

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - CABINET COMMITTEE - BLENDED MEETING**

**Council Chamber, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes**

**29 May 2025**

**10.00 am - 1.50 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Ross (Convener), David Alexander, David Barratt, John Beare, James Calder, Ian Cameron (substituting for Councillor Jan Wincott), Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Allan Knox, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Mary Lockhart and Sarah Neal; and Ian Macaulay, Church of Scotland and Alistair Crockett, Cupar Baptist Church, Religious Interest Representatives.

**ATTENDING:** Ken Gourlay, Chief Executive; Eileen Rowand, Executive Director (Finance), Elaine Muir, Head of Finance, Lindsay Thomson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Helena Couperwhite, Committee Services Manager and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance and Corporate Services; Shelagh McLean, Head of Education and Sarah Else, Education Manager, Education Service; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Gavin Smith, Service Manager and Joan Lamie, Service Manager, Housing Services; Kirstie Freeman, Community Manager (North East Fife), Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; Alan Paul, Head of Property Services, Louise Playford, Service Manager, Hilary Roberts, Tourism Manager, Michael O'Gorman, Service Manager (Estates and Asset Management) and Ronnie Hair, Property Investment and Development Manager (Economic Development), Property Services; Kevin Treadwell, Service Manager, Planning Services; and Christopher Conroy, Head of Community Care Services and Caroline Bruce, Service Manager, Health and Social Care Partnership.

**APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor Jan Wincott.

**375. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor James Calder declared an interest at para. 386 - Scottish Government Consultation on Introduction of a Cruise Levy - as he was a member of Cruiseforth.

**376. MINUTES**

(i) Minute of the Cabinet Committee of 1 May 2025.

**Decision**

The committee approved the minute.

(ii) The following minute was submitted for noting:-

Education Appointment Committee of 14 March 2025.

**Decision**

The minute was noted.

**377. STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO REZONE THE CATCHMENT AREAS OF KIRKCALDY WEST AND DUNNIKIER PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education) presenting proposals to rezone the primary school catchment areas of Kirkcaldy West Primary School and Dunnikier Primary School from 4 July 2025 in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

**Decision**

The committee agreed:-

- (1) to rezone the primary catchment areas of Kirkcaldy West Primary School and Dunnikier Primary School from 4 July 2025; and
- (2) to recommend that the Education Scrutiny Committee consider the council's current School Admissions Policy for Primary and Secondary Schools in Fife to ascertain whether a statutory consultation required to be undertaken in respect of siblings affected by catchment reviews.

**378. STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORTS ON THE PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A NEW STAGE OF EDUCATION IN A SCHOOL BEING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT CLASS (ASC) PROVISION WITHIN BOTH DALGETY BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND STRATHALLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education) presenting proposals to establish a new stage of education in a school, being new Additional Support Class (ASC) provision, within both Dalgety Bay Primary School and Strathallan Primary School in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The report also sought approval to proceed with the recommendations contained within the Consultation Reports appended to the report.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) agreed to establish a new stage of education in a school, being new Additional Support Class (ASC) provision, within Dalgety Bay Primary School from Monday, 18 August 2025;
- (2) agreed to establish a new stage of education in a school, being new Additional Support Class (ASC) provision, within Strathallan Primary School from Monday, 18 August 2025; and
- (3) approved the recommendations contained within the Consultation Reports appended to the committee report.

**379. PROPOSAL TO EXTEND VIEWFORTH HIGH SCHOOL**

The committee considered a joint report by the Executive Director (Education) and Executive Director (Place) presenting the full Business Case for the proposal to extend Viewforth High School to accommodate projected new pupils from development sites across this secondary catchment area. The report also presented the current position relating to the capacity pressures within Viewforth High School as a direct impact of new housing at the former site of Viewforth High School and the housing located at Kingdom Park, part of the Strategic Development Area (SDA) Kirkcaldy East.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) reviewed and approved the full Business Case;
- (2) approved Option 2 detailed in the Business Case recognising that the estimated cost of £4.441m would be accommodated through the £4.229m funding agreed in the 2025 Capital Plan over a three-year period and the education Rolling Programme; and
- (3) agreed to delegate to officers authority to progress to financial close and main construction work.

**380. STRATEGIC EQUITY FUND - SESSION 2025/26**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Education) providing an overview of the rationale and plan for use of the Strategic Equity Fund to support the closing of the poverty related attainment gap within Fife's educational settings within session 2025/26.

**Decision**

The committee agreed with the proposed planned key projects and the Strategic Equity Fund workstreams for session 2025/26 along with the proposed associated budget spend.

*Mr. Crockett left the meeting during consideration of the above item and Mr. Macaulay left following consideration of the above item.*

**381. PROVISION OF 7-BED ADULT RESPITE FACILITY AT BEAUFORT DRIVE, GLENROTHES**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Health and Social Care presenting a Business Case for a new seven bed adult respite facility at Beaufort Drive, Glenrothes to replace existing respite provision in Broad Street, Cowdenbeath.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed the Business Case for the new seven bed adult respite facility at Beaufort Drive, Glenrothes.

*The meeting adjourned at 11.45 am and reconvened at 12.10 pm.*

**382. PROPOSED DISPOSAL AND CHANGE OF USE OF COMMON GOOD LAND AT EAST BENTS, ST ANDREWS**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking a decision on a change of use and disposal, by way of lease, of land at East Bents, St. Andrew's held on the St. Andrew's Common Good Account.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted that the North East Fife Area Committee were recommended that the proposal be refused considering the objections received;
- (2) noted that the North East Fife Area Committee, at its meeting on 26 February 2025, unanimously agreed to not proceed with the Common Good land disposal;
- (3) agreed with the recommendation of the North East Fife Area Committee not to proceed with the Common Good land disposal; and
- (4) agreed that a report be brought to the council this year to consider an option to amend Committee Powers, para 5.1.15, to devolve the power to determine disposals from Cabinet Committee to Area Committees in relation to Common Good leases and disposals (of a value not exceeding the capitalised value of the rent over the term of the lease, or over ten years, whichever is the longer, or for disposals where the asset value is more than £750,000; to reflect Officer Powers).

**383. DUNFERMLINE STRATEGIC GROWTH AREA: PHASE 2 - HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking approval to progress the submission of an application to access the second phase of Housing Infrastructure Funding to support the continued delivery of Strategic Transport Intervention Measures which were required to support the scale of planned growth across the City of Dunfermline. The application would be submitted to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee for approval.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the submission of a second application to the Scottish Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund as per the terms of the approved Business Case noting that the submission of a second application was subject of the agreement of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee;
- (2) delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place), Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to accept the terms of the grant award subject to securing final approval from the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee; and
- (3) noted the progress made relative to the delivery of the Strategic Transport Intervention Measures supported by the first grant award from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

**384. TEMPORARY AND SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY - REDUCING RELIANCE ON HOTELS**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services setting out proposals to support the housing emergency with a focus on emergency temporary and supported housing.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted that strategic work had reduced reliance on Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation and the service would continue to work towards eliminating the use of unsuitable accommodation;
- (2) agreed the development of a hostel re-provision programme to reduce use of unsuitable accommodation with a focus on dispersed accommodation within communities;
- (3) agreed the development of a new Temporary and Supported Accommodation Strategy to better meet the needs of households where temporary accommodation could not be avoided; and
- (4) agreed that a report be submitted to the People and Communities Scrutiny Committee in due course providing an update on progress of the Strategy.

**385. FIFE FEDERATION OF TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FFOTRA) SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT APPLICATION**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services presenting details of a supplementary grant application received from Fife Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (FFOTRA) to allow them to expand their geographical boundaries to include the Glenrothes Area.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) approved the supplementary grant application for the sum of £12,198 to cover the additional costs FFOTRA would incur by expanding their boundaries into the Glenrothes Area; and
- (2) noted that Fife Council's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework would continue to be followed for the duration of the award.

*Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor James Calder left the meeting at this stage.*

**386. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON INTRODUCTION OF A CRUISE LEVY**

The committee considered a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing an overview of the current Scottish Government consultation on the potential introduction of a cruise levy, summarising the impact of the cruise market in Fife and proposed Fife Council's response to the consultation.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the background to the cruise levy consultation, how a cruise levy could be applied in Fife and any implications arising therefrom; and
- (2) approved Fife Council's consultation response as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

*Councillor James Calder rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**387. CABINET COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING REMITS FROM COMMITTEES**

The committee noted the list of outstanding remits from committees.

*The committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.*

**388. PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF THISTLE STREET AND ESPLANADE MULTI STOREY CAR PARKS, KIRKCALDY (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Property Services setting out a proposal to undertake the demolition of Thistle Street and Esplanade Multi Storey car parks.

**Decision**

The committee agreed to the demolition of Thistle Street and Esplanade, Kirkcaldy Multi Storey car parks.

*Councillor Fiona Corps left the meeting during consideration of the above item and Councillor Peter Gulline left the meeting following consideration of the above item.*

**389. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME: LOCHGELLY ROAD, LUMPHINNANS; NEW FLOCKHOUSE, LOCHORE; AND BELLYEOMAN, DUNFERMLINE (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services providing an update on proposals to deliver 193 homes following the termination of a contract during March 2024. Following a procurement exercise, it was proposed to award contracts which should deliver the affordable homes during 2027/28.

**Decision**

The committee:-

- (1) noted the content of the report providing an update on the current position and improvements to reduce the likelihood of a similar situation happening again; and
- (2) authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction:-

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- to enter into a Design and Build Contract to complete the affordable housing development of 97 new homes at Lochgelly Road, Lumphinnans and approved an indicative price recognising that the figure may be adjusted as details were finalised;
- to enter into a Design and Build Contract to complete the affordable housing development of 51 new homes at New Flockhouse, Lochore and approve an indicative price recognising that the figure may be adjusted as details were finalised; and
- to enter into a Design and Build Contract to complete the affordable housing development of 45 new homes at Bellyeoman, Dunfermline and approved an indicative price recognising that the figure may be adjusted as details were finalised.

### **390. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME - EVERSLED DRIVE, DUNFERMLINE (PRIVATE REPORT)**

The committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking authority to conclude legally binding agreements for the acquisition of land and the delivery of 40 affordable homes for social rent which had been identified within the 2025/26 Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) at the site known as Evershed Drive, Dunfermline.

#### **Decision**

The committee authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to enter into legally binding agreements on terms to their satisfaction:-

- (1) for the acquisition of the site extending at Evershed Drive, Dunfermline; and
- (2) to enter into a Design and Build Contract for the development of 40 new build affordable homes at the site at Evershed Drive, Dunfermline for a total indicative price, recognising that the figure may be adjusted as detail of the proposal was finalised.