

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

4 April 2024

10.00 am - 11.35 am

PRESENT: Councillors Linda Erskine (Convener), Tom Adams (substituting for Councillor David Ross), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw (substituting for Councillor Carol Lindsay), David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Graeme Downie, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall (substituting for Councillor Craig Walker), Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Ross Vettraino and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Laura Robertson, Finance Operations Manager, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Lauren Bennett, Project Manager (Community Wealth Building), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Services, Michael Anderson, Service Manager (Structural Services) and Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant (Flooding, Shoreline and Harbours), Roads and Transportation Service; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services; and Audrey Valente, Chief Finance Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Carol Lindsay, David Ross and Craig Walker.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER - In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Erskine was appointed to chair the meeting.

226. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Derek Glen declared an interest in para. 231 - Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme Funding - Fife's Proposed Projects 2024/25 - as he was a trustee of the Dunfermline Regeneration Trust which acted as the fundholder for the Environment Skatepark Project.

227. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cabinet Committee meeting of 7 March 2024.

The Convener advised that in terms of para. 219 of the minute - Support for Voluntary Organisations - the Head of Housing Services had confirmed that all required financial and management information from the Disabled Persons Housing Service (DPHS) had been received and that the award of £80,109 could be made for 2024/25.

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It was proposed to amend the decision in the minute to reflect this. As this was a procedural motion in terms of Standing Order No. 27.4, the motion was proposed by Councillor Erskine and seconded by Councillor Craik.

The procedural motion was unanimously agreed.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute subject to the change at para. 209 as detailed above.

228. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER APPLICATION BY CRAIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Property Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service which sought approval for a Community Asset Transfer request received from Crail Community Partnership under Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to purchase Denburn Wood in Crail.

Decision

The committee approved the asset transfer request at less than market value at the price of £1 and all otherwise on the terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Head of Property Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, subject to approval of the asset transfer request by the North East Fife Area Committee.

229. PROPERTY FLOOD RESILIENCE GRANT - CAPITAL FUNDING

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to implement the Property Flood Resilience Grant (PFRG) process to support properties at risk of flooding.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the implementation of the Property Flood Resilience Grant process as detailed in section 2 of the report which afforded up to £5,000 per private property; and
- (2) agreed to delegate to the Convener of the Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee that an item be added to the Forward Work Programme for a monitoring report to be submitted on the property flood resilience grant in due course.

230. ANNUAL UPLIFT IN PAYMENTS TO THIRD PARTY PROVIDERS AND SOCIAL CARE CHARGES FOR 2024-25

The committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care providing information on the proposed uplift in payments to third party providers and charges of Social Care Services for financial year 2024-25.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the proposed increase in the Free Personal and Nursing Care Allowance;
- (2) noted the proposed increase in hourly rates paid for service users in receipt of a direct payment, or for shared lives carers, to comply with the increase in living wage rate for 2024-25;
- (3) noted and approved the increase in rent charges for service users residing in staffed group homes or core and cluster services;
- (4) approved the revised charges for Social Care Services for 2024-25; and
- (5) noted that at para. 2.5.9 of the report, the weekly charge for community alarms would increase by £0.15 per week and not £0.25 as stated.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Derek Glen left the meeting at this stage.

231. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FUNDING - FIFE'S PROPOSED PROJECTS 2024/25

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking agreement for an approach to disbursing Fife's allocation of the Scottish Government's Placed Based Investment Programme Funding for financial year 2024/25.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the background to the fund, including likely conditions and timescales involved in delivery projects;
- (2) agreed the list of projects in Table 1 as those to receive investment from the fund during the financial year 2024/25, subject to final confirmation of funding to be made available by the Scottish Government. If funding was lower than predicted, then approved projects may be rolled forward to be delivered from the 2025/26 allocation which was expected to be £1.915m;
- (3) agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place) to disburse funds to the agreed projects; and
- (4) agreed that there was some flexibility to allow movement of funds from one project to another, as necessary, with the agreement of the Executive Director (Place) for changes above £100,000 and that, below this sum, movement was at the discretion of the Head of Business and Employability Services, assuming that the fund timescales were met.

Councillor Derek Glen re-joined the meeting following consideration of the above item.

232. SISTER CITIES - INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services advising on progress in relation to developing relationships for Dunfermline in respect of Sister City pairings and providing an update on further international economic partnership developments.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress in developing strategic economic partnerships with existing and new city partners under the Sister Cities scheme and other economic agreements; and
- (2) agreed to endorse the further development of such partnerships and a development approach to growing Fife's international economic relationships.

233. COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING - PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services which provided a six-monthly progress update in relation to the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Policy Framework approved in April 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to endorse the progress made to date to progress Community Wealth Building delivery and noted successes and next steps; and
- (2) agreed to endorse the priorities for 2024 and beyond, particularly in terms of making progress on pillars 3 and 4 - Land and Property and Plural Ownership.

234. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2024-27

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) outlining the revised Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy of the council.

Decision

The committee approved:-

- (1) the Treasury and Investment Strategies; and
- (2) the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances Policy.

235. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES

The committee considered the list of outstanding remits from committees.

Decision

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.