

CLYDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 14 February 2024

Chair:

Councillor Catherine McClymont

Councillors Present:

Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor David Shearer

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Ross Gowland (Depute), Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Ian McAllan

Attending:

Education Resources

M Hendry, Quality Link Officer; J Kennedy, Headteacher

Finance and Corporate Resources

C Lyon, Administration Officer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

G Booth, Justice Service Manager; E Lloyd, Operations Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

C Frew, Strategy Co-ordinator; P Newey, Area Housing Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Marrs	Community Grant Applications:-	
	♦ Forth and District Development Trust, Lanark (CL/29/23)	Previously involved with the group
	♦ Clydesdale Netball Club, Lanark (CL/31/23)	Known to group
	♦ Kilninzie Club, Lanark (CL/33/23)	Known to group
McClymont	♦ Forth and District Development Trust, Lanark (CL/29/23)	Member

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 15 November 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Education Scotland - Lamington Primary School

A report dated 30 January 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Lamington Primary School made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in September 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 31 October 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.

M Hendry, Quality Link Officer and J Kennedy, Headteacher, having spoken on key aspects of the report, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Common Good – Update Report

A report dated 10 January 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing background information and an update on the Lanark and Biggar Common Good funds.

The Common Good was a fund of money or assets, or both, and was administered by a Scottish local authority in respect of each former burgh within the area of the local authority. Common Good property was owned by the local authority and administered separately from other local authority assets for accounting purposes.

The Common Good funds held within South Lanarkshire Council were Lanark, Biggar, Hamilton and Rutherglen. Finance Services administered the Common Good Accounts and accounts were prepared on an annual basis, as part of the Council's year end process, with the position at 31 March 2023 detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

As at 31 March 2023, Biggar Common Good Account had cash balances amounting to £0.025 million. The Biggar Common Good Account held cash balances only and had no physical assets. As there were no assets to maintain, little expenditure was incurred by the Common Good Account.

The position on the Lanark Common Good Account, as at 31 March 2023, showed that the fund had cash balances amounting to £0.251 million. As well as cash balances, the Lanark Common Good Account also held assets, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

An annual budget of £15,000 was available for the maintenance of Common Good properties in Lanark. As at the last report to Finance and Corporate Resources Committee on 6 December 2023, there were no commitments against this budget.

On 19 February 2008, the Finance and Information Technology Committee approved an annual contribution of £2,500 towards the maintenance of St Nicholas Church Tower. This earmarked budget had not been utilised in recent years. At its meeting on 6 December 2023, the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee approved the use of the unused allocation over the last 2 years to cover the costs of a conservation accredited architect to identify the areas which required repair.

Decisions on the Common Good Accounts were taken by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee. A report on the management of the Common Good fund would also be provided annually to the Clydesdale Area Committee.

Following a question from a member regarding the timescales for when the information would be back from the Architect in relation to St Nicolas Church Tower and also how the decision would be made as to how it posed best value or the best way forward, the Finance Manager (Strategy) gave an undertaking to find out and would advise local Members. She highlighted that there were a couple of projects that been identified for consideration for Lanark and it was intended to write to local Members regarding those. Costs for St Nicholas Church Tower would need to be considered before a decision was made overall.

The Committee decided: that the background information and update on the Lanark and Biggar Common Good funds be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 12 October 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Participatory Budgeting – Housing and Technical Resources

A report dated 30 January 2024 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 (HIP) 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 funding towards projects or improvements highlighted as a priority by customers of Housing and Property Services. Although not a significant value, the budget was ideally suited for conversion to PB and funded a number of smaller projects that had been highlighted as a priority by customers.

To date, a total of £9,983.85 had been spent from the Estate Improvement Budget for 2023/2024 on 5 projects that had been undertaken within the Clydesdale area, as detailed in the report.

Engagement with tenants on the overall Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2023/2024, and the proposed level and focus of the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) within this, had taken place as part of the Annual Resource 2023/2024 budgetary consultation process. The environmental aspect of the HIP (Environmental Programme) was a significant budget area that covered a wide range of projects that sought to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the Council's domestic housing stock.

To date, one PB project had commenced in Glebe Gardens, Lesmahagow where tenants would be consulted on a series of environmental upgrades. The project remained at an early stage and the work would be completed in 2024/2025.

Officers from Housing and Technical Resources would continue to take forward opportunities within Clydesdale to ensure tenants and other customers had the opportunity to determine the outcome of budgets within the Environmental Programme and Community Safety Partnership Commissioning budget, with further updates provided to this Committee in due course.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and members expressed their thanks to the team.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 March 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Community Payback Order - Presentation

G Booth, Justice Service Manager and E Lloyd, Operations Manager, gave a presentation on Community Payback Orders (CPOs), the most common requirement of which involved unpaid work for the benefit of the community.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ general requirements and objectives of CPOs
- ◆ the type of work carried out in relation to CPOs within South Lanarkshire, including community, resource centre based, remote and partnership projects
- ◆ the Unpaid Work Service, based within the Auchentibber resource centre, Blantyre
- ◆ delivery of work and activities both in terms of hours and bespoke projects delivered
- ◆ support offered to individuals who had received a CPO
- ◆ specific projects delivered in the Clydesdale area

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

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

7 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 29 January 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted:-

- ◆ on applications for community grant
- ◆ requesting authorisation for the Chief Executive or 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 2024 from the 2023/2024 budget

In view of the fact that this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current financial year and to allow best use to be made of the remaining 2023/2024 community grant budget, it was proposed that the Chief Executive or 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 2024. Those grants awarded would be reported to a future meeting for noting.

The Committee decided:

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

- (a) Applicant: Forth and District Development Trust, Lanark (CL/29/23)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £480

Councillors Marrs and McClymont, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. In terms of Standing Order No 5, Councillor Logan took the Chair for this application only

- (b) Applicant: Clydesdale Netball Club, Lanark (CL/31/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £300

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (c) Applicant: Biggar Area Climate Care, Biggar (CL/32/23)
Purpose of Grant: Materials, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £300
- (d) Applicant: Kilninzie Club, Lanark (CL/33/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £270

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (e) Applicant: Lanark, Biggar and Peebles Foal Show Society, Lesmahagow (CL/35/23)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £230
- (f) Applicant: 449 Squadron RAF Air Cadets, Lanark (CL/36/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £350

(2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2023/2024 community grant budget was utilised as fully as possible, the Chief Executive or 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 2024 subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for the receipt of funding; and

(3) that the details of those applications approved be reported to a future meeting for noting.

[Reference: Minutes of 15 November 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.