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THE FIFE COUNCIL - ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

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

19 March 2024

10.00 am – 1.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Ann Liston (Convener), Tom Adams, Naz Anis-Miah, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Jean Hall-Muir, Stefan Hoggan-Radu, Nicola Patrick, Sam Steele (substituting for Andy Jackson), Darren Watt and Daniel Wilson.

ATTENDING: Carol Connolly, Executive Director Place; Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services; Kenny Bissett, Lead Officer, Environmental Health (Public Protection); John Rodigan, Head of Environment and Building Services; Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods; Tariq Ditta, Head of Facilities Management Services; Melanie Arthur, Service Manager, Facilities Management; Robbie Lawson, Janitorial and Cleaning Team Manager; John Mitchell, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; Steven Sellars, Lead Consultant, Road Safety and Travel Planning; Susan Keenlyside, Service Manager, Sustainable Transport and Parking, Roads and Transportation Services; Caroline Ritchie, Accountant, Lesley Robb, Lead Officer - Committee Services and Kerry Elliott, Committee Officer, Finance and Corporate Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: John Ford, Biodiversity Coordinator, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mary Lockhart.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

77. CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

The committee noted that Councillor Mary Lockhart had replaced Councillor Graeme Downie as a member of the committee.

78. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 23 January 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

79. REVIEW OF MOSSMORRAN AND BRAEFoot BAY COMMUNITY AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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The committee considered a report by the Head of Protective Services advising of the findings of the latest 2022 general annual report for the operations at the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay facilities. The Head of Protective Services also shared with the committee three video presentations from Shell UK and Exxon Mobile on the current operations at the Fife Ethylene Plant, Braefoot Bay Terminal and Mossmorran site.

Decision

The committee noted:-

- (1) the content of the presentations and general report in particular, the large reduction in complaints following investment in improvement technologies at the complex;
- (2) the new noise and air quality monitoring arrangements introduced around the complex;
- (3) the steps taken to improve communications between appropriate parties;
- (4) that the 2022 general report would be submitted to future meetings of Cowdenbeath, Kirkcaldy and South and West Fife Area Committees for information; and
- (5) the 2023 general report would be presented to the committee during 2024.

80. STAFFED SCHOOL CROSSINGS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

The committee considered a joint report by the Head of Facilities Management Services and the Head of Roads and Transportation Services, providing an initial baseline on the School Crossing Patrol Service and activities relating to active travel to school, following a motion agreed at the meeting of Fife Council on 21 September 2023.

Decision

The committee noted and provided comments on the content of the report.

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 am and reconvened at 11.30 am

81. FIFE ROAD CASUALTY STATISTICS 2023

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising of statistics, the severity of casualties on Fife's roads in 2023 and the performance against the Scottish Government Road Safety Casualty Reduction targets.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered the 2023 road casualty statistics; and

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- (2) noted the ongoing work of road safety partners aimed at reducing casualties, in line with the Scottish Government casualty reduction targets for 2030.

82. BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service, inviting members comments on the content of the report. A report requires to be submitted to Scottish Government every three years outlining how Fife Council has met its biodiversity duty outlined under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.

Decision

The committee noted the content of the Biodiversity Duty Report, as prepared, for submission to Scottish Government.

83. 2023/24 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Place providing an update on the projected outturn financial position for the 2023/24 financial year for the areas in scope for the Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee considered the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

84. 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Director, Place, providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advising on the projected financial position for the 2023/24 financial year for the areas in scope for the Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee considered the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report.

85. ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, asking members to consider the forward work programme for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the forward work programme;

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- (2) agreed to add a standing item to each committee meeting on Climate Change;
- (3) agreed that an interim briefing note would be circulated outlining details on pothole and road defects in relation to response times for repairs at ward level, the technologies and techniques used in pothole repairs and the process for members of the public to submit claims for damage. The briefing note would be issued prior to submission of the Performance report to the committee in late 2024;
- (4) agreed that reports be added to the work programme on the following subjects:-
 - a) pedestrian access to recycling centres;
 - b) community safety partnership, in terms of road safety;
 - c) environmental impact in relation to existing fleet provision used for domestic waste collection and road repairs;
 - d) Fife Council catering facilities and increased offerings in both vegetarian and plant based options; and
 - e) the new food strategy for scrutiny.