

THE FIFE COUNCIL - GLENROTHES AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

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

31 January 2024

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Craig Walker (Convener), John Beare, Altany Craik, Julie Ford, Peter Gulline, Lynn Mowatt, Derek Noble, Daniel Wilson and Jan Wincott.

ATTENDING: Norman Laird, Community Manager (Glenrothes), Chris Mieзитis, Area Community Development Team Manager (Glenrothes), Communities & Neighbourhoods Service; Donna Christie, Lead Officer - Estates, Joan Lamie, Service Manager, Housing Estates & Safer Communities, Charlotte Stitchell, Housing Team Manager, Housing Operations & Regeneration, Housing Services; Peter Corbett, Lead Officer, Economy Tourism & Town Centre; Laura Robertson, Finance Operations Manager and Diane Barnet, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services, Finance & Corporate Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Karen Taylor, Community Events and Programme Manager, Fife Cultural Trust (for Paragraph 92).

90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

91. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Glenrothes Area Committee of 22 November 2023.

Arising from the minute, with reference to Paragraph 80 (2) - the committee noted that a representative from Transport Scotland was unable to attend today's meeting in relation to a crossing at Doubledykes, however, acknowledged that discussions were ongoing in other forums.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

92. ONFIFE UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Director of Creative Development and Delivery, OnFife providing an update on OnFife's service offering in the area, reviewing activity in the past six months and outlining plans for the coming year.

Decision

The committee noted the information on how OnFife could better engage with and support the ongoing work within the area, ensuring a joined-up approach to service delivery which would enhance the offer to communities in Glenrothes, expand the return on investment of the public pound and contribute to the Community Wellbeing agenda.

93. SUPPORTING THE PLAN 4 GLENROTHES AREA: COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Services seeking approval to allocate funding to various projects from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) for the Glenrothes Area.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the following amounts from the Community Recovery Fund totalling £299,030.16:-

- (1) High Schools Participatory Budgeting: £130,000 – to enable meaningful engagement with all pupils of high school age in the Glenrothes area;
- (2) Capacity Building Worker: Community Leadership: £114,000 – toward the cost of a Community Education Worker with a Community Capacity Building remit for a two year period;
- (3) Collydean – One Stop Community Hub: £36,971.36 – toward the cost of: a Food Resilience Worker; Family Support Worker; and a Youth Worker for a period of one year, to deliver services that address local community needs (agreed in principle, subject to the Collydean Community Centre Board of Trustees agreeing with the recommendations of the ‘3rd Centre Health Check’); and
- (4) Milton of Balgonie Village Hall: £18,058.80 – toward the cost of repair of the Hall car park area.

Councillor Ford left the meeting following consideration of the above item.

94. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising on the current status of the Common Good and Settlement Trust funds in the area and relevant fund activities over the financial year 2022-2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the relevant appendices for the various Common Good funds and Trust Funds; and
- (2) agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trust funds to suitable projects which also included the amalgamation of individual trusts and, where appropriate, the dissolution of individual trusts, including transferring the funds to suitable third party organisations who were providing similar support to local priorities.

95. LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2023)

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability Services providing an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Glenrothes area. The information presented was intended to provide background and context to council activity within the area and to help inform area committee discussion and decision-making.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data; and
- (2) acknowledged the ongoing economic challenges.

96. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - SELLING LOCK UPS WITHIN MIXED TENURE BLOCKS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an overview of the proposal to sell lockups in the Glenrothes area where Fife Council was a minority owner within a block, or a sale was straightforward and beneficial in removing all future maintenance obligations for the Housing Revenue Account and council tenants.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) deferred its decision pending an elected member workshop, to be arranged by the Service, with a report back to this committee at a future date to be advised.

97. AREA HOUSING PLAN UPDATE - GLENROTHES

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking approval of a revised area housing plan which set out area performance, service delivery and highlighted key housing issues. The report provided an updated plan for the coming three years, setting out the activity to be reported back to committee over that period.

Decision

The committee agreed to:-

- (1) approve the Glenrothes Area Housing Services Plan 2023-26;
- (2) consider six monthly updates on progress with the plan and outcomes; and
- (3) requested an elected member workshop, on a date to be arranged by the Service, to consider the draft Lettings Plan 2024-2026.

98. GLENROTHES AREA COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services relating to the workplan for future meetings of the Glenrothes Area Committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the draft workplan;
- (2) as referenced at paragraph 92 – ‘OnFife update’ - agreed to consider a further update in six months;
- (3) as referenced at paragraph 96 – ‘Housing Revenue Account - Selling Lock Ups Within Mixed Tenure Blocks’ - agreed to consider a further report at a future meeting on a date to be advised by the Service;
- (4) as referenced at paragraph 97 – ‘Area Housing Plan Update – Glenrothes’ – agreed to consider a further update in six months;
- (5) agreed to request a report from the relevant Service on active travel plans/routes for the Glenrothes area; and
- (6) agreed that committee members would advise the Convener, Depute Convener, Lead Officer and Committee Officer of any other items to include on the workplan, within the remit of the committee.