

## 2021 EFCSC 24

### THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

2 November 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tim Brett (Convener), Neil Crooks, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Carol Lindsay (substitute for Rosemary Liewald), Ross Paterson, Fay Sinclair, Darren Watt and Jan Wincott.

**ATTENDING:** Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue & Commercial Services, Caroline MacDonald, Procurement Service Manager, Stuart Fargie, Category Manager (Construction), Jacqui Laing, Category Manager, Corporate, Helen Guthrie, Accounting Technician, Finance & Corporate Services; Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment; Robin Baird, Chief Executive Officer, Ross Fenwick, Service Manager (Compliance & Processing), Fife Resource Solutions; William Penrice, Research Team Manager, Lynn Reilly, Research Consultant, Communities and Neighbourhoods; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Adam Dunkerley, Opportunities Fife Partnership Manager, Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Anne-Marie Cardle, HR Service Manager, Human Resources and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

**ALSO ATTENDING** Councillor Ross Vettraino (for paragraph 66)

#### 60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jan Wincott declared an interest in Paragraph 66 – ‘Landfill Sites - Odour Issues’, as she was a member of the Board of Fife Resource Solutions, however, she considered that this was covered by a Specific Exclusion so she would remain and participate in the meeting.

#### 61. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the Environment, Finance & Communities Scrutiny Committee of 31 August 2021.

Arising from consideration of the minute, with reference to Paragraph 56(4) - Environmental Health, the Convener advised that he had written to the Co- Leaders of the Council but had not yet received a reply. With reference to Paragraph 58 - Community Asset Transfer, Councillor Crooks advised that the final report from the Working Group had been passed to officers and a full report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

#### Decision

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) approve the minute; and
- (2) note the updates provided.

62./

**62. EMPLOYABILITY ACTIVITY IN FIFE: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability providing an update from the Opportunities Fife Partnership on employability activity in Fife delivered through Employability Pathway activity, 'No One Left Behind' and Fife Council's internal delivery.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) note the employability pathway activity being delivered throughout Fife across the different funding strands;
- (2) recognise the direction of travel regarding employability delivery in line with emerging national frameworks; and
- (3) note the roll out of Employment Recruitment Incentives in line with the Fife Job Contract single portal approach, exploring the inclusion of additional jobs and apprenticeships within the Fife Council jobs market and those of partner organisations such as the NHS and Third Sector.

**63. TACKLING POVERTY - FUNDING ANALYSIS**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities, providing an update on the impact of anti-poverty spending.

**Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) note the update information contained in the report;
- (2) note that the Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis Delivery Board would take forward work on data and impact; and
- (3) recommend that this work continued to be monitored by the relevant Committee of Fife Council.

**64. COMMERCIALISATION PROGRAMME - PROCUREMENT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Revenue and Commercial Services providing a progress report on the "Transforming Fife Council's Procurement Service" project as part of the Commercialisation Programme and wider Changing to Deliver Programme.

**Decision**

The Committee noted:-

- (1) that the Transforming Procurements projects outcomes identified in the original Procurement business case had now been met;
- (2) the return on investment delivered as a result of this agreed programme of change;
- (3)/

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- (3) the improvement in procurement skills and capabilities;
- (4) that all programmed follow on activity was now embedded and forming part of Procurement business as usual; and
- (5) that this was the final progress report as all procurement project activity had moved into business as usual and future governance would be reported through the annual Procurement report to the Policy and Co-ordination Committee or other relevant Committee of Fife Council.

### 65. AGENCY WORKERS AND OVERTIME

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Human Resources providing the annual update on the spend attributable to Agency Workers and Overtime and the work being undertaken to ensure the use of agency workers and overtime was appropriate and kept to a minimum.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) note the performance against the agreed upper limit of 0.5% of the Council's total annual staffing budget; and
- (2) recommend that this situation continued to be monitored by the relevant Committee of Fife Council.

### 66. LANDFILL SITES - ODOUR ISSUES

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising of the works completed to date and the future works planned to mitigate the odour issues at Lochhead and Lower Melville Wood Landfill Sites.

#### **Decision**

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report; and
- (2) that an update report be submitted in six months' time to the relevant Committee of Fife Council.

### 67. ENVIRONMENT, FINANCE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. The Convener advised that efforts would be made to deal with the unallocated reports in the programme prior to the forthcoming Local Government Election in May, 2022, by briefing note where appropriate.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted the programme which would be updated as appropriate.

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