

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Floor 5, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

1 November 2023

2.00 pm – 4.20 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea McLelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Izzy Scott-Trim, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) and Liz Murphy, Bereavement Service Manager, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Keith Johnston, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management South, Roads and Transportation Service; Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Stewart Christie, Rural Skills Scotland.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

83. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee meeting on 6 September 2023.

Arising from the minute, paragraph 74 - Complaints, acknowledged a sincere apology from Councillor Bailey Lee Robb regarding inappropriate and discourteous comments made during the meeting of the committee on 6 September, 2023, relating to the performance of colleagues in Customer and Online Services and Building Services. Councillor Robb advised going forward he would endeavour to work with those Services openly, honestly and respectfully as part of team Cowdenbeath and Fife Council.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

2023 CAC 45

Prior to consideration of the following item of business on the agenda, the Convener, on behalf of the committee, offered sympathy and condolences to the victims of the devastating fire in Lochgelly on Monday, 23 October 2023, which had destroyed 12 family homes.

The committee acknowledged the outstanding efforts from fellow Councillors Erskine, Lockhart and Hamilton and colleagues from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland and Fife Council as first responders involved in dealing with the emergency and offered support to the families in the community affected by the situation. The Convener also showed thanks and appreciation to Amanda Cathrew, Housing Team Manager, Housing Services, Fife Council for provision of new homes for the victims of the fire.

84. PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTION AMENDMENTS - VARIOUS STREETS, CARDENDEN

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services regarding the introduction and amendment of parking restrictions in various streets in Cardenden.

Decision

In the interests of traffic management and road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce the parking restrictions detailed in drawing no. TRO23_43 (Appendix 1) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to confirm the Traffic Regulation Order within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

85. PROPOSED RAISED PUFFIN CROSSING - B925 (MOSSGREEN) KIRKCALDY ROAD, CROSSGATES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services regarding a proposal to install a raised puffin crossing on B925 (Mossgreen) Kirkcaldy Road, Crossgates.

Decision

In the interests of road safety, the committee:-

- (1) agreed to the promotion of a Road Hump Order (RHO) and Pedestrian Crossing Notice to install a raised puffin crossing as detailed in drawing no. TRO23_44 (Appendix 1) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) authorised officers to construct the raised puffin crossing within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

Councillor Lea McLelland joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

86. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES CEMETERY STRATEGY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services outlining Fife Council's legal responsibility to provide and regulate cemeteries and to make appropriate provision for the care and disposal of the deceased. The importance of cemeteries was acknowledged in the current Programme for Administration which noted the importance of making "sure our cemeteries are safe, well looked after and provide fitting places for remembrance and contemplation". The report also informed on the outcome of the consultation which took place and strategy which would be implemented moving forward.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the key points from the consultation exercise; and
- (2) supported the actions moving forward in the Cemetery Strategy 2023 – 2028, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

87. PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH 2023-2026 - UPDATE

The Community Manager - Cowdenbeath Area, provided a verbal update on the delivery of the Local Community Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-26, approved at the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area committee on 6 September 2023. The first meeting of the People in Place Group had taken place on 26 October 2023, an action plan and strategy had been devised relating to ownership of areas work and the delivery of improvements identified within the plan.

Priority leads and had been identified to take forward the 3 key priorities and would support work to be delivered and co-ordinate feedback to the committee, key priority areas as follows:—

- (1) reducing poverty;
- (2) raising aspirations within the community; and
- (3) Improving community engagement.

Thirty seven (37) improvement areas had been identified across the three (3) priority areas. Although the action plan was in the early stages, the team would continue to work on coordinating and delivering the identified improvements, some of which had already been implemented such as the welfare roadshows.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the update provided; and
- (2) acknowledged the action plan/strategy to implement the delivery of the 3 priority areas would be circulated to members once this was available.

88. AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating members on area budgets and on existing projects that were approved at the December 2022 Area Committee and seeking agreement for budget allocation.

At this point in the proceedings, the Convener agreed to a short adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3.20 pm and reconvened at 3.45 pm.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as shown in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (3) noted progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 Area Committee, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (4) agreed to move the £65,000 Energy Advice funding back into the local area budgets (£7,800 into LCP; £31,850 into Ward 7; £25,350 into Ward 8) for future allocation as detailed at para 2.3 in the report; and
- (5) agreed to resolve that the Community Recovery Fund, Mental Health - High Schools, allocation of £60,000, would be split equally between Wards 7 and 8, to provide £30,000 to each ward boundary, to be further discussed and distribution of allocated funds agreed at ward level at a later date.

89. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 COWDENBEATH - GROUNDS FOR GROWTH

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement for an allocation of funding from the Anti-Poverty budget, towards the Grounds for Growth Project.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to allocate £7,000 towards the Grounds For Growth Project from the Anti-Poverty Budget; and
- (2) that a report would be submitted to the committee in 6 months (May 2024) which would provide an update on the success of the Grounds for Growth programme, including information on the number of participants continuing on the programme, future destinations and so on.

90. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services advising of action taken using the List of Officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed the Convener would contact the Head of Housing to highlight members' concerns regarding the low figures of buy back properties acquired by the Council in the Cowdenbeath Area.

91. COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the forward work programme; and
- (2) requested that the Convener extend an invitation to Scottish Water, Head of Roads and Transportation and the Flooding Services Team to attend the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee on 28 February 2024 to discuss issues with extreme flooding in the Benarty and Cardenden areas and to provide an update on work undertaken to resolve the issues.