Group; and
- (2) agreed that a report detailing the improvements and changes in the council's approach to address holiday hunger would be presented to the Cabinet committee by Summer 2024; and
- (3) agreed that a future review of the changes in Café Inc provision would take place in Summer 2025.

108. FIFE COUNCIL DUTY OF CANDOUR ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The committee considered a report by the Principal Social Work Officer, Health and Social Care advising members of the Duty of Candour provisions in the health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016 (The Act), that came into effect on 1 April 2018. The report advised on the requirement for each organisation subject to "The Act" to produce and publish an annual report detailing when and how the duty had been applied.

Decision

The committee considered and reviewed the information detailed in the report.

109. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PRESSURES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the Council's ability to meet the statutory duty to homeless households as updated from previous reports submitted to the Scrutiny and Cabinet Committee over the last 6-8 months.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) considered the measures taken to respond to the increasing demand and noted that resources are now exhausted; and
- (2) noted that demand is expected to increase nationally and that measures are in place through the strategy to mitigate these pressures.

110. VOIDS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the previous scrutiny reports submitted on 8 June and 31 August 2023. The report provided additional analysis of the progress of the Voids Service Improvement Plan and projected performance improvements.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) considered and commented on the key performance improvement actions and progress in implementing the Voids Service Improvement Plan;
- (2) acknowledged that Housing Services needs to focus on the longer-term more complicated voids to ensure that turnover is maximised;
- (3) agreed that members would be updated with briefing notes on any risks identified to the service improvement plans; and
- (4) agreed that an update report on voids service improvements would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

111. UPDATE ON HOUSING FUNCTIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the Housing Functional Needs Assessments processing that are part of the Fife Housing Register application used by partners to allocate social housing. progress report to Members in relation to the processing of Housing Functional Needs Assessments. These assessments are part of the Fife Housing Register application which is used by partners to allocate social housing.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered the progress made in relation to dealing with the backlog of Housing Functional Needs Assessments;
- (2) noted the progress made in reviewing the Housing OT Service and the proposed revised service delivery; and
- (3) agreed that a report on housing adaptations would be brought back to a future meeting of the committee.

112. HOUSING REVENUE CAPITAL ACCOUNT: PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS UPDATE 2023-24

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services updating on the acquisition of properties for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Decision

The committee noted: -

- (1) the purchases made during the current financial year 2023-24;
- (2) that Housing, Estates, and Legal Services continued to acquire properties in line with the current Property Acquisitions policy;
- (3) the Cabinet committee on 11 January 2024, agreed to an increase of 50 properties to the current budgeted number of 100 acquisitions for 2024-25 onwards, a total of 150 properties, to meet increased housing need and demand through homelessness.

113. 2023-24 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUTTURN – COMMUNITIES

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Communities providing an update on the projected outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year for the Communities and Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is an area of scope within this committee.

Decision

The committee considered the current financial performance and activity for the 2023/24 projected outturn position.

114. 2023-24 REVENUE BUDGET & CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN - CHILDREN & FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services providing an update on the forecasted financial position for the 2023-24 financial year, including the areas in scope of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee in relation to Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) considered and noted the current financial performance and activity detailed in the report in relation to both the revenue budget and capital plan; and
- (2) noted the projected outturn position and the relevant areas of projected over and under spend within the service.

115. 2023-24 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUTTURN - HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The committee considered a joint report by the Director of Health and Social Care and the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services updating members on the 2023-24 revenue budget projected out-turn for Fife Council Social Care Services for Adults and Older People.

Decision

The committee considered and noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

Councillor Lothian left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

116. 2023-24 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Director of Health and Social Care updating members on the Health and Social Care Capital Investment Plan review and advising on the projected out-turn for the 2023-24 financial year for the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee considered and noted the current performance and activity across the 2023-24 financial monitoring as detailed in the report.

117. PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director Finance and Corporate Services, asking members to consider the future workplan for the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered and noted the People and Communities Scrutiny future workplan;
- (2) agreed that a joint report on housing adaptations from the Health & Social Care Partnership and Housing Services would be brought back to a future meeting of the committee;
- (3) agreed that a briefing note providing context information for each reporting Service (including staff vacancies) to the People & Communities Scrutiny committee would be circulated to members of the committee;
- (4) agreed to ask officers to bring forward the Armed Covenant Forces report to the 27 June 2024 committee as Armed Forces Day was on 29 June 2024;
- (5) noted that the Chief Social Work annual report would be amended on the forward work programme to 14 November 2024; and

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- (6) acknowledged that the Lead Officer would look at the future reporting for the Fife Violence against women partnership to determine the future remit of reporting.