

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

15 August 2024

10.00 am - 12.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener), Tom Adams (substituting for Councillor Jan Wincott), David Alexander, David Barratt, James Calder, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Lynn Mowatt (substituting for Councillor John Beare), Sam Steele (substituting for Councillor Sarah Neal), Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

ATTENDING: Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Emma Lennon, Accountant, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager, Steven Paterson, Solicitor, Legal Services and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; John Rodigan, Head of Environment and Building Services and Fiona Duncan, Legacy Systems Replacement Programme Manager, Environment and Building Services; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Liz Murphy, Bereavement Services Manager and Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager, Property Services; and John Mills, Head of Housing Services.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors John Beare, Sarah Neal and Jan Wincott.

NOTICE OF MOTION - HARLAND AND WOLFF - Following a request from Councillors Alexander and Walker to withdraw their motion, this was agreed. The Convener, however, advised that he had recently written to the UK and Scottish Governments raising the council's concerns and requesting support for the facility at Methil.

CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP - The committee noted that Councillor Brian Goodall had replaced Councillor Lesley Backhouse as a member of the Cabinet Committee and that, due to the recent change in political balance, Councillor Sarah Neal had taken up the additional SNP seat.

265. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

266. MINUTES

- (i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 6 June 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

2024 CC 143

- (ii) The following minutes were submitted for noting:-
- East Fife Educational Trust Committee of 8 April 2024 and West Fife Educational Trust Committee of 8 April and 20 May 2024.
 - Education Appointment Committee of 15 May 2024
 - Appeals Sub-Committee of 18 June 2024

Decision

The minutes were noted.

267. REVENUE MONITORING - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2023-24

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reported the provisional outturn for 2023-24.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the high-level outturn position as detailed in the report;
- (2) noted that there were ongoing financial impacts arising from the current economic climate which continued to be managed by services with an element of protection from inflationary risk being accounted for centrally;
- (3) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committees;
- (4) requested that Scrutiny Committees ensured appropriate level of support and challenge in relation to financial reports; and
- (5) noted a review of commitments against balances would be undertaken.

268. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN - PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2023-24

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing a strategic financial overview of the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the provisional outturn for the 2023-24 financial year.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the provisional outturn position and that the level of financial risk continued to be heightened due to high levels of inflation and supply chain challenges;
- (2) that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2023-24 would be submitted to relevant Scrutiny Committees of the council;
- (3) that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group; and
- (4) the updated prudential indicators provided.

269. LEGACY SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME IN THE PLACE DIRECTORATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Environment and Building Services providing an updated Programme Business Case with detailed costs and requested approval of the funding solution identified.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the updated Legacy System Replacement Programme (Place Directorate) Business Case reflecting increased cost;
- (2) agreed the funding solution for £2.273m to be funded from contingencies; and
- (3) agreed that the report be referred to the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee for more detailed scrutiny considering revised and improved processes which could be adopted by Fife Council in future with a further report being submitted to Cabinet if required.

270. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES CEMETERY STRATEGY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services providing the outcome of a public consultation and consultation with Area Committees on a Bereavement Services Cemetery Strategy and seeking agreement of the Strategy.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the key points from the consultation exercise; and
- (2) agreed the Cemeteries Strategy 2023-28.

271. APPOINTMENT TO PARTNER ORGANISATION - KIMO UK/KIMO INTERNATIONAL

The committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking a nomination to be represented on KIMO UK/KIMO International.

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved that Councillor Barratt be appointed as the council's representative on KIMO UK / KIMO International.

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Knox, moved that Councillor Corps be appointed as the council's representative on KIMO UK / KIMO International.

Roll Call

For Councillor Barratt - 9 votes

Councillors David Alexander, David Barratt, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Rosemary Liewald, Lynn Mowatt, Sam Steele, Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

2024 CC 145

For Councillor Corps - 12 votes

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

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) to appoint Councillor Corps as the council's representative on KIMO UK/KIMO International; and
- (2) that an annual report be submitted back to this committee by the council's representative on KIMO UK / KIMO International providing feedback on the work undertaken by the organisation throughout the year.

272. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES

Decision

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 am and reconvened at 11.45 am.

273. NOTICE OF MOTION - OPERATION OF ARMS LENGTH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (ALEOS)

Motion

Councillor David Barratt, seconded by Councillor Craig Walker, moved as follows:-

"Committee requests a report be tabled at a Cabinet Committee meeting by the close of 2024 addressing how the council and its elected members can influence policy in areas where our Arms Length External Organisations (ALEOs) operate".

Councillor Barratt then moved an amendment to his original motion, seconded by Councillor Walker, however, the Convener deemed this to be not competent and therefore the amendment was not accepted.

Amendment

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Adams, moved as follows:-

"In preparing this report, members note the Council's current governance arrangements, being that the Council appoints elected member representatives to the Boards of the Council's ALEOs, that Scrutiny Committees receive performance reports from the ALEOs and that the ALEOs operate on the basis of Operational Agreements or Service Level Agreements agreed with the Council. Therefore the requested report should provide a summary of the governance arrangements for each ALEO".

Following detailed debate, Councillor Craik advised that he wished to withdraw his amendment.

Decision

- (1) That the motion was unanimously agreed; and
- (2) That the Convener meet with the Chief Executive, Executive Director (Place), local members and representatives of Cireco (Fife Resource Solutions) to discuss ongoing issues at recycling centres.

274. NOTICE OF MOTION - HARLAND AND WOLFF

The motion was withdrawn.

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 disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

275. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME - CONSCIENCE BRIDGE, CAIRNEYHILL (PRIVATE REPORT)

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Property Services providing an update on progress to conclude legally binding agreements for the acquisition of land and delivery of 18 affordable homes for social rent at the site known as Conscience Bridge, Cairneyhill.

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 known as Conscience Bridge, Cairneyhill; and
- (2) to enter into a Design and Build Contract for the development of 18 new affordable homes at the site recognising that the indicative figure may be adjusted as detail of the proposal was finalised.

276. DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY - DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY CALA HOMES LTD AT MAIN STREET, ABERDOUR (PRIVATE REPORT)

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Property Services advising of a decision taken by the Executive Director (Communities) and the Executive Director (Place), acting under delegated authority, to enter into a contract for the acquisition of land and the delivery of 21 affordable homes for social rent at the site known as Main Street, Aberdour.

Decision

The committee noted the decision taken under delegated authority to enter into a contract for the acquisition of land and the delivery of 21 affordable homes for social rent at the site known as Main Street, Aberdour.

277. PROPOSED DEMOLITION - WOODMILL AND ST COLUMBA'S HIGH SCHOOLS (PRIVATE REPORT)

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services advising that, following the relocation of staff and pupils to the Dunfermline Learning Campus at Halbeath, the existing Woodmill and St. Columba's High Schools would be surplus to requirement. To minimise holding costs and to remove the scope for fires and similar incidents, early demolition of the premises was proposed and agreement was sought for the proposal to offset the demolition costs arising against the future land sale receipts.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) that demolition of Woodmill and St. Columba's High Schools be undertaken at the earliest opportunity noting that works were currently the subject of a tender verification exercise; and
- (2) that the expenditure be incurred with the costs recovered from the future sale of the land.