

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 June 2023

Chair:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Celine Handibode, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Richard Nelson

Attending:

Education Resources

S Bokas, Headteacher, Quarter Primary School; L Callender, Headteacher, David Livingstone Memorial Primary School; L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer, Excellence and Equity

Finance and Corporate Resources

S Jessup, Administration Assistant; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

C Burns, Station Commander; J Quinn, Area Commander

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair advised that, in terms of Standing Order No 4(c), he had agreed to a request for an item of urgent business which would be dealt with after agenda item 3.

Order of Business

The Committee decided: that the items of business be dealt with in the order minuted below.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 26 April 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – 2022/2023 Annual Performance and Activity Report

C Burns, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) gave a presentation on the Hamilton Area Performance and Activity Report 2022/2023.

The presentation provided performance information covering the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, with a comparison against the same period from the previous 2 years. Information was provided on:-

- ◆ deliberate primary fires
- ◆ deliberate secondary fires
- ◆ accidental dwelling fires
- ◆ accidental 'other' building fires
- ◆ fatal fire casualties
- ◆ non-fatal fire casualties (excluding precautionary check-up)
- ◆ special service (road traffic collisions)
- ◆ special service (fatal and non-fatal casualties)
- ◆ false alarms (malicious false alarms and unwanted fire alarm signals (non-domestic))

C Burns and J Quinn responded to members' questions and C Burns was thanked for his informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

Councillor McLachlan entered the meeting during consideration of the above item of business

4 Item of Urgent Business – SFRS Strategic Service Review – Hamilton Fire Station

J Quinn, SFRS, provided a verbal update on the Strategic Service Review Programme that had recently been initiated by the Service.

In November 2022, the SFRS Chief Officer spoke at a meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee around the financial challenges presented by the Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review and flat cash settlement budget and the impact on the Service. The Chief Officer publicly acknowledged that the budget challenges would have an impact on the operational delivery model.

As part of the SFRS Strategic Service Review, appliances were being removed from 10 fire stations across Scotland, including one in Hamilton. This would be a temporary withdrawal over a 12 month period and the impact of the removal of fire engines would be scrutinised during this time.

The following points were highlighted on the changes being made to the response model as part of the Review:-

- ◆ changes were data-driven and based on risk and demand
- ◆ the affected fire stations had been identified following a robust review of data
- ◆ the safety of staff and the local community remained a priority
- ◆ fire cover would always be maintained and the Service would continue to attend every emergency
- ◆ as a national Service, appliances and personnel would be moved from other stations whenever required
- ◆ the Service would work to mobilise the closest and most appropriate fire appliance
- ◆ the temporary removal of appliances would take place in September 2023
- ◆ the position would be reviewed and monitored moving forward

- ♦ if any changes were to be made permanent, a full public consultation would be required
- ♦ a High Reach Strategy was running alongside the Review to reduce, on a phased basis, the number of vehicles that could operate at height

J Quinn also briefed the Committee on the SFRS Consultation on the Future of Leadhills Fire Station. Views were being sought from members of the public and stakeholder partners around the full reinstatement of operations or the closure of the station.

J Quinn, having responded to members' questions and concerns, was thanked for the update.

Councillor McLachlan requested that his grave concerns about the temporary removal of one appliance from Hamilton Fire Station be recorded.

The Committee decided: that the update be noted.

Councillor Razzaq entered the meeting during consideration of the above item of business

5 Education Scotland Report – David Livingstone Memorial Primary School

A report dated 22 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class, Blantyre made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in February 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 16 May 2023.

A number of particular strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress. The school had been identified as having practice worth sharing more widely by Education Scotland and this was detailed at section 4.5 of the report. Education Scotland had intimated that they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

L Callender, Headteacher and L Mitchell, Lead Officer, having spoken on key aspects of the report and having responded to members' questions, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Education Scotland Report – Quarter Primary School

A report dated 30 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Quarter Primary School and Nursery Class, Quarter made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in April 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 30 May 2023.

A number of particular strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress. Education Scotland had intimated that they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

S Bokas, Headteacher and L Mitchell, Lead Officer, having spoken on key aspects of the report and having responded to members' questions, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Chalmers left during consideration of this item and Councillors Carmichael and McDonald left the meeting after consideration of the above item of business

7 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 11 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

As an example of good practice, David Livingstone Memorial Primary School's PB work was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. David Livingstone Primary School demonstrated value and commitment to PB, pupil voice and the voice of their stakeholders.

Examples of the voice of their stakeholders centred around supporting families affected by poverty and the cost of the school day. Choices of spend included widening access to extra-curricular experiences, providing homework packs, buying items to support the school's rake and take initiative and widening access to school trips. It was hoped that pupil wellbeing and attendance as well as engagement of pupils affected by poverty at after-school clubs and sporting events would improve. A further impact section would be added to this case study at the end of the academic year to show the benefit this activity had to the most vulnerable learners.

Schools continued to allocate a minimum of 5% of their PEF to PB year on year. Updated guidance on PB had been provided at the PEF Head Teacher and Equity Lead Information Session held on 19 May 2023. Optional PB training would be planned for August 2023 for schools which had new PB Leads or where a refresh was required.

South Lanarkshire Council schools' PB work continued to be recognised nationally as an example of good practice and several local authorities had approached the Council for guidance and support in this area. A CoSLA award application would be submitted to showcase the work of the Council's schools in PB.

Education Resources would provide Area Committees with:-

- ◆ a summary report of each school's PB outcome
- ◆ case studies of school activity, which had particular impact/success
- ◆ a detailed financial report of how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent

Education Resources would support schools and monitor and track the impact of this activity. Findings would inform any future PB activity within the Resource.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 February 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

8 Playscheme Grant Applications

A report dated 16 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for playscheme grant for 2023/2024.

The playscheme funding would allow an allocation of £660 to be made to playschemes that operated over the summer, October and Easter holiday periods with £440 for the summer period only and £110 for each of the October and Easter periods.

Financial provision was available for individual playschemes to receive, as appropriate, Travel and Freedom Passes from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

The Committee decided: that playscheme grants be awarded as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: Childcare in the Community, Hamilton (PS/HA/1/23)
Amount Awarded: £440
- (b) Applicant: REACH Lanarkshire Autism, Hamilton (PS/HA/3/23)
Amount Awarded: £440

[Reference: Minutes of 21 June 2022 (Paragraph 2)]

9 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 5 June 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

After discussion in relation to the proposal to award Hamilton Cyber Youth Project, Blantyre a community grant of £350, as detailed in the report, Councillor Falconer, seconded by Councillor Devlin, moved that the recommendation in the report be approved. Councillor Thomson, seconded by Councillor Razzaq, moved as an amendment that the level of grant award to Hamilton Cyber Youth Project, Blantyre be £600. On a vote being taken using the electronic voting system, 5 members voted for the motion and 7 for the amendment which was declared carried.

The Committee decided: that community grants be awarded as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: The Holding Space, Hamilton (HA/5/23)
Purpose of Grant: Start-up costs – Equipment, materials and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £300
- (b) Applicant: Hillhouse Parish Church Men's Club, Hamilton (HA/6/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £320
- (c) Applicant: Handmades, Hamilton (HA/4/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £240
- (d) Applicant: Larkhall Heritage Group (HA/8/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (e) Applicant: Hamilton Cyber Youth Project, Blantyre (HA/9/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £600

- (f) Applicant: Hamilton District Men's Shed (*HA/10/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Materials
 Amount Awarded: £300

- (g) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club (*HA/11/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Outing
 Amount Awarded: £300

- (h) Applicant: Hamilton South Guilds Together (*HA/13/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Outing
 Amount Awarded: £300

- (i) Applicant: Musical Memories, Hamilton (*HA/14/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Outing
 Amount Awarded: £300

- (j) Applicant: Larkhall New Parish Church Guild Outings Fund (*HA/15/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
 Amount Awarded: £350

- (k) Applicant: SLC Radio, Hamilton (*HA/16/23*)
 Purpose of Grant: Equipment
 Amount Awarded: £300

[Reference: Minutes of 26 April 2023 (Paragraph 3)]