

THE FIFE COUNCIL - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes.

6 September 2023

2.00 pm – 5.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alex Campbell (Convener), Alistair Bain, Linda Erskine, Rosemary Liewald, Mary Lockhart, Lea Mclelland, Bailey-Lee Robb and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Anne-Marie Vance, Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area), Scott Blyth, Project Manager, Community Development, Izzy Scott-Trim, Community Development Team Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) and Sarah Johnston, Access Officer, Countryside Development, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Paul Hocking, Co-ordinator - Asset Management and Programme Development, Roads and Transportation Services; David Thomson, Customer Experience Lead Officer, Customer and Online Services; Zoe Thomson, Quality Improvement Officer and Shona Gorman, Headteacher, St Ninians RC Primary School, Education and Children's Services; Helena Couperwhite, Manager - Committee Services and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

72. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the meeting of the Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 6 September 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute;

Arising from the minute:-

- (1) in reference to para. 63 (3) - noted that members had not received a list of scatter homes in Ward location within the Cowdenbeath area and Housing officers were requested to provide this to members;
- (2) in regard to para. 56(3) - noted that a briefing note had been issued to committee members from the Lead Officer on anti social behaviour within the Cowdenbeath area and that it would therefore not be necessary to submit a further report to a future committee meeting; and

2023 CAC 40

- (3) in regard to para. 56(4) – update from Councillor Erskine regarding a report on the condition of Lochgelly Town Hall and outcome of the Rockgelly event – noted that the Convener had requested submission of the report to the next meeting of the committee on 1 November 2023.

73. SINGLE AMENDMENT TO THE CORE PATH PLAN CARDENDEN

Following approval from the Convener, it was agreed that the report on Core Path Cardenden would be withdrawn from the agenda as further discussion was required with the landowner, prior to a report being submitted to a future meeting for consideration by the committee.

74. COMPLAINTS

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities providing an overview of complaints received relating to the Cowdenbeath area for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the complaints received, complaints responded to in target timescales and the proportionality of Service complaints; and
- (2) requested the attendance of a service representative at future meetings of the committee where council services had been identified as having higher levels of complaints.

75. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2022/23 - FINAL REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Roads and Transportation Services advising on the delivery of the 2022-23 Area Roads Programme (ARP).

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the 2022-23 Area Roads Programme and the Appendices to the report;
- (2) requested the attendance of an officer from the Traffic Management, Roads and Transportation Service at future committee meetings to answer any technical questions arising from the works scheduled on the Area Roads Programme.

76. PUPIL EQUITY FUND REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services outlining the progress of the Pupil Equity Fund, updating on the work of schools in the areas to address the challenge of Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap. Included within the report was an overview of the rationale, implementation and impact, to date, of the Pupil Equity Fund within schools across the Cowdenbeath committee area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the progress made by schools in the Cowdenbeath area in the use of Pupil Equity Fund to positively impact on the educational outcomes of children and young people;
- (2) noted the work of schools in developing approaches to reducing the Cost of the School Day;
- (3) acknowledged that members were encouraged to link directly with individual schools for further information on the impact of Pupil Equity Funding on children's outcomes; and
- (4) noted that a workshop would be convened for committee members to liaise with school leaders about attainment in schools in the area including the impact of PEF on reducing the poverty related attainment gap.

The Committee adjourned at 3.50 pm and reconvened at 4.00 pm.

**77. COWDENBEATH AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN 4
COWDENBEATH AREA 2023 - 2026**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking agreement for the priorities in the revised Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) approved the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath Area 2023-2026;
- (2) requested a concluding report from officers on the previous Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-2022, detailing the progress made and any outstanding work, and reasons for this, be submitted to a future meeting of the committee;
- (3) as a result of recommendation (2), under Area Committee Powers 7.2.3, extended an invitation to the previous Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) to attend a future meeting of Cowdenbeath Area committee to speak to the concluding report of the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2019-2022;
- (4) requested a report by the current Community Manager (Cowdenbeath Area) on the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026 Action Plan, once this had been agreed by the Cowdenbeath Area Partnership Group. The report would be submitted to Cowdenbeath Area committee no later than the end of the financial year, 31 March, 2024; and
- (5) requested a standing item on each Cowdenbeath Area Committee Agenda updating on progress towards the Plan 4 Cowdenbeath 2023-2026, which would be a mix of verbal and written format, with one full annual written report each year. This would allow for progress to be tracked and to hold elected members, officers, services and partners to account for delivery.

78. AREA BUDGET AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods updating on Area Budgets, seeking agreement for budget allocation to a number of projects and updating on existing projects within the area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the following amendments to the report - at para.2.1, Ward 8 Total Budget 2023/24 - £78,132.51; at para 3.1 Cowdenbeath Shoe Box Budget Spend 2022/23 - £26,040.00 and Budget allocated in 2023/24 - £17,720.00 and at Appendix 1 to the report, project reference S30014 - CLD additional resource contribution was approved in March 2023;
- (2) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area budgets 2023/2024 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (3) noted spend on the Cowdenbeath Area's Community Recovery Fund budget, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (4) noted the progress on projects agreed at the December 2022 Cowdenbeath Area committee, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report; and
- (5) agreed to allocate funding to support the following projects in 2023/24:-
 - (a) £29,000 funding for staff resource, van and waste collections to support community food providers from the anti-poverty budget (see para 4.1 of the report);
 - (b) £15,000 funding for continued support for Café Inc from the anti-poverty budget (see para 4.2 of the report);
 - (c) £10,250 funding for Christmas Trees (£7,000 from the Ward 7 budget and £3,250 from the Ward 8 budget) (see para 4.3 of the report); and
 - (d) £14,000 funding for events throughout the Cowdenbeath Area (£8,000 from the Ward 7 budget and £6,000 from the Ward 8 budget) (see para 4.3 of the report).

79. COWDENBEATH AREA STAFFING RESOURCE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating members on the Cowdenbeath area staffing resource. Several new staff had been appointed to the area and recruitment was nearly complete to a full establishment position which would provide the staffing resource required to deliver on projects underway within the area.

Decision

The committee noted the work and progress of recruitment within the area to provide the team with a full establishment position.

80. COWDENBEATH AREA YOUTH WORK UPDATE

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service updating on youth work activity taking place across the Cowdenbeath area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed that future youth work updates would be issued to committee members annually, in the form of internal briefing notes.

81. COWDENBEATH AREA FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services providing the workplan for future meetings of the committee.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the forward work programme for the Cowdenbeath Area committee;
- (2) arising from the minute of the committee meeting on 1 February 2023, agreed a report on a draft Development Plan would be included on the work programme to be submitted to the committee for consideration by the end of 2023;
- (3) agreed to withdraw the report on Area Housing Plan 2023-26 detailed on the work programme to be submitted to the meeting on 12 June 2024 and requested the report would be submitted instead, to the meeting on 17 April 2024 for consideration by the committee - the work programme would be updated accordingly;
- (4) agreed the report scheduled for submission to the committee meeting on 20 December 2023 on Community Learning and Development Annual Report and Funding would include plans for Easter, Summer and October 2024 youth work programmes; and
- (5) agreed two additional reports would be included on the forward work programme for consideration by the committee on Community Wealth Building across Cowdenbeath area and Cowdenbeath High Street, focusing on the decline, employability and services provided by BRAG Enterprise Ltd.