

COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 15 September 2009

Chair:

Councillor Hamish Stewart (Depute)

Councillors Present:

John Anderson, Eileen Baxendale, Walter Brogan, Archie Buchanan, Russell Clearie, Peter Craig, Hugh Dunsmuir, Allan Falconer, Lynn Filshie, Joe Lowe, Anne Maggs, Brian McCaig, Michael McCann, Clare McColl, Alex McInnes, David Shearer, Graham Simpson, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Andy Carmichael, Gordon Clark, Gerry Convery (Chair), Beith Forrest, Edward McAvoy

Attending:

Community Resources

N Anderson, Executive Director; S Clelland, Head of Land and Fleet Services; R Howe, Head of Environmental and Strategic Services; S Kelly, Head of Facilities and Cultural Services; A McKinnon, Head of Support Services

Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; S Somerville, Administration Adviser

Finance and Information Technology Resources

M Simpson, Accountant

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Resources Committee held on 16 June 2009 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/2010

A joint report dated 19 August 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 7 August 2009 against budgeted expenditure for 2009/2010 for the various Services within Community Resources.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend on Community Resources' revenue budget of £0.071 million (0.3%), as detailed in Appendix A to the report, and the forecast to 31 March 2010 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, be approved.

4 Community Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/2010

A joint report dated 17 August 2009 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Information Technology Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted advising of progress on Community Resources' capital programme for 2009/2010 and summarising the position at 7 August 2009.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Community Resources - Workforce Monitoring - May, June and July 2009

A joint report dated 19 August 2009 by the Executive Directors (Corporate Resources) and (Community Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community Resources for the period May, June and July 2009:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Joint Staffing Watch as at 13 June 2009

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 16 June 2009 (Paragraph 3)]

6 The Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008

A report dated 11 August 2009 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on the provisions of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 which was to be phased in from 1 October 2009.

The Act updated the law on public health to enable the Scottish Government, health boards and local authorities to better protect public health in Scotland. It would also assist the Scottish Government to meet its obligations under the International Health Regulations. Details were provided on the contents of the 10 parts of the Act and highlighted the implications for local authorities.

In particular, the Act:-

- ◆ made provision relating to the use, sale or hire of sunbeds
- ◆ clarified statutory responsibility for the provision of mortuaries and post mortem facilities
- ◆ amended the law on statutory nuisances

Part 1 of the Act required the Council to designate "competent" persons to undertake functions assigned to them under the Act. It was, therefore, proposed that powers be delegated to the Executive Director (Community Resources) to designate "competent" persons in terms of the Act.

The Council was also required to prepare, with NHS Lanarkshire, a Joint Health Protection Plan which was to be signed off by the Chief Environmental Health Officer on behalf of the Council. It was proposed that the Head of Environmental and Strategic Services be designated as the Chief Environmental Health Officer to act on behalf of the Council.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the provisions of the Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008 be noted;
- (2) that the Head of Environmental and Strategic Services be designated as the Chief Environmental Health Officer to act on behalf of the Council; and
- (3) that powers be delegated to the Executive Director (Community Resources) to designate “competent” persons in terms of the Act and maintain the list of such designated persons.

7 South Lanarkshire Lifestyle, Carluke Facility

A joint report dated 30 July 2009 by the Executive Directors (Community Resources) and (Corporate Resources) was submitted on the requirement to establish additional posts to support the operation of the new South Lanarkshire Lifestyle, Carluke facility which was due to open in October 2009.

The new facility offered a wide range of services that would benefit the community, including a main hall with fixed stage, public library, function rooms, a café and lunch service, meeting rooms and an external courtyard play area.

It was proposed that the following permanent posts be established:-

- ◆ 1 post of Venue Manager on Grade 3, Level 1 to 8, SCP 46-88 (£21,881 to £36,316)
- ◆ 3 full-time equivalent posts of Clerical Assistant on Grade 1, Level 1 to 3, SCP 1-25 (£11,187 to £16,004)

The costs associated with those posts would be met from existing budgets.

The Committee decided:

that the following permanent posts be established for the new South Lanarkshire Lifestyle, Carluke facility:-

- ◆ 1 post of Venue Manager on Grade 3, Level 1 to 8, SCP 46-88 (£21,881 to £36,316)
- ◆ 3 full-time equivalent posts of Clerical Assistant on Grade 1, Level 1 to 3, SCP 1-25 (£11,187 to £16,004)

8 Expansion of Entitlement to Free School Meals

A report dated 30 July 2009 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on the expansion of entitlement to free school meals through changes in the eligibility criteria within the tax credit system and the associated implications for the Council.

In autumn 2008, the Scottish Government had announced that the entitlement to free school meals would be extended in the following 2 ways:-

- ◆ to all P1 to P3 pupils with effect from August 2010
- ◆ to all primary and secondary pupils of families in receipt of the maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit with effect from August 2009

The Scottish Government had estimated that between 2,500 and 2,600 children across primary and secondary schools were likely to benefit.

Details were provided on estimated costs for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 to cover school meal production, training and equipment.

The Committee decided: that the operational and financial impact associated with the change in eligibility criteria on the provision of free school meals be noted.

9 Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Best Value Charter Assessment Scheme 2009

A report dated 17 August 2009 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on the standing of South Lanarkshire Council's Bereavement Services in the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Best Value Charter Assessment Scheme.

In terms of those organisations participating in the ICCM Assessment Scheme, the Council's Bereavement Services had been scored in first place in both the Scottish and the United Kingdom rankings.

Following the ICCM Assessment in June 2009, the Service had achieved Customer Service Excellence status and had produced the first draft of a newsletter which would be available on a 6 monthly basis at various Council locations. Those improvements would be recognised in the 2010 assessment.

The Committee decided: that the performance of the Council in the ICCM Best Value Charter Assessment Scheme of Bereavement Services be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 September 2008 (Paragraph 6)]

10 Community Resources - Notification of Contracts Awarded

A report dated 24 August 2009 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted on contracts awarded by Community Resources during the period 23 May to 24 August 2009.

In terms of Standing Order No 19.6 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of contracts awarded. Details of the contracts awarded by Community Resources were provided in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

11 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.