

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 6 December 2022

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers, Kirsten Robb, Margaret B Walker
C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Federation of Small Businesses

H Kuboyama, Development Manager

University of the West of Scotland

T Adamson, Estates Environmental Manager

VASLan

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Council

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Keating, Property Development Manager; K Lean, Economic Development Manager (Rural Funding); I Ross, Project Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; M Carrigan, Administration Assistant; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Margaret Cooper and John Ross; P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources); S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

NHS Lanarkshire

J Gardner, Chief Executive

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Wealth Building Commission held on 6 September 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

In relation to item 7, C Fergusson advised that in relation to whether banks referenced Community Wealth Building within their sustainable investment, he would pick up the matter up with J Taylor.

The Commission decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Change in Membership

A report dated 11 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of a change to the membership of the Commission and Progress Group.

At its meeting on 8 November 2022, the Progress Group was advised that A Aird, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), would be stepping down from his role within the FSB and, consequently, his position on the Commission and as Vice Chair of the Progress Group would be undertaken by H Kuboyama.

The Chair, on behalf of the Commission, welcomed H Kuboyama to his first meeting.

The Commission decided: that the change in membership be noted.

4 Community Wealth Building Action Plan – Q2 Update

A report dated 18 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Quarter 2 update of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Action Plan.

The CWB Action Plan had been approved by the Commission at its meeting on 6 September 2022. The report provided an update on the actions contained within the Action Plan for the 6 month period March to September 2022.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

Councillor Robb's point, in terms of renewables applying across the board and not just in terms of land and buildings, was noted.

Councillor Chalmers asked for information on the Council's engagement with and support for, the area's Credit Unions. Officers committed to preparing a response.

It was also noted that S Sweeney would bring a paper to the next meeting on Third Sector participation.

The Commission decided: that the Q2 update on the Community Wealth Building Action Plan be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 September 2022 (Paragraph 7)]

5 Quick Quote Update

A report dated 7 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the progress made in relation to the award of Council contracts to local companies under the new Quick Quote arrangements, the engagement activity taking place with businesses and the development opportunities.

A key objective of the Community Wealth Building Strategy was to increase levels of spend by the Council and anchor institutions within the South Lanarkshire area. An action plan supported the Spend pillar of the Strategy and detailed the range of measures to be taken to achieve this.

At its meeting on 22 September 2021, the Council agreed the following changes in the use of Quick Quote opportunities to increase opportunities for local business:-

- ◆ to increase the current financial limit for procuring works contracts using Quick Quote from £50,000 to £2 million
- ◆ the minimum number of quotes to be obtained from local enterprises, where Quick Quote was used, increased to 4 from 5 bids (previously 2 from 5) for goods, services and works where such Small and Medium sized Enterprises existed

Since the implementation of the new Quick Quote arrangements, 32 procurements, to the value of £6.256 million for works contracts over £50,000, had commenced. Of those, 24 had been completed to the value of £4.861 million, a breakdown of which was detailed in the report.

Property Services had completed a Quick Quote exercise for the extension at Castlefield Primary School to gain further insight into the performance of local businesses and any potential barriers to success. There were 4 Quick Quotes issued for the project to a value of £0.360 million and those were detailed in the report.

To evaluate why South Lanarkshire based companies did not have a high success rate with this procurement, contact was made by Economic Development with 4 local mechanical and plumbing contractors who had been invited to bid. Key points from the feedback were provided in the report and analysis showed that there was progress to be made in identifying enough South Lanarkshire based companies to bid and in supporting their efforts to bid. Greater promotion of lower value contracts would also be considered.

Engagement with businesses was an important part of the efforts to increase local spend, so a range of activities had been undertaken to promote future opportunities and support the development of tendering skills and capability.

A Quick Quote training session had been run by the Procurement Team as well as a Talking Tenders session, which encouraged relevant local businesses to be “tender ready” and registered in order that they would be invited to submit a Quick Quote.

To encourage the participation of local businesses in broader procurement activity, engagement with local businesses continued with 3 activities which were detailed in the report.

The Roads Service had prepared a pipeline of projects that focused on a number of footway resurfacing projects. There were 9 footway projects covered by Quick Quote which were split into 3 packages. The first contract had been awarded, the second was on Quick Quote and the third expected to be added towards the end of the calendar year. The Roads Service would complete a review of the effectiveness of the Quick Quote process upon completion of the tendering of the 3 packages.

Procuring resources continued to appraise further opportunities for the use of Quick Quote as part of the development of the approach. The extent of using direct awards and mini competitions from existing procurement frameworks and Quick Quotes under £50,000 would form part of this exercise.

A key feature in the continued development of the pipeline was also ensuring local businesses were given sufficient notice of forthcoming opportunities.

C Fergusson responded to members’ questions on various aspects of the report and undertook to provide information on how many companies had used Quick Quote as well as bring the results of the survey sent to businesses to a future meeting.

The Commission decided: that the Quick Quote update be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 5b)]

6 First Scottish Community Wealth Building Conference – 7 October 2022

A report dated 14 October 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the first Scottish Community Wealth Building Conference.

On 7 October 2022, North Ayrshire Council hosted the first Community Wealth Building Conference in Scotland. Each local authority was invited to send 2 participants and the Community Engagement Manager and Economic Development Manager attended.

The report provided feedback on the event and potential learning considerations.

K Lean responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted and
- (2) that the potential learning points, contained within section 5 of the report, be noted.

7 Forward Programme for Future Meetings

A report dated 24 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of the forward programme for meetings of the Commission to date and inviting members to suggest topics for inclusion in the Commission's forward programme.

The Chair advised that he was keen to see how anchor institutions were engaged with Community Wealth Building

Councillor Robb requested that the Community Benefits within contracts included grants going forward. Officers noted the comments.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

8 Social Enterprise Strategy

I Ross, Project Manager, gave a verbal update on the Social Enterprise Strategy advising that a Social Enterprise Officer had been appointed in July 2022 and they had made good progress on developing the Strategy with the help of colleagues in VASLAN.

A Steering Group had been set-up and was working on the action plan.

The Social Enterprise Strategy was at an advance stage of preparation and the intention was to take it to a future Council committee for approval and then back to the Commission in terms of an update.

I Ross responded to members' questions on various aspects of the update.

The Commission decided: that the verbal update be noted.

9 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.