

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

23rd March, 2022

9.35 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ken Caldwell (Convener), David Alexander, John O'Brien, Colin Davidson, David Graham, Graham Ritchie, Ryan Smart and Alistair Suttie.

ATTENDING: David Paterson, Community Manager (Levenmouth), Robert Graham, Area Community Development Team Manager, Kenneth Imrie, Local Community Planning Support Officer, Community Development Team (Levenmouth), Communities & Neighbourhoods; Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment, John Mitchell, Senior Manager, Roads and Transportation; Phil Clarke, Programme Manager, Levenmouth Reconnected Blueprint, Susan Keenlyside, Service Manager, Sustainable Transport & Parking, Assets, Transportation & Environment and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Inspector Paul Gillespie, Police Scotland.

Prior to the commencement of the formal Committee business, the Convener advised that the School Attainment and Achievement report would be withdrawn from the agenda, as a result of significant pressures on school staffing. The report would be added to the forward work programme for consideration by the new Area Committee, following the Local Government Elections in May, 2022.

310. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

311. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 26th January, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

312. LEVENMOUTH RECONNECTED PROGRAMME LARGE GRANT AWARDS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment which asked members to consider the projects that were recommended for approval to receive funding from the £10million Levenmouth Reconnected Programme Fund.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) agreed to approve the funding of the projects detailed in Appendix 1-2 of the report;
- (2) noted the revised grant application process for the second round of funding; and
- (3) noted the projects that had been successful in gaining grants from the small grant fund.

313. SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - BUDGET REQUEST – COMMUNITY SHED KENNOWAY

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods which sought agreement from members to allocate £10,000 from the local community planning budget as additional funding to allow electrical safety works to be undertaken at the Community Shed, Kennoway.

Decision

The Committee agreed to allocate up to £10,000 from the 2022/2023 budget allocation, to undertake additional upgrade work on the electrical systems at the Community Shed, Kennoway.

314. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN – PUMP TRACK KENNOWAY CONTINGENCY FUNDING

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods which sought agreement from members to contribute an additional £20,000 from the local community planning budget (capital) to support the possible cost increases for the Pump Track, Kennoway project, which would be taken from the 2022/2023 financial year allocation.

Decision

The Committee agreed to contribute £20,000 contingency funding to be used towards the completion of the Kennoway Pump Track project, which would cover any potential cost increases.

Councillor Smart joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.

315. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – FUEL POVERTY APPROACH

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods which provided members with an update on the work of Greener Kirkcaldy/Cosy Kingdom in delivering focused fuel poverty advice and support within the Levenmouth Area and sought a funding contribution of £25,000 from the local community budget allocation to extend the service in the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the latest performance figures related to fuel poverty work in the current financial year;
- (2) agreed to contribute £25,000 from the anti-poverty budget to help target the most vulnerable; and
- (3) noted that the funding would be allocated from the 2022/2023 local community budget allocations.

316. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – AREA BUDGET REQUEST- ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR APPROACH CAMERA PURCHASE

The Committee considered a report by Inspector Paul Gillespie, Police Scotland, which sought agreement from members to contribute £21,000 to support the introduction of an improved CCTV infrastructure, which would be used to enhance the prevention and investigation of crime and increase public safety within the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The Committee agreed: -

- (1) to fund £21,000 in 2022/2023 to support the introduction of a sustainable and flexible CCTV system, which would be managed by Police Scotland within known hotspots in the Levenmouth Area;
- (2) to contribute £3,000 per year from year 2 (2023/2024) for the ongoing maintenance and repair of the cameras, and
- (3) to remit the delegated decision to the Community Manager to ensure a sustainable approach to the prevention and investigation of crime and increased public safety.

317. SUPPORTING WELFARE REFORM ANTI-POVERTY - BUDGET REQUEST – REDUCING DIGITAL EXCLUSION, IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods which sought agreement from members to fund £23,530 to purchase laptop equipment (chrome books) and associated data packages to help improve digital access to those on low income or at risk of digital exclusion. The funding would provide 60 chrome books and 60 data packages which would enable immediate connectivity with wider services, information and learning.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) agreed to allocate up to £23,530 from anti-poverty funds to support digital inclusion, and
- (2) noted the total cost of the approach would be £33,530, of which £10,000 was already secured from the Fife Council Poverty Board.

318. SCHOOL ATTAINMENT & ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

The Convener agreed the item, as detailed on the agenda, would be withdrawn and included as a future report on the forward work programme for consideration at a later meeting of the relevant Committee to allow Education Officers to attend and present the report.

319. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising members of action taken using the list of officer powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

320. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the Levenmouth Area Committee forward work programme.

CONVENER'S VALEDICTORY COMMENTS

As this was the last meeting of the Committee, prior to the local government elections in May 2022, the Convener expressed his appreciation and thanks to all Members and Officers of the Committee for their contributions over the past 5 years in supporting the work of the Committee for the benefit of the people within the Levenmouth Area.