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THE FIFE COUNCIL - FINANCE, ECONOMY AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

8th September, 2022

10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Allan Knox (Convener), Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, Ian Cameron, Rod Cavanagh, Eugene Clarke, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Stefan Hoggan-Radu, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie (substituting for Robin Lawson) Gordon Pryde, Alistair Suttie and Ann Verner.

ATTENDING: Ken Gourlay, Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Economy Planning and Employability Services; Heather Honeyman, Assessor, Sharon McKenzie, Head of Human Resources, Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Les Robertson, Head of Revenue and Commercial Services, and Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; William Penrice, Research Manager, Communities; Martin Kotlewski, Service Manager – BTS Solutions and Service Assurance; Donna Grieve, Accountant, Finance Service Business Partnering; Jackie Johnston, Accountant, Finance Service Business Partnering; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Committee Services, Legal and Democratic Services.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Colin Davidson.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 15th June, 2022.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute.

6. SCRUTINY AT FIFE COUNCIL

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services providing a summary of the scrutiny framework at Fife Council, additional information on the purpose of scrutiny activity and the approach that could be adopted when carrying out scrutiny. The report builds on introductory training that had been held for Conveners and members of the Scrutiny Committees.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

7. SERVICE PROFILES

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate services providing members with information on the roles and functions of Council Services within the remit of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee noted and considered the aims, functions and key challenges for each Service.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities providing context for elected members on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), a key element in service performance reporting.

Decision

The Committee noted the content of the report and the intention to use the Local Government Benchmarking Framework in future performance arrangements.

9. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, updating members on the projected outturn financial position for the 2022/23 financial year at June, 2022, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the financial performance and activity at June 2022, detailed in the report and appendix.

10. 2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The Committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment, updating members on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2022/23 financial year at June 2022, for the areas in scope of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the financial performance and activity at June 2022, detailed in the report and appendices.

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11. 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services updating members on the projected outturn financial position for 2022/23 for the Finance and Corporate Services Directorate.

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the financial performance and activity for 2022/23 detailed in the report and appendices.

12. 2022/23 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN - FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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

Decision

The Committee acknowledged the financial performance and activity for 2022/23 detailed in the report and appendices.

13. FINANCE, ECONOMY AND CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, providing guidance for members on the consideration of future items for inclusion on the work plan, by prioritising items with the biggest impact and highest levels of risk.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report and Workplan for the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee;
 - (2) agreed to contact the Convener with suggested report items for scrutiny and inclusion on the Workplan; and
 - (3) agreed to establish a politically balanced working group, composed of five Committee members (two SNP, one Labour, one Liberal Democrat and one Conservative), to consider and identify particular areas for Scrutiny of the budget, within the remit of the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.
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