

THE FIFE COUNCIL - LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE – BLENDED MEETING

Committee Room 2, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

24 January, 2024

9.30 am – 12 noon

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

ATTENDING: Peter Corbett, Lead Officer - Economy, Business and Employability Services; Lesley Kenworthy, Finance Business Partner, Financial Services; Peter Nicol, Housing Manager, Housing Services; David Paterson, Community Manager (Area), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Kerry Elliott, Committee Officer, and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Alex Crovetti, CEO, Crovetti Associates; Audrey Irvine, Fife Heritage Railway, Duncan Mitchell, Chief Executive, FEAT and Inspector Matthew Spencer, Police Scotland.

Prior to the start of business, the Convener intimated the intention to vary the sequence of items from that on the agenda to take item 7 (para 112), item 5 (para 113), item 8 (para 114), item 6 (para 115) and item 9 (para 116) consecutively.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Decision

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

110. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the Levenmouth Area Committee of 22 November 2023.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

111. SILVERBURN FLAX MILL WORKS - VERBAL UPDATE REPORT

The committee noted an update on the regeneration of the Flax Mill Works. The construction phase started, as planned, in September 2023 and was on track for a completion date in March 2026.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the update provided; and

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- (2) agreed to consider regular update reports during the project.

112. **SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN – AREA BUDGET REQUEST- ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR APPROACH**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, seeking agreement to amend the existing police provision and secure £48,165 to support the increased Police resource in the Levenmouth Area on a full-time 12 months of the year basis for the 2024/2025 financial years. The report also asked members to consider future funding of the continued Police resource for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years.

Decision

The committee: -

- (1) agreed to fund £48,165 from Wards 21 and 22 LCPB (Local Community Planning Budgets) to cover the cost of the additional Police resource in the Levenmouth area for a full 12-month period from April 2024 to March 2025;
- (2) agreed in principle and subject to annual review that similar levels of funding would be available in the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27; and
- (3) noted that the agreement to fund this resource would allow the Police to provide a more consistent and coordinated approach through the creation of a team of two officers with a focus on anti-social behaviour work and other defined priorities.

Councillor Alistair Suttie joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

113. **LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILES (DECEMBER 2023)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Business and Employability providing members with an annual overview of the performance of the local economy and labour market in the Levenmouth Area.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered the issues raised from the analysis of the latest available data presented in the report; and
- (2) noted the ongoing economic challenges.

114. **SUPPORTING THE LEVENMOUTH PLAN- PURCHASE OF ACCOMMODATION UNITS KIRKLAND YARD LEVEN**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods seeking a contribution of up to £80,000 from the Community Recovery Fund towards the purchase of the Network Rail accommodation units at Kirkland Yard, Leven.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) agreed a contribution of up to £80,000 from the Community Recovery Fund towards the total purchase cost of the accommodation units at Kirkland Yard Leven;
- (2) agreed that the decision to fund the proposal would require £100,000 of the Community Recovery Fund budget to be reallocated, changing the decision previously agreed at the 5 April 2023 Levenmouth Area Committee (para 2.4 page 168);
- (3) noted that interim advice had been received from Planning Services and there would be a change of use applied to allow the units to remain in situ on a permanent basis;
- (4) noted that Fife Heritage Railway would be the managing organisation for the facility;
- (5) noted the risk issues raised in terms of planning permission, and the longer-term sustainability of the units as a community hub; and
- (6) noted that a separate application for funding would also be lodged with the Levenmouth Reconnected Fund.

115. AREA HOUSING PLAN UPDATE 2023

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing a progress update on the Levenmouth Area Housing Plan outcomes for the period January 2023 – December 2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) considered the content of the report;
- (2) discussed the progress made with the plan and its outcomes; and
- (3) agreed to support any proposed changes to the Area Housing Plan.

116. COMMON GOOD AND SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising of the current status of the Common Good and Settlement Trust funds in the Levenmouth Area, along with relevant fund activities for the financial year 2022-2023.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the relevant appendices for the various Common Good funds and Trust funds; and
- (2) agreed to continue to support the disbursement of Trusts funds to suitable projects, including the amalgamation of individual trusts and where appropriate the dissolution of individual trusts including transferring the funds to suitable 3rd party organisations who provide similar support to local priorities.

117. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

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

Decision

The committee noted the contents of the report.

118. LEVENMOUTH AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

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

Decision

The committee:-

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