

THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING

Council Chamber, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

7 November 2024

10.00 am - 3.10 pm

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

ATTENDING: Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Tracy Hirst, Finance Operations Manager, Emma Lennon, Accountant, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities), Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Craig Waddell, Service Manager, Alastair Mutch, Community Manager (South and West Fife), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Paul Short, Service Manager and Carole Kennedy, Lead Officer, Housing Services, Communities Directorate; Carol Connolly, Executive Director (Place), Ross Spalding, Service Manager and Craig Walker, Lead Officer, Planning Service.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Fiona Corps, Cara Hilton and David Ross.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Wilson, Associate Director, Link Market Services, Link Group (for para. 308 only).

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER - In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Linda Erskine was appointed to chair the meeting.

297. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a matter of transparency and with reference to para. 302 - South and West Fife - Community Use Arrangements - Councillor Patrick Browne declared he was a council appointee to the Fife Sports and Leisure Trust. However, as this was not considered a connection under the Councillors' Code of Conduct for the purposes of this report, he remained and participated in the meeting.

298. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cabinet Committee meeting of 10 October 2024.

Decision

The committee approved the minute.

299. REVENUE MONITORING 2024-25

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reporting on the current forecast position for 2024-25.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the high-level financial position as detailed in the report;
- (2) noted that there were ongoing financial impacts and pressures which continued to be managed by services with an element of protection from financial risk being accounted for centrally;
- (3) instructed Executive Directors to identify plans to mitigate overspends in order to manage within overall service budgets in the current year and ensure strong financial management;
- (4) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committees; and
- (5) requested that Scrutiny Committees ensured appropriate level of support and challenge in relation to financial reports.

300. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN - PROJECTED OUTTURN 2024-25

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 2024-25 financial year.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted approval, at the September Cabinet meeting, of the Capital Investment Plan re-profiling in Appendix 1 to deal with carry forward budgets from 2023-24 into later years of the plan;
- (2) noted the projected outturn position and that the level of financial risk continued to be heightened due the impact of inflation and supply chain challenges;
- (3) instructed services to plan projects within the approved resource within the Capital Investment Plan;
- (4) noted that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2024-25 would be submitted to relevant Scrutiny Committees of the council;
- (5) noted that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group; and
- (6) noted the updated prudential indicators provided.

301. CHANGE PLANNING

The committee considered a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on change planning in line with the public service reform goals in the Plan for Fife and recognising the challenging financial context. Change across services was being captured within the Service Change planning process which was integrated with the forward budget process.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the context and forward challenge;
- (2) noted the progress made on change as part of the budget challenge;
- (3) noted the forward timeline for change planning; and
- (4) agreed that a progress report be submitted to the 26 June 2025 meeting of the Cabinet Committee.

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

302. SOUTH AND WEST FIFE - COMMUNITY USE ARRANGEMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service presenting the findings of the options appraisal requested by the Cabinet Committee in March 2024.

Motion

Councillor Altany Craik, seconded by Councillor Patrick Browne, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Amendment

Councillor David Barratt, seconded by Councillor Sarah Neal, moved as follows:-

"Replace recommendation 3 with,

- 3) Agrees that none of the options presented fully reflect the ambitions of the community and asks Officers to engage with stakeholders including elected members, Inverkeithing United and West Fife Aquatics to further develop options for community, sports and swimming facilities on the existing Inverkeithing High School site.
- 4) Agrees to consider the affordability of proposals through the council's capital planning and budget setting process.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion - 13 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian and Jan Wincott.

For the Amendment - 10 votes

Councillors David Alexander, David Barratt, John Beare, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Sarah Neal, Ross Vettraino and Craig Walker.

Having received a majority of votes, the motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the option appraisal;
- (2) noted the review of activity across South and West Fife; and
- (3) agreed to consider the affordability of the six options detailed in the report through the council's capital planning and budget setting process.

303. DALGETY BAY COMMUNITY HUB

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement on a funding contribution of £120,000 from the £2m revenue funding allocated toward the cost of the £6.3m community hub project to cover the Design Team costs, comprehensive planning consent and planning application fees.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the work of Dalgety Community Trust to date;
- (2) noted the detail contained within the feasibility study and business plan relating to the development of the community hub submitted by Dalgety Community Trust; and
- (3) approved the request to release £120,000 from the £2m revenue funding allocated to enable Dalgety Community Trust to proceed to the next stage of development for this project.

304. HOUSING SERVICE - DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the progress made in the work outlined in the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Policy. This Policy was approved by Cabinet Committee in November 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered and noted the annual update; and
- (2) noted the work undertaken to meet the outcomes of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Policy.

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The meeting adjourned at 1.15 pm and reconvened at 1.55 pm.

Councillors Derek Glen, Mary Lockhart and Ross Vettraino left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

305. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2025-2030

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking authority to submit Fife's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025/26 – 2029/30 to the Scottish Government. The plan was revised and updated annually for a rolling five year period.

The meeting adjourned at 2.05 pm and reconvened at 2.10 pm.

Motion

Councillor Judy Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Altany Craik, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Amendment

Councillor Brian Goodall, seconded by Councillor David Barratt, moved as follows:-

"Cabinet Committee:-

- (i) agree the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025/26 - 2029/30 as the starting point for the delivery of affordable housing for the next five years; and
- (ii) requests that the Head of Housing brings back to Council or Cabinet Committee proposals which explore the options for the delivery of increased numbers of new council houses for rent through acquisitions from the open market."

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion - 12 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Donald Lothian and Jan Wincott.

For the Amendment - 8 votes

Councillors David Alexander, David Barratt, John Beare, Brian Goodall, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Sarah Neal and Craig Walker.

Having received a majority of votes, the motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025/26 – 2029/30 based on the priorities and principles outlined in the report; and

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- (2) authorised the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services, to amend or substitute projects within the SHIP as and when required.

306. FIFE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCHEME 14

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking approval of edition 14 of the Fife Development Plan Scheme for publication.

Members were advised that the date Fife Council expect to receive the Examination Report back from the Scottish Government should be updated to read March 2028 (4Q 2027/28) and not September 2028 (2Q 2028/29) as detailed in Table 1 of the report and within Appendix 1. The Development Plan Scheme would be amended before publication and submission to Scottish Ministers. It should be noted, however, that this change would not affect any other date in the Development Plan Scheme or the overall adoption date which remained at May 2028 (1Q 2028/29).

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved, for adoption, the 2024 Fife Development Plan Scheme (fourteenth edition) for publication, deposit and copying to Scottish Ministers (Appendix 1); and
- (2) delegated non-substantive edits to the Head of Planning Services.

307. CLIMATE CHANGE - PUBLIC BODIES DUTY REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services presenting Fife Council's annual submission of its 'Public Bodies (Climate Change) Duties Report' for financial year 2023-24 for approval.

Members were advised that the Scottish Parliament had changed the national targets earlier this week and reference within the report to long-term targets no longer existed and at para. 2.2.3 of the report, this should read scope 2 emissions and not scope 1 as detailed in the report.

Decision

The committee approved the draft Public Bodies Duties Report instructing officers to submit to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2024.

308. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24 AND UPDATE 2024-25

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) presenting an annual report and update prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication, Treasury Management in the Public Services – Code of Practice and Cross Sectorial Guidance Notes. The report provided an update against the Annual Treasury Policy and Investment Strategy for both the previous year and the current year to date.

Decision

The committee considered and commented on the contents of the report.

Councillors David Barratt and Sarah Neal left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

309. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES

Decision

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.