

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 29 March 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (Depute), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Susan Kerr (*substitute for 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 Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott (*substitute for Councillor Andy Carmichael*), Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Eileen Logan

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; M M Wilson, Legal Services Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

S Gibson, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care; I Beattie, Head of Health and Social Care

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Chief Superintendent S Dolan and Superintendent A Thomson

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 1 March 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 12 - 1 April 2022 to 24 February 2023 and Probable Outturn

A report dated 15 March 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 24 February 2023, and the projection for the year to 31 March 2023.

The report:-

- ◆ summarised the previously reported probable outturn position for the Council's General Fund Revenue Account to 31 March 2023
- ◆ provided details on the probable outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account to 31 March 2023
- ◆ provided details of the position of the General Fund Revenue Account and the Housing Revenue Account respectively to 24 February 2023

At its meeting on 1 February 2023, in respect of the General Fund Revenue Account, the Committee agreed proposed transfers to reserves and the use of the £4.696 million underspend to assist in the 2023/2024 Budget Strategy. The forecast position before and after transfers to reserves was detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report respectively. The position detailed in Appendix 2 included the underspend of £4.696 million as a transfer to reserves, resulting in a breakeven position for the 2022/2023 probable outturn.

At 24 February 2023, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account, after transfers to reserves, was an underspend of £1.875 million. This included an underspend of £0.165 million on the delegated budget for Adults and Older People.

At 24 February 2023, the Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position and the forecast to 31 March 2023 on the Housing Revenue Account was also a breakeven position.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and, where information was not immediately available, undertook to provide this to the relevant members.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Council's outturn position was breakeven after transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;
- (2) that the underspend position of £1.875 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 24 February 2023 after transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 5.1 of the report, and including an underspend of £0.165 million on the delegated budget to the Integration Joint Board (IJB), as detailed in section 5.2 of the report, be noted; and
- (3) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 24 February 2023 and the forecast of breakeven to 31 March 2023, as detailed at sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Programme 2022/2023 Update and Monitoring for Period 12 – 1 April 2022 to 24 February 2023

A report dated 8 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress of the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2022 to 24 February 2023.

At its meeting on 1 March 2023, the Committee had agreed a General Fund Capital Programme for 2022/2023 amounting to £78.396 million. The total programme of £78.396 million included new proposed adjustments to the programme, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. The adjustments amounted to £0.180 million and included additional funding for new projects. Due to timing of project spend, it was anticipated that this funding would slip into 2023/2024 and there would be no impact on the 2022/2023 Capital Programme. The total programme was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. Budget for the period amounted to £46.008 million and, at 24 February 2023, £45.607 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, an underspend of £0.401 million.

Actual funding received to 24 February 2023 totalled £70.470 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

Estimates from Resources suggested an outturn of around £73 million, a net underspend across Resources of £5.3 million against the revised budget of £78.396 million. The majority of the variance was due to the timing of spend, resulting in budget required in 2023/2024 rather than 2022/2023. A list of the main projects making up the predicted £5.3 million underspend, and which would now complete in 2023/2024, was included in Appendix 4 to the report.

At its meeting on 24 August 2022, the Committee had agreed a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2022/2023 amounting to £66.361 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £66.361 million. The funding sources were detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.

Revised estimates from Housing and Technical Resources suggested that there would now be an underspend of £8.039 million within the Housing Capital Programme by the end of the financial year, an increase of £3.9 million on the underspend reported in the previous period. This was due to a number of factors which were detailed in the report.

In respect of both the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme, work to monitor achievable spend would continue and funding for projects remaining underspent at the financial year end would be carried forward to allow the projects to be completed in 2023/2024.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Period 12 position, ending 24 February 2023, of the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed at appendices 1 to 4 of the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix 5 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund Programme, detailed at section 4.2 and Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 8 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional revenue funding, totalling £6.159 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Revenue Funding

Resource	2022/2023 (£m)
Finance and Corporate	0.155
Education	2.146
Total	2.301
	2023/2024 (£m)
Finance and Corporate	3.858
Total	3.858
Overall Total	6.159

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Police Scotland Local Police Plan 2023 to 2026

A report dated 15 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on Lanarkshire Local Police Plan 2023 to 2026.

In terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, the local Divisional Commander was required to prepare a Local Police Plan setting out the strategic priorities and objectives for policing in a local authority area. The Lanarkshire Local Police Plan 2023 to 2026 covered both North and South Lanarkshire local authority areas and explained how Lanarkshire Police Division would deliver on local priorities over the next 3 years and how the Plan was linked to Police Scotland's strategic aims and outcomes.

Details were given on the following 3 local policing priorities, identified through consultation, as follows:-

- ♦ protecting our communities
- ♦ safeguarding our citizens
- ♦ enhancing our service

Focusing on the local policing priorities, Lanarkshire Police Division aimed to deliver on the following 5 strategic outcomes:-

- ♦ threats to public safety and wellbeing were resolved by a proactive and responsive police service
- ♦ the needs of local communities were addressed through effective service delivery
- ♦ the public, communities and partners were engaged, involved and had confidence in policing
- ♦ people were supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public
- ♦ Police Scotland was sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges

Chief Superintendent Dolan gave an overview of the changing environment in which Police Scotland operated, following which Superintendent Thomson gave a presentation on the Plan.

There followed a full discussion during which the officers from Police Scotland responded to members' questions on a range of issues.

The Chair, on behalf of members, thanked Chief Superintendent Dolan and Superintendent Thomson for their interesting and informative presentation.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that report be noted; and
- (2) that the Lanarkshire Local Police Plan 2023 to 2026, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 May 2020 (Paragraph 12)]

In terms of Standing Order No 14, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.11am for a 10 minute period. The meeting reconvened at 11.21am

7 Community Alert Alarm Service

A report dated 8 March 2023 by the Director, Health and Social Care was submitted outlining the position presented to the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) in respect of the level of subsidy and weekly charge for the Community Alert Alarm Service (CAAS) as part of its statutory obligation to set a balanced budget for 2023/2024.

The South Lanarkshire IJB met on 28 March 2023 to set a balanced budget for 2023/2024, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities. In doing so, the IJB had to address a projected recurrent funding gap of £8.9 million across delegated social care (Adult and Older People Services) in 2023/2024. Specifically, the IJB had to consider reducing the subsidy for the CAAS in 2023/2024, while noting that the responsibility for deciding on levels of charging for social care was a responsibility of the local authority in terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the service, which was currently available on request and for which there was no assessment and review function or eligibility criteria in terms of access
- ◆ the cost of and demand for the service
- ◆ increase in the cost of the service as a result of the necessity to move from the current analogue to a digital system
- ◆ the Council's current level of subsidy to CAAS
- ◆ options considered in relation to the subsidy rate for the CAAS
- ◆ the benchmarked position with other comparable local authorities

Officers advised that, at the meeting of the IJB held on 28 March 2023, it had been decided that the Executive Committee be requested to agree a reduction to the CAAS subsidy rate from 89% to 74%, resulting in an increase in the weekly charge for the service from £1.70 to £4.10. This would result in additional income of £0.700 million which would contribute to addressing the social care funding gap of £8.9 million. If this additional income was not recoverable in full or part in 2023/2024 for the CAAS, the IJB would require to identify an alternative funding option to ensure financial balance in 2023/2024.

There followed a full discussion during which officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and provided clarification on relevant matters.

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Convery, proposed approval of the following additional recommendations in respect of the report:-

- ♦ that the intense budget and service pressures on local government and its health and social care partners be noted
- ♦ that an increase in the weekly charge for the Community Alarm Alert Service (CAAS) to £2.20 be approved
- ♦ that the Committee ask the Integration Joint Board to consider redesigning the CAAS to moderate future charge increases and provide a more efficient service

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the recurrent and substantial pressure on adult and older people social care budgets be noted;
- (2) that the information provided in respect of the current level of subsidy and charging for the CAAS, including the full costs of delivery of the service, the increasing costs of delivering the service and the benchmarked position with other comparable local authorities be noted;
- (3) that the intense budget and service pressures on local government and its health and social care partners be noted;
- (4) that an increase in the weekly charge for the CAAS from £1.70 to £2.20 be approved; and
- (5) that the Integration Joint Board be asked to consider redesigning the CAAS to moderate future charge increases and provide a more efficient service.

[Reference: Minutes of the South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board of 28 March 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.