

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

22 November, 2023

9.30 am – 11.40 am

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Davidson (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Ken Caldwell, Eugene Clarke, David Graham, John O'Brien and Alistair Suttie.

ATTENDING: Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Property Services; Keith Johnstone, Technician Engineer, Roads and Transportation Service; Liz Murphy, Bereavement Service Manager, Bereavement Services; David Thomson, Customer Experience Lead Officer, Customer and Online Services; David Paterson, Community Manager (Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Kerry Elliott, Committee Officer and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Committee Services.

The Committee acknowledged the sad passing of Billy McPhee and members expressed their condolences on behalf of the Levenmouth Area Committee.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ken Caldwell made a transparency statement relating to Para. 105 – 'Warm and Welcoming Spaces – Additional Funding Report', as he was a member of the Buckhaven and Methil Rotary Club. However, as this was not considered a connection under the Councillors' Code of Conduct for the purposes of this report, he remained and participated in the meeting.

Councillor Colin Davidson made a transparency statement relating to Para. 106 – 'Leven Links Bridge Project – CRF Funding Request', as he was a social non playing member of Leven Links Golf Club without voting rights on any club issues. However, as this was not considered a connection under the Councillors' Code of Conduct for the purposes of this report, he remained and participated in the meeting.

Councillor Colin Davidson declared as a matter of transparency and with reference to Para. 103 'Supporting the Levenmouth Local Community Plan – Promenade Maintenance Proposals', that he was a Council appointee to the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. However, as this was not considered a connection under the Councillors' Code of Conduct for the purposes of this report, he remained and participated in the meeting.

98. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 4 October 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

99. PROPOSED RAISED TABLES - PROMENADE, LEVEN

The committee considered a report by the Heads of Roads and Transportation Services asking members to consider a proposal to introduce continuous footways in the form of raised tables along the Promenade, Leven.

Decision

The committee, in the interests of road safety and accessibility agreed: -

- (1) to the promotion of a Road Hump Order (RHO) to introduce raised tables as detailed in drawing no. TRO23/49(f) with all ancillary procedures; and
- (2) to authorise officers to confirm the Road Hump Order and for the raised tables to be constructed within a reasonable period unless there were objections.

100. COMPLAINTS UPDATE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities providing members with an overview of the complaints received from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 for the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The committee noted the content of the report.

Cllr Alistair Suttie joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

101. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES CEMETERY STRATEGY

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising of the outcome of the consultation on the future provision of cemeteries in Fife and requested support for implementation of the strategy moving forward.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the key points from the consultation exercise;
- (2) supported the actions moving forward in the Cemetery Strategy 2023 – 2028, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (3) agreed that officers would arrange a workshop for members in early 2024 to look at the cemetery provision within the Levenmouth Area.

102. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – NEXT PHASE PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS.

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement from members to contribute a total of

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£90,000 from the Community Recovery Fund for the next phases of the play area improvement sites in the Levenmouth Area, specifically at Lilac Bank, Greig Park and Christie Park.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to fund a total of £60,000 (£30,000 each) from the Community Recovery Fund, to progress proposals at both the Lilac Bank and Greig Park play areas;
- (2) noted that the balance of funding for both projects would be supported from Scottish Government funding, and the Lilac Bank proposal would be supported following a separate application to the Fife Environment Trust;
- (3) agreed in principle a £30,000 contribution to the improvement proposal at Christie Park; and
- (4) noted that a further report on the proposal design for Christie Park would come to a future meeting of the committee.

103. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – PROMENADE MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS.

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement from members for a contribution of up to £48,500 from a combination of the Ward 21 Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) and the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) and potentially the Leven Common Good budget for a range of maintenance proposals at the Leven Promenade.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to contribute up to £48,500 from a combination of the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) for Ward 21 and the Community Recovery Fund budgets;
- (2) agreed to seek a suitable contribution from the Common Good Fund and note that a separate report and application would come back to a future meeting of the committee;
- (3) noted that the works could take place in the current financial year, however it is probable that the proposals would be phased over the 23/24 and 24/25 financial years; and
- (4) noted that the proposed works would be carried out by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, and they would be supported from the Grounds Maintenance Services as required.

104. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – FIFE HERITAGE RAILWAY – FUNDING SUPPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement from members to contribute £27,446 from the Community Recovery Fund.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to contribute £27,446 from the Community Recovery Fund towards the cost of providing a canopy unit as part of the larger improvement works at the Fife Heritage Railway (FHR); and
- (2) noted that this would be the second phase of the restoration learning centre which was supported at the 9 November 2022 Levenmouth Area committee meeting.

105. WARM AND WELCOMING SPACES - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement to contribute £40,898 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Anti Poverty Fund for the Levenmouth Area, towards the additional funding requirements for the 'Warm and Welcoming Spaces' programme in the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to contribute £40,898 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Anti-poverty fund for the additional costs for the 'Warm and Welcoming spaces' programme in the Levenmouth Area; and
- (2) noted the extent of the provision of the Warm and Welcoming Spaces in the Levenmouth Area.

The meeting adjourned at 11.05 am and reconvened at 11.15 am

106. LEVEN LINKS BRIDGE PROJECT - CRF FUNDING REQUEST

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking agreement from members for a contribution of up to £50,000 from the Community Recovery Fund to renew 2 new bridge assets and refurbish one other at Leven Links.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to contribute up to £50,000 from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) towards the Leven Links project;
- (2) noted that an application for £30,000 match funding was currently being considered by the Fife Environment Trust (FET); and

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- (3) noted that based on the current proposal, there would be an estimated balance of £20,200 that would be met by the Leven Links joint committee.

107. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

108. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) relating to the future workplan for the Levenmouth Area Committee.

Decision

The committee noted the content of the Levenmouth Area Committee forward work programme.