

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 23 June 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor Stephanie Callaghan*), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillor's' Apology:

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

M Hayward, Interim Chief Officer; L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

D Booth, General Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 26 May 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/2021

A report dated 26 May 2021 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 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The General Fund Revenue Account, including COVID-19 and approved transfers to reserves, showed an underspend of £2.595 million which was an improvement of £0.432 million on the figure previously reported to Committee. This was due to increased income from Council Tax (£0.272 million) together with reduced spend across Resources and Centrally Held Budgets (£0.160 million).

The outturn underspend of £2.595 million included non-COVID transfers to reserves of £37.508 million. This included the transfers to reserves approved as part of the probable outturn which, when adjusted for minor movements, amounted to £24.626 million. The revised transfers were detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

The outturn underspend also included a number of proposed outturn transfers to reserves totalling £12.942 million. The carry forward of those monies in reserves would allow committed areas of spend to be incurred in 2021/2022. The main reasons for the additional outturn transfer requests, which did not include COVID funding transfers, were highlighted in the report and detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

The overall outturn position included a commitment of £0.236 million within Social Work Resources and £0.585 million in Housing and Technical Resources in relation to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB). This reflected the proposal to allow the IJB to retain this non-recurring underspend within its reserves, earmarked for future care costs, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The position on COVID expenditure in 2020/2021 was break-even. Total COVID spend was £35.488 million which had been managed by using Scottish Government funding of £35.488 million. Total COVID funding available amounted to £66.978 million, therefore, £31.490 million was available to be carried forward into 2021/2022.

It was proposed that consideration be given to transferring the final underspend of £2.595 million to reserves for the following purposes:-

- ◆ replacement for financial management, HR, payroll, purchasing and procurement system (£1.000 million)
- ◆ committee room audio visual equipment upgrades (£0.150 million)
- ◆ COVID related expenditure in 2021/2022 (£1.445 million)

If the proposal was approved, those monies would be transferred to reserves for use in 2021/2022 and the Council would return a break-even position for 2020/2021.

As at 31 March 2021, the Housing Revenue Account showed a break-even position. This was after a transfer to reserves of £2.569 million, which was £0.849 million less than budgeted. Details of the variances across the Housing Revenue Account were given in Appendix 6 to the report and were primarily due an underspend on property costs and under recovery of income.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that across Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, the Council showed an outturn underspend of £2.595 million, after proposed transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 6.1 and Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) that it be noted that the probable outturn transfers, approved by members, had been revised to £24.626 million as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;

- (3) that the Resources' requests for transfers to reserves which reflected the impact of COVID on the Resources' ability to spend on commitments against specific streams of funding during the final part of the year, totalling £12.942 million, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;
- (4) that, as proposed in section 5.5 of the report, approval be given for the underspend in the budget delegated to the IJB (£0.236 million and £0.585 million) to be held in the Council's balance sheet for its use in 2021/2022;
- (5) that it be noted that, after using Scottish Government funding, the position on COVID expenditure was break-even, with a carry forward of funding of £31.490 million;
- (6) that the £31.490 million underspend on COVID funding, as detailed in section 7.2 of the report, be transferred to reserves for use on COVID expenditure in 2021/2022;
- (7) that the £2.595 million underspend, after proposed transfers to reserves, be allocated as detailed in section 8.2 of the report, resulting in a break-even position for the Council; and
- (8) that the break-even position on the Housing Revenue Account be noted.

4 Capital Budget Monitoring Final Outturn – 2020/2021

A report dated 2 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ outturn position of the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes for the year ended 31 March 2021
- ◆ proportion of the programmes from 2020/2021, expressed in financial terms, which had been carried forward for the year 2021/2022

The total spend on the General Services Capital Programme in 2020/2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, amounted to £69.548 million. The main projects showing an underspend were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. The underspend reflected a variation from the expected timing of project spend in 2020/2021 and funding would be carried forward into the 2021/2022 financial year.

Reflecting the spend in 2020/2021 and the requirement for the balance of the budget available to be carried forward to undertake approved projects, £11.100 million would be carried forward into the financial year 2021/2022.

Expenditure on the Housing Capital Programme for 2020/2021 was £49.362 million, against a budget of £48.172 million. The net overspend of £1.190 million was as a result of accelerated spend on the provision of additional housing supply, offset by an underspend on other Housing Investment Programme projects which had been delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Housing and Technical Resources had received additional one off income totalling £1.882 million, however, due to reduced level of spend and, therefore, income received on both mortgage to rent and open market purchases, the net impact was additional income of £0.798 million in 2020/2021. Taking account of the year end overspend position of £1.190 million and the additional income of £0.798 million, £0.392 million required to be accelerated from future years' Housing Programmes in 2020/2021. In order to accommodate this, and to reflect the profile of spend expected on the Housing Investment Programme in the coming years, it was proposed that the 2021/2022 programme be reduced by £6.441 million and the 2022/2023 allocation be increased by £6.049 million.

The level of overall spend anticipated in 2021/2022 for both the General Services and Housing Programmes was the subject of a separate report to this meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outturn on the 2020/21 General Services Programme of £69.548 million, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the carry forward of 2020/2021 projects into the 2021/2022 General Services Capital Programme, totalling £11.100 million, be approved;
- (3) that the outturn on the 2020/2021 Housing Capital Programme of £49.362 million be noted;
- (4) that it be noted that £0.392 million was required to balance the 2020/2021 Housing Capital Programme and that the reprofiling of the budget for future years' Housing Capital Programmes, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (5) that it be noted that the level of overall spend anticipated in 2021/2022, for both General Services and Housing Programmes, was the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring Period 2 - 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

A report dated 3 June 2021 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 21 May 2021.

The Council had received additional COVID funding of £25.394 million. This funding would be used to manage the costs of COVID in the current year. The Council had carried forward £31.490 million of unspent COVID funding from 2020/2021 and this was available to assist in managing costs during the year. This was split between Specific Funding of £14.290 million and General, or non specific, funding of £17.199 million. The carry forward of those monies into 2021/2022 formed part of the 2020/2021 outturn position.

The total COVID net expenditure at 21 May 2021 amounted to £1.294 million. This had been assumed as fully funded from the 2021/2022 allocation of £25.394 million, resulting in a break-even position. The position would continue to be monitored and reported throughout the year.

At 21 May 2021, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account, was an overspend of £0.007 million. This included a breakeven position on COVID spend and income. The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 21 May 2021.

Officers responded to a member's question in relation to roads and footpath repairs and undertook to respond to one specific member issue.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the 2021/2022 COVID position, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the total net expenditure of £1.294 million in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 21 May 2021, be noted;
- (3) that the net overspend of £0.007 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 21 May 2021, after COVID-19 spend and funding, be noted; and

(4) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 21 May 2021 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 April 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Capital Budget 2021/2022 and Monitoring for Period 2 - 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

A report dated 8 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ consolidating the capital budget monitoring to provide a Council-wide summary of the 2021/2022 Capital Programme, including 2020/2021 carry forward
- ◆ updating members on progress of the Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2021 to 21 May 2021

The proposed Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £85.066 million. This represented a movement of £0.178 million from the list of projects totalling £85.244 million approved by the Executive Committee on 4 November 2020. The revised figure of £85.066 million included:-

- ◆ adjustments approved by the Executive Committee during 2020/2021
- ◆ additional funded projects
- ◆ accounting adjustments
- ◆ the outcome of an exercise to identify the anticipated level of spend for the year

The full programme of projects was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, while the additional funded projects were shown in Appendix 2. Details of the movement in the Programme were provided in Appendix 3 to the report and Appendix 4 detailed the funding available to support the Programme.

2 projects which had received Committee approval, the Newton Farm Primary School extension and the SWiS Plus replacement project, required to be funded from borrowing and approval was sought to borrow to fund those additional costs.

At 21 May 2021, £4.072 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme and £7.483 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme, in line with the respective budgets for the period.

The base budget for the Housing Capital Programme for 2021/2022 totalled £94.360 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £94.360 million and this, together with funding sources, was detailed at Appendix 5 to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the additional borrowing required to fund the extension to Newton Farm Primary School (£3.430 million) and the replacement of SWiS Plus (£2.634 million), detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that it be noted that monitoring and reporting arrangements were underway for all of the Council's Capital Programmes for 2021/2022; and

- (4) that it be noted that the revised programmes would be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 April 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

7 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional revenue funding, totalling £8.011 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	2021/2022 (£m)
Education Resources	8.011
Total	8.011

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 May 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

8 Workforce Monitoring Information - April 2020 to March 2021 Yearly Summary

A report dated 18 May 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on workforce monitoring information relating to the Council for the period April 2020 to March 2021 as follows:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ employee development
- ◆ labour turnover/analysis of leavers and exit interviews
- ◆ recruitment monitoring
- ◆ staffing watch as at 13 March 2021

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 16 December 2020 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/2023 and Savings Requirement

A report dated 8 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Budget Strategy and Savings Requirement for 2022/2023.

Details were provided on:-

- ◆ government grant estimations
- ◆ other budget movements
- ◆ summary of budget gap
- ◆ corporate solutions for consideration
- ◆ the level of savings requirement
- ◆ next steps in considering the 2022/2023 revenue budget
- ◆ the reinstatement of temporary solutions

Taking into account an assumed reduction of 1% in Government Grant, the increase in council tax property numbers, the additional expenditure items detailed in the report and the funding for pay award costs, the resulting budget gap in 2022/2023 amounted to £54.403 million, before corporate solutions. To address the budget gap, corporate solutions had been identified for consideration, reflecting the previously approved use of reserves as a result of the Loans Fund Review, the use of investments monies identified for 2021/2022 and the level of council tax, and those were detailed in the report.

An increase of 3.5% in Council Tax Band D levels or a government grant allocation of £4.882 million as a replacement for income that could have been raised through increasing council tax would mean total corporate solutions for 2022/2023 of £44.986 million and this would reduce the core savings requirement to £9.417 million in 2022/2023. If the council tax level was not increased, the savings requirement would be £14.299 million. It was proposed that officers commence work on a package of savings for 2022/2023 to the value of £9.4 million.

The 2022/2023 budget included a number of solutions which were temporary in nature and which would require to be reinstated in future years. Those were detailed in Table 4 within the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2022/2023 detailed in the report, resulting in a Budget Gap of £54.403 million before corporate solutions, be approved;
- (2) that the corporate solutions for 2022/2023, including the use of reserves, resulting in a revised budget gap of £9.4 million, be approved;
- (3) that the next steps detailed in the report, including the identification of £9.4 million of savings, be approved; and
- (4) that the reinstatements, detailed in Table 4 of the report, be noted.

10 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 10 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on actions required 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 at the following locations, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be declared surplus to Council requirements:-

- ♦ 50 Annbank Street, Larkhall (61 square metres)
- ♦ 83 Machan Road, Larkhall (39 square metres)
- ♦ 40 MacDairmid Drive, Hamilton (75 square metres)

11 Cross Party Working Group Review of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture - Outcomes

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the outcomes from the Cross Party Working Group (CPWG) review of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) following the conclusion of the work of the Group.

The key findings from the Group focused on the following areas:-

- ♦ governance
- ♦ pricing
- ♦ partnership
- ♦ SLLC estate
- ♦ community asset transfer

The Group had concluded that the current SLLC governance model was outdated and that new governance arrangements required to be developed whereby SLLC was converted to a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation (SCIO). Further details of the proposed governance arrangements were provided in the report.

The Group also reviewed SLLC's current pricing system and concluded that it was over complicated and did not reflect market conditions. It proposed that the pricing policy be revised and that the Council retain the final decision on concessionary pricing schemes. However, it also proposed that SLLC be given scope to adjust commercial pricing without prior approval of the Council.

The Group recognised a need to develop strong relationships with the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and arrangements were now in place whereby SLLC's General Manager was included on the Community Planning Partnership Board to ensure closer alignment between SLLC priorities and those of the Council and the CPP.

With regard to the SLLC estate, the Group considered that, currently, it was important that the Council retain the level of community assets and proposed that the Council continue to manage the SLLC estate in line with the resources available. It did, however, recognise the keen interest in community asset transfer and the Council's commitment to facilitating community ownership of public assets. In this regard, in partnership with SLLC, it was proposed that the Council undertake proactive consultation and engagement to harness community interest and support the capacity and sustainability of community organisations.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report including membership the SLLC Board and arrangements for community asset transfer.

The Committee recommended to the Council:

- (1) that the governance arrangements, detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the pricing arrangements, detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved; and

- (3) that the proposal that the Council further consult and engage with community groups to promote community asset transfer, as detailed in section 8 of the report, be approved.

[Reference Minutes of 29 May 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

12 Glengowan Primary School Extension - Full Business Case GCR City Deal - Larkhall Community Growth Area

A report dated 9 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Glengowan Primary School Extension element of the Larkhall Community Growth Area City Deal project.

Governance arrangements for the City Deal Initiative were defined within the associated City Deal Assurance Framework. This set out the requirements for the development of Business Cases for individual projects. The Larkhall CGA had received approval at both Strategic and Outline Business Case stages and a Full Business Case had now been produced for the Glengowan Primary School Extension element of the Larkhall CGA project.

The Glengowan Primary School Extension project would:-

- ◆ provide an additional 402 square metres, 2 storey extension to the existing school and a 63 square metres classroom created by reconfiguring the existing building layout at a cost of £2.796 million
- ◆ deliver a total of 3 classrooms with associated storage, toilet and circulation space, increasing the capacity from 271 to 361 pupils together with new nursery provision for up to 48 pupils with stand alone entrance, storage, kitchen, toilet and soft surface outdoor play area

The FBC continued to make the case for the Larkhall CGA project in terms of:-

- ◆ strategic fit
- ◆ commercial case
- ◆ economic case
- ◆ financial case
- ◆ management case

The Executive Summary of the FBC was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The production of the FBC provided the basis for full delivery and construction of the school extension. If approved by Committee, the FBC for the project would then be considered by the Glasgow City Region Deal Programme Management Office which had delegated powers to confirm its approval under the Assurance Framework.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Glengowan Primary School extension Full Business Case be approved; and
- (2) that grant funding be sought in accordance with City Deal grant distribution process outlined in the Assurance Framework.

13 Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

A report dated 15 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the adoption of the Glasgow City Region Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan
- ◆ a proposed extension of the funding commitment for Climate Ready Clyde to 2025/2026

The Council was a core partner of Climate Ready Clyde, a cross sector initiative funded by its 15 member organisations and supported by the Scottish Government to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan to adapt to the impacts of climate change and build a climate resilient Glasgow City Region.

Public consultation had been undertaken on the draft adaptation strategy, developed by Climate Ready Clyde, and, following the consultation process, an updated version of the strategy had been approved by the City Region Cabinet for subsequent endorsement by partners, including the Council.

Details were provided on the objectives contained in the strategy, which would be in place until 2030, together with its aims and the 5 place based priorities for adaptation.

A Strategic Action Plan had also been developed, covering the period 2021 to 2025, which contained 16 Flagship Actions. Those were large scale, strategic and high ambition actions where there was strong consensus on the need for progress. Details of the individual Flagship Actions were provided in the report. Delivering the Strategy and Action Plan would require increased public funding in the years ahead.

The Council had also been asked to continue its financial support to the Climate Ready Clyde partnership to allow for secretariat support in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Strategy. It was anticipated that the cost over the next 5 years would be in the region of £47,500, based on the current annual contribution of £9,500.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that, following approval at the City Region Cabinet meeting on 1 June 2021, the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan be endorsed by the Council; and
- (2) that extension of the funding commitment to Climate Ready Clyde for the next 5 years to support delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan be approved.

14 South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023 Annual Review 2020/2021

A report dated 15 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the 2020/2021 annual review of the South Lanarkshire Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023.

The Strategy, approved by this Committee in November 2019, had been developed to ensure that effective progress was achieved in relation to key national and local outcomes set out in the South Lanarkshire Community Plan. To support the achievement of the relevant outcomes, the strategy was constructed around the following 6 strategic outcomes:-

- ◆ “people behave responsibly in their attitude to alcohol and the impact of drug misuse is reduced
- ◆ people behave responsibly in relation to fire safety
- ◆ the impact of domestic noise is reduced

- ♦ illegally discarded litter and household waste is reduced, improving the safety and attractiveness of communities
- ♦ levels of disorder are reduced, improving safety within communities
- ♦ partners engage with residents to promote and improve the availability of and access to services for those affected by anti-social behaviour”

The 2020/2021 review of the strategy identified that, in the first 17 months, good progress had been made and a summary of progress against each of the 6 strategic outcomes was provided in the report and in the review document, attached as an appendix to the report. Ongoing restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted on progress in some of the actions and measures in the strategy, as well as on reporting arrangements and those were detailed in the report. The annual review had also confirmed that no changes were required to the existing action plan.

The review document would be submitted to the meeting of the Safer South Lanarkshire Board to be held on 13 September 2021 for noting.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress identified in the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the outcome of the first review of the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2019 to 2023 be reported to the Safer South Lanarkshire Board on 13 September 2021 for noting.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 November 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.