

EAST KILBRIDE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 11 August 2021

Chair:

Councillor Isobel Dorman (Depute)

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Graham Scott

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan (Chair), Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Collette Stevenson, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor David Watson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

C McFarlane, Development Officer; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services; M Muir, Roads Area Manager

Education Resources

L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer (Equity)

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; S Somerville, Administration Manager; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the East Kilbride Area Committee held on 12 May 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Participatory Budgeting – Community and Enterprise Resources - Footpaths and Roads

A report dated 20 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising on:-

- ♦ the outcome and level of engagement for the Participatory Budgeting (PB) consultation exercise to identify £2 million footway/footpath and road projects
- ♦ the initial/potential learning points to develop future exercises
- ♦ setting out next steps, locations and forthcoming communications

As part of an agreed budget, an additional £2 million had been allocated to support footway/footpath and road improvements. This investment would continue the Council's commitment to prioritise investment in roads infrastructure and footways/footpaths, including those within parks.

The predominant focus of the investment had been to target footpath improvement together with further investment to improve road conditions in South Lanarkshire. This additional sum was to be allocated across the 4 localities based on network length and would be subject to an online PB exercise which would allow communities to prioritise, on a thematic basis, where the further expenditure in their area could be targeted. It was considered appropriate to allocate 75% of the funding towards footways/footpaths and 25% towards carriageways with work to be implemented in 2021/2022. Details of how the funding had been allocated were highlighted in the report.

The consultation took place between 27 April and 11 May 2021 and had been promoted via the Council's website, social media channels and third sector networks. Separate votes were held for each of the 4 areas with separate provision within each area vote for roads and footways/footpaths. A full breakdown of participant engagement in the process and the representation levels were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Locations had been identified in line with the funding and specific locations where works would be undertaken were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Operating the first mainstream PB across the Council had identified several learning points to be considered as the process developed further and those were detailed in the report.

The Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services and Roads Area Manager responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcome and level of engagement for the PB consultation exercise to identify £2 million footway/footpath and road projects, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the learning points to be considered for future PB exercises, as detailed in the report, be noted.

4 Participatory Budgeting – Community and Enterprise Resources – Renewable Energy Fund

A report dated 9 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting in relation to the Renewable Energy Fund.

The Executive Committee, on 21 November 2018, agreed that a series of amendments be made to the Renewable Energy Fund. One amendment was the introduction of a micro grant fund in 2019/2020 of up to £5,000 per annum available to Community Councils or equivalent community organisations to award and administer small grants of up to £500 locally.

This was established for an initial 2-year period and the Community and Enterprise Committee of 16 February 2021 had agreed to continue the micro grants after 2020/2021. In 2020/2021, 7 Community Councils within the East Kilbride Area had been awarded micro grants totalling £24,183. Information on those grants were detailed in the report.

The 2021/2022 awards to Community Councils were currently being processed and would be paid to each individual Community Council to administer.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 21 November 2018 (Paragraph 10) and Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 16 February 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources – Pupil Equity Fund

A report dated 26 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting in relation to Pupil Equity Funding.

146 out of 148 of schools within South Lanarkshire received Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) which was targeted at supporting pupils affected by poverty. Each school would set aside a minimum of 5% of its PEF allocation, which equated to £0.495 million, and members of the public had been asked to indicate how this should be spent. Schools would confirm the percentage that they would set aside to Education Resources by 30 August 2021 and final figures and a breakdown per school would be reported to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

Head Teachers had been briefed on the Participatory Budgeting (PB) process and were now identifying a staff member to lead/facilitate the process within their school. An initial training session for PB leads was delivered on 6 May 2021.

Schools were now beginning to set up a PB group, consisting of pupils and parents/carers. This group would lead PB activity in schools, consulting with stakeholders to generate ideas and facilitate the voting. Details of the stakeholders were provided in the report. All schools would have completed the PB process, with voting and spend agreed, by 8 October 2021. This information would be collated and shared at future meetings of this Committee.

Schools would then progress with the spend, ensuring that the funding was fully spent by 31 March 2021.

The Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer (Equity) responded to a member's question in terms of addressing inequality and engaging with families from poorer socio-economic backgrounds.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Community Grant Application

A report dated 26 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

As previously reported, the 2020/2021 year-end report considered by the Executive Committee on 23 June 2021, included a recommendation to carry forward the unspent monies from the 2020/2021 community grants budget. This recommendation had been approved and, in relation to this Area Committee, the unspent monies amounted to £16,040, which resulted in a revised total allocation for community grants for 2021/2022 of £41,790.

The Committee decided: that a community grant be awarded as follows:-

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|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) | Applicant: | East Kilbride Flower Club (EK/2/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing |
| | Amount Awarded: | £180 |

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 23 June 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.