

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of special meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 December 2020

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, 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 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 Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Joe Lowe

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

1 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

2 Review of the South Lanarkshire Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils

A report dated 2 December 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the South Lanarkshire Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

At its meeting held on 23 September 2020, the Council agreed to commence a restricted review of the Scheme to address the issue of restrictions placed on Community Councils to hold their meetings in public and the requirement for members of the public to be physically present, which had been highlighted during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft amendments to Clause 11 of the Scheme would:-

- ◆ allow all or some of the members of the Community Council, press and public to attend a meeting using remote access
- ◆ suspend the requirement for the public to be able to physically attend any meetings

In accordance with legislation, a public consultation on the proposed amendments was undertaken for a period of 8 weeks and was advertised in line with the temporary provisions put in place through the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

Following the consultation period, the Council had received 19 representations. While many of those representations were supportive of the principle that Community Councils be permitted to meet online, they also made objections and expressed concerns in relation the proposals. A summary of issues raised and the Council's response to those issues were detailed in the report.

It was recommended that the Council adopt the amendments to the existing Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2.

The Head of Administration and Legal Services responded to members' questions.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the responses to the consultation on the proposed amendments to the South Lanarkshire Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (the Scheme) be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed amendments to the current terms of Clause 11 of the Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 23 September 2020 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor McGuigan joined the meeting during this item of business