

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE

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

21 August, 2024

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

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

ATTENDING: Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Childrens Services, Ruth McFarlane, Headteacher Levenmouth Academy, Callum Murphy, Deputy Headteacher Levenmouth Academy, Education and Childrens Services Directorate; Sara Gray, Safer Communities Lead Officer, Leisure & Cultural Services; Vicki Storrar, Lead Consultant, Roads and Lighting Asset Management; Helen Wilkie, Service Manager, Peter Nicol, Team Manager, Housing Services; Phil Clarke, Lead Consultant, Levenmouth Reconnect Programme; David Paterson, Community Manager (Levenmouth), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service and Kerry Elliott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector Chris Dow, Inspector Matt Spencer, Police Scotland and Station Commander John Taylor, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor John OBrien

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Decision

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

149. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 15 May 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

150. SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Station Commander for the Levenmouth Area, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), providing an update on incident information within the Levenmouth Area for the period 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024 to enable the committee to have an overview of the SFRS performance against its key performance indicators.

Decision

The committee noted the progress across a range of key performance indicators as detailed in the report.

151. OPERATIONAL AND COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON POLICING ACTIVITIES WITHIN LEVENMOUTH

The committee considered a report by the Local Area Commander, Police Scotland, providing an update on matters impacting on and involving Police Scotland, which had relevance to community safety in the Levenmouth Policing area.

Decision

The committee agreed to note the action taken to date as detailed in the report and support Police Scotland moving forward in addressing priorities within the Levenmouth Area.

152. SAFER COMMUNITIES TEAM UPDATE REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services, providing an update on the operational activity of the Safer Communities Team within the Levenmouth Committee Area during the twelve-month period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Decision

The committee noted the activity to date as detailed in the report.

153. REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES – 2022/23

The committee considered a report by the Head of Education providing details of the attainment outcomes achieved by pupils within the area's school during the school year 2022/23 and the range of strategies being developed to support key priorities to raise attainment.

Decision

The committee noted: -

- (1) the overall progress in raising levels of attainment in 2022/23; and
- (2) the strategies being implemented to raise attainment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am and reconvened at 11:15 am.

154. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2023/24 – FINAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising on the delivery of the 2023 - 2024 Area Roads programme.

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report and appendices.

155. SWAN AND MEMORIAL COURTS, METHIL - HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services outlining progress with the programme of works for the recladding of Swan and Memorial Courts, Methil.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the proposed programme of works for the improvements to the flats;
- (2) considered the impact of the works on council tenants; and
- (3) agreed the mitigations as outlined in the report to minimise the impact of the works on council tenants.

156. LEVENMOUTH RECONNECTED LARGE GRANT AWARDS'

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation, asking members to consider the projects recommended for funding from the fourth round of the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme Large Grant Fund.

Decision

The committee agreed to fund the following projects from the Levenmouth Reconnected Programme Large Grant Fund: -

- (1) Levenmouth Discovery Landmarks - £58,365;
- (2) Leven Skatepark - £252,000; and
- (3) Fife Heritage Rail Conservation Building - £360,000.

On behalf of Levenmouth Area Committee the Convener paid thanks to all those involved in bringing the Levenmouth Skatepark to fruition.

157. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – PLUS PARTNERSHIP YEAR 2

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting £39,647 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) - Anti Poverty Budget to continue funding for the Plus Partnership approach in conjunction with Fife Furniture Plus.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed the funding request of £39,647 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget to allow the Plus Partnership approach to continue into year two;
- (2) noted that the funding profile will be split over two financial years; and

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- (3) noted the contents of the status report for the Plus Partnership approach showing the financial gain accrued for clients by the project, in the period up to the 9 August 2024.

158. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN – VIEWFORTH PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a total contribution of £22,000 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Ward 22, to install one piece of major play equipment at Viewforth Play Area, Buckhaven

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed a total contribution of £22,000 from the LCPB Ward 22 Budget to allow the commissioning of work to install one major piece of play equipment at Viewforth Play Area, Buckhaven; and
- (2) noted that additional funding would be drawn from identified underspends on other play area projects.

159. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN – INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH TRAINING – GROUNDS FOR GROWTH

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a contribution from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) - Anti Poverty Budget of £10,000 as a contribution to the overall cost of the Grounds for Growth initiative in Levenmouth.

Decision

The committee agreed to a total contribution of £10,000 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget towards the overall cost of providing the Grounds for Growth initiative in the Levenmouth Area.

160. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL PLAN – METHILHILL COMMUNITY CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE (MCCI) OUTDOOR ADVENTURERS PROPOSAL

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a contribution of £15,985 from the Local Community Planning Budget (LCPB) Anti-Poverty Budget for the Outdoor Adventures project proposal by Methilhill Community Children's Initiative (MCCI).

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed a contribution of £15,985 from the LCPB Anti-Poverty Budget; and
- (2) noted that the match funding element will be provided by Scottish Governments Investing in Communities fund.

161. SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – COALTOWN OF WEMYSS BOWLING CLUB – INSULATION AND ROOF WORK – COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND REQUEST

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service requesting £8,500 from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) to support insulation and reroofing work at the Coaltown of Wemyss Bowling Club.

Decision

The committee agreed to fund £8,500 from the Community Recovery Fund to cover the proposed roofing and insulation work at Coaltown of Wemyss Bowling Club.

162. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

163. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, relating to the future work programme of the Levenmouth Area Committee.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the content of the Levenmouth Area Committee forward work programme; and
- (2) agreed that members would advise the Convener, Depute Convener, Lead Officer and Committee Officer of any other items to be included on the workplan, within the remit of the committee.