

CLYDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 June 2023

Chair:

Councillor Catherine McClymont

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Ross Gowland (Depute), Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor David Shearer

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Richard Lockhart

Attending:

Education Resources

B Lee, Headteacher, Lesmahagow High School; L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer, Excellence and Equity; B O'Hara, Headteacher, St Athanasius' Primary School and Nursery Class; J Wallace, Quality Improvement Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

C Lyon, Administration Officer; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

L Murphy, Watch Commander/Local Authority Liaison Officer and K Stark, Station Commander

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Marrs	Community Grant Applications:- ♦ Kirkfieldbank Homing and Sporting Club (CL/2/23)	Known to Group
Gowland	♦ Lesmahagow Highland Games Society (CL/8/23)	Member

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 22 March 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – 2022/2023 Annual Performance and Activity Report

L Murphy, Watch Commander/Local Authority Liaison Officer and K Stark, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) gave a presentation on the 2022/2023 Annual Performance and Activity Report for the Clydesdale area.

The presentation provided performance information relating to key priorities covering the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and provided a comparison with the 2 previous financial years. Information was provided on:-

- ♦ deliberate primary fires
- ♦ deliberate secondary fires
- ♦ accidental dwelling fires
- ♦ accidental 'other' building fires
- ♦ fatal fire casualties
- ♦ non-fatal fire casualties (excluding precautionary check-up)
- ♦ special service (road traffic collisions)
- ♦ special service (fatal and non-fatal casualties)
- ♦ false alarms (malicious false alarms and unwanted fire alarm signals (non-domestic))

Details were provided on the following community engagement activities:-

- ♦ 606 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) undertaken, 211 of which were a direct result of the SFRS's post domestic incident response
- ♦ the Home Fire Safety Visit Referral Pathway

Details were also provided on the Youth Volunteer Service (YVS) which was based at Lanark Fire Station. The main objective of the YVS was to provide a safe, welcoming, enjoyable and fun environment for young people to learn as individuals, develop positive relationships and actively work together to provide a safer Scotland. The Scheme provided a great opportunity for young people across Scotland to develop their skillset and make a positive contribution to their local communities, whilst gaining a unique insight into life at a working fire station. The recent recruitment process, designed to encourage people from all backgrounds to apply, saw the appointment of 6 new students to the programme.

L Murphy and K Stark, having responded to members' questions, were thanked for their informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 June 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Education Scotland Report – Coulter Primary School, Coulter

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Coulter Primary School, Coulter made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in November 2022 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 20 December 2022.

A number of particular strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress. Education Scotland had intimated that they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

J Wallace, Quality Improvement Manager, having spoken on key aspects of the report and having responded to members' questions, was congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Lambie left the meeting after this item of business

5 Education Scotland Report – St Athanasius’ Primary School and Nursery Class, Carluke

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Athanasius’ Primary School and Nursery Class, Carluke made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in March 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 25 April 2023.

A number of particular strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school’s improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress. Education Scotland had intimated that they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

B O’Hara, Headteacher and J Wallace, Lead Officer, having spoken on key aspects of the report and having responded to members’ questions, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Following the consultation and voting process as reported to the last meeting of this Committee, schools had progressed with their spend, to ensure the minimum 5% had been fully spent by the end of March 2023.

Lesmahagow High School’s PB work was shared as an example of good practice within the Clydesdale area and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. This case study illustrated the school’s PB journey this session. 108 parents had voted as part of the process, which had doubled the amount of parent votes from last session. Those voting figures were encouraging in the secondary sector, as it was often more difficult to engage families in PB in the secondary sector. The school also had plans in place to improve pupil voting next session. This demonstrated the value and commitment Lesmahagow High School had with regards to PB and pupil voice. The voice from stakeholders was very much about improving school experiences for all pupils, but particularly for pupils affected by poverty. Developing new learning spaces, which pupils could access throughout the school day to support learning and engagement in school, was a key area of spend, along with the purchase of lockers to mitigate stigma and issues around the Cost of the School Day. A further impact section would be added to this case study at the end of the academic year to show the benefit this activity had for the most vulnerable learners.

PB was now fully embedded in all South Lanarkshire Council schools through the PEF. Schools continued to allocate a minimum of 5% of their PEF to be subject to PB year on year. Schools would receive updated guidance on this at the next PEF Head Teacher and Equity Lead Information Session in May 2023. Optional PB training was planned for August 2023 for schools who had new PB leads or needed a refresh.

South Lanarkshire Council schools’ PB work continued to be recognised nationally as an example of good practice and several local authorities had approached the Council for guidance and support in this area. A CoSLA award application would be submitted to showcase the work of the Council’s schools in PB.

Education Resources would provide Area Committees with:-

- ◆ a summary report of each school's PB outcome
- ◆ case studies of school activity, which had particular impact/success
- ◆ a detailed financial report of how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent

Education Resources would support schools and monitor and track the impact of this activity. Findings would inform any future PB activity within the Resource.

B Lee, Headteacher and the Quality Improvement Officer responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 25 January 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

7 Playscheme Grant Applications 2023/2024

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on an application received from Lanark Universal Connections (PS/CL/1/22) for a playscheme grant for 2023/2024.

Playscheme funding allowed an allocation of £660 to be made to playschemes that operated over the summer, October and Easter holiday periods with £440 for the summer period only and £110 for each of the October and Easter periods.

Financial provision was available for individual playschemes to receive, as appropriate, Travel and Freedom passes from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).

The Committee decided: that a playscheme grant of £550 be awarded to Lanark Universal Connections.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 June 2022 (Paragraph 2)]

8 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ applications for community grants to be met from the 2023/2024 budget
- ◆ 4 community grant applications which had been dealt with by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, during the period from 23 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 to ensure that the 2022/2023 budget was utilised as fully as possible

The Committee decided:

(1) that community grants be awarded as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| (a) | Applicant: | Carmichael Babies and Toddlers (CL/1/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Entrance fees |
| | Amount Awarded: | £350 |

- (b) Applicant: Kirkfieldbank Homing and Sporting Club (CL/2/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £290

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (c) Applicant: Elsrickle Women's Rural Institute (CL/3/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (d) Applicant: Law Parish Church Guild (CL/4/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (e) Applicant: Coalburn Brass Band Family (CL/5/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £600
- (f) Applicant: Lanark Agricultural Discussion Society (CL/7/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (g) Applicant: Lesmahagow Highland Games Society (CL/8/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £600

Councillor Gowland, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (h) Applicant: Carstairs Senior Citizens' Association (CL/9/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and materials
Amount Awarded: £395
- (i) Applicant: Biggar and District Community Heritage, Biggar (CL/10/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £400

(2) that the action taken during the period 23 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the award of the following community grants from the 2022/2023 budget be noted:-

- (a) Applicant: Friends of Volunteering in Clydesdale, Lanark (CL/32/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (b) Applicant: Hawksland Scottish Women's Institute, Lesmahagow (CL/45/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (c) Applicant: Come Paint With Us, Blackwood (CL/46/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and materials
Amount Awarded: £440

- (d) Applicant: Hear For You, Lanark (CL/47/22)
 Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
 Amount Awarded: £800

[Reference: Minutes of 22 March 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.