

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 1 February 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (Depute), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie (*substitute for Councillor Gavin Keatt*), Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Susan Kerr (*substitute for Councillor Catherine McClymont*), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor Dr Ali Salamati (*substitute for Councillor John Ross*), Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor John Ross

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Goodwin, Finance Manager; P Manning, Executive Director; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Terry, Public Relations Officer

Housing and Technical Resources

S Gibson, Executive Director; C Mitchell, Strategy and Support Manager

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 30 November 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 10 - 1 April to 29 December 2022

A report dated 16 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April to 29 December 2022.

The report and associated appendices:-

- ◆ summarised the 2022/2023 probable outturn position for the Council's General Fund Revenue Account to 31 March 2023, including details of proposed transfers to reserves
- ◆ provided details of the position on the General Fund Account and the Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April to 29 December 2022 respectively
- ◆ detailed anticipated spend for the current year
- ◆ proposed funds to be transferred to reserves for future commitments required in the next financial year
- ◆ detailed the position after all transfers to reserves for known commitments
- ◆ provided the Housing Revenue Account position

The final outturn position, after transfers to reserves, resulted in an underspend of £4.696 million. This included new proposed transfers to reserves totalling £17.195 million as well as previously approved transfers of £17.420 million arising from the underspend in Loan Charges due to the timing of borrowing, increased deposit interest and the Loans Fund Review. It was proposed that the underspend of £4.696 million be considered to support the 2023/2024 Budget Strategy.

The overall Resource position, which was a combined overspend of £0.335 million, included transfers to reserves totalling £8.405 million. It also included a break even position for Social Work Resources. In relation to Adults and Older People, the position included a £1.423 million commitment in respect of the element of the budget delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB). It was proposed that the IJB retain this non-recurring underspend in its reserves earmarked for future care costs.

There was a further underspend of £5.635 million relating to core Council funding passed to the IJB. In terms of the IJB financial regulations which entitled the Council to adjust its contributions in respect of such unplanned underspends, it was proposed that the underspend be retained by the Council to help cover the Children and Families' budget pressures into 2023/2024.

The budget for Corporate Items assumed a transfer from reserves of £5.700 million. This reflected the Council's contribution to the increased pay award for 2022/2023. It was proposed that this be funded by the retrospective benefit released by implementing new guidance on Accounting for Service Concessions.

At 29 December 2022, the figures showed the position on the General Fund Revenue Account after transfers to reserves, as a net underspend of £0.092 million. At 29 December 2022, the Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position and the forecast to 31 March 2023 on the Housing Revenue Account was also a breakeven position.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that, including Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, and the proposed transfer to reserves, the Council's outturn underspend of £4.696 million, as detailed in section 4.2 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the proposed transfers to reserves totalling £17.195 million, as detailed in section 4.2 of the report, be approved;

- (3) that the non-recurring underspend of £1.423 million in the delegated budget to the IJB be held in its reserves for use in future years, as detailed in section 4.6 of the report;
- (4) that the proposal to include, within the transfer to reserves, the overfunding of £5.635 million in the budget delegated to the IJB which would be retained by the Council to assist in managing pressures in Children and Families, as detailed in section 4.7 of the report, be approved;
- (5) that £5.7 million of the retrospective benefit released by the implementation of the guidance on Accounting for Service Concessions be used to support the increased 2022/2023 Pay Award, as detailed in section 4.10 of the report;
- (6) that the outturn underspend of £4.696 be transferred to reserves to assist in the 2023/2024 Budget Strategy as detailed in section 4.16 of the report;
- (7) that the underspend of £0.092 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 29 December 2022, as detailed in section 5.1 of the report, be noted; and
- (8) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 4 November 2022, as detailed in section 6.1 of the report, and the forecast to 31 March 2023 of breakeven, as detailed in section 6.2 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 November 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Programme 2022/2023 Update and Monitoring for Period 10 – 1 April 2022 to 29 December 2022

A report dated 11 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress of the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 29 December 2022.

At its meeting on 30 November 2022, the Committee had approved a General Fund Capital Programme for 2022/2023 amounting to £78.272 million. The total programme of £78.272 million included proposed new adjustments totalling £0.531 million and included additional funding for new projects. Due to the timing of project spend, it was anticipated that this funding would move into the 2023/2024 budget and the net impact on the 2022/2023 Capital Programme was, therefore, nil. Details of the proposed adjustments were provided in Appendix 1 of the report.

In December 2022, the Scottish Government increased the Council's General Capital Grant allocation by £0.202 million, resulting in a revised allocation of £32.074 million. In view of the late notification of the additional funding, any new projects were unlikely to be designed and completed prior to the end of the current financial year. Consequently, the additional allocation would be used to fund the existing capital programme and reduce the Council's level of borrowing.

Current estimates from Resources suggested an outturn of £73 million in 2022/2023. Against the revised budget of £78.272 million, this outturn meant a net underspend across Resources of £5.3 million. This comprised project underspend totalling £9.7 million, offset by projects with greater than anticipated spend of £4.4 million.

At 29 December 2022, £37.238 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, an overspend of £1.189 million, and actual funding received to 29 December 2022 totalled £60.718 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

A list of the main projects with anticipated underspends, which were responsible for the overall underspend of £9.7 million and which would complete in 2023/2024, together with anticipated completion dates, was provided in Appendix 4 of the report.

The Housing Capital Programme 2022/2023, approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 August 2022, totalled £66.361 million. Details of the position of the programme at 29 December 2022 were provided in Appendix 5 of the report.

At 29 December 2022, expenditure on the Housing Capital Programme amounted to £40.525 million and actual funding received to 29 December 2022 totalled £40.525 million.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Period 10 position, as at 29 December 2022, of the General Fund Capital Programme, as detailed in appendices 1 to 4 of the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, as detailed in Sections 4.2 and Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 August 2022 (Paragraph 4) and 30 November 2022 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 9 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding, totalling £4.057 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Revenue Funding

Resource	2022/2023 (£m)
Education	1.875
Finance and Corporate	1.980
Total	3.855

Capital Funding

	2022/2023 (£m)
General Capital Grant	0.202
Total	0.202

Overall Total **4.057**

Councillor Brown expressed disappointment that the Council had been unsuccessful in obtaining funding from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund in respect of the Phase 2 bids for:-

- ◆ Clydesdale Way
- ◆ Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- ◆ Decontamination Works at Shawfield, Rutherglen

He cited the bid for decontamination works at Shawfield as particularly suitable in terms of the funding criteria and asked that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the appropriate committee on the background to the recent fund bids and the implications of the outcome for the Council.

Officers responded to a number of questions in relation to the bids and advised that:-

- ◆ the submitted bids met the technical requirements in relation to the funding
- ◆ feedback had not yet been received from the UK government as to why the bids had been unsuccessful
- ◆ preparation costs in relation to the bids involved officer time which would require to be estimated
- ◆ information in relation to Phase 3 of the Levelling Up Fund was anticipated in the spring of the year
- ◆ a report on the matter would be submitted to a future meeting of the relevant committee

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 November 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Developing an Age Friendly South Lanarkshire

A report dated 11 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on proposals to develop an Age Friendly South Lanarkshire.

An Age Friendly Community was one in which people of all ages could participate in activities and where everyone was treated with respect, regardless of their age. Age Friendly Communities:-

- ◆ made it easier for older people to stay connected to others
- ◆ helped people stay healthy and active in later years
- ◆ provided appropriate support to those who could no longer look after themselves

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the stages required to achieve Age Friendly Community status
- ◆ the role of the Council in supporting this development and actions required should it wish to progress the initiative in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ the work already undertaken by Seniors Together in South Lanarkshire on this programme and connections made with officers in other Age Friendly Communities and supporting UK organisations

It was considered that a strategic plan was required where all stakeholders developed a shared vision to determine priorities for action and to plan and resource the achievement of age friendly outcomes in South Lanarkshire. The Community Planning Partnership had been identified as the appropriate group to drive forward the delivery of an Age Friendly Community. Work undertaken by Seniors Together would assist in the development of a strategic plan and it was proposed that the views of older people be represented on the Community Planning Partnership, through Seniors Together.

To progress the initiative, it was proposed that the Council:-

- ◆ send a letter of commitment to the World Health Organisation from the Leader of the Council

- ♦ form an Action Planning Group, supported by Seniors Together and comprising representatives of the Community Planning Partnership, to develop tasks and actions in relation to the 8 domains, as detailed in the report, which made an Age Friendly Community
- ♦ report on progress to the Community Planning Partnership

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and undertook to circulate further information on Age Friendly Communities to elected members.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council make a formal written commitment to establishing South Lanarkshire as an Age Friendly Community – 'a great place to grow older';
- (2) that the Council work with interested partners to develop an Age Friendly action plan; and
- (3) that the voice of older people be represented on the Community Planning Partnership, through Seniors Together.

7 Fair Work First Statement

A report dated 23 December 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Council's Fair Work First Statement.

On 6 December 2022, the Scottish Government announced that organisations applying for public sector grants would be required to pay at least the real Living Wage and provide appropriate channels for effective workers' voices by July 2023.

The requirement for organisations to have a public statement on supporting the advancement of Fair Work First criteria now featured in Scottish Government grant application conditions and the condition also applied to councils applying for grants. The Council met the Fair Work First criteria as an organisation and publishing a statement to that effect on the Council's website would demonstrate that in grant application processes. The Fair Work First Statement, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, also included reference to procurement and grant awards in relation to the Fair Work First criteria as the Council had a role in both those processes.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted: and
- (2) that the statement, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for publication on the Council's website.

8 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 29 December 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on proposed actions in respect of land and property transactions.

The recommendations had been made in terms of agreed procedures for dealing with surplus land and property.

The Committee decided: that the land detailed in appendices A and B to the report be declared surplus to Council requirements.

9 External Representation on the Education Resources Committee - Update

A joint report dated 4 January 2023 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the arrangements for the appointment of representatives other than councillors to serve on the Education Resources Committee.

At its meeting on 29 June 2022, the Committee agreed that the election and selection procedures to obtain specified categories of religious and parent/carers representation on the Education Resources Committee be approved.

In respect of teacher representation, all teachers permanently employed in educational establishments under the management of the Council and registered with the General Teaching Council were invited to apply to serve as a teacher representative on the Education Resources Committee, by the closing date of 13 October 2022.

At the close of nominations, 2 applications had been received for 2 available places. On that basis, it was proposed that the following 2 applicants be confirmed as the new teacher representatives on the Education Resources Committee:-

- ♦ Jennifer Gaffney, St Andrew's and St Bride's High School, East Kilbride
- ♦ Joan Lennon, Our Lady and St Anne's Primary School, Hamilton

Details were also provided on progress in appointing 2 new Parent Council representatives and the 1 remaining religious representative on the Education Resources Committee. In both cases, nominations exceeded the number of available places and arrangements would be made to interview each nominee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the appointment of Jennifer Gaffney and Joan Lennon as the new teacher representatives on the Education Resources Committee be confirmed; and
- (2) that the progress on the appointment of the 2 new Parent Council representatives and the 1 remaining religious representative on the Education Resources Committee be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2022 (Paragraph 7)]

10 Recommendations Referred by Housing and Technical Resources Committee

A report dated 23 January 2023 by the Chief Executive was submitted on recommendations referred to this Committee by the Housing and Technical Resources Committee at its meeting of 23 January 2023 (Special).

The recommendations of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee were as follows:-

- (1) that the proposed rent increase of 3.5% to all Council houses, travelling persons' sites, lockups and garage sites and the revenue estimate proposals for the Housing Revenue Account be endorsed; and
- (2) that, based on the rent increase of 3.5%, the 2023/2024 Housing Capital Programme of £63.916 million be endorsed.

The Committee recommended to the Council:

- (1) that the proposed rent increase of 3.5% for all Council houses, Gypsy/Traveller sites, lockups and garage sites and the revenue estimate proposals for the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2023/2024 be approved; and
- (2) that, based on the rent increase of 3.5%, the 2023/2024 Housing Capital Programme, totalling £63.916 million, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the special meeting of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee of 23 January 2023 (Paragraph 2)]

11 Representation on Outside Organisations

A report dated 5 January 2023 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing an update on the member representation on the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum.

At its meeting on 18 May 2022, the Council agreed its representation on certain statutory joint boards and outside bodies. Since that meeting:-

- ◆ an update had been reported to the Council meeting held on 15 June 2020
- ◆ the Executive Committee, at its meeting on 29 June 2022, had authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the relevant political groups, to confirm nominations in respect of the remaining vacancies

The Council was entitled to appoint 1 member and a substitute to the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum on 1 November 2022. Previous practice was to appoint the Chair of the Roads Safety Forum as the Council's representative on the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum.

At the meeting of the Roads Safety Forum held on 1 November 2022 Councillor McLachlan was appointed as Chair of the Forum and Councillor Cowie as Depute Chair. As a result, in line with normal practice, Councillor McLachlan had been appointed as the Council's representative on the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum with Councillor Cowie substituting as necessary.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2022 (Paragraph 8)]

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.