

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

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

**6 June 2024**

**10.00 am - 1.05 pm**

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

**ATTENDING:** Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Mary McLean, Legal Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education, Sarah Else, Education Manager and Avril Graham, Team Manager, Education Service; James Ross, Head of Children, Families and Justice Service and Kimberley Hankin, Service Manager, Children, Families and Justice Service; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning, Health and Social Care Service; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Business and Employability Service; John Mills, Head of Housing Services and Gavin Smith, Service Manager, Housing Services; John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Service, Tony McRae, Service Manager and Susan Keenlyside, Service Manager, Roads and Transportation Service; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Dave Paterson, Community Manager (Levenmouth), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning and Mary Stewart, Service Manager, Planning Service; and Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager, Property Services.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Lesley Backhouse, Graeme Downie, Cara Hilton and Carol Lindsay.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener requested that the committee observe a minute silence to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings and to all those who gave their lives at that time.

**249. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ross Vettraino declared an interest at para. 259 - Fife Council Electric Vehicle Public Charging Tariffs - as he owned an electric car.

**250. MINUTES**

(i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 9 May 2024.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

- (ii) The Education Appointment Committee minutes of 19, 24 and 25 April, 2024 were submitted for noting.

**Decision**

The minutes were noted.

**251. STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MILTON OF BALGONIE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REZONE THE CATCHMENT AREAS OF COALTOWN OF BALGONIE, PITTEUCHAR EAST AND THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education detailing the statutory Consultation Report in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 in respect of the proposal to close Milton of Balgonie Primary School and rezone the catchment areas of Coaltown of Balgonie, Pitteuchar East and Thornton Primary Schools.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to:-

- (1) close Milton of Balgonie Primary School on Monday, 19 August, 2024;
- (2) rezone the catchment area of Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School to incorporate all of the current catchment area of Milton of Balgonie Primary School from Monday, 19 August, 2024;
- (3) seek alternative uses for the Milton of Balgonie Primary School site within the control of the Education Service to ensure that, should the number of primary aged pupils in this area increase to a level that may require provision of an additional primary school in future, it may be done so at the least cost to the council. Cabinet notes that any future disposal would require the consultation of the local members and referral to Cabinet Committee for governance; and
- (4) rezone the catchment areas of Coaltown of Balgonie, Pitteuchar East and Thornton Primary Schools to realign these primary school catchments from Monday, 19 August 2024.

**252. STRATEGIC EQUITY FUND - SESSION 2024/25**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education providing an overview of the rationale and plan for use of the Strategic Equity Fund to support the closing of the poverty-related attainment gap in Fife's educational settings in academic session 2024/25.

**Decision**

The committee agreed planned projects and actions within the Strategic Equity Fund workstreams for session 2024/25 and the associated budget allocated to each.

**253. REVIEW OF PAYMENTS TO FOSTER CARERS, KINSHIP CARERS AND SUPPORTED LODGINGS CARERS**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice Service providing information on the proposed uplift in payments to all carers.

**Decision**

The committee agreed the application of an uplift of 3% in the fees paid to foster carers and supported lodging carers and noted the ending of support for family carer's allowance given Kinship legislation.

**254. CARE HOMES REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

The committee considered a joint report by the Director of Health and Social Care and Head of Housing Services providing an update on the revised costs for Cupar Care Village due to an increased projected cost following receipt of the Tender Report prior to construction.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved Option 2 as per the PF09 exception report annexed to the report;
- (2) agreed that the increased costs of £1.019m for Cupar Care Home would be funded from the overall Care Home replacement budget recognising that this would result in a reduced budget for Anstruther Care Home which would then need to be considered as part of the upcoming Capital Plan Review; and
- (3) noted that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) would address the budget gap of £0.605m by making use of the existing Affordable Housing Programme capital budget which would reduce the budget available to fund other new build units.

**255. OPPORTUNITIES FIFE PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGY 2024-30**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services seeking approval for the Opportunities Fife Partnership's new strategy, priorities and structure for 2024-2030.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the updated Opportunities Fife (OPF) strategy, priorities, structure and measures;
- (2) noted the process carried out with partners and key stakeholders to co-design the new strategy;
- (3) supported the intention for the OPF to put the client at the centre of employability delivery, through engagement with service users and the Lived Experience Team, to ensure employability projects were delivered in a way that participants wanted to engage with; and

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- (4) thanked Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services for all the support and assistance he had provided to Fife Council over the years and wished him well in his new role as Chief Executive at Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

### 256. HOUSING EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2024-27

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services outlining an initial and high-level response to the declaration by the council in March 2024 of a Housing Emergency.

#### **Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed the high-level Themes of the developing Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP);
- (2) agreed further development of the medium-term actions set out in the HEAP; and
- (3) noted that further reports would be submitted to the Cabinet Committee in due course providing more detail and progress of the HEAP.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.40 am and reconvened at 11.55 am.*

### 257. BUS STATION TOILETS - REMOVAL OF CHARGES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to remove the charge for entry to the public toilets at Fife Council owned bus stations.

#### **Decision**

The committee approved the removal of the 30p entry charge for the use of public toilets at Fife Council bus stations (Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Leven).

### 258. PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING - REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to explore potential joint regional working for the management and expansion of the public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure network across the local authority areas of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region.

#### **Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to Fife Council exploring joint working and procurement with other local authorities as part of Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESES CRD) EV Regional Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and

- (2) noted that a further report would be brought to this committee for consideration to seek approval prior to commencement of any joint, regional procurement exercise.

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

**259. FIFE COUNCIL ELECTRIC VEHICLE - PUBLIC CHARGING TARIFFS**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services seeking approval to increase the level of tariff for the Fife Council public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network in order to better align the tariff with private operators and make the existing charging infrastructure a more attractive investment opportunity for potential commercial operators.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the continued progress in developing the Fife Council EV Strategy as detailed in the report, including exploring joint working with SEStran and partner local authorities;
- (2) approved the increase in tariffs for the charging of electric vehicles in public car parks in Fife. The proposed tariffs for the three types of EV charge infrastructure were:-
  - Trickle charger (7kW) - £0.40/kWh
  - Fast charger (22kW) - £0.40/kWh
  - Rapid charger (50kW) - £0.60/kWh
- (3) approved the removal of the current connection fee of £1.60 for all charging sessions at Fife Council operated charging facilities;
- (4) approved the introduction of a maximum period of stay of 70 minutes at all Fife Council operated rapid chargers (this allowed 60 minutes for charging, plus a 10 minute grace period); and
- (5) approved the introduction of an overstay fee of £10 at all Fife Council operated rapid chargers to help manage the level of demand and encourage better utilisation of the infrastructure.

*Councillor Craig Walker left the meeting during consideration of the above item and Councillor Vettraino rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**260. SILVERBURN PARK FLAX MILL PROJECT - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND - CONSERVATION BURDEN DEED**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement to the granting of a Conservation Burden Deed (CBD) in favour of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in relation to the Silverburn Park, Leven Flax Mill Project.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to the granting of a Conservation Burden Deed (CBD) in favour of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and noted the assumption of risk associated with this proposal; and
- (2) authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service to enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction in respect of the CBD request by HES.

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

**261. CAFE INC PROVISION**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on Cafe Inc, the council's holiday hunger initiative over Easter 2024, and the recommended improvements and changes following on from the scrutiny working group reviewing Cafe Inc.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed that officers incorporate the changes and improvements to Cafe Inc as recommended by the scrutiny working group and detailed within Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) noted the Easter performance of Cafe Inc and that further management action may be required to provide a sustainable service within the available budget for Cafe Inc over the rest of the year.

*Councillor Kathleen Leslie rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**262. INCREASE IN FEES FOR PLANNING PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking approval for an increase to discretionary planning fees for pre-application advice.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the new fee structure for discretionary planning fees for pre-application advice as detailed below; and

<b>Development Type</b>	<b>Fee (Net of VAT)</b>
Major Developments	£4,250
Major Developments - Additional Meeting	£250
Local Developments - 50% of the statutory planning application fee up to a maximum of:	£2,100
Local Developments - Additional Meeting	£150
Householder Developments & Listed Buildings	£90
Householder Developments & Listed Buildings - Additional Meeting	£60

- (2) agreed the implementation date for all requests for pre-application advice receive from 1 July 2024.

**263. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.*

**264. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME - BURNTISLAND ROAD, KINGHORN (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and Head of Property Services outlining proposals to conclude legally binding agreements for the acquisition of land and the delivery of 25 two-bedroom affordable homes for social rent at the site known as Burntisland Road, Kinghorn.

**Decision**

The committee authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction:-

- (1) for the acquisition of the site; and
- (2) to enter into a Design and Build contract for the development of 25 new affordable homes at the site recognising that the figure may be adjusted as detail of the proposal was finalised.