

Thursday 19 September 2024 - 10.00 a.m.

---

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
  
In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN** 4 - 6
4. **MINUTE** – Minute of the meeting of Fife Council on 16 May 2024. 7 - 29
5. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**  
  
Minutes of meetings of the Council's committees and sub-committees, as contained in the volume of minutes uploaded to the intranet and Fife Council website, are submitted for accuracy.
6. **LEADERS' REPORT** 30 - 34
7. **QUESTION TIME** 35 - 39
8. **FIFE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND SPOKESPERSON FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** – Report by the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services. 40 - 41
9. **APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATION - REGIONAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND** – Report by the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services. 42 - 43
10. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS** – Report by the Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services. 44 - 46
11. **BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

**Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.**

Lindsay Thomson  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Finance and Corporate Services

Fife House

North Street  
Glenrothes  
Fife, KY7 5LT

12 September, 2024

If telephoning, please ask for:

Emma Whyte, Committee Officer, Fife House 06 ( Main Building )

Telephone: 03451 55555, ext. 442303; email: [Emma.Whyte@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Whyte@fife.gov.uk)

Agendas and papers for all Committee meetings can be accessed on  
[www.fife.gov.uk/committees](http://www.fife.gov.uk/committees)

## **BLENDED MEETING NOTICE**

This is a formal meeting of the Committee and the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same as in a face to face meeting. Unless otherwise agreed, Standing Orders will apply to the proceedings and the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct will apply in the normal way

For those members who have joined the meeting remotely, if they need to leave the meeting for any reason, they should use the Meeting Chat to advise of this. If a member loses their connection during the meeting, they should make every effort to rejoin the meeting but, if this is not possible, the Committee Officer will note their absence for the remainder of the meeting. If a member must leave the meeting due to a declaration of interest, they should remain out of the meeting until invited back in by the Committee Officer.

If a member wishes to ask a question, speak on any item or move a motion or amendment, they should indicate this by raising their hand at the appropriate time and will then be invited to speak. Those joining remotely should use the "Raise hand" function in Teams.

All decisions taken during this meeting, will be done so by means of a Roll Call vote.

Where items are for noting or where there has been no dissent or contrary view expressed during any debate, either verbally or by the member indicating they wish to speak, the Convener will assume the matter has been agreed.

There will be a short break in proceedings after approximately 90 minutes.

Members joining remotely are reminded to have cameras switched on during meetings and mute microphones when not speaking. During any breaks or adjournments please switch cameras off.

**Fife Council**  
**19 September 2024**

**Civic Business Bulletin**

**Former Councillor Lizz Mogg**

Former Councillor Lizz Mogg died peacefully at home on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Lizz served from 2007 to 2012 and was Depute Provost for a large part of her term of office. She represented the Dunfermline Central ward and also chaired Carnock Community Council for many years. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

**Civic Events**

The Freedom of the City of Dunfermline was awarded on 28<sup>th</sup> August to the Peacocks of Pittencrieff Park. The ceremony was conducted at the Peacock Sanctuary and was open to the general public.

The City of Dunfermline coat of arms was presented at a reception in the Glen Pavilion by Dr Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon, King of Arms. Guests were entertained by the City of Dunfermline Pipe Band, Dunfermline Junior Chorus and the Allana Brown School of Dance.

The Freedom of the City scroll and Coat of Arms will soon be on display in Dunfermline City Chambers.

**British Empire Medal**

Mrs Jean Waldrum Grossett has been awarded a BEM for services to Rachel House and St Andrews House. It was presented by the Lord-Lieutenant on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**Kings Award for Enterprise**

Babcock International have been awarded a King's Award for Enterprise this year in the Innovation category, which complements their three previous Queen's Awards in 2016 (Innovation and International Trade) and 2021 (International Trade). This was presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Fife on 12 September 2024.

**Paul Noble**

Well done to Paul Noble MBE on a great job done commentating on swimming events at the recent Paralympic Games in Paris. Paul, an accountant with Fife Council, was attending his 11<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games – he competed as a swimmer in 5 consecutive Games from 1984 – 2000 and has commentated since then.

## **Olympics and Paralympics**

Congratulations to all the Fife athletes who competed in the recent Games in Paris. We are proud of you all for your dedication and hard work.

## **Councillor Rod Cavanagh**

Since the last Council meeting, Cllr Rod Cavanagh was awarded the Silver Award in the 'Role Model of the Year' category of the Scottish Veterans Awards 2024.

Awards in the category are for "a Military Veteran in business or the community who has not only transitioned successfully to the civilian world but has been a pillar of the local community and also a strong and effective role model to other service leavers."

## **Glenrothes High School pupils racing to America for H2GP finals**

A group of budding engineers and mechanics from Glenrothes High School headed stateside on Saturday 7th September 2024 to take part in the Hydrogen Grand Prix World Championships in Southern California. The event is a STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) backed by Horizon Hobby, a multinational radio control products manufacturer.

Glenrothes High School hosted and won the UK championship in June 2024 with teams from Scotland and England competing. The Glenrothes team won the race by a considerable margin: 634 laps, almost 60 laps ahead of the closest competition.

Samuel Myles, Drew Hamilton, Jayson Dearden, Jack Cooper, and Cameron McMillan will represent their school, Scotland and the UK at the international event. They'll join teams from around the world to design, engineer, build and race their own hydrogen powered, radio-controlled cars in a four-hour endurance race around an indoor track.

Headteacher Avril McNeill expressed her thanks to Fife College for their support alongside Andrew Sealey (Teacher of Technologies) who will support the team at the event and Stacey Bradshaw (Teacher of Physics) who supported the team to their UK success.

This is an amazing experience for the students and a chance to show off their engineering skills. They have all worked so hard on this project, with the help of their teachers, and this trip will give them the chance to interact with students from across the world, share ideas, share learning and just have fun.

## **Keeping your Cool in School Launch**

Fife Education Service are hosted a launch event for a national Education resource to support positive relationships in schools.

The 'Keeping your Cool in School' resource has been digitally refreshed by Fife Education colleagues on behalf of, and funded by, the Scottish Government. The launch took place on 4th September at the Rothes Halls.

Cabinet Secretary, Jenny Gilruth, officially opened the event alongside Cllr Ross, a talk was given about the process, a few videos shown, and time was spent with devices exploring the resource online.

### **Kelty Walks and Talks Group**

The Group has now been running for 2.5 years and simply invites participants to enjoy a walk and have a cuppa together. It was started by a volunteer to fill an afternoon following her own retirement but has evolved to run on other days and proposals are in place to start an evening group.

Some participants have now completed nature awareness training looking at local wildlife, plants and water quality around Kelty. The group was recently recorded to share across Scotland, encouraging others to join or set up similar groups and has also been highlighted as a model of good practice by Education Scotland.

### **Family residential**

As part of a pilot project, Cowdenbeath CLD team organised a residential where parents and their children were able to enjoy a weekend away at an activity centre to participate together in informal learning activities. This was attended by 19 families (76 people) from across the area and they enjoyed a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, family learning activities and, unusually, brilliant sunshine.

The families who attended would have been unable to have a holiday for reasons including affordability, additional support needs of the children/parent, single parents with multiple children. Feedback has been so positive that additional sessions to participate in outdoor learning have been organised and preparation for next year's offering has already begun.

### **Fussy Eaters**

Following feedback from parents about the limited diet of their children and struggles to have a healthy and varied diet, a community education worker from the Cowdenbeath team organised sessions for Fussy Eaters in conjunction with Edinburgh University. The programme was made up of 3 weekly sessions and families have had a variety of inputs and play around food, eating and tasting sessions. Eight programmes have taken place in the towns and villages that make up the Cowdenbeath area with very positive feedback from those attending.

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – BLENDED MEETING**

**Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**16 May 2024**

**10.00 am – 2.10 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Andrew Verrecchia, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors John Caffrey, David Graham and James Leslie.

**122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jane Ann Liston made a transparency statement in relation to Paragraph 127, question 7, below as she was a Fife Council appointee to William Gibson's Trust.

**123. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN**

**Decision**

The council noted the Civic Business Bulletin.

**124. MINUTE**

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved that the minute of Fife Council of 21 March 2024 be approved.

**Decision**

The council approved the minute subject to an amendment to page 2024.FC.131 to clarify a supplementary question.

**125. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

Minutes of the undernoted committees and sub-committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:-

- (1) West and Central Planning Committee of 6 March and 3 April 2024.
- (2) North East Planning Committee of 13 March and 10 April 2024.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 29 April 2024.
- (4) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 12 March 2024.
- (5) Cabinet Committee of 7 March and 4 April 2024.
- (6) Standards, Audit and Risk Committee of 14 March 2024.
- (7) Pensions Committee of 28 March 2024.
- (8) Glenrothes Area Committee of 27 March 2024.
- (9) Levenmouth Area Committee of 20 March and 23 April 2024.
- (10) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 23 April 2024.
- (11) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 30 April 2024.
- (12) North East Fife Area Committee of 24 April 2024.
- (13) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 17 April 2024.
- (14) South and West Fife Area Committee of 17 April 2024.
- (15) Education Scrutiny Committee of 5 March 2024.
- (16) Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 18 April 2024.
- (17) Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 19 March 2024.
- (18) Fife Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board of 2 February 2024.

**Decision**

The council noted the minutes.

**126. LEADERS' REPORT**

The council considered a report by the Leader of the Council on a number of strategic issues. The Leader provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members and also gave a brief update in relation to the Life Chances Programme and the Levelling Up Funding for the City of Dunfermline.

**Decision**

The council noted the Leader's report.

**127. QUESTION TIME**

In terms of Standing Order No. 9.3, the following questions were submitted.

**Question 1 from Councillor Jonny Tepp**

What work needs to be completed before the administration will be in a position to enforce a pavement parking ban?



Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

Work is currently ongoing within Roads and Transportation Services to identify and assess possible exemption areas and mitigation measures for displacement parking across Fife as part of the pavement parking ban. Once this is completed, a report will be presented to Cabinet Committee to seek approval from members regarding the principle of measures to be introduced.

Following Cabinet agreement, Area Committees will consider the proposals for their areas as part of the statutory Traffic Regulation Order process.

In parallel, operational matters such as the updating of parking management back-office IT systems would be required, specific training for parking enforcement staff, and any on-site signing and lining measures implemented.

Supplementary Question

Can we be assured that you are consulting with the waste teams to ensure the exemptions are in place for bin lorries to access certain streets?

Answer

Yes.

Question 2 from Councillor Jonny Tepp

What are the estimated costs of preparing to be ready to implement the pavement parking ban (please show the main costs and assumptions in arriving at this estimate) and what Scottish Government funding has been provided to complete this work?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The work in considering the pavement parking ban is ongoing and full costs have yet to be confirmed. However, in outline terms the known costs to date are estimated as:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Promotion of Exemption Orders (1 per Area Committee) | £14,000         |
| Signing and Lining (Estimate)                        | £70,000         |
| Parking Management IT Updates                        | £10,000         |
| Printing Costs (new PCNs)                            | £4,000          |
| Potential mitigation costs                           | to be confirmed |

The Scottish Government has awarded Fife Council grant of £188,107 to undertake the work to develop the approach to the Pavement Parking Ban and survey of all streets in Fife. During 2023/24 £101,820 of this funding has been utilised to procure Consultants to undertake the development work. A request has

## 2024 FC 143

been submitted to Scottish Government to carry over the remaining £86,292 to 2024/25 for the ongoing work.

### Supplementary Question

Are we in credit or debit in respect to the funding received and if we go into debit which fund will bear the brunt?

### Answer

£86k remaining for outstanding work. If required the Service will identify where any further funding will come from.

### Question 3 from Councillor Margaret Kennedy

The wider community and media have highlighted concerns in relation to violence in schools with thousands of violent incidents against council and school workers taking place in the UK since 2015. Additionally UNISON, nationally, have raised concern that their research has identified that workers in UK councils or schools are 75% more likely to be a victim of violence at work than other workers.

Information on this matter is now received by the Education Scrutiny every few months as part of the school violence reports. The reports include pupil on pupil and pupil on staff violence with trends indicating an increase in the past few years.

In terms of managing staff health and safety at work Fife Council has a legal duty to put in place measures to ensure that violence at work is never 'part of the job' irrespective of employees' roles. As Councillors we have a responsibility to ensure that our local services are delivered safely, by staff who feel protected and supported in the vital work they do for our communities.

- (a) How many reported incidents relating to violence and aggression, being directed towards all Council staff, have been recorded in 2023?
- (b) What proportion of these are relating to school staff?
- (c) Has there been any evidence of increasing or decreasing trends in relation to all Council staff?
- (d) What measures has Fife Council in place to support staff safety?

### Answer (Spokesperson for Education)

#### **A. How many reported incidents relating to violence and aggression, being directed towards all Council staff, have been recorded in 2023?**

From the period 1 **April 2023** to 31 **March 2024** there were **5,185** recorded Violence Aggression and Threat incidents (VAT) directed towards all council staff.

#### **B. What proportion of these are relating to school staff?**

As a percentage of all incidents for the period **86%** or **4,444** incidents were relating to school staff.

**C. Has there been any evidence of increasing or decreasing trends in relation to all Council staff?**

There is evidence, from the Fife Council Health and Safety event recording system, that reported VAT incidents are increasing. All staff members are encouraged to report all VAT incidents. In 2022/23 3745 incidents were recorded and in 2023/24, 5185 were recorded.

**D. What measures has Fife Council in place to support staff safety?**

- Fife Council has a Health and Safety Framework that covers all services. It includes the identification of hazards and the mitigation of risk from these hazards. Part 2 of the Health and Safety Framework directs services to ensure risk profiling is undertaken and regularly reviewed - which includes undertaking and communicating risk assessments to implement any required control measures. (This includes the risk of VAT and any associated controls). Also to ensure the necessary instruction, training and supervision is in place to ensure staff safety.
- We know that the nature of the services we provide may occasionally place employees at increased risk from verbal abuse, intimidating behaviour or physical violence. All forms of violence, aggression and threat towards colleagues is unacceptable. FC is committed to a violence reduction hierarchy based on Elimination, Reduction and Control. To support this, FC has a range of supporting guidance which focus on reducing Workplace Violence and robust risk assessment.
- There's a continued focus within Education on the importance of reporting. A new reporting form was created last year to improve the process and make it easier for staff to report.
- The Heads of Education, in partnership with the Trade Unions, are holding cluster Wellbeing Roadshows during April and May 2024 for all staff groups. Supporting staff with Violence and Aggression is a key theme of these roadshows.
- There is also a focus in both the Education Health & Safety Forum, and Relationship and Behaviour Strategy Group, in terms of the Health and Safety responsibilities we have for our employees.

Question 4 from Councillor Gavin Ellis

In the last twelve-month period 1 April 2023 to 1 April 2024, can council confirm how many complaints it has received for fly tipped / dumped tyres? Also, how these items are removed from Fife's landscape - is it by a single staff member or a two-person crew - and what type of vehicle is used?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

We don't record the types of waste which have been illegally dumped, I am therefore unable to answer the first part of the question with any degree of accuracy.

## 2024 FC 145

Tyres are picked up by a two man crew who deal with fly-tipping. The vehicle used is a standard 3.5 tonne vehicle that is used in all areas of street cleansing. Tyres are taken to the nearest weighbridge and then taken to Entyre for recycling.

### Supplementary Question

Can council advise? how much it has cost the Council to remove these tyres such as staff resources, fuel and disposal costs?

### Answer

This information was to be provided following the meeting.

### Question 5 from Councillor Gavin Ellis

In regard to a previous question by Councillor Dillon at full council on 21 March 2024 on the issue of control of dogs, it was reported that in 2023 there had been 610 reports resulting in 33 Dog control notices being issued and 71 warnings.

Can council confirm how many authorised officers we have to deal with the control of dogs Scotland Act 2010 and can it confirm how these are monitored in line with section 4 of the legislation that places a legal duty on the local authority to monitor dog control notices that have been issued. Is this done by contacting the dog owner regularly or by surveillance. Also, can council confirm out of these 33 DCNs that were issued how many have now been discharged in line with section 6 of the Control of Dogs Scotland Act 2010.

### Answer (Spokesperson for Communities and Leisure Services)

- There are 2 x Dog Control Officers authorised to enforce the Control of Dogs (S) Act.
- Dog Control Notices are monitored in a variety of ways. These include talking to the dogs' owner, observation patrols and reports of breaches sent in by members of the public.
- None of these 33 DCNs have been discharged.

### Question 6 from Councillor Al Clark

Given that the Scottish Government has regrettably rolled back its climate target to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by 2030, what assurances can Fife Council give that it will not do likewise but will continue its ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions in all its own buildings by 68% by 2030, considering the council declared a climate emergency in September 2019?

### Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

Within available resources, we remain committed to meeting our net zero obligations in relation to our estate. We are doing this through investment in highly efficient new build projects such as Dunfermline Learning Campus as well as the retrofitting of our wider estate.

Supplementary Question

Are we still committed to net zero for all new house building?

Answer

The council is aiming to make the whole estate as energy efficient as possible for tenants. Suggest discussing further with Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services.

Question 7 from Councillor Jane Ann Liston

What is the full package for Fife Council care at home staff, specifically:

- (a) what is the hourly rate of pay for care at home workers at FC?
- (b) are FC care at home staff given sick pay? If yes, what are the terms.
- (c) what is the annual holiday allowance given to FC care at home staff?
- (d) Are FC care at home staff paid per total shift hours?
- (e) What mileage rate is paid to FC care at home staff using their own cars?
- (f) Are there any other benefits given to FC care at home staff?

In the interests of transparency I hereby declare that I am a Fife Council appointee to William Gibson's Trust, which has a company, Gibson Training and Care, that exists purely to help fund the running of the care home.

Answer (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care)

- (a) what is the hourly rate of pay for care at home workers at FC?

FC4 Grade which is currently £12.59 per hour up to £13.76 per hour

- (b) are FC care at home staff given sick pay? If yes, what are the terms.

Sickness entitlement is based on an employee's length of service as below:

Less than 6 months – 0 weeks full pay and 0 weeks half pay.  
6 months – 1 year – 5 weeks full pay and 5 weeks half pay.  
1 – 2 years – 9 weeks full pay and 9 weeks half pay  
2 – 3 years – 18 weeks full pay and 18 weeks half pay  
3 – 5 Years – 22 weeks and 22 weeks half pay  
5 or more years – 26 weeks full pay and 26 weeks half pay.

Employees with less than 26 weeks service will not be entitled to receive sickness allowance but may be eligible to receive Statutory Sick Pay.

- (c) what is the annual holiday allowance given to FC care at home staff?

Employees with less than five years' service get 25 days of annual leave per year. Employees, who have five or more years' service, get 30 days of annual leave.

In addition to this, there are 8 fixed public holidays each year.

Entitlements will be pro rata for employees that do not work full-time contractual hours (36 hours).

(d) Are FC care at home staff paid per total shift hours?

Yes, Home Carers are paid for their contractual hours per day/week.

(e) What mileage rate is paid to FC care at home staff using their own cars?

For business travel by car, employees receive 45p per mile (for up to 9,999 miles in the year). Travel in excess of 10,000 miles in a year is paid at 25p per mile.

(f) Are there any other benefits given to FC care at home staff?

Nothing specific to Home Carers, corporate employee benefits will apply.

#### Supplementary Question

Would you agree that the quality of care provided by external bodies is at least as good as that provided by Fife Council staff but that it would be challenging for charitable providers of care and care at home to provide such generous terms without greatly raising the fees charged to service users?

#### Answer

Yes. I agree the service provided by all care staff across Fife is fantastic and should be welcomed. You will be aware of some of the challenges that we face in terms of recruitment and retention of staff who provide a vital role for our vulnerable people across the Kingdom and that is something I think we need to make sure we are doing more about in terms of pay and conditions.

#### Question 8 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what assessment it has made of the impact on Fife Council and its environmental policies of the SNP-Green former coalition government's decision to scrap its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2030 and 2040 as well as the yearly publication of Scotland's performance on emissions.

#### Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

The changes to the Scottish Government Targets do not directly impact Fife Council's own policies and programmes. Fife Council remains committed to addressing the Climate Emergency and delivering our Climate Fife Strategy and Action Plan. However, we would note that it is still unclear if some of the wider policy positions taken as part of the Bute House Agreement will stay. Any decision on those would have potential, wider implications on funding available or legal duties for Fife Council.

#### Supplementary Question

Does the administration have any confidence left in the SNP Government to tackle the climate crisis given they have missed 8 of the 12 annual targets for cutting carbon emissions and have now ditched the targets totally?

Answer

I think the Administration like the Climate Change Committee had no confidence in the targets when they were originally set. The Climate Change Committee warned the Scottish Government that they had set unachievable targets at the outset but the hubris of ministers involved at the time they set the targets anyway only to face the humiliating climb down we have just seen. My hope is that the changing government in Holyrood that is shortly to come will focus on tackling climate crisis and forget the sound bites.

Question 9 from Councillor Julie MacDougall

Can Fife Council confirm if we now have clarity on the Active Travel Funding and the status of The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) the development of the Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan. How will the result of the recent consultation feed into our communities working with local groups and organisations shaping the vision for active travel in Fife affecting:

- Schools and Young People
- Workplaces
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Capacity and Capability Building

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The Council has allocated £156,712 of revenue funding for maintenance of cycleways and £537,571 of capital is available for development of the active travel network this year and £250,000 for following financial year.

Further funding applications are underway.

The LTS was approved by Fife Council Cabinet Committee on 30 November 2023. The consultation phase of the Active Travel Strategy and Action Plan (ATSAP) was concluded during February 2024. This will help to prioritise active travel projects and provide evidence of community support for proposals.

Schools, workplaces, and communities can use the ATSAP to promote walking and cycling locally, potentially seeking external funding. The Council supports community-led active travel projects and will continue assisting volunteer efforts. The ATSAP aims to be inclusive, supporting projects in areas with high social deprivation or transport poverty.

Supplementary Question

Will this funding be spread equally across Fife?

Answer

As far as possible but depends on projects that come forward and do try to get an even spread.

Question 10 from Councillor Robin Lawson

Across Fife there are large numbers of broken poles on road signage, just left on the roadside. This is both dangerous and unattractive. Will the Administration provide some extra funding to Roads and Transportation to repair or replace the broken signage before accidents happen?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

A backlog of defective road signs is being addressed and those that pose an immediate safety risk are being attended to. In terms of budget, approx. £145k has been set aside for road sign maintenance this year.

Question 11 from Councillor Robin Lawson

In 2022 I asked when Covid temporary measures introduced into Fife's towns would be removed or made permanent. Could we please have an update on this issue, including when temporary measures will be removed?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

In Crail and Townhill temporary arrangements have successfully been made permanent. In St Andrews, work is ongoing to develop proposals for the temporary measures to become permanent. The works to implement the permanent measures are anticipated to be undertaken in 2025. Temporary measures will remain in place until the permanent features are completed or removed altogether.

Supplementary Question

Can the work be progressed as a priority and publicise what will be allowed and where?

Answer

Work ongoing to try and find a solution that fits all stakeholders.

Question 12 from Councillor Robin Lawson

In many Fife towns the markings on parking bays and yellow lines marking parking restrictions are badly faded or worn out. This results in illegal parking which wardens are incapable of stopping. How much has Fife Council spent in each of the last three years on marking parking and no parking areas, and what is the planned spend for 2024/25?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

In 2021/2022, some £40,000 of parking related lining works were delivered throughout Fife. However, in each of the past two financial years (2022/23 and 2023/24), approximately £10,000 of works have been delivered annually due to issues with the reliability of the internal lining vehicle, turn-over of staff and availability of external contractors. In 2024/25 the delivery of parking related lining



## 2024 FC 150

is programmed to return to normal levels with £50k identified to help renew lining throughout Fife.

| Year      | Issued     | Actual     |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 2021/2022 | £50,094.12 | £40,907.15 |
| 2022/2023 | £50,000.00 | £10,110.00 |
| 2023/2024 | £36,500.00 | £10,211.40 |

### Question 13 from Councillor Rosemary Liewald

What is the expected lifespan of temporary repairs to road surfaces?

#### Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

Temporary repairs are intended to prevent further deterioration until a permanent solution is planned and can last weeks or months. There is however no definitive answer to this question due to many factors, such as weather, traffic type and volume, and supporting road condition.

#### Supplementary Question

What investigation is the service doing to make sure the temporary repairs last longer and reduce the damage to vehicles?

#### Answer

Will raise with the service as to what we are doing to monitor the situation. Aware there are issues with temporary repairs.

### Question 14 from Councillor Rosemary Liewald

What has been the cost of temporary road patching for financial years 2018/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21,22 and 22/23?

#### Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The costs of repairs relating to emergency P1 (24 hrs) and P2 (5 working days) for the previous 5 years are:

| Activity                             | 2018-19<br>Outturn | 2019-20<br>Outturn | 2020-21<br>Outturn | 2021-22<br>Outturn | 2022-23<br>Outturn |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| EMERGENCY<br>PATCHING<br>REPAIRS (£) | 532,655            | 633,337            | 868,782            | 490,686            | 632,511            |

\* Note 2020-21 outturn was higher due to the after effect of the Covid lockdown period

P1 repairs are generally temporary repairs whilst P2 repairs include both temporary and permanent repairs.

## 2024 FC 151

The number of temporary patching repairs relating solely to P1 repairs are:

| Activity           | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| TEMPORARY REPAIRS  | 462     | 270     | 591     | 213     | 199     |
| ESTIMATED COST (£) | 43,890  | 25,650  | 56,145  | 20,235  | 18,905  |

Where possible the focus for road defect repairs is to undertake planned permanent repairs (P3 and P4 repairs) to allow works to be better planned and coordinated with existing resources. However, given the nature of P1 and P2 repairs and the need to safeguard the network for road users this level of spend has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years.

### Supplementary Question

Why have the costs risen?

### Answer

Costs have barely gone up and most likely due to inflation.

### Question 15 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

With reference to the 'Road Asset Condition Inspections – Policy and Standards' policy approved in October 2019 by the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Committee, which came into force on 1 April 2020, how many Priority 3 road repairs were recorded, and how many repairs were not completed within the 3 month repair target in 2023/2024 financial year?

### Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

2,956 road defects categorised as priority 3 were repaired throughout financial year 2023-24.

Of these, 2,141 (72.42%) were repaired within the target 3 month response time and 815 (27.58%) out-with the target 3 month response time.

### Additional Context for Overall Repairs

#### **2023/24 Versus 2022/23 total repairs**

- **10732 jobs** completed up to 15 March 2024 - **additional 1,458 jobs** from 22/23 year end total (9274) - an increase of **15.7%**
- **67,474 m2** repaired up to 15 March 2024 - **additional 11,065 m2** from 22/23 year end total (56,409m2) - an increase of **19.6% in patching.**

Supplementary Question

Will you commit to clear the backlog in both Ward 7 and across Fife and keep local members updated on progress as and when it happens?

Answer

Yes.

Question 16 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

What action is the Environment Service taking to assist residents in ensuring that their domestic waste bins are not stolen from around their homes?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

It is not within the remit of Environment and Building Services to prevent bins being stolen. Any such theft should be reported to the Community Police and advice sought from the Safer Communities Team as to how residents can protect their property if thefts become a persistent problem in a particular area.

Supplementary Question

Do you agree that bin clamps should be met within the service budget not from the area budget?

Answer

Was not aware that bin clamps had been purchased but will check position with the Service and advise Councillor of outcome.

Question 17 from Councillor David Barratt

The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 gives councils power to introduce Firework Control Zones in which it would be a criminal offence for a member of the public to ignite a firework, including on private property such as a garden.

When will a report be brought to committee to allow the implementation of Firework Control Zones or providing communities advice on how Control Zones can be requested?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

The Community Safety Partnership is to look at this legislative framework with a view to setting out a framework for its application in Fife at its meeting on 12 June 2024. A briefing is being prepared for elected members on the scope of this with a view to a report coming to Cabinet thereafter.

Supplementary Question

We do appear to be behind other local authorities in this, why is that?

Answer

Only aware of Inverclyde having progressed their framework and are sharing best practice with them. We do have a bonfire framework group already in place which will link with the Community Safety Partnership.

Question 18 from Councillor Brian Goodall

How many Fife Council Houses are currently due to have completely new roof replacements and how many of these replacements are more than 5 years overdue, given the normal time schedule for roof replacements?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

There is funding in 2024/25 for 279 roofs - mostly blocks of flats or sheltered complexes and shares of mutual roofs with private owners. However, as a general guide we aim to deliver 279 roofs per annum. The Council's stock database shows that there are 1312 roofs which should be replaced over the next 3-5 years. This does not mean they need to be renewed immediately as the replacement programme is based on a combination of age and condition.

Housing, Finance and Building Services are currently reviewing the Council's HRA Capital Plan. The Senior Officers are looking to enhance the roofing replacement programme over the next 3 years.

Supplementary Question

Does the Administration recognise the link between the Council's approach on roofs and the numbers of cases we see of dampness and mould and the impact that can have on tenants health?

Answer

Yes, we do recognise that. There are a number of contributory factors to damp and mould including roof leaks etc. Our roof programme since 2012 has been responsive but now looking to move to a replacement programme which will be brought forward in the next year.

Question 19 from Councillor Brian Goodall

How many short-term repairs have been carried out on the roofs of Fife Council Houses where full roof replacement is overdue, given the normal time schedule for roof replacements?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

Building Services has advised that the average number of roofs ,where short term repairs are carried out, as described above, is 60 per annum. These then proceed to full replacement in-year.

Supplementary Question

Can we expect there to be an increase to the budget for minor repair to roofs or a increase to capital budget?

Answer

Roof repairs are often needed before a full replacement. Ramping up the roof programme this year.

Question 20 from Councillor David Barratt

What progress has been made towards providing pedestrian access at recycling centres since the budget decision in February 2024?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

Work on establishing a safe and efficient way to provide pedestrian access to recycling centres is still ongoing as resident safety at these sites is paramount.

Supplementary Question

We were advised work would be complete by March 2023. What has changed, why is it taking so long and will a paper come back to committee to scrutinise the operation of this?

Answer

The health and safety assessment at Cupar Recycling Centre highlighted a number of issues which had to be taken into consideration safety of pedestrians at other sites. A paper will come back to either Cabinet or relevant scrutiny committee.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.30 am and reconvened at 12 pm.*

**128. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – LISTS OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICER POWERS**

The council considered a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) which presented revised Lists of Committee and Office Powers for consideration and approval.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised of changes to paragraphs 8.1.10 and 8.1.18 which had been omitted from the List of Officer Powers.

Motion

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Leslie, moved to approve the recommendations in the report.

Amendment 1

Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Adams, moved as follows:-

**Page 44 (13 of 30) – Area Committees Terms of Reference**

Section 7.3.6 insert the following bullet point:-

## 2024 FC 155

- determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

### **Page 48 (17 of 30) – Planning Committees**

Section 9.2 delete the following bullet point:-

- determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

#### Amendment 2

Councillor Beare, seconded by Councillor Glen, moved as follows:-

### **Page 36 (5 of 30) – Membership of Committees- Political Balance**

2.1 Delete “If Council decide that membership will be allocated based on political balance, that calculation will be made as follows:-“

And replace it with:

“The default Council position will be that membership of Committees will be allocated on the basis of political balance (excluding any committee comprising all members of a geographic area) and that calculation will be made as follows:-“

### **Page 54 (23 of 30) Appendix 1 – General Provisions – Committee Membership**

Table containing the Allocation of committee seats on the basis of political balance –

Delete “(made up of 6 spokespersons and 15 ordinary members) + Council Leader.”

Delete in ‘Total’ column “+ Council Leader”

### **Page 56 (25 of 30) Appendix 2 Membership and remits of Sub-Committees**

Cabinet Committee and Sub-Committee (ii)

Delete “9 members” and replace with “8 members”.

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept Amendment 1 and for the purposes of the vote this became the conjoined motion.

#### **Roll Call**

#### **For the Conjoined Motion – 37 votes**

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Graeme Downie, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston,

## 2024 FC 156

Julie MacDougall, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

### **For Amendment 2 – 32 votes**

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

The conjoined motion was accordingly agreed.

### **Decision**

The council:-

- (1) noted the update to Paragraphs 8.1.10 and 8.1.18 of List of Officer Powers and approved the proposed changes to the Lists of Committee and Officer Powers as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report subject to further amendments as follows:-

#### List of Committee Powers

Section 7.3.2 – add 'establishing, agreeing and' at start of sentence.

Section 7.3.6 – add 'determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)'.

Section 9.2 – delete 'determining road and footpath orders under section 207 and 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)'.

Appendix 1 – (5) amend wording to reflect that all members of the Pension Board should be invited to act as Observers.

#### List of Officer Powers

Paragraph 8.1.18 – add (Licensing of Short Term Lets) Order 2022 after Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;

- (2) delegated any consequential and non-substantive changes to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

## **129. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The council considered a report by the Head of Finance which presented a reviewed and revised set of Financial Regulations for consideration and approval.

**Decision**

The council approved the revised Financial Regulations as set out in the Appendix to the report to come into effect on 17 May 2024.

**130. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requiring the council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 10.

**Motion 1**

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Pryde, moved as follows:-

**Employers Pension Fund**

Council:

1. Notes the reduction in employers pension contributions and welcomes the positive impact on finances for employers in the fund.
2. Notes that this was a result of a favourable triennial actuarial valuation with strong investment performance and a reduction in value of future liabilities meaning a modest reduction in employers contributions were possible.

**Decision**

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

**Motion 2**

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Lawson, moved as follows:-

**Reducing the default 30pmh speed limit to 20mph**

Council:

1. notes the potential for a reduction in the default 30mph speed limit to 20mph;
2. notes and commends Fife's record in introducing 20mph limits and zones;
3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should result from local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and
4. asks Transportation Services to act accordingly in taking forward any changes.

**Amendment**

Councillor Glen, seconded by Councillor Barratt, moved as follows:-

Amend point 3 to read:-



## 2024 FC 158

3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should **be informed by safety considerations and/or** local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept the Amendment subject to a minor amendment. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

### Reducing the default 30pmh speed limit to 20mph

Council:

1. notes the potential for a reduction in the default 30mph speed limit to 20mph;
2. notes and commends Fife's record in introducing 20mph limits and zones;
3. considers that any changes in speed limits in Fife should **be informed by safety considerations and** local demand and involve consultation with local members and other interested parties; and
4. asks Transportation Services to act accordingly in taking forward any changes.

### Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

### Motion 3

Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved as follows:-

### Supporting Our Communities from Flooding Across Fife

Council notes:

That the changing climate of Scotland has meant the frequency of severe storms has increased, meaning more and more areas are at high risk of flooding.

Communities like Cupar, Freuchie Mill and Rosyth have already been severely impacted by flooding events such as by Storm Gerritt. These communities have had to evacuate homes and close their businesses with no real timescales of when they can return.

The council is pleased with the current progress that has been done to deliver the property flood resilience grant scheme, initial survey work and what has been committed to in the council budget for 2024, however more needs to be done to support Fife communities.

*The UK Government's Bellwin Scheme can provide local authorities extra funding for emergency situations, such as flooding or storm damage, but despite it being utilised by the Scottish Government 17 times over the last four years, it has only provided local authorities with funding twice.*

## 2024 FC 159

Council believes:

1. More and more communities are at risk of being severely impacted by floods and it is vital that both Fife Council and national governments have strategies in place for when these incidents occur.
2. Fife Council cannot shoulder the financial burden of protecting our communities alone. The Scottish Government must do much more to ensure there is adequate funding in place should it be needed. The Scottish Government must also improve the engagement and communication between organisations such as SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities to improve collaborations in order to take a more proactive approach to flood mitigation.
3. Landowners and farmers can also play a crucial role in flood management, as they are often best placed to understand what is needed to manage the burns, rivers and other waterways on their land.

Council calls for the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government to:

1. conduct an immediate audit of the use of the Bellwin Scheme in Scotland, to ensure it is fit for purpose.
2. ensure the availability of additional grants and other forms of funding, which would be payable directly to homeowners and business owners in weather events beyond those classified as Amber by the Met Office.

Council calls for:

1. Officers to conduct a review to identify whether the current resource is sufficient for regular drain and gully clearing and will report back on the results to cabinet.
2. A continuation of its work to ensure all of its maps are up to date on all gullies and drains. This is likely to require further survey work to identify potential areas not currently being managed or maintained, this report will need to come back to cabinet committee.
3. A report on the consideration for roles related to flooding, specifically introducing a dedicated flood manager and a separate harbour & coastline manager. This report should be reported back to cabinet committee.

### Amendment 1

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Wincott, moved as follows:-

Delete final "Council calls for:" and final 3 numbered paragraphs and replace with:

Council requests:

Officers to prepare a report for consideration by the Cabinet Committee on addressing flooding across Fife including consideration of the resourcing, mapping and effectiveness of drain and gully clearing, and overall staffing.

Amendment 2

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved as follows:-

After “ as amber by the Met Office”, add

Council also calls for the Council Leader to write to the Westminster Government demanding increased funding for revenue and Capital investment to develop sustainable financial strategies, for all areas including flooding, particularly as it has been highlighted by Alyson Stafford, director-general of the Scottish Exchequer, at Holyrood’s Public Audit Committee, that Scotland will receive no capital consequential as a result of the recent budget while total funding will fall 8.7% in real terms by 26/27.

*The meeting adjourned at 1.35 pm and reconvened at 1.45 pm.*

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to conjoin with both amendments. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

Supporting Our Communities from Flooding Across Fife

Council notes:

That the changing climate of Scotland has meant the frequency of severe storms has increased, meaning more and more areas are at high risk of flooding.

Communities like Cupar, Freuchie Mill and Rosyth have already been severely impacted by flooding events such as by Storm Gerritt. These communities have had to evacuate homes and close their businesses with no real timescales of when they can return.

The council is pleased with the current progress that has been done to deliver the property flood resilience grant scheme, initial survey work and what has been committed to in the council budget for 2024, however more needs to be done to support Fife communities.

*The UK Government’s Bellwin Scheme can provide local authorities extra funding for emergency situations, such as flooding or storm damage, but despite it being utilised by the Scottish Government 17 times over the last four years, it has only provided local authorities with funding twice.*

Council believes:

1. More and more communities are at risk of being severely impacted by floods and it is vital that both Fife Council and national governments have strategies in place for when these incidents occur.
2. Fife Council cannot shoulder the financial burden of protecting our communities alone. The Scottish Government must do much more to ensure there is adequate funding in place should it be needed. The Scottish Government must also improve the engagement and communication between organisations such as SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities to improve collaborations in order to take a more proactive approach to flood mitigation.

## 2024 FC 161

3. Landowners and farmers can also play a crucial role in flood management, as they are often best placed to understand what is needed to manage the burns, rivers and other waterways on their land.

Council calls for the Council leader to write to the Scottish Government to:

1. conduct an immediate audit of the use of the Bellwin Scheme in Scotland, to ensure it is fit for purpose;
2. ensure the availability of additional grants and other forms of funding, which would be payable directly to homeowners and business owners in weather events beyond those classified as Amber by the Met Office.

Council:

1. requests officers to prepare a report for consideration by the Cabinet Committee on addressing flooding across Fife including consideration of the resourcing, mapping and effectiveness of drain and gully clearing, and overall staffing; and
2. agrees that the Council Leader write to the UK Government demanding increased funding for revenue and Capital investment to develop sustainable financial strategies, for all areas including flooding.

### **Decision**

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

### **Motion 4**

Councillor Bain-Lockhart, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved as follows:-

#### **Impending Malnutrition and Famine in Gaza**

“Before this crisis, there was enough food in Gaza to feed the population. Malnutrition was a rare occurrence. Now, people are dying, and many more are sick. Over a million people are expected to face catastrophic hunger unless significantly more food is allowed to enter Gaza.” - WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus 03/2024.

“One in three children under two years old in the Northern Gaza Strip suffer from acute malnutrition, a sharp increase from 15.6 per cent in January, a nutrition screening conducted by UNICEF and its partners showed.” – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 21/03/2024.

Council notes:

1. That Gaza is facing a humanitarian crisis leading to the population facing hunger, malnutrition, and disease.
2. That aid agency data indicates that children have died in Gaza due to malnutrition and dehydration.

Council therefore requests that the Council Leader writes to the Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister and COSLA President to state that Fife Council:

## 2024 FC 162

1. Supports the UN Security Council Resolution 2728 ('Demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan', supported by HM Government) of 25/03/2024 – but recognises that the timeframe for that is now past and therefore, urges HM Government and all political parties to add their voice to call for an immediate sustainable bilateral ceasefire.
2. Is concerned about reports of impending malnutrition and famine in Gaza and calls on HM Government to add its weight to growing international calls that the unhindered provision of sufficient humanitarian aid to prevent famine and disease must be expedited.
3. Allowing civilians to starve is morally wrong and we can no longer remain silent as the people of Gaza starve.

With the agreement of the Provost a representative from each political group spoke in support of the motion.

### **Decision**

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

### **131. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

It was noted that there was no business brought forward under this item.

## **Fife Council**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **Leader's Report**

#### **1. Pay**

Industrial action by the Scottish Joint Committee (SJC) Trade Unions was suspended following a revised pay offer being made by COSLA in August with additional funding from Scottish Government.

The Trade Unions balloted their members on this offer which was accepted by GMB and Unite but rejected by Unison. As Unison have a majority of the Trade Union side members, the offer cannot be agreed overall.

Equivalent offers have now been made to the Craft and Chief Officer bargaining groups and to the SNCT teaching unions, although the latter is based on a different time period. The EIS have recommended acceptance of this offer.

#### **2. Tarvit Mill**

I was made aware of serious concerns about delays to the redevelopment of the Tarvit Mill Gypsy Traveller Site and visited the site in June to hear from residents who are currently decanted from the site.

The Head of Housing and Head of Property have now been directly involved, a revised timescale for the redevelopment has been set and remedial works to the decant site are being carried out. The Spokesperson is meeting regularly with the residents and I am receiving regular progress reports on the redevelopment.

#### **3. Dalgety Bay Recycling Centre**

Following health and safety concerns Cireco, the Council's arms-length waste organisation, instituted a booking system for access to the Dalgety Bay Recycling Centre. Concerns were raised about this decision and about communication of this to Elected Members and the local community.

In subsequent discussions a working group, including local Elected Members has been set up to consider other mitigations with a view to open access to the site being restored.

#### **4. Forth Green Freeport**

The Forth Green Freeport Delivery Update and Proposed Rates Relief Policy will be considered by the Cabinet committee at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September. The policy sets out the criteria for eligibility for relief within the Green Freeport Area.

Elected Members visited the Rosyth Cruise Ship Terminal for a presentation on the Green Freeport by Forth Ports in July.

## **5. Housing Emergency Summit**

As part of the Council's on-going work to address the Housing Emergency a summit was held at the end of May with a wide range of stakeholders to consider what more can be done and how organisations can work together to address the emergency. An Elected Member Briefing is under preparation on action so far.

## **6. Best Value Audit – Workforce Strategy**

This year's Thematic Best Value Audit was focussed on Workforce Strategy and Planning. It is very reassuring that the auditor's report contains only one recommendation for improvement relating to the timeline of monitoring reports.

The annual report on Workforce Strategy, Planning and Employee Engagement will be considered by the Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

## **7. Levenmouth Rail Link**

I was very pleased to speak at the official opening of the Levenmouth Rail Link at the end of May along with the First Minister John Swinney and was able to pay well earned credit to the efforts of the Levenmouth Rail Campaign over many years, without which I am sure the line would not have been re-opened.

## **8. Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal**

The schools project on the 'Internet of Things' being run in conjunction with Edinburgh University is being expanded to include school clusters in Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy. This project gives pupils access to sensor monitoring data and an introduction to the use of data as part of the Deal's focus on data driven information.

The Deal Annual Report 2023/24 is now available online on the Deal website.

## **9. Lynburn Primary School**

I visited Lynburn Primary School before the end of the school term as one of the first schools in Fife to be involved in the City Deal 'Internet of Things' project. Pupils are using the data available to them to measure things like temperature and humidity in their classrooms and link this to learning.

Lynburn was also a finalist in last year's COSLA Awards for its Family Wellbeing approach and I was able to discuss the resources they have developed and how they have been used with staff.

## **10. New Secondary Schools and Lochgelly South PS**

Significant progress is being made with our programme to renew Fife's school estate.

The sod cutting for the development of the new South West Fife Secondary School in Rosyth took place on 25<sup>th</sup> June involving young people who will benefit from the new school, and the development is going on apace.

The official handover of keys at the Dunfermline Learning Campus took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July and the two new schools on the Campus were opened to pupils at the start of the new academic year.

Lochgelly South PS pupils are now back in their own school following the major grouting work that required them to move to St Kenneth's PS for a year and are also benefiting from a new nursery facility.

### **11. Visits from Scottish Government Ministers**

I met with a number of Scottish Government Ministers over the summer as they visited Fife.

First Minister John Swinney MSP visited Capshard Primary School to view the new nursery extension and to see the breakfast club and other activities being run by the school.

Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Public Finance, visited the Council's Planning Service following its Planning Innovation Award, to hear about its operation and its successful staff training and development approach.

The Spokesperson, Area Chair and myself met with Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Employment and Investment, in Dunfermline as part of his programme of meetings with Leaders of Scotland's eight cities through the Scottish Cities Alliance.

We also hosted an informal visit from the Marshall Piotr Calbecki of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region in Poland with which Fife signed an economic co-operation agreement last year.

### **12. Scottish Building Standards Hub**

I attended the launch of the Scottish Building Standards Hub in August, along with Paul McLennan MSP the Housing Minister. The Hub is a resource for all councils across Scotland to support and improve Building Standards and is being hosted by Fife Council.

### **13. Keeping Your Cool In School**

I was happy to provide a welcome and introduction to the relaunch event for the Keeping Your Cool in School resources project. Keeping your Cool in School is designed as a resource to help children develop and maintain positive relationships, become more confident in tackling challenging situations and give them a better understanding of their responsibilities.

The resource has been developed by Fife's Education Staff in collaboration with Digital Bricks Learning and Education Scotland, and with the help a number of our schools. I would like to reiterate my congratulations to our staff who have taken the lead in this project that will now be available across the whole of Scotland.



#### **14. The Wells**

The Wells are local drop in health and wellbeing hubs run by the Health and Social Care Partnership offering advice and support in locations across Fife. I visited the Well in St Brycedale's, Kirkcaldy, meeting with staff and hearing about the benefits of this service. The Wells are being closely aligned with the Council's No Wrong Door approach.

#### **15. Community Food Providers**

I was pleased to speak at a workshop for community food providers held in June. This allowed networking and gave an understanding of the issues faced by a range of community food providers, as well as giving the opportunity to present aspects of the Food4Fife Strategy.

#### **16. Fife Young Carers**

I attended an event organised by Fife Young Carers in June titled Putting Young Carers on the Map showcasing the activities of the organisation. The presentations by young carers themselves were very powerful in highlighting the many challenges faced by this group of young people.

#### **17. Kingdom Community Bank**

I attended an event in June to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kingdom Community Bank that developed from Kingdom Credit Union. This development into a Community Bank has allowed the organisation to offer a wider range of services assisting members with savings and loans in their local communities and helping tackle the problems of debt and illegal money lending.

#### **18. Armed Forces Day**

I was pleased to be able to attend the annual Armed Forces Day service and celebration on 25<sup>th</sup> June which was held in Methil this year.

#### **19. Fife Business Awards**

I attended the Fife Business Awards in August hosted by the Fife Chamber of Commerce, showcasing many of the innovative and successful businesses across Fife. I was pleased that the Council's Building Services were successful in winning an award.

I was able to meet a number of the finalists on the night and subsequently visited two of the winners, Peeltech and MPH Ltd to see their business operations first hand.

## **20. Apprentice of the Year Awards**

I was delighted to attend the annual Apprentice of the Year Awards organised by Building Services but now expanded to include awards for apprentices in Housing, Grounds Maintenance and Fleet Services. The Council's continued approach to supporting its apprentice programmes is something to be proud of.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners and in particular to the Apprentice of the Year, Sean Cumming.

## **21. Executive Director/Chief Officer Appointments**

I would like to welcome Donnie McLeod who has now taken up the post of Executive Director of Education and congratulate Lynne Garvey who has been appointed as the new Chief Officer for the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.

**Councillor David Ross**  
**Leader of Fife Council**  
**Fife House,**  
**North Street,**  
**Glenrothes**  
**11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Fife Council**  
**19 September 2024**

**Item 7 - Question Time**

**Question 1 from Councillor Jonny Tepp**

Parking in front of dropped kerbs is a real concern in many parts of my own constituency and probably across Fife. What steps can this administration take to improve the situation for those who need to make use of dropped kerbs?

**Question 2 from Councillor Jonny Tepp**

There is a lining works backlog that has been building over the last two years due to increasing downtime of a deteriorating vehicle (we are told). Re-lining works on the Cupar Road, Newport where Newport PS is located were not completed by the start of new school year as promised earlier in the calendar year. How big is the backlog? When will it be caught up? What areas are affected?

**Question 3 from Councillor James Calder**

What engagement has taken place with families regarding free bus travel to the new St Columba's and Woodmill High Schools?

**Question 4 from Councillor Margaret Kennedy**

Fife Council has made various efforts over the years to address support for those recognised as hard of hearing. It is however recognised that this work is not simply ensuring that we have a loop system. There are a wide range of people for whom a loop system or indeed BSL/sign language would not be suitable and they feel excluded from many public events in our buildings.

Cupar Hard of Hearing Group have expressed concern that our facilities are limited in their ability to enable people living with hearing challenges to feel fully included.

What provision is currently in our buildings and do they meet current standards to optimise inclusivity?

**Question 5 from Councillor Jane Ann Liston**

How many free lets and irregular tenancies are there in FC owned and managed public buildings, and what oversight is there to manage risks of fire, flood etc?

**Question 6 from Councillor Brian Goodall**

When did the Housing and Building Services Spokesperson become aware of the almost £30 million underspend in the Fife Affordable Housing Programme for the year 2023-24?

### **Question 7 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse**

What is the current average cost (excluding any Scottish Government subsidy) of constructing a new build Council House, and what is the current average cost (excluding any Scottish Government subsidy) of buying a house from the open market to become a Council House?

### **Question 8 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse**

What is the average completion time from a decision to build Council houses to them being occupied and what is the average time taken to purchase a suitable house from the open market to become a Council house from a decision to occupancy?

### **Question 9 from Councillor Nicola Partick**

What is the current assessment period for assessing a Fife Housing Register Application?

### **Question 10 from Councillor Nicola Partick**

How many people are currently waiting for over four weeks for a Housing Functional Needs Assessment?

### **Question 11 from Councillor Nicola Partick**

What is the current longest time anyone has been waiting for a Housing Functional Needs Assessment?

### **Question 12 from Councillor Nicola Partick**

How many different lists are there for those awaiting Housing Functional Needs Assessments?

### **Question 13 from Councillor Sam Steele**

Why were Transfer Housing Options Interviews in some parts of Fife recently suspended?

### **Question 14 from Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby**

How many stairlifts have been installed by Fife Council, in each Area Committee, in each of the last three years (including where the resident has paid a portion of the costs) following an Occupational Therapy assessment?

### **Question 15 from Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby**

What is the current waiting time, in each Area Committee, for a stairlift installation from the time an OT assessment confirms it is required?

### **Question 16 from Councillor Ken Caldwell**

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry created to examine the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower on the night of 14 June 2017, published its Phase 2 report on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, what arrangements are in place to advise Committee/s of the Council about the Council's assessment of the report and any implications there may be for Fife Council?

### **Question 17 from Councillor Sarah Neal**

What assessment has the Education Service and its school management teams taken in relation to the 'Mobile phone guidance for Scotland's schools' published by the Scottish Government on 15 August 2024?

### **Question 18 from Councillor David Alexander**

The Chancellor of the Exchequer advised, in relation to cuts in Pension Credit, in the House of Commons in Westminster on September 3<sup>rd</sup> *"All local authorities, have been written to about how they can play their part in identifying those pensioners who are entitled to pension credit but are not getting it. The Department for Work and Pensions will also bring together the administration of pension credit and housing benefit, so that pensioner households receiving housing benefit will also receive any pension credit they are entitled to"* What correspondence has the Council received from the Treasury and what steps are the Council taking in relation to the letter received?

### **Question 19 from Councillor John Beare**

The Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee was made aware at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> August that 'Soft Working Groups' existed within the Council which included elected members, how many of these 'soft working groups' with elected member involvement which are in existence or have existed since May of 2022?

### **Question 20 from Councillor John Beare**

The Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee was made aware at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> August that 'Soft Working Groups' existed within the Council which included elected members, what is or has been the remit of each of these 'soft working groups' with elected member involvement which are in existence or have existed since May of 2022?

### **Question 21 from Councillor John Beare**

The Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee was made aware at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> August that 'Soft Working Groups' existed within the Council which included elected members, what members are or have been on each of these 'soft working groups' since May of 2022?

### **Question 22 from Councillor John Beare**

The Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee was made aware at its meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> August that 'Soft Working Groups' existed within the Council and included elected members,

what governance and transparency arrangements are in or have been in place for each of these 'soft working groups' since May of 2022?

**Question 23 from Councillor John Beare**

Since the meeting of the Cabinet Committee of 15th August concerning the Bereavement Services Cemetery Strategy what progress has been made with the Development Plan Team to advance the proposal from the Glenrothes Area Committee in relation to making provision for a cemetery in Glenrothes?

**Question 24 from Councillor David Barratt**

It was confirmed via a members briefing in May that there remain significant staff shortages in the Flooding, Shoreline & Harbours Service. What is the current status of unfilled posts in this Service, and what steps have been taken to address this since May?

**Question 25 from Councillor David Barratt**

It is understood that significant delays in the Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration project were in part down to staff shortages in Roads and Transportation Service and the delayed production of tender drawings. What is the current status of unfilled posts in this Service and what steps have been taken to address this?

**Question 26 from Councillor David Barratt**

What projects (with a budget of over £500k) are awaiting design or tender documentation to be complete within Roads and Transportation or Property Services and when were each of these projects forwarded to the Service to be actioned?

**Question 27 from Councillor David Barratt**

How many designs for projects have Roads and Transportation or Property Services contracted out to professional design organisations/companies since May 2022?

**Question 28 from Councillor Daniel Wilson**

Can the Transport spokesperson provide an update to the discussions that have been ongoing between the Council and Network Rail relating to the provision of a safe rail crossing at Double Dykes, Thornton?

**Question 29 from Councillor Dave Dempsey**

What steps can be taken to reduce the long delays between reporting vegetation encroaching onto adopted pavements and footpaths and action being taken to cut it back?

**Question 30 from Councillor Robin Lawson**

How much money has Fife Council budgeted for spend on Active Travel projects in 2024/25? How much of this spend comes from external sources such as Transport Scotland, Sustrans and other bodies, and how much comes from within Fife Council's own resources?

**Question 31 from Councillor Rosemary Liewald**

How many structural/underfloor surveys and investigative works have been carried out on Fife Council properties within the village of Cardenden since the flooding event of August 2020

19 September 2024

Agenda Item No. 8

---

## **Fife Council Appointments - Leader of the Opposition and Spokesperson For Health and Social Care**

---

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services

---

Wards Affected: All

---

### **Purpose**

---

The purpose of this report is to appoint an elected member to each of the following positions:-

- Leader of the Opposition; and
- Spokesperson for Health and Social Care (to act as Council's representative on the Board of NHS Fife, to act as Chair/Vice-Chair of the Integrated Joint Board, to represent Fife Council on COSLA Board (Health and Social Care) and the Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership).

### **Recommendation(s)**

---

The Council is asked to:-

- note the resignation of Councillor David Alexander as Leader of the Opposition and appoint a replacement; and
- note the resignation of Councillor Graeme Downie as Spokesperson for Health and Social Care (to act as Council's representative on the Board of NHS Fife, to act as Chair/Vice-Chair of the Integrated Joint Board, to represent Fife Council on COSLA Board (Health and Social Care) and the Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership) and appoint a replacement.

### **Resource Implications**

---

There are no direct resources implications arising from this report as these appointments already carry a Special Responsibility Allowance.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

---

There are no legal or risk implications arising from this report.

### **Impact Assessment**

---

An EqIA is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

### **Consultation**

---

No consultation has been required



## Consultation

---

No consultation has been undertaken.

## 1.0 Background

---

### Leader of the Opposition

- 1.1 The council, at its meeting on 19 May 2022, appointed Councillor David Alexander as the Leader of the Opposition.
- 1.2 Councillor David Alexander has advised his intention to resign as the Leader of the Opposition.
- 1.3 The council is asked to appoint an elected member to this position.

### Spokesperson for Health and Social Care

- 1.4 The council, at its meeting on 29 September 2023, appointed Councillor Graeme Downie as the Spokesperson for Health and Social Care (including its linked appointments).
- 1.5 Councillor Graeme Downie has resigned as an elected member of Fife Council and consequentially as the Spokesperson for Health and Social Care which includes the linked appointments to act as Council's representative on the Board of NHS Fife, to act as Chair/Vice-Chair of the Integrated Joint Board, to represent Fife Council on COSLA Board (Health and Social Care) and the Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
- 1.6 The council is asked to appoint an elected member to this position.

## List of Appendices

---

None

### Background papers

None

### Report contact

Lindsay Thomson  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Fife Council

[lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk)

19 September 2024

Agenda Item No. 9

---

## External Organisation Appointment - The Regional Transport Partnership For South East Of Scotland (SEStran)

---

Report by: Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services

---

Wards Affected: All

---

### Purpose

---

The purpose of this report is to appoint elected members to the Regional Transport Partnership for the South East of Scotland (SEStran) (2 elected members).

### Recommendation(s)

---

It is recommended the Council nominates the required number of elected members to the places allocated to Fife Council for SEStran.

### Resource Implications

---

There are no direct resources implications arising from this report.

### Legal & Risk Implications

---

The requirement for nominations and number of councillors to be nominated is set out in the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order.

### Impact Assessment

---

An Impact Assessment is not required because this report requests the Council to take decisions required by statute which have no effect on equalities issues.

### Consultation

---

No consultation has been required

### Conclusion

---

By adopting the recommendation the Council will comply with its statutory obligations under the Order.

## **1.0 Background**

---

### **Regional Transport Partnership for the South East of Scotland (SEStran)**

- 1.1 The council, at its meeting on 19 May 2022, appointed Councillors Colin Davidson, Derek Glen and Robin Lawson plus three substitute members to SEStran.
- 1.2 Councillors Colin Davidson and Robin Lawson have advised they intend to, or have done so already, resign as the council appointed members on this external organisation.
- 1.3 Two elected members are required to be appointment to fulfil the Council's statutory obligations under the Order.

### **List of Appendices**

None

### **Background papers**

None

### **Report contact**

Lindsay Thomson  
Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
Fife Council

[lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk)

19 September 2024  
Agenda Item No. 10

---

## **Notice of Motions**

---

Report by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

---

Wards Affected: All

---

### **Purpose**

---

In terms of Standing Order No. 10, the attached notice of motions have been submitted.

### **Recommendation(s)**

---

Council is asked to consider the motions.

### **Resource Implications**

---

Not applicable.

### **Legal & Risk Implications**

---

Not applicable.

### **Impact Assessment**

---

Not applicable.

### **Consultation**

---

Not applicable.

Lindsay Thomson  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

Tel. 03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442180  
[Email: lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk)

## **Motion 1**

“Council notes the August 2024 report of the Scottish Fiscal Commission says that since their December 2023 publication the pressure on the Scottish Government’s finances has increased.

The report also states that:

Decisions by the Scottish Government have played a role in these budget pressures. As well as previous public sector pay deals in Scotland being higher than in the rest of the UK, other policy commitments made by the Scottish Government such as the council tax freeze in 2024-25.

Council notes with extreme concern the announcement by the Scottish Government about forthcoming cuts to local services. This includes suspending funding for Scotland’s digital devices programme, flood defences and free school meals.

Council believes this will likely have an enormously detrimental impact to communities in Fife.

Fife Council resolves to declare no confidence in the Scottish Government’s management of Scotland’s finances.”

Proposed by Councillor Allan Knox

Seconded by Councillor James Calder

## **Motion 2**

“Council notes with regret the recent statements, by the Westminster Prime Minister on August 27<sup>th</sup> “There is a budget coming in October and it’s going to be painful.”, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer who on July 29<sup>th</sup> advised that “difficult decisions” to find £5.5 billion of savings this year and £8.1 billion next year, will be taken, which demonstrate that after 14 years ‘austerity’ will not end.

Council also notes that on May 19<sup>th</sup> Wes Streeting (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care) stated “All roads do lead back to Westminster because even though this (Health) is devolved, decisions taken in Westminster have an impact on the NHS across the Whole Country”.

Council notes that on September 3<sup>rd</sup> the Scottish Government has had to make £500 million in savings to ease “enormous and growing pressure on the public finances”.

Council notes that according to the Wales Governance Centre at Cardiff University, the Welsh government is facing "serious budgetary challenges" in the region of £683 million, or face cuts to non-protected areas.

Council also notes that ‘two child benefit cap’ which impacts some 2,100 families in Fife is to remain, That some 65,871 pensioners in Fife and 1 million households across Scotland will lose their Winter Fuel Payments, that the energy price cap will be increased by 10% in October impacting almost every household in Fife.

Given the above, Council seeks a report by the Executive Director for Finance and Corporate Services to be presented to the Cabinet Committee or the full Council by the end of the year as to what measures Fife Council can continue to take or may seek to take, to address the impact of continuing ‘austerity’.”

Proposed by Councillor Craig Walker

Seconded by Councillor John Beare