

Report

Report to:	Community Wealth Building Commission
Date of Meeting:	6 September 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Community Wish Lists
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ update the Commission on local work to develop a Community Wish List approach

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the progress detailed within the report is noted; and
- (2) that partners consider opportunities to promote Community Benefit activity from their own procurement.

3. Background

3.1. Community Benefits are contractual requirements which deliver a wider social benefit in addition to the core purpose of the contract. Through its procurement arrangements, South Lanarkshire Council and its suppliers have delivered community benefits for residents (e.g. training and employability opportunities and local supply chain sub-contracts).

3.2. Community Wish Lists are an emerging concept within the public sector where communities are enabled to put forward requests for specific needs or benefits that can then be supported by selection by suppliers delivering contracts. The main advantage of this approach is in encouraging and providing a more bottom-up approach to delivering community benefits as part of the public sector procurement process, where communities needs are being directly specified by communities and met by contractors.

3.3. Through Glasgow City Region, projects are also delivering Community Benefits. Work is under way to better align community benefits provided in South Lanarkshire Council and City Deal contracts with the needs of our local communities.

4. Current Work

4.1. All eight local authorities who are part of the City Region have agreed to work together to develop a regional Community Wish List approach. The City Region have committed to developing a web-based Community Wish List interface, which would have a shared backroom and individual landing pages. This allows South Lanarkshire and the other member authorities to have control over their own process and the content of their web page. A company is being appointed to design this interface and it is expected to be available later in 2022.

- 4.2. South Lanarkshire Council has identified investment funding which will support a fixed term 0.5FTE officer post to work with communities to promote understanding and awareness of the Community Wish List approach. The postholder will have a focus on supporting groups to participate in identifying their wishes, and on managing their expectations as to what the procurement system may be able to deliver for them and their area. They will exploit existing relationships with communities through the Community Engagement Team and partners. They will work closely with procurement and other council staff to identify potential community wishes which may be linked to upcoming procurement activity, as well as encouraging communities to add their lists to a menu on the website. In addition, the post holder will also directly engage with communities who may be least likely to participate in wish list activity to stimulate and support them to take advantage of these opportunities. It is expected that the post will be filled by September 2022. There will be a great deal of preparatory work with communities to introduce the new concept prior to the interface being live.
- 4.3. A Community Benefits Officer is also being appointed within the Procurement service of South Lanarkshire Council. This post will deliver Community Benefit outcomes for the Council and Glasgow Region City Deal, with a key focus on those community benefits which maximise the economic impact from the City Deal Procurement Programme and Business as usual. As part of this they will monitor and manage the delivery of Community Benefits. The Community Benefits and Community Wish List Officers will work closely together to ensure the effectiveness of the approach.
- 4.4 The NHS also has a Community Benefit Gateway (CBG), a free and easy to use online service that connects NHS Scotland suppliers with third sector community organisations within Scotland. It supports community initiatives such as:-
- Work placement opportunities
 - Volunteering projects
 - The provision of professional advice
 - Assistance with building community facilities
 - Environmental proposals
 - Improving and promoting biodiversity
 - Lifelong learning projects

The purpose of the CBG is to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local areas and assists in the reduction of health inequalities across Scotland. CBGs purpose is to establish a positive relationship between appropriate suppliers and third sector community organisations through the fulfilment of community needs. The Community Wish List Officer will also promote the CBG to community organisations they engage with. Likewise, any other partner who is delivering community benefits can also promote these through the same route.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. Once in post, the Community Wish List Officer will begin to speak to other council officers and partners, and to the community groups who may be involved in putting forward wishes for the Community Wish List. This will allow a process to be established, and following this they will design marketing and promotional tools which can be used to publicise the opportunities available to communities. These will be shared with partners to maximise their effectiveness in raising awareness.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct employee implications.

7.1 Financial Implications

5.2. There are no direct financial implications.

8 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

8.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

9. Other Implications

9.1. None.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. 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.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

15 July 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- Accountable, efficient, effective and Transparent

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

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

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