

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING**

**Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**9 May 2024**

**10.00 am - 1.00 pm**

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

**ATTENDING:** Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lesley Kenworthy, Finance Business Partner, Sharon McKenzie, Head of Human Resources, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Calum Ross, Solicitor, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Morag Millar, Service Manager (Strategic Growth and City Deals), Business and Employability Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services and Mhairi Mullen, Service Manager, Housing Services; Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services and Rob Bowditch, Service Manager, Protective Services; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning Services, Ross Spalding, Service Manager, Hugh Muschamp, Lead Officer, Shona Cargill, Lead Officer and Caroyne Bell, Technical Officer, Planning Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services and Louise Playford, Service Manager, Property Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Rosemary Liewald; and Mr. Alastair Crockett and Ian Macaulay, Religious Representatives.

**236. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- Councillor Graeme Downie declared an interest at para. 241 - Tackling Dampness and Mould in Private Sector Housing - Proposed Action Plan - as he worked with various private landlords.
- Councillor Cara Hilton declared an interest at para. 244 - Food4Fife - as she was employed by the Trussell Trust.

**237. MINUTES**

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 4 April 2024.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii) The Education Appointment Committee of 26 February 2024 and the Appeals Sub-Committee of 22 March 2024 were submitted for noting.

**Decision**

The minutes were noted.

**238. UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING-UP FUNDING: CITY OF DUNFERMLINE CULTURE FUNDING**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking approval of projects to be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as a cultural investment plan for the City of Dunfermline. The report included information on the UK Government funding requirements, eligible projects and an approach to develop a long-term cultural investment plan.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the prioritisation of the four cultural projects detailed in Appendix 2 of the report to secure the provisional award by the UK Government's Levelling Up Funding (LUF) for which Dunfermline would benefit from £5 million of capital funding over two years from 2024/25; and noted that these were subject to endorsement by the UK Government and completion of their design processes;
- (2) delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) and Executive Director (Place) to submit and conclude the Levelling Up Culture Investment Plan for the City of Dunfermline with the UK Government;
- (3) agreed the proposed next steps; and
- (4) agreed that quarterly update reports would be submitted to the City of Dunfermline Area Committee.

**239. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER (CPO)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources advising that from 1 April 2024 there was a new statutory requirement for the council to appoint a Chief Planning Officer and to agree the Head of Planning as the council's Chief Planning Officer.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the statutory requirement for the council to appoint a Chief Planning Officer; and
- (2) agreed that the responsibilities of the Chief Planning Officer role be incorporated into the remit of the Head of Planning.

**240. SHORT TERM LET LICENSING AND THE AIG WOMEN'S OPEN**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for the Head of Housing Services to declare the Women's Open in St. Andrews a national event in line with the Fife Council Short Term Let (STL) Policy.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to declare the Women's Open in St. Andrews a national event in line with the Fife Council Short Term Let Policy.

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

**241. TACKLING DAMPNESS AND MOULD IN PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING - PROPOSED ACTION PLAN**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Protective Services outlining the work to date that council services had taken supporting private sector tenants and owners to ensure that the evidence of condensation, dampness and mould could be more effectively mitigated for the wellbeing of tenants and their families. The report proposed a strategic approach and Action Plan to take this important work forward during 2024/25.

**Decision**

The committee noted:-

- (1) the update report as required by the previous Cabinet decision in May 2023;
- (2) the updated Repairing Standard obligations on private landlords;
- (3) the council's obligations and how they were being delivered including realignment of resources to support service response, the progress on current caseload, the focus on reviewing process procedures and data and the delivery of training to staff;
- (4) the progress made against the Action Plan to mitigate the incidence of dampness, condensation and black mould more effectively in private sector properties; and
- (5) agreed that an update report be submitted to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee in a year's time.

*Councillor Downie rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**242. INVESTING IN PLANNING - RESOURCING SCOTLAND'S PLANNING SYSTEM: CONSULTATION**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking approval of a proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation paper on Investing in Planning - Resourcing Scotland's Planning System.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) reviewed and approved the proposed consultation response as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) authorised officers to submit the consultation to the Scottish Government; and
- (3) delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in conjunction with the Convener, to include additional comments agreed by this committee and respond to the consultation.

**243. TACKLING MARINE POLLUTION - MEMBERSHIP OF KIMO UK**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services advising on the benefits of membership and budget implications of KIMO UK and to consider whether the council should pursue membership of KIMO UK as requested by Motion 1 raised at the Fife Council meeting on 16 March 2023.

**Motion**

Councillor David Alexander, seconded by Councillor Brian Goodall, moved the recommendations contained within the report.

**Amendment**

Councillor Jan Wincott, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved (i) that the council sought formal membership of KIMO UK with a review being undertaken in a year's time detailing the benefits of membership and (ii) to expand promotion of KIMO UK's Fishing for Litter project to other harbours in Fife.

**Roll Call Vote**

**For the motion - 9 votes**

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Carol Lindsay, Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

**For the Amendment - 13 votes**

Councillors James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Graeme Downie, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, David Ross and Jan Wincott.

**Decision**

The committee agreed:-

- (1) that Fife Council pursues formal membership of KIMO UK and that a review be undertaken in a year's time detailing the benefits of membership; and
- (2) that Fife Council would continue to support KIMO UK's Fishing for Litter project that was operational in Pittenweem Harbour and the private St. Andrew's harbour and that promotion of the project should be expanded to other harbours in Fife.

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

*The meeting adjourned at 11.15 am and reconvened at 11.30 am.*

**244. FOOD4FIFE**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Planning Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval of the Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the Food4Fife Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) noted that:-
  - Food4Fife was a joint plan with NHS Fife and the Public Health and Wellbeing Committee would also be approached for approval;
  - the Community Growing Pillar was largely delivered through the Allotment and Community Growing Strategy as approved at the 8 February 2024 Cabinet Committee; and
  - the full scope of the strategy would only be possible where additional external funding was provided, considered alongside other priorities and project business cases approved.

*Councillor Hilton rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**245. COMMON GOOD POLICY**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting a revised Common Good Policy Statement.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the context for the review and the work undertaken; and
- (2) approved the revised Common Good Policy Statement subject to minor amendments to the wording relating to the disposal of common good assets and surplus balances.

**246. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES**

**Decision**

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.

*The committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.*

**247. BUILDING FIFE'S FUTURE: REPLACEMENT OF INVERKEITHING HIGH SCHOOL (SOUTH AND WEST FIFE) - FULL BUSINESS CASE (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Education and Head of Property Services presenting the full Business Case for the proposed investment to replace Inverkeithing High School and sought approval from committee to progress to Financial Close and proceed with the main construction work for the replacement building.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) reviewed and approved the Full Business Case;
- (2) approved the increase in budget allocation;
- (3) agreed delegated authority for officers to progress to Financial Close and main construction work;
- (4) agreed delegated authority for officers to progress land transactions as detailed in the report; and
- (5) agreed that officers would provide regular updates through capital monitoring reports to future committees.

*Councillor Leslie left the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**248. ACQUISITION OF 4 HOUSES IN ST. CATHERINE WYND, HIGH VALLEYFIELD (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and Head of Property Services seeking approval of the proposed acquisition of four new three bedroom homes in St. Catherine Wynd, High Valleyfield as part of the council's Open Market Transactions Project.

**Decision**

The committee authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction for the acquisition of houses built in St. Catherine Wynd, High Valleyfield.