

# CAMBUSLANG AND RUTHERGLEN AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 15 March 2023

## **Chair:**

Councillor Carol Nugent

## **Councillors Present:**

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Norman Rae, Councillor Margaret B Walker

## **Councillors' Apologies:**

Councillor John Bradley (Depute), Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Janine Calikes

## **Attending:**

### **Community and Enterprise Resources**

C Brown, Environmental Services Manager

### **Finance and Corporate Resources**

C Lyon, Administration Officer; J McCafferty, Development Officer; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; I Mulholland, Community Asset Transfer Officer

### **Housing and Technical Resources**

C Frew, Strategy Co-ordinator

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee held on 14 December 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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## **3 Community Asset Transfer Update**

A report dated 10 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the current work in relation to Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 had created several legal obligations aimed at improving the involvement of community members in the design, implementation and delivery of services and activities that impacted on them and their fellow residents, one of which had been the introduction of CAT.

CAT enabled suitably constituted local community organisations to formally apply to lease, purchase or implement managed arrangements for any land or property owned by relevant public bodies where it could be evidenced that the proposed community benefit was better than the current usage.

The legislation had increasingly impacted upon the work of the authority and a dedicated Community Asset Transfer Officer had been employed from March 2022 on a 2-year contract.

The Officer's role was to improve the authority's internal processes, redesign community information (website, documentation and marketing) to improve uptake, support organisations considering the process and to act as a conduit for the flow of information within the Council and externally.

Detailed information was provided on the following:-

- ◆ redesign of internal processes including:-
  - ◆ upgrading the existing website to a more user friendly and informative platform
  - ◆ production of a YouTube animation
- ◆ promotion of CAT processes internally through the production of a Learn On Line training package for staff and elected members
- ◆ external promotion such as:-
  - ◆ attendance at a wide number of third sector events to promote opportunities that existed using the legislation
  - ◆ developing strong links with key local and national agencies such as Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN)
  - ◆ hosting an information event in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) and the Scottish Football Association (SFA)

Progress to date had included contact from 75 organisations throughout South Lanarkshire, 9 of which were from the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area. Of those enquiries:-

- ◆ 30 organisations were in dialogue with the CAT officer, 5 of which were from the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area
- ◆ 2 applications had been submitted and approved and 5 more were anticipated by the end of the year. None of those applications were from the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area

A presentation was given by the CAT Officer which provided further information on:-

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ◆ the relevant legislation             | ◆ timescales                  |
| ◆ criteria for community organisations | ◆ the role of the CAT Officer |
| ◆ the internal process                 | ◆ engagement with communities |
| ◆ best value                           |                               |

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

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

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#### **4 Dog Warden Role and Powers**

A report dated 10 February 2023 was submitted on the role of and powers available to the Council's Dog Warden, together with information on ways in which issues could be reported.

The Council had a statutory obligation to appoint a person responsible for the activities defined in Sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) relating to stray dogs. Those sections covered the powers conferred on an authorised officer in relation to stray dogs found within that local authority's area. The Council had appointed a Dog Warden who was located within the Environmental Crime Team (ETC).

Stray dogs could be reported to the Council's Contact Centre during office hours. Details would be passed to the Dog Warden who would respond as soon as possible in an attempt to collect the stray dog. Details of the relevant legislation on dog related issues were given in the report.

The Dog Warden had the power to seize any dog, believed to be a stray, in a public space but, within private property, permission of the landowner was required in the first instance.

The Dog Warden assisted officers with dog fouling enforcement. The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 permitted Fixed Penalty Notices (£80) to be issued for offences and/or reports prepared and submitted to the Procurator Fiscal Service for criminal charges to be presented in relation to dog owners who did not pick up after their dog.

The Dog Warden could provide support to officers investigating dog control issues but did not lead, investigate or enforce the provisions afforded to the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. Dog Control matters were divided between the Police and local authority depending on the nature and extent of the distress/alarm or physical/property harm caused by an alleged out of control dog incident. Due to the Dog Warden's experience working with and handling dogs, they could provide support on interpreting animal behaviour traits which helped inform decisions in the interest of the future welfare and control of the dog.

Statistical information in relation to reports on stray dogs, lost dogs, dog fouling and dog control was provided in the report.

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

**The Committee decided:** that the report be noted.

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## **5 Participatory Budgeting - Housing and Technical Resources**

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A report dated 2 March 2023 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 £8,637.01 had been spent from the Estate Improvement budget for 2022/2023 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, 2 environmental improvement PB projects had been completed within the Cambuslang and Rutherglen area at Kirkriggs and Dunure Court Sheltered Housing Sites in Rutherglen.

The Whitlawburn Community Endowment Fund consisted of £50,000, provided by the Council's contractor, CCG Homes Limited, for community benefits. To ensure that the allocation of the fund aligned with local priorities, Council tenants who had been allocated a new property in the Whitlawburn area were consulted through individual discussions and a survey was delivered to each home. To date, £20,000 had been spent on initiatives and plans were underway to spend the remaining £30,000, as detailed in the report.

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.

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## **6 Community Grant Applications/Warm Welcome Initiative**

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A report dated 27 February 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ applications for community grant
- ◆ a grant awarded to a community and voluntary group/organisation in the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee area in response to the Warm Welcome Initiative
- ◆ authorisation for the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, to approve further community grant applications meeting the relevant criteria in the period to 31 March 2023 from the 2022/2023 budget

As this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current financial year, to allow best use to be made of the remaining 2022/2023 community grant budget, it was proposed that 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 2023.

At its meeting on 28 September 2022, the Council agreed that the Chief Executive would bring a package of cost of living supports for agreement, in consultation with Group Leaders, which was approved in terms of Standing Order No 37(c) and noted by the Executive Committee on 30 November 2022. This package included support for a Warm Welcome Initiative.

Working in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and community and voluntary groups/organisations, the Warm Welcome Initiative was a network of warm spaces in community settings and public buildings where members of the public were welcomed and could participate in activities and access advice and support.

To support the Initiative, a small grants scheme had been created, offering grants to a maximum of £1,000 to cover extra costs incurred by offering a Warm Welcome. A total of £40,000 had been identified for the Initiative and the monies had been apportioned equally between the 4 Area Committees.

As funds were required immediately, it had been agreed that applications would be considered by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the relevant Area Committee Chair or Depute, and submitted to the Area Committee for noting.

**The Committee decided:**

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

- |     |                   |                                       |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) | Applicant:        | Glencairn 2006, Rutherglen (CR/10/22) |
|     | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up costs - equipment            |
|     | Amount Awarded:   | £700                                  |
| (b) | Applicant:        | Cambuslang Bowling Club (CR/11/22)    |
|     | Purpose of Grant: | Outing                                |
|     | Amount Awarded:   | £320                                  |

- (c) Applicant: Particip8 Overton, Cambuslang (CR/12/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment and administration costs  
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (d) Applicant: Burnside in Bloom (CR/13/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Environmental project  
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (e) Applicant: 217th Gilbertfield Company Boys' Brigade, Cambuslang (CR/14/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment and entrance fees  
Amount Awarded: £950
- (f) Applicant: Central Cambuslang Community Garden Group (CR/15/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment and materials  
Amount Awarded: £350
- (g) Applicant: Cambuslang Out of School Care Project (CR/17/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, publicity costs, outing and entrance fees  
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (h) Applicant: Burnside Autumn Club (CR/19/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing  
Amount Awarded: £300
- (i) Applicant: Camglen Buddies Leisure and Social Club, Cambuslang (CR/20/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Specialist transport and entrance fees  
Amount Awarded: £1,000
- (j) Applicant: Rutherglen Division Girlguiding (CR/21/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Environmental project  
Amount Awarded: £500
- (k) Applicant: Fernhill Senior Citizens' Men's Club (CR/23/22)  
Purpose of Grant: Outing and administration costs  
Amount Awarded: £565

- (2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2022/2023 community grant budget was utilised as fully as possible, 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 2023, subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for receipt of funding;
- (3) that details of those applications approved be reported to the next meeting of the Area Committee for noting; and
- (4) that the award of grant, totalling £575, to Rutherglen United Reformed Church in response to the Warm Welcome Initiative be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 14 December 2022 (Paragraph 7), Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 28 September 2022 (Paragraph 7) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 30 November 2022 (Paragraph 11)]*

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## 7 Urgent Business

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There were no items of urgent business.