

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

3rd March, 2022.

10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

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

ATTENDING: Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, 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; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability Services and Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Business and Employability Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Andrew Gallacher, Community Manager (Dunfermline) and Andy Maclellan, Community Projects Team Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Linda Holt.

Prior to commencement of formal business, the Convener gave a brief statement on the current events unfolding in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion stating that we were witnessing an evolving humanitarian crisis on a scale that hadn't been seen in Europe since the Second World War. The Convener wished to add the Council's voice to all those around the world in condemning the Russian invasion, calling on an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and calling for a halt to the attacks. The Committee agreed to write in the strongest of terms to the UK Government, the Russian Ambassador and the UN expressing the Council's disgust and condemnation of Russia's actions.

The Chief Executive also gave a brief update on the practical actions that the Council were undertaking as detailed below:-

- the establishment of Core Officer Groups to co-ordinate any resettlement activity that would be required as part of a national agenda to provide refuge and sanctuary to Ukrainian residents who were currently having to flee their homes noting that discussions with the Home Office was being urgently sought in relation to any assistance Fife could provide in this regard;
- noted that Fife Voluntary Action had undertaken to act as a co-ordination signing point for voluntary support noting and recognising the significant outpouring of donations and support from communities across Fife;
- noted that there were a number of national fundraising efforts taking place including assistance from the Red Cross and a Ukraine Appeal had been set up to provide support to those directly affected;
- noted/

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- noted that the Council were providing a point of contact to co-ordinate information on various collections that had begun to take place and to respond to queries;
- advised that the Council had actively reviewed all their investments, contracts and procurement activities to ensure that none of those were with Russian related holdings. It was also noted that the Fife Pension Fund had reviewed their position and confirmed that there were no direct Russian equity investment to the Fife fund;
- noted that the Council, as an employer, were reaching out to employees who were Ukrainian or who had Ukrainian connections to offer any support at this point in time; and
- advised that, as soon as practicable, the Council intended to fly the Ukrainian flag over the main Council building as a mark of support and solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Councillors David Graham and Judy Hamilton joined the meeting during discussion of the above update.

346. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

347. MINUTES

(i) Policy and Co-ordination Committee of 20th January, 2022.

Decision

The Committee approved the minute.

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

- Assets and Corporate Services of 27th January, 2022.
- Education and Children's Services of 28th January, 2022.
- Community and Housing Services of 3rd February, 2022.
- Environment and Protective Services of 10th February, 2022.

Decision

The minutes were noted.

348. REVENUE MONITORING 2021-22

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 providing an update to the previous report. Funding solutions were also outlined to deal with the continued financial implications of Covid-19 as well as reform and recovery from the pandemic in the current financial year, 2021-22. The report also provided the forecast outturn position for 2021-22.

Decision

The Committee:-

(1) noted the high level financial position as detailed in the report;

(2)/

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- (2) noted the financial plan for 2021-22 had been updated in response to the financial pressures as detailed in section 2 of the report;
- (3) instructed all Services to continue to mitigate additional costs, continue to deliver approved savings and to contain expenditure within the approved budget provision wherever possible; and
- (4) noted that detailed monitoring reports would be submitted to the relevant Sub-Committees when it was practical to do so.

349. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE - PROJECTED OUTTURN 2021-22

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 2021-22 financial year.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the projected outturn position, that the level of financial risk appeared to be increasing and also noted that the mitigating actions for the major projects within the Capital Investment Plan;
- (2) the projected outturn position for the 2021-22 Capital Investment Plan;
- (3) that more detailed capital outturn reports for 2021-22 would be submitted to relevant Sub-Committees of the Council, in accordance with agreed financial reporting arrangements; and
- (4) that budget variances would be managed by the appropriate Directorate in conjunction with the Investment Strategy Group.

350. NO ONE LEFT BEHIND 2022-23 COMMISSIONING

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services providing an update from the Opportunities Fife Partnership and setting out Fife's approach to delivering employability services under the Scottish Government's No One Left Behind (NOLB) framework. The Committee were asked to approve the recommendations made by the NOLB scoring panel and the Opportunities Fife Partnership Executive for the delivery of activity from 2022-25.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the recommended allocations to the preferred bidders for the delivery of NOLB activity for adults, young people, families and those requiring specialist support as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to confirmation of funding from Scottish Government;
- (2)/

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- (2) agreed to delegate to the Head of Business and Employability Services, in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to complete all necessary contracting arrangements for delivery of the No One Left Behind Fife programme from 1st April, 2022;
- (3) agreed to delegate to the Head of Business and Employability Services, in consultation with the Opportunities Fife Partnership Executive, to amend funding levels to projects based on project performance and available resources, including such additional funding as may be made available from Scottish Government in year through No One Left Behind;
- (4) noted the consultation undertaken with service users, delivery organisations and the Opportunities Fife Partnership in the co-design of the refreshed Commissioning Framework for NOLB activity in Fife; and
- (5) noted the No On Left Behind Fife Commissioning Framework for employability services for the period 2022-2025 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

351. **ABBEYVIEW COMMUNITY HUB FACILITY PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with an update on progress to develop a new Integrated Community Hub facility located within Abbeyview, Dunfermline.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the Council's agreed capital plan allocation of £6.5m to this project;
 - (2) agreed the reallocation of £1m from the Communities and Neighbourhoods (C&N) capital plan cycle; and
 - (3) noted the engagement and dialogue with the local community throughout the project as outlined in section 2 and Appendix 2 of the report.
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