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THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

17 April 2024

2.00 pm – 3.50 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea Mclelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Izzy Scott-Trimmm, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Patricia Galfskiy, Policy Officer, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath); Pamela Colburn, Quality Improvement Officer (Health and Wellbeing), Education Service; Roy Lawrence, Principal Lead for Organisational Development and Culture, Jacquie Stringer, Service Manager Localities and Community Led Support, Health and Social Care Partnership; and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Stewart Christie, Rural Skills Scotland (for para. 120 only) and Dr Lorna Watson, Deputy Director of Public Health, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Fife (for para 119. only).

116. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

117. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area committee of 28 February 2024.

Arising from the minute:-

- (a) with reference to Paragraph 104 - School Meals Provision at Beath High School - Councillor Robb advised he would circulate to members of the committee, a copy of the letter he had received from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills instructing Scottish Government officials to engage with students on their concerns, within regulations;
- (b) with reference to Paragraph 106 - Former St Andrews Church, Lochgelly - Councillor Robb requested the wording be amended to reflect that Councillor Lockhart had proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Erskine to include an additional recommendation (3) and that Councillor Robb had proposed a further amendment, seconded by Councillor Lockhart, to include additional recommendations (4) and (5). Recommendation (5) be amended to read 'officers explore methods to ensure members of the public were kept updated with all *relevant information and documents that could be released, to be released in the interest of transparency* on the Rockgelly/St Andrews Church development project, at regular intervals'; and

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- (c) with reference to paragraph 112 – Lochore Meadows Country Park Operational Update and Development Plan – Councillor Robb requested the wording be amended to reflect that he had proposed an amendment to include two additional recommendations (5) and (6) which had been seconded by Councillor Bain

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to the amendments proposed by Councillor Robb; and
- (2) otherwise agreed to approve the minute.

118. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE LOCALITY PLANNING - COWDENBEATH

The committee considered a report by the Principal Lead for Organisational Development, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Lead for Cowdenbeath Health and Social Care Locality Planning Group providing an overview of the Health and Social Care Partnership Locality Planning Outcomes for Cowdenbeath during 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed that the Health and Social Care Partnership would provide an annual report to the committee with updates on locality planning and joint areas of interest between the Health and Social Care Partnership and community planning partners.

119. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT AND YOUNG PEOPLE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY RESULTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education Services relating to the Director of Public Health report 'Children and Young people in Fife - the Building Blocks for Health' and providing the results of the Fife Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey carried out in March 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the survey results, as provided through the Fife Young People's Health Wellbeing Survey; and
- (2) agreed to endorse the next steps outlined in response to the survey results.

120. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - GROUNDS FOR GROWTH

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

Decision

The committee acknowledged the progress of the Grounds for Growth Project.

121. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for an allocation of funding from the Ward 7 budget for the development of Cowdenbeath Area Community Association youth project.

Decision

The committee agreed to an allocation of £10,000 from the Ward 7 budget towards the development of Cowdenbeath Area Community Association youth project.

122. COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND (CRF) ANNUAL UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on Community Recovery Fund projects that had been developed and delivered in the Cowdenbeath Area and seeking approval to redirect funds, where necessary, following project investigations / consultation.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted progress on projects developed and delivered from Community Recovery Funds; and
- (2) approved redirection of the CRF funds as detailed below:-
 - (a) **Community Social Work** – return all unspent funding to the CRF budget at the end of the Test of Change pilot;
 - (b) **Lochgelly Town Hall** – redirect the £10,000 allocated to undertake improvement to the Lochgelly Town Hall to the Lochgelly civic space;
 - (c) **Tree planting** – transfer monies to Fife Coast and Countryside Trust;
 - (d) **Community Orchard** – transfer monies to Fife Council's Green Space capital budget; and
 - (e) **Youth Work Development** – redirect £15,000 of this funding to support CLD youth work programmes in 2024/25.

123. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 24 - MARCH 25)

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for an allocation of funding to support the work of the Area Community.

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Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the following funding requests for upcoming budget year 2024/2025:-
 - (a) **Annual Community Grants Programme** - £27,500 (£16,750 from Ward 7 and £10,750 from Ward 8 budgets);
 - (b) **Holiday Programme** - £50,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget;
 - (c) **Community Learning and Development Programme** - £17,500 (£10,000 from Ward 7 and £7,500 from Ward 8 budgets);
 - (d) **2023/24 Holiday Programme underspend** - £17,051.17 awarded from last year's Ward 7 and 8 budgets;
 - (e) **Member Requests** – annual events - £10,000 (£5,000 each from Wards 7 and 8 budgets);
 - (f) **Immediate Response Fund** - £6,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget; and
 - (g) **Community Resilience Fund (Castle Furniture)** - £10,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget.
- (2) requested that the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service undertake a review of the budget allocation process for Community Learning and Development to ensure funding was being proportionately allocated throughout areas, such as resources for programmes, activities and staffing, with consideration to be given to areas with higher deprivation and poverty that may require additional support. Committee requested this be submitted to a future Cabinet Committee meeting for future scrutiny.

124. AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on the 2023/2024 area budget schedules and on existing projects approved at the Area Committee meeting in December 2022.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (3) progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 area committee, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and

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- (4) the final delivery mechanism would be decided by the Community Manager, ensuring the DeliverIt project was flexible to best meet the needs of the community and that the option of delivery via a constituted community group would be included.

125. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - REVIEW OF PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2019 - 2022**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing a review of the Local Community Plan (LCP) Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area for the period of 2019-2022.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the efforts, challenges and achievements of projects under the Plan4Fife themes, identified in the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan 2019-2022; and
- (2) agreed that the Convener would raise members' concerns around lack of parking facilities at Lochore Meadows during busy periods such as summer months with the organisation, Friends of Lochore Meadows. Members suggested a shuttle bus service could be provided for members of the public if parking at Lochgelly High School was utilised.

The meeting adjourned at 3.35 pm and reconvened at 3.40 pm

126. **COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH AREA 2023-2026 ACTION PLAN**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the action plan developed to deliver the priorities agreed in the Local Community Plan (LCP) - Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026. The focus was on short and long-term actions to be developed and explored over the three-year LCP period across the three priority areas – Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement.

Decision

The committee noted the action plan developed to deliver against the three priorities; Tackling Poverty, Raising Aspirations and Community Engagement within the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026, which would be developed and evolved over the three year implementation period.

127. **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.

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Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the forward work programme; and
- (2) requested that the Convener write to the Housing Services Manager to request that the Area Housing Plan 2023-26, scheduled for submission to the committee meeting on 4 September 2024, include the most recent set of statistics and figures.