

# **SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 10 March 2021

## **Chair:**

Provost Ian McAllan

## **Councillors Present:**

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Collette Stevenson (Depute), Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

## **Councillor's Apology**

Councillor Bert Thomson

## **Attending:**

### **Chief Executive's Service**

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

### **Community and Enterprise Resources**

M McGlynn, Executive Director

### **Education Resources**

T McDaid, Executive Director

### **Finance and Corporate Resources**

P Manning, Executive Director; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

### **Housing and Technical Resources**

D Lowe, Executive Director

### **Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care**

V de Souza, Director

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 16 December 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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### **3 Minutes of Special Meetings**

The minutes of the special meetings of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 16 December 2020 and 24 February 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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### **4 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 21 September 2020 were submitted for noting.

**The Council decided:** that the minutes be noted.

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### **5 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee (Special)**

The minutes of the special meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 16 November 2020 were submitted for noting.

**The Council decided:** that the minutes be noted.

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### **6 Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee**

A report dated 23 February 2021 by the Chief Executive was submitted on recommendations referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021. The recommendations were that the Prudential Code Indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024, Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022 and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/2022, which included the change to counterparty limits, as detailed in the report, be approved.

**The Council decided:** that the recommendations of the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 in relation to Prudential Code Indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024, Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022 and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/2022, which included the change to counterparty limits, as detailed in the report, be approved.

*[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 8)]*

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### **7 Amendment to Membership of Licensing Committee**

A report dated 17 February 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a proposed change to the membership of the Licensing Committee.

**The Council decided:** that Councillor Fulton replace Councillor Loudon as a member of the Licensing Committee.

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## 8 Notice of Motion – Benefits

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In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Convery, seconded by Councillor Fagan, was submitted as follows:-

“This Council notes that in April this year the Government plan to cut the Benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit announced by the Chancellor on the 20 March last year as part of his Pandemic response package.

The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit.

Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low and middle income families’ living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.

Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real- terms level since 1990-1991, and its lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was at £73 a week (£3,800 a year), less than half the absolute poverty line.

The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life’s essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.

The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

### SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Resolves to

Write to the Chancellor, Mr Rishi Sunak, and to the Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, asking that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.

Work with other like minded organisations to form a coalition to pressure the Government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.”

In moving his motion, Councillor Convery advised of a minor change as, since its submission, the Chancellor had announced an extension to retain the level of benefits until September 2021. He referred to the positive action taken by the Chancellor but asked for cross-party support in seeking to make the £20 a week boost permanent as it would, in turn, result in a cash injection to the Council’s economy of approximately £595,000 per year. Councillor Fagan seconded the motion.

Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Gray, moved the following as an amendment:-

“Remove ‘April’ from first line and insert ‘October’.

Insert after legacy benefits:

We also demand that the Government end the 5-week wait, scrap the 2 child cap, and match the ‘game-changing’ Scottish Child Payment.”

This was accepted by Councillor Convery.

Councillor Allison, seconded by Councillor Nelson, moved as a further amendment that the Council write to the UK Government and congratulate it for the support offered to communities and businesses throughout the pandemic.

Following discussion, on a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

**Motion (as amended)**

John Anderson, John Bradley, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Catherine McClymont, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Galdys Miller, Carol Nugent, Mo Razzaq, John Ross, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, David Watson, Josh Wilson

**Amendment**

Alex Allison, Graeme Campbell, Poppy Corbett, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Jared Wark

50 members voted for the motion (as amended) and 13 for the amendment. The motion (as amended) was declared carried.

**The Council decided:**

that the terms of the motion, as amended, be supported and that the Council:-

- ◆ write to the Chancellor, Mr Rishi Sunak, and to the Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, asking that the £20 increase to Universal Credit be made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits and demand that the Government end the 5-week wait, scrap the 2 child cap and match the 'game changing' Scottish Child Payment
- ◆ work with other like minded organisations to form a coalition to pressure the Government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent

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**9 Notice of Motion – Cycle Hire**

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Lennon, seconded by Councillor Fagan, was submitted as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council notes the success of public bicycle-sharing schemes in towns and cities across the UK, Europe and the world.

Cycling is a mode of transport which is environmentally friendly, conducive to an active lifestyle and can bring great benefits to individuals and communities.

The introduction of public bike-sharing schemes has been demonstrated to encourage people to take up cycling and to create an environment on the roads which is safer for and more welcoming to new cyclists.

Key to the value of any scheme is the prevalence of places where users can start and end journeys, and the ability of users to use the scheme for journeys to work, education or leisure sites.

The council further notes that there are several funding streams for active travel projects available to Scottish local authorities, and that our neighbouring authority, Glasgow City Council, has hosted a successful and expanding bike hire scheme in partnership with the firm Next Bike.

The council resolves to instruct senior officers to undertake a feasibility study into creating a bicycle hire scheme in South Lanarkshire and/or extending the Glasgow 'Next Bike' hire scheme into South Lanarkshire. The study will report back to the relevant committees within 6 months."

In moving his motion, Councillor Lennon considered that there was a need for a bike hire scheme as the reasons people did not cycle were primarily in relation to start-up costs and the practical limitations. Councillor Fagan seconded the motion.

Councillor Loudon, seconded by Councillor Craig, moved the following as an amendment:-

"Remove the last paragraph and insert

The Council resolves to ask senior officers to bring a paper to the Climate Change Committee to update members on the work that's already been undertaken on active travel and ongoing cycling infrastructure projects, the status of the Glasgow 'Next Bike' contract and the feasibility of joining projects and suggestions for how new community consultation work on the future of cycling in South Lanarkshire could be taken forward."

Councillor Dryburgh, seconded by Councillor Brown, proposed the following as an addendum to the motion:-

"Add before the last paragraph

The Council further notes the hilly nature of much of South Lanarkshire and the progress made in supporting the use of electric bikes by Camglen Biketown and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

Add before the last sentence of the last paragraph

The study should also examine how availability and use of electric bikes might be significantly expanded."

Councillor Lennon confirmed that he accepted Councillor Dryburgh's addendum to his motion. Councillor Loudon also confirmed that she accepted Councillor Dryburgh's addendum to her amendment.

Following discussion, on a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

**Motion (with inclusion of addendum)**

Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, David Watson

**Amendment (with inclusion of addendum)**

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Archie Buchanan, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Jared Wark, Josh Wilson

25 members voted for the motion and 37 for the amendment which was declared carried.

**The Council decided:**

that the terms of the amendment be supported and that a report be brought to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee to update members on:-

- ◆ the work that had already been undertaken on active travel and ongoing cycling infrastructure projects
- ◆ the status of the Glasgow 'Next Bike' contract and the feasibility of joining projects
- ◆ suggestions for how new community consultation work on the future of cycling in South Lanarkshire could be taken forward
- ◆ how availability and use of electric bikes might be significantly expanded

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**10 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.