



Council Offices, Almada Street  
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Tuesday, 18 August 2020

Dear Councillor

## **Hamilton Area Committee**

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the above Committee to be held as follows:-

**Date:** Wednesday, 26 August 2020  
**Time:** 14:00  
**Venue:** By Microsoft Teams and Committee Room 1,

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Yours sincerely

**Cleland Sneddon**  
**Chief Executive**

### **Members**

Mary Donnelly (Chair), Peter Craig (Depute Chair), Jackie Burns, Stephanie Callaghan, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Maureen Devlin, Allan Falconer, Graeme Horne, Martin Grant Hose, Joe Lowe, Kenny McCreary, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Mo Razzaq, John Ross, Bert Thomson, Josh Wilson

## BUSINESS

### 1 Declaration of Interests

- 2 **Previous Meeting** 3 - 4  
Note of delegated decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, on items of business relating to the Hamilton Area Committee on 27 May 2020, submitted for information. (Copy attached)

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#### Item(s) for Noting

- 3 **Education Scotland Report - Larkhall Academy** 5 - 10  
Report dated 5 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Education Resources).  
(Copy attached)

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#### Item(s) for Decision

- 4 **Community Grant Applications** 11 - 14  
Report dated 10 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)

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#### Urgent Business

- 5 **Urgent Business**  
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent.

#### ***For further information, please contact:-***

Clerk Name: Susan Somerville

Clerk Telephone: 01698 454197

Clerk Email: [susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

## Hamilton Area Committee Agenda of 27 May 2020 - Delegated Decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders

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### 1 Declaration of Interests

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No interests were declared.

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### 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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**Decided:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee of 11 March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

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### 3 Playscheme Grant Applications 2020/2021

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**Decided:** that playscheme grants be awarded, in principle, as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: Childcare in the Community, Hamilton (*PS/HA/1/20*)  
Amount Awarded: £600
- (b) Applicant: Blameless SCIO, Hamilton (*PS/HA/2/20*)  
Amount Awarded: £600
- (c) Applicant: Whitehill Universal Connections, Hamilton (*PS/HA/3/20*)  
Amount Awarded: £600

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### 4 Community Grant Applications

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**Decided:**

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

- (a) Applicant: Trinity Church Women's Group, Hamilton (*HA/1/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing  
Amount Awarded: £200
- (b) Applicant: Eddlewood Bowling Club Ladies' Section, Hamilton (*HA/2/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing  
Amount Awarded: £200
- (c) Applicant: Quarter Parish Church Friendship Group (*HA/4/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees  
Amount Awarded: £250
- (d) Applicant: Trinity Church Guild, Larkhall (*HA/5/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees  
Amount Awarded: £250

- (e) Applicant: Uddingston Pride (*HA/6/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment  
Amount Awarded: £500
  - (f) Applicant: St John's Friendly Hour, Hamilton (*HA/7/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing  
Amount Awarded: £200
  - (g) Applicant: Earnock Residents' Association, Hamilton (*HA/8/20*)  
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs  
Amount Awarded: £250
- (2) that the action taken during the period 12 to 31 March 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the award of the following community grants from the 2019/2020 budget be noted:-
- (a) Applicant: Sharp and Gentles Fly Tying and Fishing Club, Hamilton (*HA/77/19*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing and equipment  
Amount Awarded: £300
  - (b) Applicant: Quarter in Bloom, Hamilton (*HA/94/19*)  
Purpose of Grant: Environmental Project  
Amount Awarded: £500
  - (c) Applicant: SLC Radio, Hamilton (*HA/95/19*)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment  
Amount Awarded: £300
  - (d) Applicant: Hamilton South Townswomen's Guild (*HA/96/19*)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing  
Amount Awarded: £200

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## 5 Urgent Business

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There were no items of urgent business.

# Report

3

Report to:	<b>Hamilton Area Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>26 August 2020</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Education Scotland Report - Larkhall Academy</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Larkhall Academy by Education Scotland inspectors

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Larkhall Academy be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Larkhall Academy was inspected in March 2020 as part of a national sample of secondary education.
- 3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, the Education Scotland inspectors evaluated the leadership of change; learning, teaching and assessment; raising attainment and achievement and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion.
- 3.3. The inspection team analysed questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils and to all staff. Inspectors observed class lessons and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, and staff. Members of the inspection team also met parents and members of the local community.
- 3.4. The report by Education Scotland was published on 16 June 2020.

## 4. Finding of HM Inspectors

4.1. Education Scotland made comment under the following headings:-

- ◆ quality of leadership and management
- ◆ learning provision
- ◆ children's successes and achievements

4.2. Education Scotland found that Larkhall Academy Staff understand the local community and context in which the young people live and know the young people and their families well. Staff, parents and young people feel confident in the vision for improving learning and teaching and there is a caring and supportive ethos, which is underpinned by the school's values.

4.3. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-

- ◆ The headteacher's leadership has brought much needed stability. He has successfully built trust in the school community. Young people, staff, parents and partners recognise and welcome the improved ethos, relationships and stronger teamwork.
- ◆ Young people who are increasingly proud of their school and the recent improvements. They value the support which teachers and support staff provide for them. They are well supported into positive destinations. Almost all young people leave school to go to higher education, further education or employment.
- ◆ The whole school focus on improving learning and teaching experiences. Increasingly, engaging approaches to digital learning are contributing well to these. This is making learning more accessible and motivating.
- ◆ The school's approaches to promoting mental health for all young people. Young people are leading on this valuable work and this is resulting in greater awareness of positive mental health, including through the "wall of support".

4.4. An effective distributed leadership model ensures that staff throughout the school participate in a range of positive leadership opportunities and are able to make suggestions for areas they would like to take forward.

4.5. Young people feel their teachers are approachable and treat them fairly and with respect and there are positive and purposeful interactions between staff and young people.

4.6. The majority of young people engage well in their learning and respond positively in lessons with teachers sharing the purpose of the learning with young people.

4.7. The school has a clear strategy in place to make use of digital technology and this has resulted in improvements in approaches to revision, learning and homework. This has also promoted motivation and inclusion with young people showing a greater level of engagement.

4.8. Staff track and monitor the progress of vulnerable groups of young people and the school's nationally recognised work with young people from the Gypsy Traveller Education Group is leading to increased attainment and positive destinations to employment or further education.

4.9. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-

- ◆ Senior leaders should continue to develop approaches to improving the work of the school. This includes continuing, as planned, to develop the curriculum and a whole school approach to meeting the needs of all learners.
- ◆ Continue to develop approaches to learning, teaching and pupil participation which involve young people more meaningfully. Young people are now ready to take on more responsibility for their learning and leading aspects of school life.
- ◆ As part of its strategy to raise attainment, the school should continue with its drive to reduce exclusions and increase attendance. Staff should also develop further their approaches to support young people to identify the skills they are developing to prepare for their next steps in learning, life and work.

- 4.10. As well as welcoming the strengths of the school it should be noted that the areas for continued improvement have already been incorporated into the school's improvement plan. Progress on the identified areas for improvement have and continue to be shared with parents.
- 4.11. Education Scotland have intimated that they are confident that the school will be able to take forward the areas for improvement and will make no more visits in connection with this report. The local authority has informed parents about the school's progress as part of the authority's arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of its schools.
- 4.12. Additional inspection evidence can be accessed by clicking the following web link:-

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3362>

**5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None

**7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. None

**8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.2. The content of Education Scotland reports are shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings.

**Tony McDaid**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

5 August 2020

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning
- ◆ Ensure schools and other places of learning are inspirational

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of 16 June 2020

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Stewart Nicolson, Head of Education (Curriculum and Attainment)

Ext: 4475 (Tel: 01698 454475)

E-mail: [stewart.nicolson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.nicolson@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

16 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Larkhall Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher's leadership has brought much needed stability. He has successfully built trust in the school community. Young people, staff, parents and partners recognise and welcome the improved ethos, relationships and stronger teamwork.
- Young people who are increasingly proud of their school and the recent improvements. They value the support which teachers and support staff provide for them. They are well supported into positive destinations. Almost all young people leave school to go to higher education, further education or employment.
- The whole school focus on improving learning and teaching experiences. Increasingly, engaging approaches to digital learning are contributing well to these. This is making learning more accessible and motivating.
- The school's approaches to promoting mental health for all young people. Young people are leading on this valuable work and this is resulting in greater awareness of positive mental health, including through the "wall of support".

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from South Lanarkshire Council.

- Senior leaders should continue to develop approaches to improving the work of the school. This includes continuing, as planned, to develop the curriculum and a whole school approach to meeting the needs of all learners.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning, teaching and pupil participation which involve young people more meaningfully. Young people are now ready to take on more responsibility for their learning and leading aspects of school life.
- As part of its strategy to raise attainment, the school should continue with its drive to reduce exclusions and increase attendance. Staff should also develop further their approaches to support young people to identify the skills they are developing to prepare for their next steps in learning, life and work.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Larkhall Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3362>

## What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Gary Johnstone  
HM Inspector

# Report

**4**

Report to: **Hamilton Area Committee**  
 Date of Meeting: **26 August 2020**  
 Report by: **Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

Subject: **Community Grant Applications**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for the allocation of community grants to 2 community groups in the Hamilton area from the 2020/2021 community grant budget

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

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

- |     |                   |  |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| (a) | Applicant:        | Low Waters Miners Welfare Bowling Club,<br>Hamilton ( <i>HA/12/20</i> )  |
|     | Amount Requested: | £750   |
|     | Purpose of Grant: | Materials  |
|     | Amount Awarded:   | £400   |
|     |                   |  |
| (b) | Applicant:        | Wooddean Community Project Organisation,<br>Hamilton ( <i>HA/14/20</i> ) |
|     | Amount Requested: | £600   |
|     | Purpose of Grant: | Administration and publicity costs                                       |
|     | Amount Awarded:   | £400   |

**(2)** that a report on awards made to assist community groups engaged in supporting their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for noting.

## **3. Background**

3.1. The Council operates a community grants scheme to support local constituted community groups and voluntary organisations. All applications require to be supported by a constitution, audited accounts or annual income and expenditure accounts, a bank statement and confirmation that the group/organisation will adhere to the conditions of the grant award. Applications are invited continually throughout the year.

3.2. The main aims of the community grants scheme are to:-

- ◆ fund activities and projects which bring community benefit
- ◆ involve people in the community by bringing them together to enjoy educational, recreational, leisure and other community activities or to improve the local environment

3.3. Support can be provided for a range of activities including, administration and publicity costs, purchase of equipment and materials, annual outings and entrance fees, start-up costs and special events.

3.4. In respect of those applications received for the purpose of outings and for special events to take place over the forthcoming months, due to the current uncertainty in relation to COVID-19, it is proposed that those applications be approved, in principle. This will provide organisations with the flexibility to reschedule outings and events to a later date, if possible. Groups will be asked to inform the Council of their intentions in this regard. Should an organisation be unable to use the grant award for the planned purpose, the grant funds will require to be returned. As per normal procedure, receipts for all spend must be provided.

3.5. On 1 May 2020, a briefing note was issued to elected members outlining a proposal to use £20,000 from the 2020/2021 community grant budget to assist community groups engaged in supporting their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The £20,000 would be apportioned equally between the 4 Area Committee areas.

3.6. Community groups who are providing or wish to provide assistance and support to those most in need are able to apply for small grants to meet expenses incurred as a result of or associated with this work. As funds may be required immediately to assist in the response effort, applications will be considered by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair. A report on the awards made will be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for noting.

3.7. As per the community grants scheme, community groups would normally only be permitted to submit one application in each financial year, however, community groups that applied for funding to assist in the COVID-19 response would be entitled to apply for a grant for another purpose under the scheme in the same financial year.

#### **4. Employee Implications**

4.1. None.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1. The current position of the community grant allocation for the Hamilton Area Committee in 2020/2021 is as follows:-

Total allocation for Community Grants	£25,750
Grants previously allocated	£3,650
*Funding allocated to the COVID-19 response effort	£5,000
Community grants allocated in this report	£800
Remaining balance	£16,300

\* As referred to in paragraph 3.5 above

## **6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 6.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability or environmental issues.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. The risk to the Council is that grant funding is not utilised for the purpose of which it was intended. This risk is mitigated by internal controls including audit procedures and conditions of grant agreement.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All the necessary consultation with the community groups has taken place.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

10 August 2020

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent. Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

## **Previous References**

- ◆ Hamilton Area Committee – 27 May 2020

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Individual applications forms

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Geraldine Wilkinson, Clerical Assistant

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