

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING**

**Committee Room 2, 5th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**12th January, 2023.**

**10.00 a.m. – 11.05 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Eugene Clarke (substituting for Councillor Fiona Corps), Altany Craik, Dave Dempsey, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, David Graham, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Rosemary Liewald, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner (substituting for Councillor Carol Lindsay), Ross Vettrano, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**ATTENDING:** Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue and Commercial Services, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Manager (Committee Services) and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; John Rodigan, Head of Environment and Building Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services and Gavin Smith, Service Manager (Housing Access), Housing Services; and Angela Logue, Head of Education and Children's Services (Primary Schools and Improvement Support).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Fiona Corps and Carol Lindsay and Mr. Brian Blanchflower, Religious Representative.

**63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**64. MINUTES**

(i) **Cabinet Committee of 15th December, 2022**

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

(ii) Minutes of the Education Appointment Committee of 13th and 15th December, 2022.

**Decision**

The minutes were noted.

**65./**

**65. REVENUE MONITORING 2022-23**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing members with a strategic overview of Fife Council's finances and reporting on the current forecast position for 2022/23.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the ongoing financial impacts arising from recovery from the pandemic which continued to be managed using one off additional funding and from underspends;
- (2) the high level financial position as detailed in the report; and
- (3) that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committees.

**66. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE - PROJECTED OUTTURN 2022-23**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) providing a strategic financial overview of the Capital Investment Plan and advised on the projected outturn for the 2022/23 financial year.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the projected outturn position and that the level of financial risk was heightened due to high levels of inflation and supply chain challenges;
- (2) that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2022/23 would be submitted to relevant Scrutiny Committees of the Council; and
- (3) that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group.

**67. EMPTY NON-DOMESTIC RATES CHARGES**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services which introduced a charging/relief policy for non-domestic rates in respect of empty/unoccupied properties. The policy was required as Empty Property Relief (EPR) had been devolved to local government with effect from 1st April, 2023 onwards to any business or owner of unoccupied rateable subjects. The policy had been designed to mirror the current provisions as set by the Scottish Government for EPR and this would allow time for an EPR to be conducted by rates' staff along with consultation both within the Council and with external stakeholders such as local businesses. A further report would be brought forward to the Cabinet Committee during 2023/24 setting out recommendations for the relief from April 2024 onwards.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the proposed policy to be effective from 1st April, 2023;
- (2) noted that officers intended to review the EPR policy during 2023 with a view to making changes to the charging regime from April, 2024 onwards; and
- (3) noted that officers would consult widely over any future proposals to amend the charging scheme.

**68. DOMESTIC WASTE OPERATIONS: BULKY UPLIFTS - FREE OF CHARGE SERVICE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environment and Building Services requesting approval for the removal of charges for the bulky uplift service from April, 2023.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to remove the charges for bulky uplifts from April, 2023 subject to £1.16m of additional resources and lost revenue being funded through the budget process.

*Councillor Craig Walker joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.*

**69. RESETTLEMENT OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN FIFE**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services which was a follow-up to a report submitted to the Cabinet Committee on 25th August, 2022 which outlined the various resettlement strands that Fife were involved with. The report provided an update on current need and requests for accommodation and support for Afghan families from the UK Government.

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to work proactively with the Home Office and MOD by leasing 28 properties at Leuchars and Rosyth to house Afghan families currently residing in the Bridging Hotel in Fife and wider afield; and
- (2) noted that a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet Committee in February or March, 2023 to update members on accommodation and support request for Ukrainians and Asylum Seekers.

**70. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP MODELS (2)**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) responding to the decision of the Cabinet Committee of 15th December, 2022 by providing further evidence of the benefits of joint leadership approaches; an analysis of the costs of joint leadership models; and an overview of the reasons for a potential change of leadership arrangements in the Waid Cluster area.

**Decision/**

**Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the aims and principles that would continue to guide the establishment of school and early learning centre leadership models in Fife as outlined in the School Leadership Models Cabinet Committee paper (15th December, 2022 - included in Appendix A of this report) and within section 1 (1.2 and 1.10) of the report;
  - (2) approved further consultation with the parents/carers in the Waid Cluster on the full range of leadership models outlined in the School Leadership Models Cabinet Committee paper (December, 2022 - included within Appendix A of this report) to allow for permanent school leadership arrangements to be in place from August, 2023 or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter; and
  - (3) agreed that, following local consultation with stakeholder groups, where changes in school or early learning centre leadership arrangements included more than two schools, approval was sought through the relevant Council Committee.
-