

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
BLENDED MEETING**

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

14 November 2024

10.00 am – 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Gary Holt (Convener), Blair Allan, Lesley Backhouse, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Altany Craik, Peter Gulline, Gary Holt, Donald Lothian, Lynn Mowatt, Lynn Ballantyne -Wardlaw (substituting for Cllr Bailey-Lee Robb), Sam Steele, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Darren Watt and Patrick Browne, (Substituting for Cllr Jan Wincott).

ATTENDING: Michael Enston, Executive Director – Communities, Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Gill Musk, Policy Officer, Community Investment, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Jeremy Harris, Chief Executive Officer, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust; John Mills, Head of Housing Services; James Ross, Head of Children & Families & Criminal Justice Services; Fiona McKay, Head of Strategic Planning Performance & Commissioning Manager, Health and Social Care Partnership; Helen Guthrie, Accountant, Lesley Kenworthy, Finance Business Partner and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: David Redpath, Chief Executive and Sarah Somerville, Business Development Manager, Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF).

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

147. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee of 26 September 2024.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

148. FIFE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presenting the annual performance report for Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) for 2023/24.

Decision

The committee noted: -

- (1) the contents of the report;

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- (2) the progress made by the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust for 2023/24; and
- (3) the effective delivery of Fife Council priorities through Fife Coast and Countryside Trust activity.

149. COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presenting an overview of the service. The report outlined the service planning, change and improvement work undertaken in 2023/24 and provided an assessment of the performance to inform scrutiny of future service planning.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) considered and acknowledged the remodeled annual service review report format;
- (2) reviewed the progress and performance of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Service for 2023/24 and the activity undertaken in 2024/25 to date; and
- (3) noted the service planning objectives for 2024/25 and the three- year direction of travel.

150. CITIZENS ADVICE & RIGHTS FIFE – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/2024

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods providing information on the performance of Citizens Advice and Rights (CARF) during 2023/24.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) considered and noted the content of the report;
- (2) considered the pro-active steps taken by CARF to meet the needs of demand; and
- (3) noted CARF's role in income maximisation activity across Fife, particularly in coordinating benefit campaigns and organisational capacity building.

The meeting adjourned at 11.55am and reconvened at 12:40pm

151. CHIEF SOCIAL WORK ANNUAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice Services presenting the Chief Social Work Officer report for the period 2023/24.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed that an information session would be arranged with elected members to discuss the services offered by the Social Work and Criminal Justice Services.

152. 2024-25 REVENUE MONITORING PROJECTED OUTTURN – COMMUNITIES SERVICE

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Executive Director, Communities providing an update on the projected outturn financial position for the 2024-25 financial year for the Communities Directorate and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which are areas in scope of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

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

153. 2024-25 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN – COMMUNITIES

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Executive Director, Communities providing an update on the Capital Investment Plan and advised on the projected financial position for the 2024-25 financial year.

Decision

The committee noted the current performance and activity for the 2024-25 Capital Monitoring as detailed in the report.

154. 2024-25 REVENUE BUDGET PROJECTED OUT-TURN – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The committee considered a report by the Interim Director, Health and Social Care Partnership and Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing an update on the 2024-25 projected out-turn as at August 2024 and the movement from June 2024 for the Fife Council Social Care Services for Adults and Older people.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the current financial performance and activity as detailed in the report; and
- (2) agreed that an information session would be arranged with officers from the Health and Social Care Partnership to discuss the Health and Social Care recovery plan and the revenue budget.

155. 2024-25 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECTED OUTTURN – HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services and Interim Director, Health and Social Care Partnership providing an update on the Health and Social Care Capital Investment Plan and advised on the projected out-turn for the 2024-25 financial year for the areas in scope of the Peoples and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee noted the current performance and activity across the 2024-25 Financial Monitoring as detailed in the report.

156. PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, asking members to consider the future workplan for the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) noted the future workplan of the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) agreed that Housing Services would submit a report on 1st Endeavor LLP and affordable housing to the next meeting of this committee on 16 January 2025; and
- (3) agreed that the call in decision from the cabinet committee of 7 November 2024 relating to the South West Fife community use facilities would be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of this committee on 16 January 2025.