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THE FIFE COUNCIL - NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

County Hall, County Buildings, Cupar

23 October 2024

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Ann Liston (Convener), Al Clark, Fiona Corps, Sean Dillon, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Robin Lawson, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid and Ann Verner.

ATTENDING: Kirstie Freeman, Community Manager - North East Fife, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Claire Hallett, Housing Manager, Housing Services; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Michael O’Gorman, Service Manager, Estates and Asset Management, Morag Millar, Service Manager, Place, Programmes and Policies, Property Services; David Grove, Lead Officer Town Centre Development, Business and Employability Service; Allan Maclean, Lead Consultant, Sustainable Traffic and Travel, Andrew Tejada, Technician Engineer, Sustainable Traffic and Travel, Nigel Hampton, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management, Roads and Transportation Services; Sandy Anderson, Service Manager, Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing, Environment and Building Services; Helena Couperwhite, Service Manager, Committee Services, Philip Blair, Team Manager, Legal Services and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Dr Lydia Cole, lead petitioner; Richard Sanderson, Chair and James Taylor, St Andrews Space for Cycling (for paragraph 171); Simon Baldwin, Director; Bill Harvey, Director, Destination Digital and James Hair, Chair, ABCD (Cupar’s Business Association) (for paragraph 174).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Allan Knox and Jonny Tepp.

169. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kennedy declared an interest in paragraphs 174 and 175 – CuparNow and Digital Improvement District (DID) Renewal Process – as she was a member of the Steering Group (owners and managers of businesses and organisations in Cupar).

Councillor Lawson declared an interest in paragraph 183 - St Andrews Common Good Fund - application for assistance: fisherman's stores roof repairs – as he was a council appointed member of the Harbour Trust, however, in terms of the Councillor Code of Conduct, a specific exclusion applied and Councillor Lawson remained in the meeting for the item.

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Councillor Verner also declared an interest in paragraph 183 - as she was a member of the Harbour Trust.

Councillor Hayes, for transparency reasons, stated that she had a connection relating to paragraph 178 – Kingsbarns speed limit amendments – as she lived in Kingsbarns but did not consider this amounted to an interest and remained in the meeting for the item.

170. **MINUTE**

The committee considered the minute of meeting of the North East Fife Area Committee of 28 August 2024.

Decision

The committee approved the minute.

171. **PETITION - IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF THE CYCLE PATH BETWEEN ST ANDREWS AND GUARDBRIDGE**

In terms of Standing Order No. 13.0, the committee considered a petition submitted by Dr Lydia Cole, in conjunction with St Andrews Space for Cycling, containing over 400 signatures, the terms of the petition being – 'improving the safety of the cycle path between St Andrews and Guardbridge'. Following which, questions from members were asked and answered.

The convener then invited the Roads and Transportation Services officer to present their report in response to the petition. Following which, questions from members were asked and answered.

Motion

Councillor Lawson, seconded by Councillor Clark moved to approve the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Amendment

Councillor Lothian, seconded by Councillor Holt, moved an amendment to recommendation two of the report to include reference to a feasibility study for alternatives.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion – 3 votes

Councillors Clark, Lawson and Liston.

For the Amendment – 10 votes

Councillors Corps, Dillon, Hayes, Hoggan, Holt, Kennedy, Kennedy-Dalby, Lothian, MacDiarmid and Verner.

Having received a majority of votes, the amendment was carried.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the petition requesting an upgrade of the St Andrews to Guardbridge cycle track, acknowledging the health and safety concerns highlighted; and
- (2) acknowledged that at that time, the cycle track did not meet modern design guidance and encouraged officers to continue with their work on a feasibility study of options.

172. PRESENTATION - 'HUMANUTOPIA' SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROJECT

Decision

The committee agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

173. PRESENTATION - NEW CUPAR RECYCLING CENTRE

The committee considered a presentation and verbal update by the Service Manager, Domestic Waste and Street Cleansing on progress relating to a new Cupar recycling centre, following which questions from members were asked and answered.

Decision

The committee requested an elected member briefing and a formal report to a future meeting of the committee, if appropriate.

Councillor Kennedy, having declared an interest in the following two items, left the meeting at this point.

174. PRESENTATION - CUPARNOW

The committee considered an update from the Director, Destination Digital relating to CuparNow's Digital Improvement District renewal plan progress, following which questions from members were asked and answered.

Decision

The committee thanked the Director of Destination Digital for his update.

175. CUPARNOW DIGITAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (DID) RENEWAL PROPOSAL

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director Place providing an update on CuparNow's Digital Improvement District renewal plan, the legislative process for the renewal, its current status and options available to Fife Council.

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Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted that, based on the information received at the time of writing the report, Fife Council could not endorse the current CuparNow Proposal and Business Plan. Officers and Scotland's Improvement Districts Team would continue to offer support to the BID proposer to comply with the BID legislation;
- (2) noted that officers would continue to work with the BID proposer to adopt a best practice operational governance model; and
- (3) agreed to convene a special meeting of the North East Fife Area Committee in the second week of December 2024 to determine the Council's formal position and next steps.

The committee adjourned at 11:30 am and reconvened at 11.45 am.

Councillor Kennedy re-joined the meeting at this point.

176. APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATION – EAST FIFE SPORTS COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services relating to a request from East Fife Sports Council to appoint a replacement for Councillor Hoggan as a member of the organisation's Executive Committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to appoint Councillor Kennedy-Dalby as a member of the East Fife Sports Council Executive Committee.

177. CUPAR AND CUPAR MUIR – SPEED LIMIT AMENDMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services relating to proposals for the expansion of the 20mph speed limit to cover the remaining urban 30mph speed limit roads and introduction of appropriate 40mph speed reductions on rural approach roads for Cupar and Cupar Muir.

Decision

The committee, in the interests of traffic management and road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawings TRO23_63-1 to 7 (Appendices 1 - 7) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

178. KINGSBARNES – SPEED LIMIT AMENDMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services relating to proposals for the introduction of 20mph speed limits on Main Street and Station Road, Kingsbarns with the introduction of appropriate 40mph speed limits on the A917 approaches.

Decision

The committee, in the interests of traffic management and road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawings TRO24_39-1 to 3 (Appendices 1 - 3) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

179. CRAIL – SPEED LIMIT AMENDMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services relating to proposals for the introduction of 40mph speed limits on the A917 and B940 approaches to Crail.

Decision

The committee, in the interests of traffic management and road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawings TRO24_25-3 & 4 (Appendices 1 and 2) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

180. NEWBURGH – PROPOSED 20MPH AND 40MPH SPEED LIMITS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services relating to proposals to lower the 30mph speed limit on roads through Newburgh to a 20mph speed limit and create a 40mph buffer zone on A913 Abernethy Road.

Decision

The committee, in the interests of traffic management and road safety:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the restrictions detailed in drawings TRO24_50 a and b with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

181. AREA HOUSING PLAN AND AREA LETTINGS PLAN REVIEW 2024-25

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval for a revised area housing plan which set out area performance, service delivery and highlighting key housing issues following consultation with key stakeholders. The previous plan was approved by the committee on 24 November 2021.

Decision

The committee approved the revised North East Fife Area Housing plan and Area Lettings Plan for 2024-2025 subject to necessary amendments, including updating of chart data, images and localities, in consultation with the Convener and Depute Convener.

182. ST ANDREWS COMMON GOOD FUND - APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE: EAST BENTS SEA WALL, EAST SANDS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking, retrospectively, an award of funding for £40,500 from the St Andrews Common Good Fund to assist with the cost of emergency repairs and maintenance following storm damage to the sea wall.

Decision

The committee agreed to an award of funding of £40,500 from the St Andrews Common Good Fund to Environment and Building Services toward the cost of emergency repairs and maintenance carried out following storm damage to the sea wall.

Councillor Verner, having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting at this point.

183. ST ANDREWS COMMON GOOD FUND - APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE: FISHERMAN'S STORES ROOF REPAIRS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking an award of funding of £8,769.54 from the St Andrews Common Good Fund toward the cost of carrying out roof repairs to the Fisherman's Stores.

Decision

The committee agreed to an award of funding of £8,769.54 to the council's Estates Team from the St Andrews Common Good Fund toward the cost of carrying out roof repairs to the Fisherman's Stores.

Councillor Verner re-entered the meeting at this point.

184. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET REQUEST - CRAIGROTHIE VILLAGE HALL: TOWARDS NET ZERO

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, seeking agreement for a contribution of £10,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) for Ward 20 toward the cost of Craigrothie Village Hall 'Towards Net Zero' project.

Decision

The committee agreed to a contribution of £10,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) for Ward 20 toward the cost of Craigrothie Village Hall 'Towards Net Zero' project.

185. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services advising on action taken using the List of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

186. NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services relating to the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the draft workplan for North East Fife Area Committee;
- (2) as outlined at paragraph 172 – 'Humanutopia' secondary schools project – defer to a future meeting, to be advised;
- (3) as outlined at paragraph 173 - New Cupar Recycling Centre – requested an elected member briefing note with a potential report to a future meeting, as appropriate;
- (4) as outlined at paragraph 175 - CuparNow Digital Improvement District (DID) Renewal Proposal – report to be considered at a special meeting of the committee to be arranged for the second week in December, to be advised; and
- (5) agreed to advise the Convener, Lead Officer and Committee Officer of any suggestions for specific areas they would like to see covered in any future report.