

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 27 October 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Alex Allison, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers; C Sneddon, Chief Executive; P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Federation of Small Businesses

A Aird, Group Chair

University of the West of Scotland

E O'Reilly, Head of Campus Services

VASLan

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Council

S Dunsmore, Insurance and Risk Manager; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); S Keating, Property Development Manager; R Leith, Community, Participation and Development Manager; 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; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Margaret Cooper and Joe Fagan; S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

NHS Lanarkshire

H Knox, Chief Executive

1 Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and appropriate introductions were made.

2 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Wealth Building Commission held on 31 August 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

4 Community Wealth Building - Risk Register

A report dated 30 July 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a draft Community Wealth Building (CWB) risk register and proposed risk monitoring and reporting arrangements.

A detailed action plan had been developed to support the delivery of the aspirations in relation to CWB, as set out in the CWB Strategy. In recognition that CWB might lead to a fundamental shift in the Council's approach across a number of services, it was agreed that a risk register would be developed to accompany the detailed action plan.

Following a consultation with the Council's CWB lead officers, a risk register was established detailing risks which impacted on the 5 pillars noted within the Strategy. The proposed risk register, including the recorded controls and actions, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. It was highlighted that it would be a live document as CWB work progressed over the forthcoming years and it was proposed that the CWB Group review and update the risk register as required, progress actions and provide an annual risk report to the CWB Commission.

Councillor Brown referred to Strathclyde Pension Fund (SPF) limitations and Town Centre spend issues and requested that those be subject to a report at a future date. In relation to SPF, C Sneddon highlighted that the public sector pension fund belonged to members and that the use of its funds for investment was not a decision for central or local government, however, advised that a request would be submitted to SPF on what their anticipated priorities for investment were.

Councillor Allison referred to the spend profile and considered that the description for review of procurement risk should highlight what the Council was doing to make it easier for SMEs (small and medium enterprises) to be awarded contracts. In response, C Fergusson advised that procurement procedures were subject to Scottish Government regulations/legislation, however, there was some degree of flexibility for lower value awards. P Manning further confirmed that, while the risk register outlined risks and actions to mitigate those risks, not all actions would be in the risk register but within the action plan.

In terms of local spend and how it was measured, C Fergusson confirmed that performance information was contained in the annual procurement performance report.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the Community Wealth Building Risk Register be approved; and
- (2) that the risk reporting and monitoring arrangements be approved.

E O'Reilly joined the meeting during this item of business

5 Community Wealth Commission Progress Group

A report dated 12 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the proposed formation and membership of a Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission Progress Group.

In order to progress the delivery of action plans which covered the 5 pillars of CWB, it was proposed that a CWB Progress Group, at officer level, be established. This Group would make recommendations to the Commission, as appropriate, on further actions to meet the objectives of the Strategy.

The Terms of Reference of the CWB Progress Group were set out in the appendix to the report.

Offers from S Sweeney and A Aird to act as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Progress Group were accepted by the Commission. Further membership nominations from Commission members and Community Planning partners were to be submitted to C Sneddon by 24 November 2021. It was also noted that the Progress Group could co-opt members as appropriate.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that a Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission Progress Group be established to ensure that the Commission's initial workplan and actions to meet the objectives of the CWB Strategy were progressed and delivered in order to contribute to the priorities of the South Lanarkshire Community Plan;
- (2) that the draft Terms of Reference for the CWB Progress Group, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that S Sweeney and A Aird be appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the CWB Progress Group;
- (4) that nominations for the membership of the CWB Progress Group from Commission members and Community Planning partners to be submitted to the Council's Chief Executive by 24 November 2021 to allow him to finalise memberships, with a report being submitted to the next meeting of the Commission for noting.

6 Community Wealth Building Action Plan Quarter 2 Update

A report dated 19 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing the Quarter 2 progress update on the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy action plan.

There were 89 actions within the CWB action plan. Of those, 66 were 'Year 1' actions, that is due to be started or progressed in 2021/2022. Progress to date against those 66 actions was shown in the CWB Quarter 2 Performance Report 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The report used a traffic light format, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report, with the overall summary of progress to date as follows:-

| Status | Measures | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| | Number | % |
| Blue | 4 | 6 |
| Green | 58 | 88 |
| Amber | 2 | 3 |
| Red | 0 | 0 |
| Report later | 2 | 3 |
| Totals | 66 | 100 |

A Quarter 4 report on the progress of the 2021/2022 actions and measures would be brought to a future meeting of the Commission.

In response to comments in terms of providing more detailed analysis, P Manning confirmed that this was a high level, dashboard report and more content was provided in the Strategy in terms of the 5 pillars and associated actions. He further advised that most of the areas would form the basis of a separate progress report which would provide more detailed information.

C Sneddon advised that there had been a presentation from Grant Thornton to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet in respect of retrofit improvements/investments to existing properties which was the biggest scale change programme, involving 880,000 residential properties. He intimated that the outcome of COP was likely to inform Government priorities. This might lead to retraining opportunities and perhaps re-establishing manufacturing opportunities, as well as within the renewable sector. He confirmed the Council's Corporate Management Team was undertaking some work in relation to this.

Further to Councillor Brown's comments in terms of potential opportunities for community control of windfarms, A Aird referred to Banks Renewables and advised that Fintry had devolved control of their one single turbine to develop community facilities by setting up a Trust locally. He referred to the land and property element of the performance report and asked why no particular assets were to be marketed to communities. The Chair undertook to establish the reason behind that particular comment. In general terms, C Sneddon confirmed that the Council did support community asset transfer, via sales or leases, and there had been 3 applications approved by Committee this financial year, with a further 3 being recommended for approval that would be considered by the Council's Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 8 December. A further 2 formal applications were currently being considered and there were approximately 10 other enquiries at various stages. He advised that it was a statutory process and not all would succeed, however, many would be supported by lease agreements.

The Commission decided: that the Quarter 2 progress update on the Community Wealth Building Strategy action plan be noted.

7 Community Wealth Building - Quick Quotes

A report dated 8 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on changes to the Council's Quick Quote procurement arrangements and outlining the potential benefits for Community Wealth Building (CWB).

The Council's Standing Orders on Contracts set out the requirements for tendering and contract award covering areas such as advertising and reporting, authorisation and use of various procurement routes. Quick Quote was a simplified quotation process used by the Council for procuring works, supplies and services up to a value of £50,000.

Amendments to the Council's Standing Orders on Contracts for Quick Quotes had been approved by the Council at its meeting on 22 September 2021. The changes focused on increasing the current limit for procuring works contracts using the Quick Quote process from £50,000 to £2 million to allow for simplified procurement exercises and to give greater scope to award higher value contracts locally. A change was also agreed to increase the requirement to seek quotes from local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to 4 out of 5 potential bidders (previously it had been 2 out of 5) for all Quick Quotes, including works to £2 million and goods and services to £50,000.

It was considered that the increased threshold for procuring work contracts would allow for a greater number of works contracts to be put to the market in a shorter period, with a quicker turnaround for subsequent evaluation and award. This approach should enable higher value tender opportunities to be available to South Lanarkshire businesses, where available. The increase in the minimum number of quotes from local SMEs should also allow more local companies to be invited to bid for contracts with the Council.

The Council's Economic Development Service, supported by the Supplier Development Programme, was working with local SMEs, and particularly the construction sector, to increase awareness of contract opportunities and capacity. This included issuing a questionnaire to South Lanarkshire construction companies to help shape the support that could be provided to the sector to increase participation in tendering opportunities. In addition, the 'Meet the Real Buyer' event, scheduled for 30 November 2021, would provide an opportunity to promote future construction contracts and the changes to the Quick Quote process.

The Commission decided: that the changes made to the Council's Quick Quote process and the anticipated benefits for Community Wealth Building be noted.

8 Social Enterprise Sector Support in South Lanarkshire

A report dated 12 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the proposed support for the social enterprise sector following the allocation of resources under the 'Get South Lanarkshire Working' theme in the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget.

As part of the Council's 2021/2022 Revenue Budget, it was agreed that £3 million be put towards economic recovery under the umbrella heading 'Get South Lanarkshire Working'. High level ambitions for investment were broken down into the following 3 headings:-

- ◆ Social Enterprise and Business Support
- ◆ Locate in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Tourism Co-operative and Strategy

The report focused on the Social Enterprise and Business Support element.

It was proposed that funding of up to £1.5 million be used to support social enterprises to ensure they were receiving targeted assistance to start up and grow. This would supplement the Council's business programme. To support this sector, it was planned to augment the Economic Development Team with an additional economic development adviser whose remit would be to support social enterprises. The postholder would promote the social enterprise business model and would take the lead on developing a social enterprise strategy and action plan for South Lanarkshire which would link the sector with the range of support available not only from the Council directly but also from Business Gateway and other business support organisations and social enterprise networks.

The funding would also be used to:-

- ◆ support targeted training programmes for the social enterprise sector
- ◆ deliver and facilitate networking events
- ◆ produce, consult on and monitor a Social Enterprise Strategy
- ◆ provide a match-funding pot for funding bids aimed at supporting third sector activity
- ◆ establish a Social Enterprise Steering Group
- ◆ expand capacity of social enterprises to bid for public sector contracts
- ◆ maximise community benefits
- ◆ repurpose neglected town centre assets

This new approach would enable the Council to strengthen its participation in the Lanarkshire Social Economy Partnership.

In response to Councillor Allison's question in respect of progress with the Tourism Co-operative Strategy, C Sneddon advised that officers from the Council's Community and Enterprise Resources had engaged with businesses involved in tourism over the summer period and would run focused engagement with those businesses between November and January to gauge interest. He undertook to bring a report to the meeting of the Commission based on the briefing note officers had produced on the subject.

A Aird referred to the Lanarkshire Business Partnership, which involved New College Lanarkshire, Federation of Small Businesses, Business Gateway, North Lanarkshire Council and the Business Chamber, and advised that a meeting was being held the following day where an expert on employment was doing a talk on hybrid working and retraining staff. He advised that the Partnership met on a quarterly basis and would assist should South Lanarkshire Council wish to be involved. S Keating advised that he would attend the event.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

9 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Commission be held on Monday 7 February 2022 at 10.30am.

10 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.