

THE FIFE COUNCIL - POLICY AND CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

4th November, 2021.

10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Alexander (Convener), Lesley Backhouse (substituting for Craig Walker), David Barratt, John Beare, Tim Brett, Altany Craik, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, David Graham, Judy Hamilton, Andy Heer, Helen Law, Carol Lindsay, Donald Lothian, Mino Manekshaw, Karen Marjoram, Tony Miklinski, David Ross, Fay Sinclair and Ross Vettraino.

ATTENDING: Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Laura Robertson, Finance Operations Manager, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Andrew Gallacher, Community Manager (City of Dunfermline), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Keith Winter, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment), Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Kirstin Marsh, Strategic Growth and City Deals Project Manager, Morag Millar, Strategic Growth and City Deals Programme Manager, Economy, Planning and Employability Services and Martin Kingham, Service Manager (Roads Network Management), Roads and Transportation Service; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Children's Services and Avril Graham, Sustainable Estate Officer, Education and Children's Service; John Mills, Head of Housing Services and Vania Kennedy, Service Manager - Income Poverty and Private Housing, Housing Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Linda Holt.

324. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Beare declared an interest at para. 329 – Levelling Up Fund Update – due to his employment as an Office Manager and Senior Researcher to Peter Grant, MP and the requirement within the report that the levelling up bids should have local MP support. Councillor Beare had applied the objective test and concluded that it was so remote and insignificant that he advised he would remain and participate for this item.

325. MINUTES

(i) **Policy and Co-ordination Committee of 16th September, 2021.**

Decision

The Committee approved the minute.

(ii)/

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(ii) The following minutes were submitted for noting:-

- Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee of 2nd September, 2021.
- Education and Children's Services Sub-Committee of 7th September, 2021.
- Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee of 9th September, 2021.

Decision

The minutes were noted.

326. NATIONAL CARE SERVICE CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive asking members to consider Fife Council's response to the National Care Service consultation being carried out by the Scottish Government.

Decision

The Committee noted the main issues arising from the consultation and approved Fife Council's response.

327. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CONSULTATIVE BUDGET 2022-23

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Finance seeking agreement on appropriate options for increasing HRA rents and associated charges in 2022-23. The proposed options would form the basis of statutory consultation with tenants to subsequently inform the HRA budget decision at full Council on 24th February, 2022.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to survey Council tenants around options for a rent increase in 2021-22 of 2.5%, 3.0% and 3.5%, to also apply to charges for services, garage sites, lockups and temporary accommodation;
- (2) noted that the outcome of the full tenant consultation would be reported to full Council on 24th February, 2022;
- (3) noted the assumptions that underpinned the HRA medium-term financial strategy;
- (4) considered the current HRA financial position and emerging pressures, including the potential costs of the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH2) over the period 2022-32;
- (5) agreed the recommendation for implementing an HRA reserves policy aiming to hold minimum reserves based on 2% of the mainstream rent income budget; and
- (6)/

2021 PC 97

- (6) agreed the proposals for use of HRA reserves in 2022-24 and remitted to the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee any decisions around the use of £1.5m uncommitted reserves.

328. RATIFICATION OF THE REGIONAL PROSPERITY FRAMEWORK FOR THE EDINBURGH AND SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND CITY REGION AND FIFE I3 PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) seeking formal ratification by Fife Council of the Regional Prosperity Framework for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region. The report also provided an update on the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (i3) Programme which was funded through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) formally endorsed the full final version Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) noted the overall number and content of responses to the consultation, the major themes which emerged and the broadly positive nature of the majority of responses;
- (3) noted that, following approval of the RPF by the Joint Committee, a number of additional actions were underway to support the RPF, namely:-
 - (i) formal endorsement of the RPF by regional partners;
 - (ii) preparation of an implementation and action plan to support delivery; and
 - (iii) finalisation of a publication version to include additional graphic content;
- (4) noted that the RPF would inform the review of Fife's Economic Strategy in 2022, the next iteration of the Local Development Plan and, the now in hand, Local Transport Strategy; and
- (5) noted the update on the Fife i3 Programme.

329. LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment) providing members with an update on the UK Levelling Up Fund.

Motion

Councillor David Alexander, seconded by Councillor David Ross, moved that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

Amendment/

Amendment

Councillor Tony Miklinski, seconded by Councillor Dave Dempsey, moved as follows:-

“Delete Recommendation (2) and renumber.

Add Recommendation

(4) Asks Area Committees to review, update and prioritise Appendix 1 to best reflect local priorities such that the Council may have a catalogue of 'Shovel-Ready' projects available for any future external funding from whatever source.”

Roll Call

For the motion – 16 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, Tim Brett, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, David Graham, Judy Hamilton, Helen Law, Carol Lindsay, Donald Lothian, Karen Marjoram, David Ross, Fay Sinclair and Ross Vettrano.

For the amendment – 4 votes

Councillors Dave Dempsey, Andy Heer, Mino Manekshaw and Tony Miklinski.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the progress in developing Levelling Up Fund applications for a Fife transport application and four Constituency applications;
- (2) noted the latest information on possible projects to be included in five potential future bids to the UK Levelling Up Fund and agreed that the shortlisted projects be developed further prior to submission in the next round of funding;
- (3) agreed that a one off £225,000 additional revenue budget would be provided from uncommitted balances held, to increase the UK government funding that had been provided for developing applications; and
- (4) delegated to the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) and the Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment), in consultation with the Co-Leaders, to complete and submit the applications once the deadline for the next round of Levelling Up funding was announced.

The meeting adjourned at 11.35 a.m. and reconvened at 11.50 a.m.

330. CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION TO CELEBRATE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with information on the Civic Honours competition that had been launched across the UK to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted a Civic Honours competition had been launched across the UK;
- (2) supported the submission of bids from the Dunfermline and St. Andrew's areas; and
- (3) agreed that final approval for each bid would be undertaken by the local Area Committee.

Councillor Donald Lothian left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

331. "SCHOOL STREETS" PART-TIME TRAFFIC EXCLUSION ZONES

The Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment and the Head of Education and Children's Services providing members with an update on "School Streets".

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the experiences of other local authorities where "School Streets" had been implemented;
- (2) remitted officers from Roads and Transportation and Education and Children's Services to agree three pilot locations, including Denend Primary School, Cardenden where a temporary trial of the initiative could take place during financial year 2022/2023 and report their findings to the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation and the Education and Children's Services Sub-Committees; and
- (3) agreed the street selection criteria detailed at para. 1.4 within the report for assessing the potential viability of part-time traffic exclusion zones at primary schools in Fife.

Councillor Donald Lothian re-joined the meeting following consideration of the above item.

332. UPDATE REPORT ON THE DEPARTURE IN ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS POLICY (NOVEMBER 2020)

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) providing members with an update, including the stakeholder evaluation feedback received, following the implementation of the online Primary 1 enrolment process approved on 19th November, 2020 by this Committee. As a result of the successful implementation of online enrolment for nursery and Primary 1 applications, members were asked to approve a departure from the existing administration process for Primary 7 to Secondary 1 enrolment, through transition to a digital online process for all applications for session 2022/2023.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report in relation to the evaluation of the online process for Primary 1 enrolment;
- (2) approved the continuation of the digital, online process for Primary 1 and nursery enrolments for the foreseeable future; and
- (3) approved the departure from the administration process in the existing school admissions policy for P7 to S1 transition to enable implementation of an online digital process for academic session 2022/23.

**333. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 AND UPDATE
2021-22**

The Committee considered a 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, which had been adopted by the Committee on 12th April, 2018. The Council were required to comply with the Code through the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.
