

2022 PCS 9

THE FIFE COUNCIL - PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

27th October, 2022

10.00 a.m. – 1.10 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Eugene Clarke (Convener), Blair Allan, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Fiona Corps (substitute for Allan Knox), Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Alycia Hayes (substitute for Ann Verner), Donald Lothian, Julie MacDougall, Bailey-Lee Robb, Lynn Mowatt, Sam Steele, Darren Watt and Jan Wincott.

ALSO PRESENT Councillors Judy Hamilton and David Graham.

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director - Communities; Ashley Birrell, Policy Officer, Community Investment, Communities and Neighbourhoods; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Mhairi Mullen, Service Manger (Housing Management Executive), Housing Services; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning, Performance & Commissioning Manager, Health and Social Care Partnership; David Redpath, Chief Executive, Sarah Somerville, Business Development Manager, Citizen Advice & Rights Fife; Mark Bryce, Area Commander, Alistair Jupp, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Ashleigh Allan, Finance Business Partner, Alison Binnie, Finance Business Partner, Helen Guthrie, Accountant, Eleanor Hodgson, Accountant, Emma Lennon, Accountant, Christine Tuffy, Accountant, Finance and Corporate Services; Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Service Manager - Committee Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

APOLOGIES FOR Councillors Allan Knox and Ann Verner.

ABSENCE:

17. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

18. **MINUTE OF MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2022**

The Committee considered the minute of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting of 27th September, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to: -

(1) approve the minute;

(2)/

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- (2) note, with regard to Item 16 - Cafe Inc, that Committee had reinforced the importance of hot food provision on a 5 day a week basis at the meeting of 27th September, 2022, however, although there were improvements in some areas, the provision of hot food was not met in all local areas during the October school holidays; and
- (3) request that Officers undertake a further review to look at the future provision of hot food within all local areas in Fife.

19. **SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE (SFRS) LOCAL PLAN 12 MONTHS PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, providing members with incident information for the period 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

Decision

The Committee noted the progress across a range of key performance indicators as detailed in the report.

20. **HOUSING SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT AND PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT 2019-22**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, presenting the performance scorecard for Housing Services, and detailing the annual update on the Pathway to Improvement for 2019-2022.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) welcomed and noted the presentation;
- (2) noted the housing services performance as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) noted the performance in year three of the Pathway to Improvement for 2019-2022 as detailed in section 2 of Appendix 1 of the report;
- (4) noted the areas of performance that would be prioritised in the new Pathway to Improvement for 2023-2026; and
- (5) noted that an update report would be brought back to Committee in 2023.

Councillors Alistair Cameron and Bailey-Lee Robb left after consideration of the following item.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m. and reconvened at 11.45 a.m.

21./

21. ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, which presented recommendations for the submission of an Annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. necessary.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the revisions to the housing regulatory framework in 2019 that required the preparation of an Annual Assurance Statement;
- (2) agreed the wording of the draft Annual Assurance Statement for 2022, based on the compliance position as of 31st March 2022;
- (3) authorised the Scrutiny Committee Convener and the Housing Services spokesperson to sign the Annual Assurance Statement;
- (4) agreed that an addendum be added to the Annual Assurance Statement to reflect the current action taken regarding breaches in the statutory provision. A copy of the addendum would be circulated to all members prior to the final submission on the 31st October 2022; and
- (5) agreed that the final draft of the Annual Assurance Statement 2022 be submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator by the deadline of 31st October 2022.

22. MAXIMISING HOUSING OPTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, providing an update on the current pressures on the housing system and sought to ensure Committee, that all available options were being considered to maximise access to, and to make best use of all available housing options.

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) agreed to support the measures being taken to ensure that the time tenancies were vacant was minimised and that the appropriate steps were taken to increase Fife's housing stock through property acquisitions;
- (2) noted that the Private Sector Leasing/Partnership had been explored and would be unlikely to generate any additional capacity; and
- (3) noted that a full review of all potential residential accommodation resources across the Council had been undertaken to maximise housing options

23. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PRESSURES: 2022 KIRKCALDY SHERIFF COURT JUDGEMENT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, providing background information to a legal decision that affected statutory temporary accommodation. The report provided a position statement on progress made following the decision and highlighted the impact assessment and plans that were in place to complete the mitigation work programme by June 2023.

Decision

The Committee noted: -

- (1) the focus on Fife's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan as the strategic direction for the transformation of homelessness and housing support services;
- (2) the housing options-based approach proposed to ensure that the council discharged its statutory duty to people in temporary accommodation; and
- (3) the progress made to date and the support that provided to vulnerable people as part of the programme delivery.

24. CITIZENS ADVICE & RIGHTS FIFE – PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighborhoods, providing information on the performance of Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF) for 2021/2022.

Decision

The Committee:

- (1) noted and commented on the content of the report and appendices;
- (2) noted the performance and development of the organisation; and
- (3) recognised the role that Citizen's Advice and Rights Fife plays in the wider cost of living crisis.

25. 2022-23 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUTTURN – COMMUNITIES

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Communities, updating members on the projected outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year for the Communities and Housing Account (HRA).

Decision

The Committee noted the current financial performance and activity for the 2022/23 Revenue Monitoring as detailed in the report.

26./

26. 2022-23 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN – COMMUNITIES

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Communities, updating members on the Capital Investment Plan and projected financial outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision

The Committee noted the current performance and activity for the 2022/23 Capital Monitoring as detailed in the report.

27. 2022-23 REVENUE BUDGET & CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN - CHILDREN & FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director of Education and Children Services, and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, updating members on the forecasted financial position for the 2022/23 financial year for the areas in scope of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee in relation to Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current financial performance and activity for both revenue budget and capital plan as detailed in the report; and
- (2) the projected outturn position and the relevant areas of projected over and underspend within the Service.

28. 2022-23 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUT-TURN – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Director of Health and Social Care and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, updating members on the 2022/23 projected outturn for Fife Council Social Care Services for Adults and Older People.

Decision

The Committee noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

29. 2022-23 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The Committee considered a joint report by the Director of Health and Social Care and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, updating members on the Health and Social Care Capital Investment Plan and projected outturn for the 2022/23 financial year.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee noted the current performance and activity across the 2022/23 Financial Monitoring as detailed in the report.

30. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Decision

The Committee: -

- (1) noted the content of the People and Communities Forward Work Programme; and
 - (2) agreed that a short life working group be set up to consider the remit of café inc and note that a report would be brought back to the next meeting of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.
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