

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING**

27 October, 2020

10.00 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Brett (Convener), Neil Crooks, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Rosemary Liewald, Lea McLelland, Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Ryan Smart and Jan Wincott

ATTENDING: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services; Diarmuid Cotter, Head of Customer & Online Services; Sharon McKenzie, Head of Human Resources, Anne-Marie Cardle, HR Service Manager, Human Resources; John Rodigan, Senior Manager, Scott Clelland, Service Manager, Environment & Building Services; Tracy Hogg, Business Partner, Finance, Jacqui Laing, Category Manager, Corporate, Finance & Corporate Services; Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**ALSO
ATTENDING:** Cllr Ross Vettraino

**APOLOGIES
FOR
ABSENCE:** Councillor Darren Watt

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 7.1.

28. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that Councillors Derek Glen and Fay Sinclair had replaced Councillors Julie Ford and Carol Lindsay as members of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee.

29. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 25th August, 2020. Councillor Ross Vettraino, Convener of the Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee, gave an update on fly-tipping, advising that it was the intention to develop a new strategy for dealing with this and other issues such as graffiti and dog fouling. A situation report was being prepared to inform initial discussions prior to formulation of the strategy which would be submitted to the Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee for consideration.

Decision

Then Committee agreed to approve the minute and noted that updates on the fly-tipping situation would be provided as appropriate.

30. CONTACT CENTRE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities, providing an update on the review of the contact centre by the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of performance and the progress made with increasing online services.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the information provided in the report;
- (2) that a briefing note on digital access and numbers of persons unable to access services digitally would be provided to members; and
- (3) that a further update report would be submitted to the Committee in 6 months.

31. AGENCY WORKERS AND OVERTIME

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources to providing an update on the spend attributable to Agency Workers and Overtime and the work being undertaken to ensure the use of agency workers and overtime was appropriate and kept to a minimum.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the report; and
- (2) agreed that reports continue to be submitted annually.

32. REWILDING UPDATE

Scott Clelland, Service Manager, Grounds Maintenance Service, gave an update on the position regarding rewilding of grass areas and answered questions from members with specific reference to consultation to be carried out with local communities.

Decision

The Committee noted that a clear consultation strategy would be developed, taking into consideration points made by members and that updates would be provided as necessary.

Councillor Wincott left the meeting during consideration of this item.

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33. ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current work programme which would be updated as appropriate; and
- (2) that members could suggest items for consideration at future meetings.
