

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 June 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (Depute), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie (*substitute for Councillor Mo Razzaq*), Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Ross Lambie (*substitute for Councillor Richard Nelson*), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor John Ross, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

Housing and Technical Resources

S Gibson, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

Order of Business

The Committee decided:	that the items of business be dealt with in the order minuted below.
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1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 17 May 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided:	that the minutes be approved as a correct record.
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3 Revenue Budget Year End 2022/2023

A report dated 12 June 2023 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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Council's overall probable outturn position for the year, including approved transfers to reserves, was reported to the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 1 February 2023 as an underspend of £4.969 million. This assumed underspend of £4.696 million on the Council's General Services would be transferred to reserves, resulting in a forecast breakeven position for the year.

Across Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, the year end position was an underspend of £3.966 million. This was after proposed transfers to reserves and was in addition to the £4.696 million reported as part of the probable outturn. Details of the year end position were provided in appendices 1 and 2 to the report. The year end underspend of £3.966 million included total transfers to reserves of £47.334 million. This included the transfers to reserves approved as part of the Probable Outturn (£39.111 million) adjusted for movements totalling £0.302 million to reflect the final position. The revisions to the Probable Outturn transfers were shown in Appendix 3 to the report, giving a total of £30.009 million for Probable Outturn transfers. Additional transfers to reserves proposed at year end totalled £8.325 million. This reflected carry forward of funding in reserves to allow committed areas of spend to be incurred in 2023/2024. Details of those additional proposed transfers were given in Appendix 4 of the report. It was proposed that the £3.966 million underspend be used to meet future budget pressures and, if this proposal was approved, those monies would be transferred to reserves, resulting in a breakeven position for the financial year 2022/2023.

The outcome of the Job Evaluation Exercise for Home Carers would result in significant recurring costs for the Care at Home service, which was delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB), in 2023/2024 and beyond. The costs of grade changes, estimated to be in the region of £7 million, were not included in the budget set by the IJB. Details were provided on the process set out in the IJB's Financial Regulations and Integration Scheme for such an eventuality. The financial position for both the IJB and Council partner indicated significant ongoing budget gaps and it was likely that any recovery plan identified would require changes to the services commissioned by the IJB. At its meeting on 1 February 2023, the Committee agreed that an underspend on core funding from the Council to the IJB would be dealt with as overfunding in year and the resultant underspend was presented as a transfer to reserves of £5.635 million. Since then, following a decision taken by the Council, at its meeting on 24 May 2023, to a review being undertaken of the implementation date of the outcome of the Home Carers' Job Evaluation, a basis had been established for back dating implementation to October 2020. Those costs would require to be included in the financial position for 2022/2023. As a result, it would not now be possible to implement the decision taken by the Executive Committee to claw back the non-recurring underspend from the IJB of £5.635 million as the IJB would not now underspend and that funding would no longer be available. Other funding would require to be identified to help with Children and Families costs into 2023/2024 and it was proposed that the additional underspend of £3.966 million be considered as a means of contributing towards meeting those costs, together with residual Covid funding held in the Council's reserves. Due to the timing of the result of the review, full costs and the funding package would require to be quantified and a report on this matter would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 16 August 2023.

As at 31 March 2023, the position on the Housing Revenue Account was breakeven. This was after a transfer to the Housing Revenue Account reserves of £3.990 million, which was £0.490 million higher than budgeted, as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that across Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, an additional year end underspend of £3.966 million after proposed transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the probable outturn transfers approved by members had been revised to £39.009 million, previously £39.311 million, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (3) that the Resources' requests for transfers to reserves to spend on commitments against specific streams of funding during the final part of the year, totalling £8.325 million, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, be approved;
- (4) that the overfunding position on the IJB contribution, as detailed at section 4.5 of the report, be noted;
- (5) that approval be given for the £3.966 million underspend, after proposed transfers to reserves, to be transferred to reserves and used to fund future budget pressures, as detailed in section 4.13 of the report;
- (6) that it be noted that, following the transfer to reserves of £3.966 million, as detailed in recommendation 5, the result would be a breakeven position for the Council;
- (7) that the position regarding the recurring costs in relation to the Home Carers' Job Evaluation exercise, (section 5.1 to 5.4 of the report) be noted;
- (8) that it be noted that the outcome of the review on Home Carers' job evaluation had now been reached, and that a full paper covering expenditure and funding would be presented to the Committee in August 2023 (section 5.5 to 5.7 of the report);
- (9) that it be noted that the clawback of underspend from the IJB would not be possible, and that approval be given for the alternate funds identified to contribute towards Children and Families costs in 2023/2024, as detailed in section 5.6 of the report; and
- (10) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account (section 6) be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 February 2023 (Paragraph 3) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 24 May 2023 (Paragraph 2)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 2 1 April to 19 May 2023

A report dated 2 June 2023 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 19 May 2023.

At 19 May 2023, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account was breakeven.

Details were given on adjustments in relation to the following which had been included in the figures contained in Appendix 1 to the report:-

- ◆ loans fund review
- ◆ loan charges
- ◆ 2023/2024 investments

Details were also given on:-

- ◆ proposals in relation to residual covid funding
- ◆ the position following the outcome of the Job Evaluation exercise for Home Carers

Appendix 2 to the report showed that, at 19 May 2023, there was a breakeven position against the phased budget on the Housing Revenue Account.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on the General Fund Revenue Account at 19 May 2023, as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 19 May 2023, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

5 Capital Budget Monitoring Final Outturn 2022/2023

A report dated 2 June 2023 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 2023
- ◆ projects, expressed in financial terms, which had been carried forward into 2023/2024

The total spend on the General Services Capital Programme 2022/2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, amounted to £65.736 million. This compared to the budget of £78.396 million and resulted in an underspend of £12.660 million. This would be carried forward to the 2023/2024 financial year. The programme underspend was due to the timing of project spend and the main projects responsible for the underspend were detailed in the report and at Appendix 2. The majority of those projects would continue into 2023/2024. Details were also given of year end and accounting adjustments.

The Housing Capital Programme 2022/2023, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, totalled £66.361 million. The actual expenditure on the Housing programme amounted to £60.695 million, a net underspend of £5.666 million. Details were given on the reasons for the underspend. Taking into account the underspend position of £5.666 million and additional one-off income totalling £2.415 million, resulted in a carry forward of £8.081 million. This would be added into the Capital Programme when the spend profile had been finalised.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outturn on the 2022/2023 General Services Programme of £65.736 million, as detailed in section 4.1 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that approval be given for £12.660 million of General Services Capital Programme to be carried forward into 2023/2024, as detailed in section 4.2 of the report, be approved;
- (3) that the outturn on the 2022/2023 Housing Capital Programme of £60.695 million, as detailed in section 4.7 of the report, be noted;
- (4) that the £8.081 million of Housing Capital Programme to be carried forward into future years', as detailed in section 4.9 of the report, be approved; and

- (5) that it be noted that the level of overall spend anticipated in 2023/2024, for both the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes, would be the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

6 Capital Budget 2023/2024 and Monitoring for Period 2 - 1 April to 19 May 2023

A report dated 7 June 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ consolidation of capital budget monitoring to give a Council-wide summary of the 2023/2024 Capital Programme including 2022/2023 carry forward
- ◆ progress on the Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 19 May 2023

At its meeting on 22 February 2023, the Council agreed a General Services base budget for 2023/2024 amounting to £91.061 million. Since the approval of this programme, the financial year end and additional funding received had resulted in a revised General Services base budget position for 2023/2024 of £77.849 million, as detailed in appendices 3 and 4 to the report.

Since the budget was approved in February 2023, additional funding of £4.141 million had been awarded to the Council. In addition, it was proposed that funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and developer contributions already received be added to the programme. A detailed breakdown of those proposals was provided in Appendix 2 to the report and, if approved, the total capital spending programme for 2023/2024 would be £81.990 million.

Appendix 4 summarised the programme spend and funding for the General Fund. Budget for the period amounted to £2.048 million and, at 19 May 2023, £2.048 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme.

The Housing Capital Programme for 2023/2024 amounted to £63.916 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £63.916 million. The funding sources were detailed in Appendix 5 to the report. Budget for the period amounted to £6.337 million and, at 19 May 2023, £6.337 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme.

The position on the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme would be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

Officers responded to a member's questions on the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the position of the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed in appendices 3 and 4, and the Housing Capital Programme, at Appendix 5 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, listed at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 February 2023 (Paragraph 2) and Minutes of 29 March 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

7 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 1 June 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding for 2023/2024, totalling £2.995 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources. Further funding had been agreed in-principle for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 (£1.213 million per annum) which reflected the total additional funding of £5.421 million.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Capital Funding

Resource	2023/2024 (£m)	2024/2025 (£m)	2024/2025 (£m)
Community and Enterprise	2.995	1.213	1.213
Total	2.995	1.213	1.213
Overall Total	£5.421		

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 May 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

8 2024/2025 Revenue Budget

A report dated 8 June 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising on the budget position for 2024/2025.

At the Council meeting held on 22 February 2023, members were advised of an expected budget gap for 2024/2025 which, at that time, was considered to be £16.8 million. That figure was, however, subject to change and details were now provided on the current estimate for the budget gap for 2024/2025. In line with the usual approach, information was provided on estimates of Government Grant levels, requirements identified for revenue expenditure items, including the impact of previous budget decisions and, ultimately, the Budget Gap that had to be met to balance the budget for that year.

The focus on the 2024/2025 revenue budget position would cover:-

- ♦ revenue budget expenditure items
- ♦ corporate solutions
- ♦ summary and next steps

There were a number of revenue budget expenditure items that affected the Budget Strategy 2024/2025 and those were detailed in Appendix 1 and Table 1 of the report. The core budget strategy expenditure items gave an initial budget gap for 2024/2025 of £60.102 million before corporate solutions.

In considering the Budget Gap, some offsetting solutions could be taken into account and those corporate solutions were detailed in Appendix 2 and Table 2 of the report. Taking those into account would reduce the budget gap to £29.207 million. The Budget Strategy for 2024/2025 included a number of solutions which were temporary in nature and would require to be reinstated in 2025/2026 and those were detailed in Table 3 of the report.

At its meeting on 18 January 2023, the Council approved the implementation of the guidance on accounting for Service Concessions. This had resulted in a retrospective gain of £64 million. Members had previously agreed to use £11.4 million of the retrospective gain from service concessions to pay for the increased 2022/2023 pay award in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. At the Council meeting held on 18 January 2023, members were advised that that, after taking into account the costs of the additional pay award, consideration could then be given to using £42.6 million of the retrospective benefit to support the Council's medium term budget strategies across 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 leaving £10 million of the £64 million retrospective benefit unallocated. £6.565 million of that sum was subsequently used at part of the budget motion agreed at the Council meeting held on 22 February 2023. It was proposed to use £27.500 million of the service concession retrospective gain in 2024/2025. This would leave £18.535 million of service concession funding unallocated.

Taking account of the Corporate Solutions, which included the efficiencies from the ongoing Reviews, the Budget Gap for 2024/2025 was £29.207 million, as detailed in section 5.3 of the report. This Budget Gap was based on the assumptions and estimates included in sections 4 and 5 of the report. Options to meet the budget gap would be developed for future consideration, however, the extent of the budget gap would require options significantly beyond the level of efficiencies made in previous years.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Revenue Budget position for 2024/2025, as detailed in sections 4 and 5 of the report, resulting in a Budget Gap of £29.207 million, be noted;
- (2) that the use of service concession funds, as detailed at section 5.9 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that approval be given for options to meet the budget gap to be developed for members' consideration and brought back to a future meeting, as detailed in section 6.3 of the report.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 18 January 2023 (Paragraph 3), Minutes of 1 February 2023 (Paragraph 3), Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 February 2023 (Paragraph 2)]

9 Jackton Primary School and Jackton Early Learning and Childcare Centre Staffing Requirements

A joint report dated 24 May 2023 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources), (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of the staffing position in respect of the new Jackton Primary School and Jackton Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC), both due to open in August 2023.

The new Jackton Primary School and separate Jackton ELCC were currently under construction and would be ready for occupation in August 2023. At full capacity, the management structure of the school, given a mainstream roll of 510 pupils, plus Additional Support Needs (ASN), would be 1 Head Teacher, 3 Depute Head Teachers and 2 Principal Teachers. Similarly, at full capacity, the ELCC would be managed by 1 Head of Centre and 1 Depute Head of Centre and would operate 52 weeks per year.

Teachers, Early Years and Support staff would be established over time in line with the requirements of the roll of the new school, the ELCC and the needs of individual children. The staffing requirements of the new establishments, when at capacity, was as follows:-

Jackton Primary School

Post	FTE	Grade/SCP Range	Annual Salary
Head Teacher	1	Depute/Head Teacher 10	£76,704
Depute Head Teacher	3	Depute/Head Teacher 2	£60,627
Principal Teacher	2	Principal Teacher 2	£53,997
Classroom Teachers 17 (mainstream) 4 AST Base Plus CCC	22.5	Class Teacher	£47,565
Support Staff Team Leader (Office) 27.5 hours per week	1	Grade1 Level 4 (TT) 30-31	£20,448 to £20,736
School Support Assistants (8 ASN, 7 mainstream, 1 office) 27.5 hours per week	16	Grade 1 Level 1 (TT) 27	£18,043 to £19,680

Jackton Early Learning and Childcare Centre

Post	FTE	Grade/SCP Range	Annual Salary
Head of Centre	1	Grade 4 Level 2 82-83	£48,943 to £49,715
Depute Head of Centre	1	Grade 3 Level 8 79-80	£46,840 to £47,535
Early Years Team Leader	1	Grade 2 Level 4 55-57	£33,529 to £34,494
Early Years Practitioner	11	Grade 2 Level 3 46-48	£29,632 to £30,481
Early Years Support Assistants	2	Grade 1 Level 1-3 20-27	£22,100
School Support Assistant	1	Grade 1 Level 4 31	£23,286

Facilities Services Staff

Post	FTE	Grade/ SCP Range	Annual Salary
Janitor (41.5 hours per week)	1.5	Grade 1 Level 1-3 25-27	£25,554 to £26,204
Catering (37 hours per week)	4.4	Grade 1 Level 1 (TT) 20	£19,086
	1.5	Grade 1 Level 1 20	£21,443
	0.9	Grade 1 Level 3 20	£22,783 to £23,362
Cleaning (37 hours per week)	3.1	Grade 1 Level 1 (TT) 20	£19,086
	0.9	Grade 1 Level 1 (TT) 20-27	£21,433 to £23,362

Total full year cost for staffing, when at capacity, aligned to current staff to pupil ratios and legislative class sizes based on current pay agreements, was £3.383 million.

The staffing costs for the first year of operation for both the school and ELCC, based on current school numbers, was outlined in Table 2 of the report.

Enrolment levels would be monitored to evaluate staffing requirements for August 2024 and beyond. The resulting increase in staffing budget requirements for both establishments would be managed through current education budgets for 2023/2024. with any required revenue consequences from this capital investment being considered as part of budget strategies.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the establishment of the management posts of Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher to lead Jackton Primary School, due to open in August 2023, as detailed in section 4 and Table 1 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the establishment of the management posts of Head of Centre, Depute Head of Centre and Team Leader to lead Jackton Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC), due to open in August 2023, as detailed in section 4 and Table 1 of the report, be approved;
- (3) that the staffing requirements, based on capacity, as outlined in Table 1 for both establishments, to be established in line with standard pupil roll related procedures, ASN staffing protocols and Early Years adult:child ratios and including the staffing to cover facilities services (Janitorial, Catering, and Cleaning) be approved;
- (4) that it be noted that, as rolls increased, both establishments would continue to be staffed as required; and
- (5) that the budgetary impact of the staffing requirements for both establishments, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be noted.

10 South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Strategy 2023 to 2027

A report dated 26 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Strategy 2023 to 2027.

The proposed Social Enterprise Strategy, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, set out the Council's commitment to increase the number of social enterprises and improve the sustainability of the sector in South Lanarkshire. The third sector had been consulted on the preparation of the Strategy and a list of consultees was provided at Appendix 2 to the report.

The 3 high level priorities of the Strategy were:-

- ◆ stimulating social enterprise
- ◆ developing stronger organisations
- ◆ realising market opportunity

The Strategy would:-

- ◆ provide an ongoing framework for dialogue about, and influence upon, capacity building and business support practices as they affected, and were informed by, enterprising third sector organisations and, specifically, social enterprises
- ◆ support the sector and ensure that South Lanarkshire social enterprises received targeted assistance to start up and grow

Details were given on the various sections contained within the Strategy, including its context and priorities. It was proposed that the Social Economy Steering Group would oversee the effective implementation of the Strategy.

Details were also given on local initiatives to support social enterprises within South Lanarkshire.

If approved, the Strategy would be launched in autumn 2023 as part of a wider local event for the enterprising third sector and key stakeholders.

The Committee decided: that the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Strategy 2023 to 2027 be approved.

11 Equalities Mainstreaming Progress Report

A report dated 28 April 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress achieved in meeting the Council's equality outcomes in the period 2021 to 2023 and in mainstreaming equalities within the Council.

The equalities outcomes were included in the Council Plan, "Connect" to ensure equalities duties were mainstreamed into the culture of the Council. A number of actions, which had been undertaken to progress the equality outcomes, were detailed in the report, including information on the workforce profile and the gender pay gap. The Mainstreaming Equalities Outcomes for the period 2021 to 2025 were detailed in the report and at Appendix 1 to the report. The Mainstreaming Equalities Outcomes report had been published on the Council's website and the Equality and Human Rights Commission would undertake a process of checking compliance.

Officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions
- ◆ undertook to look at areas for expansion in terms of reporting and, where appropriate, to bring those to the Equal Opportunities Forum for its consideration
- ◆ undertook to obtain the most up to date information available from the census process for inclusion in reports

The Committee decided: that the Equalities Mainstreaming Progress Report for the period 2021 to 2023 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 26 May 2021 (Paragraph 9)]

In terms of Standing Order No 14, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.30am for a 10 minute period. The meeting reconvened at 11.40am

12 Strategic Environmental Assessment Progress 2022/2023

A report dated 26 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on progress in carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) on the Council's policies, plans, programmes and strategies.

The Council had a statutory duty to consider and carry out an SEA for all its policies, plans, programmes and strategies as they were being developed or refreshed. The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 required the Council to assess whether plans were within the scope of the legislation and whether SEA was required. This could be considered either through Pre-Screening or Screening.

3 assessments of plans had been completed at the Pre-screening stage, as detailed in Table 1 of the report. At that stage, the Council had informed the Scottish Government that those plans were exempt from SEA as their implementation would have no, or minimal, effect on the environment.

4 plans had been finalised at Screening stage, as detailed in Table 2 of the report. A formal determination had been made and agreed by the Consultation Authorities that further SEA work was not required for those plans.

During 2022/2023, the following plans were all subject to full SEA:-

- ◆ Community Plan
- ◆ Council Plan
- ◆ Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy
- ◆ Local Housing Strategy

The final Stage of the SEA process was the preparation and submission of a Post Adoption Statement to the SEA Gateway. This Statement set out the key findings from the SEA and how those had been taken into account in the final adopted plan. In 2022/2023, the Community Plan, Council Plan and Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy had been adopted and Post Adoption Statements had been submitted, as statutorily required. The Post Adoption Statement for the Local Housing Strategy had been prepared and submitted in May 2023.

The Committee decided: that the statutory requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) to inform the development of Council led policies, plans, programmes and strategies be noted.

13 Resource Plans and Connect Reporting 2023 to 2024

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the 2023/2024 Resource Plans.

The Resource Plans for 2023/2024 had been prepared in line with corporate Resource Planning guidance and a Resource Plan template. The Resource Plans had been reviewed and updated to take account of the new Priorities and Outcomes within Connect 2022 to 2027.

In preparing the 2023/2024 Plans, Resources had undertaken a horizon scanning and situational awareness exercise covering:-

- ◆ social change, legislation and policies
- ◆ areas for improvement, including the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF)
- ◆ customer views and external inspection results
- ◆ other triggers for action such as top risks

From that exercise, a maximum of 10 areas had been selected for inclusion and development in each Resource Plan and those were detailed in the report. The Resource Plans 2023/2024 were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Resources had used the 6 Connect outcomes to generate their own Resource outcomes, supported by a range of actions and measures. Additional actions and measures had also been developed under the heading Delivering the Plan and Achieving Best Value. Details were given on the number of measures from each Resource Plan selected to be reported against Connect.

The suite of Resource Plans for 2023/2024 would be submitted to each individual Resource Committee for monitoring at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Resource Plans 2023 to 2024, prepared in line with revised corporate Guidance, be noted; and
- (2) that the reporting intentions in relation to Connect, as detailed in Section 5 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 August 2022 (Paragraph 8)]

14 Item of Urgent Business– Summer Holiday Provision 2023

In terms of Standing Order No 4(c) of the Council's Standing Orders on Procedures, the Chair decided that, due to the timescales involved, consideration be given to the following item as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Hamilton referred to the position in relation to Scottish Government funding for summer holiday provision, through Education Resources, for targeted children. She:-

- ◆ expressed concern that funding had initially been withdrawn from this programme
- ◆ indicated that the revised position, of which the Council had only recently become aware, whereby some, considerably reduced, funding would be made available would significantly impact on the provision which could be offered
- ◆ advised that she had written to the relevant Minister urging reconsideration of the decision to reduce the funding
- ◆ asked that officers provide an update on the position in relation to the summer holiday provision which could be offered

The Executive Director (Education Resources) advised that a briefing paper would be issued to all members in early course, once further information had been received from the Scottish Government.

There followed a full discussion during which:-

- ◆ officers responded to members' questions
- ◆ in response to a member's request, officers undertook to provide an update on the position in relation to targeted wraparound care as well as provision offered by the Scottish Government in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association (SFA)
- ◆ members indicated that the matter would be raised at COSLA, with MSPs and at ministerial level

The Committee decided: that the position be noted.

15 Item of Urgent Business– South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC)

In terms of Standing Order No 4(c) of the Council's Standing Orders on Procedures, the Chair decided that consideration be given to the following item, as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Allison referred to press reports relating to a decision of an Employment Tribunal to award a compensatory payment to an ex-employee of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC).

He:-

- ◆ requested an update on the position and on how this had affected and could affect the Council
- ◆ reiterated his request for a report on the use of the monies for the Warm Welcome Initiative
- ◆ emphasised the requirement for openness and transparency on the part of SLLC

There followed a full discussion and exchange of views during which:-

- ◆ officers responded to members' questions
- ◆ officers provided clarity on matters which could be discussed in an open forum
- ◆ members expressed a wish to explore the implications of the matter for the Council and to establish if there were any lessons to be learned

- ♦ the Chief Executive advised that:-
 - ♦ a report on the Warm Welcome Initiative would be submitted to an early future meeting of the Committee
 - ♦ in respect of actions arising from the SLLC commissioned external legal review of the lessons learned and what could be shared, he would take advice

The Committee decided: that the position be noted.

16 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee decided: that, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information in terms of Paragraph 8, 9 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

17 Housing and Property Management System

A report dated 28 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted providing an update on the replacement housing and property management system.

Details were given on:-

- ♦ the termination of the existing contract for the provision of a new integrated housing and property management system
- ♦ options considered for the purchase of a new system
- ♦ a proposed solution which met the Council's requirements

A detailed project plan would be developed to support the implementation of the new system which would be closely monitored through a dedicated Project Review Board with regular updates provided to the Housing and Technical Resources Committee

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the termination of the existing contract for the provision of a new integrated housing and property management system be noted; and
- (2) that the intention to proceed with the award of a contract to Capita, to provide a new housing and property management system, in accordance with Standing Order 13 (framework agreements – external), subject to conclusive satisfactory negotiations, be noted.