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THE FIFE COUNCIL - COMMUNITY & HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

24th November, 2020

10.00 a.m. - - 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors, Judy Hamilton (Convener), Lesley Backhouse, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Neil Crooks, Linda Erskine, Julie Ford, Fiona Grant, Helen Law, Alice McGarry, Graham Ritchie, David J Ross and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director (Communities), Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, Sarah Johnston, Access Officer, Laura Mackean, Policy Officer - Community Investment Team, Andy Maclellan, Team Manager (Community Projects), and Andrew Stokes, Programme Manager (Communities), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; John Mills, Head of Housing, Mark Mccall, Service Manager (Safer Communities), Gavin Smith, Service Manager – Housing Access and Homelessness, Helen Wilkie, Service Manager-Housing Condition and Supply and Craig Brown Lead Officer – Affordable Housing and Regeneration, Housing Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE David Redpath and Sarah Somerville Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (for para. 195 only); Kirsty Keay, Director of Corporate and Commercial Development, Fife Cultural Trust (for para. 194 only) and Bill Campbell, Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Association.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Donald Lothian.

185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Neil Crooks declared an interest in the business on the agenda being a Fife Council tenant in Ravenscraig Flats, Kirkcaldy (for para. 190 only) and Councillor Lesley Backhouse declared an interest in the business on the agenda being a trustee on the Board of the Fife Cultural Trust (for para. 194 only).

186. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee the Convener welcomed Councillor Julie Ford to the meeting and thanked Councillor Alistair Suttie for his contribution during his time as a member on the Sub-Committee.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted that Councillor Julie Ford had replaced Councillor Alistair Suttie as a member of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee.

187. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee of 3rd September, 2020.

Decision

The Sub-Committee approved the minute.

188. STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN - 2021 - 26

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking authority for the submission of Fife's Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26 to the Scottish Government. The plan would be revised and updated annually for a rolling 5-year period.

Decision

The Sub-Committee authorised:-

- (1) the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26 based on the priorities and principles outlined in the report; and
- (2) the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Sub-Committee Convener and Vice-Convener to amend / substitute projects within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan, if required.

189. RAPID REHOUSING TRANSITION PLAN(RRTP) 2021/22 UPDATE AND PRIORITIES FOR 2021/22

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing members with an update on progress in taking forward the Fife Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). The report highlighted the funding position for the RRTP and sought approval to continue to develop the strategic programme and the specific projects agreed through the RRTP Project Board.

The report also highlighted specific measures taken to anticipate and respond to the significant housing and homelessness challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and relates this to the transformational change programme to support homelessness service provision in Fife.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee considered and agreed the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan priorities for 2021/22, as outlined in section 3 of the report.

Councillors Fiona Grant and Darren Watt joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

190. ENHANCING TOWER BLOCK CONCIERGE SERVICES

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing members with an update of the progress made since Committee approval in February 2019 to enhance the current concierge services across Tower Blocks in Fife, following the Grenfell tragedy in London 2017.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the proposed Delivery Model, as outlined in sections 2 and 3 of the report;
- (2) noted the revised timescales for delivery of the enhanced concierge service; and
- (3) noted that a separate members' briefing would be circulated by December 2020, following the publication of Part 1 of the Grenfell Enquiry and next steps and would include an update on the work of the Tower Block Review Group.

191. FREE SCHOOL MEALS - OCTOBER 2020 TO APRIL 2021

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) proposing that Fife Council make direct cash payments to children registered for benefits-related Free School Meals during school holiday periods and during term time for children registered for benefits-related Free School Meals, who were unable to attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19), between October 2020 and April 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the funding allocation from the Scottish Government and the proposal for direct cash payments; and
- (2) approved the use of direct cash payments during term time to support children who were unable to attend school due to isolation.

192./

192. FORMALISING MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY HALLS AND CENTRES

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement of a framework for consultation and engagement on the future management of community halls and centres, for those community facilities in Fife which operated with voluntary management committees in situ i.e. they were not directly operated and managed by Fife Council or had a formal lease in place. The report also sought agreement from members to progress consultation to address the former Fife Regional Council facilities, which retained income and set fees/charges.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the position as set out in the report; and
- (2) agreed to consult on the proposed changes, as outlined in the report, with Voluntary Management Committees and Committees in former Fife Regional Council facilities.

193. MANAGEMENT RULES FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval to implement new management rules for Parks and Open Spaces, following expiry of the previous rules in October 2020.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the Draft Management Rules for Parks and Open Spaces, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, with an additional responsibility that all cyclists should give consideration to the speed at which they travelled with respect to other park users;
- (2) agreed that further legal advice would be sought to clarify the consequences of the failure to comply with the Management Rules in relation to anti social behaviour; and
- (3) agreed that the Management Rules would be subject to public consultation.

194. ADAM SMITH THEATRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing members with an update on the project progress for the refurbishment, re-purposing and diversification of the auditorium, cafe/public space, Beveridge Suite and improved access within Adam Smith Theatre, which was managed on behalf of Fife Council by Fife Cultural Trust.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed to the funding contribution from Fife Council towards the project, as detailed in the report.

195. CITIZENS ADVICE AND RIGHTS FIFE - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service providing information on the performance of Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF) during 2019/20.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the details of the report and the performance and development of the organisation to date;
- (2) recognised the work undertaken to support vulnerable individuals through the current Corona virus pandemic; and
- (3) recognised the impact and challenges the service faced as a result of the pandemic.

196. COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE SECTION/SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) presenting the performance scorecard for Communities and Neighbourhoods and Housing and Community Safety for 2019/20.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:

- (1) considered the Communities and Neighbourhoods and Housing and Community Safety performance information as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2, to the report;
- (2) considered whether any further review or scrutiny work was required and the scope of that review;
- (3) noted the arrangements set out in section 1 of the report, to fulfil Fife Council's obligation to comply with Audit Scotland's 2018 SPI Direction;
- (4) noted the information regarding the workforce profile, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and
- (5)/

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- (5) noted the information regarding workforce data, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

197. **COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the current Forward Work Programme for the Community and Housing Services Sub-Committee.
