

2022 EPS 90

THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

10 February 2022

10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ross Vettrains (Convener), David Barratt, Rod Cavanagh, Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, David Graham, Sharon Green-Wilson, Jean Hall-Muir, Judy Hamilton, Andy Heer, Alice McGarry, Derek Noble, Jonny Tepp and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Keith Winter, Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment; Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment, Ross Speirs, Service Manager (Structural Services), Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant, Flooding, Shoreline and Harbours, Assets, Transportation and Environment; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services, Lisa McCann, Service Manager, Environmental Health (Food & Workplace Safety), Lorna Starkey, Lead Officer Environmental Health (Food & Workplace Safety), Ross Spalding, Service Manager (Climate Change & Zero Waste), Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Robin Baird, Chief Executive Officer, Fife Resource Solutions; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Kirstie Freeman, Safer Communities Manager, Dawn Jamieson, Safer Communities Manager, Housing Services; Barry Collie, Accountant and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Sineidin Corrins, Procurator Fiscal, Tayside, Central and Fife (for Para. 229); Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan (for Para. 234); Mark Bryce, Local Senior Officer and Alistair Jupp, Group Commander, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (for Para. 235).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Gordon Langlands.

227. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

228. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee of 18 November 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute subject to an amendment to paragraph 215 - Declarations of Interest, to show that the declarations of interest by Councillors Barratt and Wincott related to paragraph 222 - Recycling Centres Update - November 2021, and not paragraph 219 – Prevention of Vandalism Strategy.

229./

229. PRESENTATION ON ILLEGAL DUMPING

Sineidin Corrins, Procurator Fiscal for Tayside, Central and Fife, gave a presentation outlining the role and responsibilities of the Procurator Fiscal in relation to reports of environmental crimes, including specific reference to unauthorised dumping. She highlighted the legal background to decision making and the evidence required to prosecute offenders. Following the presentation, the Procurator Fiscal answered questions from members.

Decision

The Sub-Committee thanked the Procurator Fiscal for her attendance and very informative presentation.

At this stage, the Convener intimated his intention to take item 6 on the agenda prior to item 5.

230. APPROACH TO TACKLING GULL NUISANCE IN FIFE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an overview of the extent of gull related complaints across Fife and advising of the Council's current approach to tackling gull related nuisance.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to support a continuing program of preventative measures as outlined within the report; and
- (2) that officers investigate the potential for extending a council service to combat the gull nuisance.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 a.m. and reconvened at 11.40 a.m.

231. ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Protective Services providing feedback on consultation workshops and seeking approval for a draft Environmental Vandalism Strategy 2022-2024. Approval was also sought for the development and promotion of a Citizen Charter in relation to environmental vandalism which would form the basis of a public communications campaign.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the Environmental Vandalism Strategy 2022-2024 which had been developed in consultation with Elected Members, Regulators, Partners and Volunteers, subject to Objective 3 being combined with Objective 2 and Objective 5 being combined with Objective 1;
- (2) agreed that a performance report be submitted to the relevant Committee on at least an annual basis to monitor the progress of the Strategy against the 6 key objectives as approved;
- (3)/

2022 EPS 92

- (3) remitted it to the Head of Protective Services and the Head of Housing Services, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, to develop and promote a Citizen Charter in relation to environmental vandalism;
- (4) agreed that the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, arrange for reports of illegal dumping to be published, by location, on the Council website and online media;
- (5) agreed that the Head of Protective Services write to the Cabinet Secretary, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, expressing a desire for stronger legislation and greater powers for Local Authorities to combat environmental vandalism; and
- (6) noted the importance of involving community groups in this strategy and that their efforts would not be instead of, or a replacement for, the services provided by the Council and Council workers.

Councillor Ellis left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

232. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (FOOD & WORKPLACE SAFETY) SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services presenting the Environmental Health (Food and Workplace Safety) Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023 in line with statutory requirements and advising of the primary areas of regulatory activity undertaken and pressures faced by the Environmental Health (Food and Workplace Safety) Team.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the Environmental Health (Food and Workplace Safety) Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023; and
- (2) noted the impact of the Covid19 Pandemic on the Environmental Health (Food and Workplace Safety) Team activities and the work being undertaken towards the restart of inspection and intervention programmes, along with the current resource challenges on fulfilling the Environmental Health statutory functions.

233. COP26: IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIFE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning highlighting the key announcements from COP26 that had potential impacts and opportunities for Fife and Fife Council, noting the links to Fife's 'Addressing the Climate Emergency Action Plan'.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) the potential impacts and opportunities outlined in the paper; and
- (2) that Climate Literacy training was available for Councillors if they had not already undertaken this.

234./

234. POLICE SCOTLAND PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTERS 1, 2 AND 3 2021/2022

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland, presenting the Fife Division Performance Report for Quarters 1,2 and 3, 2021/2022.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the report;
- (2) agreed that information on complaints be included in future reports; and
- (3) noted that the Chief Superintendent would look at providing crime statistics at a more local level.

Councillor Noble left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

235. SFRS LOCAL PLAN 6 MONTHS PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service providing incident information for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 to enable the Sub-Committee to scrutinise the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fife Local Senior Officer Area against its key performance indicators (KPIs).

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the progress across a range of KPI's as detailed in the report.

236. HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on the usage and steps taken to consider progressing pedestrian and cycle access to Household Waste Recycling Centres, where it was safe to do so, and to review the access arrangements to Ladybank Recycling Centre.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2) noted the cost estimate for the provision of separate access being provided into Ladybank Recycling Centre;
- (3) agreed that work be undertaken to provide pedestrian/cyclist access at Dalgety Bay, Lochgelly and Kirkcaldy Recycling Centres, subject to identifying funding;
- (4) noted that further investigation work was required at St Andrews and Methil to provide appropriate safe pedestrian access; and
- (5)/

2022 EPS 94

- (5) agreed to request that Fife Resource Solutions re-examine the safety policy on the admission of domestic trailers to Recycling Centres with a view to determining if trailers longer than six feet could be safely accommodated at some Centres and report back to a future meeting of the appropriate committee.

Councillor Tepp left the meeting following the consideration of the above report.

237. SEVERE FLOODING - UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on progress of investigation and mitigation works regarding the August 2020 flood events across Fife and advising of the list of projects identified for progression in the capital works programme in 2021-23.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) that work continued with the investigation and development of mitigations where appropriate on the collated Priority Flooding List; and
- (2) that as projects developed they would be added to the Area Roads Programme which was available to view on the Council website and updated as necessary.

238. 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, providing an update on the projected outturn financial position for the 2021/22 financial year as at October, for the areas in scope of the Environment and Protective Services Committee.

Decision

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

239. 2021/22 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2021/22 financial year as at October, for areas in scope of the Environment and Protective Services Committee.

Decision

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

240./

240. ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) the current Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme items, which would be considered by the appropriate Committee(s) following the local government elections in May 2022; and
- (2) that a meeting of the Rosyth Dockyard local liaison committee was to be held on 23 February, following which the briefing note on decommissioning submarines would be issued prior to the elections.

CONVENER'S VALEDICTORY COMMENTS

As this was the last meeting of the Committee prior to the local government elections in May 2022, the Convener expressed his appreciation of the contributions and efforts by all members and officers in supporting the work of the Committee over the past five years.
