

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 4 June 2019

Chair:

Councillor John Anderson

Councillors Present:

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan (*substitute for Councillor Peter Craig*), Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Mary Donnelly (*substitute for Councillor Ian McAllan*), Councillor Isobel Dorman (Depute), Councillor Fiona Dryburgh (*substitute for Councillor Monique McAdams*), Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross (ex officio), Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Collette Stevenson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Ian McAllan

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; S Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services; P Elliott, Head of Planning and Economic Development; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; C Park, Engineering Manager; I Ross, Project Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; L Harvey, Finance Manager; J McDonald, Administration Adviser; E McPake, Human Resources Business Partner; K Moore, Legal Services Adviser; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy)

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair referred to the death of Councillor Sheena Wardhaugh and, as a mark of respect, a minute's silence was observed.

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Anderson	West of Scotland Loan Fund and Business Loans Scotland	Director of West of Scotland Loan Fund and Business Loans Scotland

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 19 March 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/2019

A joint report dated 30 April 2019 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 1 March 2019 against budgeted expenditure for 2018/2019 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

Details were provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend on the Community and Enterprise Resources' revenue budget of £1.426 million and the forecast to 31 March 2019 of an underspend be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in Appendices B to F of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 March 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/2019

A joint report dated 1 May 2019 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2018/2019 and summarising the expenditure position at 31 March 2019.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 March 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring – February to April 2019

A joint report dated 10 May 2019 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period February to April 2019:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health statistics
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers
- ♦ Staffing Watch as at 9 March 2019

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 March 2019 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund – Grant Application

A report dated 15 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on an application to the Bank End Rig Renewable Energy Fund.

It was proposed that a grant of up to £31,749 towards costs associated with the development of a sensory garden to enhance Strathaven Park be awarded to Friends of Strathaven Park.

The Committee decided: that Friends of Strathaven Park be awarded a grant of up to £31,749 towards costs associated with the development of a sensory garden to enhance Strathaven Park.

7 West of Scotland Loan Fund and Business Loans Scotland

A report dated 14 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ proposed dissolution of West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited (WSLF) and West of Scotland Loan Fund Management Services Limited
- ◆ transfer of existing assets from West of Scotland Loan Fund, in the form of remaining outstanding loans and balance funds, to Business Loans Scotland Limited
- ◆ proposed amendment to the Articles of Association of Business Loans Scotland Limited to enable Business Loans Scotland members to allocate ringfenced funds for alternative economic development and business support activity

The West of Scotland Loan Fund had been set up in 1996 to provide gap funding of up to £100,000 for new and existing small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The Fund had been established by the 12 unitary authorities that had succeeded the former Strathclyde Regional Council to maximise the opportunities of European funding through match funding with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In 2014/2015, in order to simplify its administration of European funding, the Scottish Government required local authorities to work nationally and combine the resources in WSLF. As a result, Business Loans Scotland Limited (BLS) was established in April 2017.

BLS had become the primary source of local authority lending to SMEs and, therefore, the WSLF Board had decided there was no need to sustain the WSLF and that it should be dissolved. This would require the member authorities to transfer their remaining funds and any outstanding loans to BLS who would then become the vehicle through which existing loans were recovered and future lending conducted.

The surplus funds held in WSLF amounted to £1,043,726 and details of the current position were provided in the report.

Both WSLF and BLS were companies limited by guarantee, with the activities of the companies governed by a Members' Agreement and Articles of Association.

The agreement of the 12 member local authorities was necessary in order to implement the proposal and the Articles of Association of BLS required to be amended to allow members to withdraw their funds.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the dissolution of the West of Scotland Loan Fund Limited and the West of Scotland Loan Fund Management Services be noted;
- (2) that the transfer of the remaining balance of funds and outstanding loans to Business Loans Scotland Limited be approved;
- (3) that the amendment to the Articles of Association for Business Loans Scotland Limited be approved; and

- (4) that it be noted that amendment of the Articles of Association was subject to the approval of 75% of the member authorities of Business Loans Scotland.

Councillor Anderson, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Dorman took the Chair for this item only

8 Town Centre Capital Grant Fund

A report dated 24 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Town Centre Capital Grant award from the Scottish Government and its funding criteria to benefit town centre regeneration in South Lanarkshire

The Scottish Government had awarded this Council £2.5 million from its town centre fund to address some of the challenges faced by town centres. The grant award had been allocated in accordance with a set criteria based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area.

The Scottish Government guidance issued with the grant offer was not prescriptive and made it clear that it was for each local authority to decide how to award funding in its own area. However, any award of funding should follow the principles of the Town Centre Action Plan which was published by the Scottish Government in 2013 in response to the National Town Centre Review and the Town Centre First Principle.

The action plan developed by the Scottish Government was grouped under key themes which were to be at the core of the allocation of funds and included:-

- ◆ Town Centre Living
- ◆ Vibrant Local Economies
- ◆ Enterprising Communities
- ◆ Accessible Public Services
- ◆ Digital Towns
- ◆ Proactive Planning

More clarity on what was expected in the delivery of the Grant had been received and included the following:-

- ◆ the need to build on achievements already made
- ◆ priority to be given to areas with an existing town centre plan which had been produced in collaboration with partners and the community
- ◆ projects should complement and add value to work already underway
- ◆ cognisance to be given to other sources of funding to maximise resources available
- ◆ transformative investments, which would drive local economic activities and repurpose town centres, to become more diverse, successful and sustainable
- ◆ themes to include town centre living, involvement of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), regenerating buildings and sites and delivering community facilities
- ◆ all funds to be committed by 31 March 2020 and any monies remaining after that date to be returned to the Scottish Government

Options which could be considered for allocation of the funds and which met the Scottish Government's criteria were detailed in the report. In addition, details of the financial allocation to each of the 7 options was detailed in the appendix to the report.

Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved that option 4, as detailed in the report, be approved. Councillor McCreary, seconded by Councillor Nelson, moved as an amendment that option 3, as detailed in the report be approved, subject to any monies not being used, as a result of a suitable project not having been identified by the end of July 2019 being allocated to option 4. Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Ross, moved as a second amendment that option 7, as detailed in the report, be approved.

On a vote being taken by a show of hands, between the second amendment (moved by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Ross) and the first amendment (moved by Councillor McCreary and seconded by Councillor Nelson), 13 members voted for the second amendment and 5 for the first amendment. The second amendment was declared carried and placed against the motion. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 18 members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that option 7, as detailed in the report, for the allocation of the Scottish Government's £2.5 million Town Centre Capital Grant Fund, be approved; and
- (2) that a report providing details of the identified projects be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

9 Cambuslang Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan

A report dated 14 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the consultative draft document which had been prepared by external consultants for Cambuslang Town Centre.

It was recognised that the traditional function of a retail town centre needed to change in order to meet the needs and expectations of modern communities. In this regard, external consultants had been commissioned to undertake a study of Cambuslang Town Centre, with a view to developing a Strategic Action Plan for Cambuslang.

As a result of the study, the consultative draft Cambuslang Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, attached as an appendix to the report, had been prepared. It was proposed that the consultative draft be published and made available for consultation for a period of 8 weeks, following which the finalised Strategy would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for approval.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the consultative draft Cambuslang Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, attached as an appendix to the report, be published for consultation for a period of 8 weeks; and
- (2) that, following the period of consultation, the Cambuslang Town Centre Strategy Action Plan be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for approval.

10 Replacement of Ponfeigh Bailey Bridge by Douglas Water – Authorisation to Proceed with Promotion of Compulsory Purchase Order of Land Required

A report dated 26 April 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the promotion of a Compulsory Purchase Order, under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Section 104, for the land required to enable the replacement of Ponfeigh Bailey Bridge and associated carriageway realignment.

It was proposed to remove the existing Ponfeigh Bailey Bridge and replace it with a new modular steel structure designed and constructed in accordance with current standards. In order to deliver this project, the Council was seeking to secure voluntary acquisition of the land required for the scheme. However, should voluntary acquisition be unsuccessful, then it would be necessary to promote a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the land required, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

The total costs associated with the proposals had been estimated at £3 million and would be met within the Council's agreed additional capital allocation for the project.

The Committee decided: that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Administration and Legal Services and Head of Property Services as appropriate, be authorised to proceed with the promotion of a Compulsory Purchase Order of the land necessary to construct the replacement Ponfeigh Bailey Bridge and associated carriageway realignment.

11 Centenary Fields Site Nomination – Law Recreation Ground

A report dated 8 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ♦ selection of the site at Law Recreation Ground by Centenary Fields for participation in the Centenary Fields programme
- ♦ authorisation for the Council to enter into a Minute of Agreement with the National Playing Fields Association (operating as Fields in Trust)

The Council had been approached by Centenary Fields to nominate sites for participation in the Centenary Fields programme and the sites at Crawfordjohn Play Area and Law Recreation Ground had both been identified as having links to World War I (WWI).

Centenary Fields had advised that the preferred site was Law Recreation Ground as it already had an existing WWI memorial and, therefore, had strong links to those who were killed or missing in the Great War.

It was proposed that the selection of the site at Law Recreation Ground be approved and the appropriate legal arrangements be made.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the selection of Law Recreation Ground as a protected site for inclusion as part of the Centenary Fields programme be approved; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Administration and Legal Services, be authorised to enter into a Minute of Agreement with the National Playing Fields Association (operating as Fields in Trust) to designate the site at Law Recreation Ground for the use and enjoyment of the residents of South Lanarkshire as public playing fields and open space in perpetuity.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 January 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

12 Proposed Renaming of Priestfield Hall, Blantyre

A report dated 15 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the proposed renaming of Priestfield Hall, Blantyre.

In recognition of the significant contribution made by June Stewart to the hall and her community, the Priestfield Hall Management Committee had requested permission from the Council to change the name of Priestfield Hall, Blantyre to The June Stewart Centre.

The Management Committee had undertaken a consultation exercise which established broad support for the re-naming of the hall.

The costs associated with the proposal would be met by the Hall Management Committee.

The Committee decided: that Priestfield Hall, Blantyre be renamed The June Stewart Centre.

13 Community Benefit Funds – Annual Report

A report dated 7 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on grants awarded in 2018/2019 from the Community Benefit Funds administered by the Council's Planning and Economic Development Services.

The Community Benefit Funds had been established to provide funding to suitable projects providing community benefits in eligible areas. Details of the grants awarded in 2018/2019 were provided in the appendices to the report.

The Committee decided: that the grants awarded from the Community Benefit Funds in 2018/2019, as detailed in the appendices to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 May 2018 (Paragraph 13)]

14 Economic Development Business Support Services' Annual Report

A report dated 14 May 2019 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ business support activity undertaken by the Council in 2018/2019
- ♦ a range of business and sector development programmes and initiatives offered by the Council for 2019/2020

To secure continuity of delivery, an overall programme of business support for 2019/2020 was proposed as follows:-

Programme 2019/2020	Budget
Business Support Grants	£187,100
ERDF 2015 to 2020 Programme	£ TBC
Sub Total (Business Development)	£187,100
Tourism Sector Support	£ 41,000
Business Support Initiatives	£ 58,000
Supplier Development Programme	£ 10,000
Overall Total	£296,100

The Committee decided:

- (1)** that the business development programmes and initiatives for 2019/2020 amounting to £296,100, as detailed above, be noted; and
- (2)** that the outcomes of the Council's programmes to support local companies during 2018/2019 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 May 2018 (Paragraph 12)]

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.