

CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 February 2024

Chair:

Councillor Carol Nugent

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Norman Rae

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor John Bradley (Depute), Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; L O'Finance Manager (Strategy)

Housing and Technical Resources

C Frew, Strategy Co-ordinator; T O'Donnell, Area Housing Manager

South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership/Social Work Resources

A Grubb and E Lloyd, Operations Managers

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee held on 8 November 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Rutherglen Common Good Account - Update Report

A report dated 10 January 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing an update on the Rutherglen Common Good Fund.

Common Good comprised a fund of money, assets or both which was administered by a Scottish local authority in respect of each former Burgh within the local authority area. Common Good property was owned by the local authority and administered separately from other local authority assets for accounting purposes.

The Common Good funds held within South Lanarkshire Council were Lanark, Biggar, Hamilton and Rutherglen. Finance Services administered the Common Good Account and accounts were prepared on an annual basis, as part of the Council's year end process.

The position on the Rutherglen Common Good Fund at 31 March 2023 was detailed in Appendix 1 of the report which showed that the fund had cash balances amounting to £0.128 million. The Rutherglen Common Good Account held cash balances only and had no physical assets. As there were no assets to maintain, little expenditure was incurred by the Common Good Account.

Decisions on the Common Good Account were taken by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee. A report on the management of the Rutherglen Common Good Fund was provided annually to the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 October 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Housing and Technical Resources' Participatory Budgeting

A report dated 23 January 2024 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to the Estate Improvement Budget and the Housing Investment Programme Environmental Programme.

The Estate Improvement Budget totalled £40,000 and was split across the 4 housing divisions of South Lanarkshire. Each Local Housing Management Team could direct the funding towards projects or improvements highlighted as a priority by customers of Housing and Property Services. Although not of a significant value, the budget was ideally suited for conversion to a PB approach and funded a number of smaller projects which had been highlighted as a priority by customers.

To date, a total of £9,398.81 had been spent from the Estate Improvement Budget for 2023/2024 on 4 projects which had been undertaken within the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area, as detailed in the report.

The Environmental aspect of the Housing Investment Programme was a significant budget area covering a wide range of projects aimed to improve the quality and efficiency of the Council's housing stock. Not all projects within this budget area were suitable for a PB approach, however, for those projects deemed suitable, officers would ensure the required element of choice and voting opportunities were offered to customers and appropriately recorded. To date, 3 environmental improvement PB projects were being delivered within the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area at Kirkriggs, Kirkconnell and Dunure Court Sheltered Housing Sites in Rutherglen.

Officers from Housing and Technical Resources would continue to take forward opportunities within Cambuslang and Rutherglen to ensure tenants and other customers had the opportunity to determine the outcome of relevant budgets, with further updates provided to this Committee in due course.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 15 March 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillor Brown joined the meeting during consideration of the above item of business

5 Community Payback Order

E Lloyd and A Grubb, Operations Managers, gave a presentation on Community Payback Orders (CPO), the most common requirement of which involved unpaid work for the benefit of the community.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ general requirements and objectives of CPOs
- ◆ the type of work carried out in relation to CPOs within South Lanarkshire, including community, resource centre based, remote and partnership projects

- ◆ the Unpaid Work Service, based within the Auchentibber resource centre, Blantyre
- ◆ delivery of work and activities both in terms of hours and bespoke projects delivered
- ◆ support offered to individuals who had received a Community Payback Order
- ◆ specific projects delivered in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area

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

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

6 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 21 January 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted on applications for community grant.

In view of the fact that this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current financial year and to allow best use to be made of the remaining 2023/2024 community grant budget, it was proposed that the Chief Executive or the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to approve any further community grant applications meeting the relevant criteria in the period to 31 March 2024. Those grants awarded would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for noting.

The Committee decided:

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

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| (a) | Applicant: | Cambuslang Bowling Club Ladies' Section (CR/17/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment, materials and outing |
| | Amount Awarded: | £940 |
| (b) | Applicant: | 1st Cathkin Brownies, Rutherglen (CR/18/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Entrance fees and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £350 |
| (c) | Applicant: | Resourceful Ramblers, Rutherglen (CR/22/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Specialist transport |
| | Amount Awarded: | £1,000 |
| (d) | Applicant: | Enable (Rutherglen and District Branch) (CR/23/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing and entrance fees |
| | Amount Awarded: | £1,000 |
| (e) | Applicant: | Burnside in Bloom, Rutherglen (CR/24/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Environmental project |
| | Amount Awarded: | £1,000 |
| (f) | Applicant: | Burnside Community Council, Rutherglen (CR/25/23) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £1,000 |

(2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2023/2024 community grant budget was utilised as fully as possible, the Chief Executive or the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to approve community grant applications in the period to 31 March 2024, subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for the receipt of funding; and

(3) that the details of those applications approved be reported to a future meeting for noting.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.