

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

18 November, 2021

10.00 a.m – 11.35 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Ross Vettraino (Convener), David Barratt, Rod Cavanagh, Dave Dempsey, David Graham, Jean Hall-Muir, Judy Hamilton, Andy Heer, Gordon Langlands, Alice McGarry, Derek Noble, Jonny Tepp and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Keith Winter, Executive Director, Enterprise and Environment; Pam Ewen, Head of Planning, Ross Spalding, Service Manager (Climate Change & Zero Waste), Kenny Bisset, Lead Officer (Land & Air Quality), Linda Turner, Service Manager, Environmental Health (Public Protection), Economy, Planning & Employability Services; Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services; Ken Gourlay, Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment; Robin Baird, Chief Executive Officer, Fife Resource Solutions; Ross Speirs, Service Manager (Structural Services), Rick Haynes, Lead Consultant, Flooding, Shoreline and Harbours, Roads & Transportation Services; and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener paid tribute to Mark McCall, Service Manager (Safer Communities) who had sadly passed away on 24th September, 2021. He expressed appreciation of the contribution Mark had made to all the Services within the Council in which he had worked, advising that he would be missed by both members and officers. The Convener, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, offered his condolences to Mark's wife and family.

215. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors David Barratt and Jan Wincott declared an interest in paragraph 219 - Prevention of Environmental Vandalism Strategy - as they were on the Board of Fife Resource Solutions, however, they considered that this was covered by a Specific Exclusion so they would remain and participate.

Councillor Tepp joined the meeting during the above item.

216. MINUTE

The Sub-Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee of 2 September 2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to approve the minute.

217. PRESENTATION ON PROSECUTION OF FLY-TIPPERS

The Sub-Committee noted that, due to a family bereavement, the Procurator Fiscal had been unable to attend the meeting and this item would therefore be deferred until the next meeting.

218./

218. CLIMATE CHANGE - PUBLIC BODIES DUTIES REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning presenting the annual submission of Fife Council's 'Public Bodies (Climate Change) Duties Report' for 2020-21 for approval.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) approved the draft Public Bodies Duties Report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) instructed officers to submit the Report to the Scottish Government by 29 November 2021;
- (3) noted the future reporting requirements to provide how the Council would align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering emissions reduction targets, as detailed in paragraphs 1.5 to 1.7 of the report;
- (4) noted the inclusion of "Addressing the Climate Emergency" as an objective of the revised Plan4Fife and the focus on five key areas set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (5) noted the availability of "Climate Knowhow" training for members; and
- (6) agreed that arrangements be made for a presentation providing a summary of the outcomes of the COP26 Conference recently held in Glasgow and that all elected members be invited.

219. PREVENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Protective Services providing an opportunity for members to consider a Prevention of Environmental Vandalism Strategy for Fife, including the initial scoping of the requirements and challenges in improving our places and achieving a step-change in citizen behaviour through a prevention-led approach with robust enforcement where offences were committed

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted with disappointment the slow progress made in developing an Environmental Vandalism Strategy;
- (2) agreed that the draft Strategy Outline be the subject of consultation with a range of stakeholders as outlined in Section 5.1 of the report, with the addition of the National Farmers' Union Scotland and Forestry & Land Scotland;
- (3) agreed that two members' workshops be held in December 2021, with an open invite to all members of the Council, to consider the results of the consultation which would inform the scope and remit of the Environmental Vandalism Strategy;
- (4)/

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- (4) agreed the proposed spend for the £50k allocation by the Council from the general revenue budget for 2021/22 as detailed in section 5.4; and
- (5) agreed that, following feedback from the workshops, a finalised Strategy be developed in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener and presented to this Sub-Committee on 10 February 2022, supported by a business case for any identified additional resources.

220. **OPTIONS FOR TACKLING THE UNLICENSED BREEDING OF DOGS FOR SALE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services outlining some of the issues and challenges around unlicensed dog breeding and advising of new legislation that came into force on 1 September 2021 and how it would be used to control dog breeding activities in Fife.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to support the Scottish SPCA Assured Puppy Breeder Scheme;
- (3) to remit to the Head of Protective Services to engage with relevant partner agencies to explore wider data and intelligence sharing to identify and deliver robust enforcement options and promote public awareness raising with respect to unlicensed dog breeding; and
- (4) that the Head of Protective Services presents a further report to the Sub-Committee within 12 months to provide an update on the regulatory and resource impacts of the new animal licensing regulations.

221. **SINGLE USE PLASTIC - UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning advising of progress made to date on the reduction in single-use plastics and the impact the Covid pandemic had made on progress.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the results of steps already taken to cut single-use plastics at Fife Council;
- (2) noted the challenges resulting from Covid in delivering the programme; and
- (3) approved the revised timetable as set out in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report.

222. **RECYCLING CENTRES UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2021**

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment providing an update on the impact of changes to the operation of Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Decision/

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) that a further report be brought back to the Committee in February 2022 once more detailed data on usage and impacts was available, to include information on progress towards the provision of pedestrian access.

223. FIFE RESOURCE SOLUTIONS - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment summarising the performance of Fife Resource Solutions LLP (FRS) for the financial year 2020/2021.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted the performance information contained in the report which was in line with expected outcomes.

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

224. FIFE'S AIR QUALITY STRATEGY 2021-2025 – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2021

The Sub-Committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services providing the Fife Council Air Quality Annual Progress Report 2021 to allow members to scrutinise the progress made in delivering the aims and objectives of Fife's Air Quality Strategy 2021-2025.

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted the summary of information contained in Fife's Air Quality Annual Progress Report 2021; and
- (2) agreed to support the ongoing commitment to improving and maintaining good air quality across Fife.

225. SEVERE FLOODING - UPDATE

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

Decision

The Sub-Committee:-

- (1) noted that work continued with the investigation and development of mitigations, where appropriate, on the collated Priority Flooding List;
- (2)/

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- (2) noted that, as projects developed, they would be added to the Area Roads Programme which was available to view on the Council's website and updated accordingly; and
- (3) agreed that a further update report be submitted to the next meeting of this Sub-Committee.

226. ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTIVE SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee noted the current Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee Forward Work Programme, which would be updated as appropriate.
