

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Willie Clarke Centre, Lochore Meadows Country Park, Lochgelly

5 February 2025

2.00 pm – 3.45 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea McLelland and Bailey-Lee Robb.

ATTENDING: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Sarah Roxburgh, Community Manager (Strategy and Commissioning), Izzy Scott-Trim, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Chelsey Brown, Emma Fyfe and Lesley Kirk, Community Education Workers, Community Development Team (Cowdenbeath), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Kirsty Martin, Service Manager - Employability and Employer Engagement and Alison Laughlin, Economy Adviser, Business and Employability Service; Vicki Storrar, Lead Consultant - Roads Lighting and Asset Management and Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management, Roads and Transportation Service; and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Darren Watt.

167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

168. MINUTE - 11 DECEMBER 2024

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 11 December 2024.

Decision

The committee approved the minute.

169. 2023/24 LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES

The committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Employability and Employer Engagement providing an annual overview of the performance of the Cowdenbeath Area's local economy and labour market, along with the business support, strategic investment and employability activity carried out in the area by Business and Employability Services. The information presented was intended to provide background and context to council activity within the Cowdenbeath Area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the activity undertaken by Business and Employability Services in 2023/24 and in 2024/25;

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- (2) considered and acknowledged the issues raised by an analysis of the latest available economic data;
- (3) agreed that a number of workshops be organised throughout the year with officers from Business and Employability Services and local ward elected members which would focus on gaps and key challenges for businesses and the economy in the Cowdenbeath area, leading to the development of an action plan for the future economic climate; and
- (4) requested that the dates of the planned workshops be sent to members and that a briefing note outlining the outcomes be circulated to members once the workshops had taken place.

170. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2025-26

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Service identifying projects proposed for inclusion in the 2025-26 Area Roads Programme for the Cowdenbeath area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the report and the appendices 1-3 on Carriageway Schemes, Footway Schemes and Traffic Management & Road Safety;
- (2) delegated authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme developed, in consultation with the Area Convener, Depute Convener and Area Committee members; and
- (3) noted Appendices 4 and 5 (Street Lighting and Bridges & Structures) to the report.

171. BUDGET REQUEST – COWDENBEATH TOWN HOUSE PROJECT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval for an allocation of £35,000 from the Ward 7 budget to the Cowdenbeath Town House redevelopment project.

Decision

The committee approved the allocation of £35,000 from the Ward 7 budget towards the Cowdenbeath Town House redevelopment project.

172. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM BUDGET REQUEST (APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026)

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service detailing the spend of the 2024/25 Community Development Team budget requests and seeking agreement of an allocation of funding to support the work of the team in the 2025/26 financial year.

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Community Education Workers then gave a brief presentation on the various projects providing examples of successful programmes and initiatives that had taken place across the Cowdenbeath area during 2024/25.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the following funding requests for the upcoming budget year 2025/2026:-
 - (a) Annual community grants programme - £19,250 (£10,750 from Ward 7 and £8,500 from Ward 8 budgets);
 - (b) Holiday Programmes - £85,000 from the area Anti-Poverty budget;
 - (c) Community Learning and Development programme - £17,500 from the area local community planning budget; and
 - (d) member requests – annual events - £8,000 from the area local community planning budget; and
- (2) thanked the Community Education Workers for their valuable insight into the projects and initiatives funded by the area committee across the Cowdenbeath Area during 2024/25.

Councillor Liewald left the meeting at 3.18 pm and returned to the meeting at 3.20 pm

173. LET'S TALK ABOUT LOCHGELLY CONSULTATION REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing an update on the consultation that had been undertaken within the Lochgelly community. The consultation "Let's Talk about Lochgelly" was aimed to develop recommendations for the future of services and use of facilities in the Lochgelly area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the "Deciding Matters" - Let's Talk About Lochgelly Community Engagement Report (available at www.fife.gov.uk/letstalklochgelly);
- (2) agreed to delegate to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service to consider the findings from the Deciding Matters Consultation report and develop a joint action plan in full consultation with the Lochgelly community;
- (3) noted the joint action plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the committee; and
- (4) requested that a joint briefing be provided from the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and the Head of Property Services detailing the process undertaken in relation to the Estate Management review of council buildings and ALEOs across the Cowdenbeath Area.

174. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

175. COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services supporting the committee's consideration of the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of Forward Work Programme;
- (2) requested a report be submitted to the meeting on 30 April 2025 detailing the outcome of the recent Participatory Budget exercise across all areas, outlining successes, future challenges, etc.;
- (3) noted that the six monthly progress report on the Lochore Development Plan would be submitted to the meeting on 29 October rather than 3 September 2025;
- (4) requested that the Area Housing Plan 2025/26 report be submitted to the 30 April meeting, if available, rather than 3 September 2025; and
- (5) requested the report on Educational Outcomes be submitted to the 25 June meeting rather than 30 April 2025 and that an elected members' workshop take place in April 2025 to discuss the findings from the report prior to submission to the June meeting.