

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 30 November 2022

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Walter Brogan (*substitute for Councillor Eileen Logan*), 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 Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor Dr Ali Salamati (*substitute for Councillor John Ross*), Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor John Ross

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; S Keating, Property Development Manager

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Housing and Technical Resources

S Gibson, Executive Director; A Finnan, Head of Housing Services; J Read, Strategy and Policy Advisor

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Stephen Gibson, Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) to his first meeting of the Executive Committee.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2 November 2022 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 8 - 1 April to 4 November 2022

A report dated 14 November 2022 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 to 4 November 2022.

At 4 November 2022, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account was a net overspend of £0.039 million. The overspend was mainly within:-

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources relating to cost pressures associated with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging
- ◆ Social Work Resources (Children and Families)

The overspend position was partially offset by an underspend in:-

- ◆ Performance and Support
- ◆ Justice and Substance Misuse
- ◆ Adults and Older People as a result of vacancies across Social Workers, Day Care and Residential Homes

The Adults and Older People budget formed part of the delegated Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) budget. The core Council position, without the HSCP underspend, was an overspend of £0.807 million.

As part of the funding for the Scottish Government Pay Award 2022/2023, the Scottish Government had agreed to allocate £120 million nationally per annum (for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024) to cover part of the additional costs. The Council had been allocated £7.077 million which would be paid as part of the General Capital Grant allocation. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Scottish Government had been in discussion with councils as to how they could convert this General Capital Grant to pay for revenue expenditure.

The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 4 November 2022, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overspend of £0.039 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 4 November 2022 within Community and Enterprise Resources and Social Work Resources (Children and Families) and partially offset by the underspend on the Adults and Older People budget delegated to the Health and Social Care Partnership, as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 4 November 2022, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 November 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Programme 2022/2023 Update and Monitoring for Period 8 – 1 April to 4 November 2022

A report dated 15 November 2022 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 to 4 November 2022.

At its meeting on 2 November 2022, the Committee had approved a General Fund Capital Programme for 2022/2023 totalling £95.880 million. A revised programme of £78.272 million was now anticipated which included proposed adjustments to the programme totalling a net decrease of £17.608 million. £1.408 million of that sum was as a result of the profiling adjustments proposed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The remainder of the reduction of £17.608 million related to the 2022/2023 allocations for the following 3 significant projects:-

- ◆ Clyde Bridge (reduction of 2022/2023 budget by £5.4 million)
- ◆ Larkhall Leisure Centre (reduction of 2022/2023 budget by £9 million)
- ◆ Levelling Up Fund match funding (reduction of 2022/2023 budget by £1.8 million)

At 4 November 2022, £29.530 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, an overspend of £0.597 million, and actual funding received to 4 November 2022 totalled £59.741 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

The Housing Capital Programme 2022/2023, approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 24 August 2022, totalled £66.361 million. Details of the position of the programme at 4 November 2022 were provided in Appendix 4 of the report.

At 4 November 2022, expenditure on the Housing Capital Programme amounted to £30.739 million and actual funding received to 4 November 2022 totalled £30.783 million.

Officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ provided an update on the position in relation to Larkhall Leisure Centre
- ◆ undertook to submit a report to a future meeting on provision within Strathaven Cemetery

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Period 8 position at 4 November 2022 of the General Fund Capital Programme, as detailed at appendices 1 to 3 of the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, as detailed at Appendix 4 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, as detailed at Sections 4.3, 4.4 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 24 August 2022 (Paragraph 4) and 2 November 2022 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 16 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding, totalling £2.487 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)
Social Work	2.138
Total	2.138
Resource	2023/2024 to 2026/2027 (£m)
Social Work	0.349
Total	0.349
Overall Total	2.487

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 November 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

6 South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027

A report dated 22 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ findings from the consultation and engagement carried out in relation to the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2022 to 2027
- ♦ the finalised Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027
- ♦ monitoring, reporting and governance arrangements for the Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027

To assist with the development of the LHS, the Council had adopted a co-production approach through pre-consultation engagement with a range of partners and stakeholder groups to determine key housing priorities and actions. The outcome of this work had been used to develop a draft LHS 2022 to 2027 for consultation, which was made available on the Council's website between August and October 2022. The key outcomes from the consultation process were detailed in the report.

To support the delivery of the LHS over the next 5 years, there were 8 priority outcomes, that covered the 5 themes of:-

- ♦ housing supply, affordability, and choice
- ♦ housing quality, energy efficiency and decarbonisation
- ♦ specialist provision and supporting independent living
- ♦ addressing homelessness
- ♦ sustainable places

Details of the 8 priority outcomes for the 2022 to 2027 Strategy were provided in the report.

The LHS document was attached as an appendix to the report and a summary of the LHS, including key outcomes and Housing Supply Targets, was provided. Taking account of current fiscal and market pressures within the construction industry, the target range provided for the Housing Supply Targets for 2022 to 2027 aimed to provide flexibility over the 5 year period.

At its meeting on 5 October 2022, the Housing and Technical Resources Committee approved the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023 to 2028 which set out 72 sites with an estimated total capacity for the delivery of up to 2,562 new affordable homes over the five-year period to 31 March 2028. The capacity detailed within the SHIP aligned with the Housing Supply Targets proposed within the LHS.

Details were provided on governance arrangements in relation to the LHS and progress reports on the 2022 to 2027 Strategy would be submitted to this Committee on an annual basis.

There followed a full discussion during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ undertook to provide information on long term empty properties as part of the reporting process included within the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) or similar reports

It was proposed that an annual review be conducted and reported to the Executive Committee on progress against the actions and measures contained in the Strategy.

If approved, the Strategy would be published on the Council's website and promoted to housing, homelessness and health and social care partners across South Lanarkshire.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the findings from consultation and engagement with stakeholders regarding the Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the finalised Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, including the Housing Supply Targets, as detailed at sections 5.5 to 5.8 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the proposed governance, monitoring and reporting arrangements, as detailed at section 6 of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 August 2017 (Paragraph 10) and Minutes of Housing and Technical Resources Committee of 5 October 2022 (Paragraph 11)]

In terms of Standing Order No 14, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.20am for a 5 minute period. The meeting reconvened at 11.25am without the attendance of Councillor Nelson

7 South Lanarkshire Council Housing Supply Target

A report dated 22 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on a new Council Housing Supply programme target to increase the total number of council homes in South Lanarkshire.

In addition to establishing the strategic housing priorities for the local authority area, the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) required to set out Housing Supply Targets (HSTs). The LHS 2022 to 2027 indicated that between 1,250 and 1,500 affordable homes should be delivered over the next 5 years within South Lanarkshire by the Council and other affordable housing providers.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023 to 2028 set out 72 sites with an estimated total capacity for the delivery of a programme of up to 2,562 new, affordable homes over the 5 year period to 31 March 2028. Of those, 34 were potential council sites with a capacity of 1,389 units.

To enable the Council to contribute to the HSTs contained within the LHS and use the capacity contained within the SHIP, it was proposed that a target of 1,300 additional council homes be introduced to the Home+ programme, to be achieved by 2027. As with the existing programme, this would be achieved through a flexible combination of new homes built on behalf of the Council on existing Council owned land, new homes purchased “off the shelf” from housing developers and the acquisition of suitable existing homes.

The existing Home+ programme had been delivered through a combination of Scottish Government grant funding, Housing Revenue Account capital investment and council borrowing. It was proposed that the same approach to funding be adopted for any new target implemented.

Updates on progress in relation to the target would be submitted to the Housing and Technical Resources Committee as part of the SHIP approval process. Wider progress in relation to the total number of additional affordable homes delivered in South Lanarkshire throughout the duration of the LHS 2022 to 2027 would be reported to the Executive Committee as part of the LHS annual review

The Committee decided: that the proposed target of 1,300 additional council homes, to be delivered by 31 March 2027, be approved.

8 South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy

A report dated 8 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027.

The new Economic Strategy, executive summary and associated Action Plan, attached as appendices to the report, had been drafted to take account of a rapidly changing economy at international, national and local levels which was increasingly influenced by a number of key economic policies and emerging funding streams at UK Government, Scottish Government and City Region level.

The draft Economic Strategy had been shared with partners and stakeholders within and outwith the Council. An online community consultation survey had been completed at the end of September 2022 and comments received had helped define the finalised document.

The Strategy took an evidence based approach to inform its actions and activity, including baseline data generated by the City Region Intelligence Hub. This would make the proposed Action Plan agile and responsive to accommodate changes in the economic landscape over the next 5 years. It promoted the unique selling points of South Lanarkshire as an outstanding place in which to live, work and visit.

It was intended that progress in delivering the Action Plan would be measured on a 6-monthly basis, with results reported annually to the relevant committees.

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

The Committee decided: that the South Lanarkshire Economic Strategy 2022 to 2027 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 15 June 2022 (Paragraph 8)]

9 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 22 November 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on proposed actions in respect of land and property transactions.

The recommendations had been made in terms of agreed procedures for dealing with surplus land and property.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the land detailed in Appendix A of the report be transferred to the Corporate Land Bank for future disposal; and
- (2) that the land and property detailed in Appendix B to the report be declared surplus to Council requirements.

10 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies – Publication of Revised Proposals

A report dated 15 November 2022 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies and the Publication of Revised Proposals.

Full reviews of UK Parliament Constituencies were undertaken every 5 years. The current review would conclude in July 2023 and public consultation had been ongoing since October 2021 on proposals for the constituency boundaries.

The UK Parliament had retained 650 constituencies for the review in 2023. In Scotland, it was proposed that the 59 existing Constituencies be reduced to 57. Two Scottish Constituencies, namely Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland, would not be affected by the proposals.

The initial proposed constituencies which covered the South Lanarkshire area were as follows:-

- ◆ Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
- ◆ East Kilbride and Strathaven
- ◆ Hamilton and Clyde Valley
- ◆ Motherwell and Clydesdale North
- ◆ Rutherglen

Details of the current and proposed Constituencies and South Lanarkshire Electoral Wards were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Revised Proposals for those Constituencies remained unchanged from the Initial Proposal in relation to the South Lanarkshire area, although the southern boundary of Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale had been slightly altered.

The proposals with a particular impact upon existing boundaries within the South Lanarkshire area were as follows:-

- ◆ Kirkmuirhill, Blackwood and Lesmahagow moved from the existing East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow Constituency to the proposed Hamilton and Clyde Valley Constituency
- ◆ Bothwell and Uddingston moved from the existing Lanark and Hamilton East Constituency to the proposed Rutherglen Constituency
- ◆ Western part of Hamilton moved from existing Rutherglen and Hamilton West Constituency to the proposed Hamilton and Clyde Valley Constituency
- ◆ Carluke and Forth moved from existing Lanark and Hamilton East Constituency to proposed Motherwell and Clydesdale North Constituency

The Revised Proposals would be displayed in local libraries, at the Council's headquarters and on the Boundary Commission's website.

Details were provided on how comments could be made on the Revised Proposals before the deadline date of 5 December 2022.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Boundary Commission for Scotland published its Revised Proposals for the UK Parliament Constituencies on Tuesday 8 November 2022;
- (2) that it be noted that the Revised Proposals were unchanged from the Initial Proposals published in October 2021 insofar as they related to the South Lanarkshire area;
- (3) that it be noted that the final consultation would be for a period of 4 weeks lasting until 5 December 2022; and
- (4) that the details to allow comments to be made on the Revised Proposals be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 December 2017 (Paragraph 21)]

11 Cost of Living Crisis – Additional Supports

A report dated 7 November 2022 by the Chief Executive was submitted on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c) because of the timescales involved, by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to highlight the scale of cost of living challenges faced by households over the 2022/2023 winter period and agree a number of one off investments and initiatives targeted to alleviate the impact of those challenges on households in need. Those actions discharged the delegation by full Council at its meeting of 28 September 2022 to the Chief Executive to agree a set of additional cost of living measures in consultation with political group leaders.

The Chief Executive:-

- ◆ referred to the impacts of the cost of living crisis on all sectors of society but particularly on those with the lowest incomes
- ◆ advised of existing supports, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report
- ◆ highlighted a range of measures by the UK and Scottish Governments to mitigate the impact of rising costs
- ◆ detailed the initiatives and investments to provide additional support to households over the period to the end of March 2023, as detailed in section 8 of the report
- ◆ provided an update on the Warm Welcome initiative

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

The Committee decided:

that the following action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c), by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, be noted:-

- ◆ approval of the initiatives outlined in section 8 of the report
- ◆ approval to meet the costs of those initiatives, totalling £4.680 million, from the existing budget for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) support (£1 million) and from uncommitted investment funding

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.