

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 20 September 2023

Chair:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Celine Handibode, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Richard Nelson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

I Russell, Project Manager, Enterprise and Sustainable Development

Education Resources

L Brown, Headteacher, Hamilton School for the Deaf; F Leggate, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Crumless, Community Development Officer; S Jessup, Administration Assistant; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; J Weir, Community Development Officer

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Chief Inspector G McLaughlin and Inspector P Doyle

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 21 June 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Local Policing Annual Update

Chief Inspector McLaughlin and Inspector Doyle, Police Scotland gave a presentation on the following key priorities of the new 3-year Local Policing Plan:-

- ◆ protecting our community
- ◆ safeguarding our citizens
- ◆ enhancing our service

Details were provided on initiatives undertaken to support each of those priorities under the following headings:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ violent and antisocial crime | ♦ acquisitive crime |
| ♦ public protection | ♦ road safety |
| ♦ protecting the most vulnerable | ♦ enhancing the service |
| ♦ serious and organised crime | |

Chief Inspector McLaughlin and Inspector Doyle, having responded to members' questions, were thanked for their informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor Carmichael joined the meeting during this item of business

4 Education Scotland Report – Hamilton School for the Deaf

A report dated 29 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Hamilton School for the Deaf made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in May 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 27 June 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.

L Brown, Headteacher and F Leggate, Lead Officer, having spoken on key aspects of the report, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Update on Town Centres

A report dated 4 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the activity being undertaken in town centres across the Hamilton area.

The nature of town centres across the United Kingdom was in a transitional stage, with a broad and complex range of issues and challenges. Factors, such as the economic downturn, internet shopping, the growth of out-of-town shopping malls, changes in retailers' business models and consumer expectations, had resulted in a decline in footfall.

Across the 10 towns defined in the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (LDP), there was active and ongoing engagement with the most appropriate groups in the towns. Those ranged from town-to-town and included Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Development Trusts, community councils and private property owners.

Town centre strategies and action plans had been prepared and approved for Hamilton, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Blantyre, with work underway in Rutherglen. Similar plans were being progressed by the communities in Lanark and Carluke, along with the master planning work taking place in East Kilbride and Hamilton.

Officers in Economic Development were working with all key stakeholders across towns in the area and had commissioned 2 key pieces of work on Town Centre Visioning and Transition to Net Zero, to set the direction of the Council's work on town centres. Those would inform and align with existing and emerging funding opportunities around town centres.

Section 4 of the report provided detailed information on town centre activity and that included:-

- ♦ the appointment of 360 Architecture to undertake a master planning exercise in Hamilton which:-
 - ♦ aimed to reflect aspirations for a resilient, mixed-use economy and would reposition the town centre to meet the needs of the 21st century
 - ♦ would focus on the sites identified at section 4.1.4 of the report, however, recognised that further sites could be considered as part of the exercise
- ♦ delaying the renewal of the Hamilton Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, as agreed at the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 29 August 2023, until the master planning exercise was completed. The masterplan outcomes and updated Strategy would be presented to this Committee early next year
- ♦ details of a successful South Lanarkshire Pride event held in July 2023 by the Hamilton BID which had increased town centre footfall over the weekend by 65%
- ♦ details of 2 Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) awards in Larkhall:-
 - ♦ an award of £100,000 for a new boiler, hanging baskets, greening and benches at the Larkhall Community Growers' Office in King Street
 - ♦ an award of £450,000 to support creation of 18 affordable homes on the Coalyard site at the junction of Caledonian Road and Raploch Street

Officers from Enterprise and Sustainable Development Services were currently reviewing the Larkhall Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan and continued to support the actions of the Blantyre Town Centre and Action Plan.

There followed a full discussion during which the Project Manager, Enterprise and Sustainable Development Services responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 29 August 2023 (Paragraph 9)]

Councillors Razzaq and Thomson left the meeting after consideration of this item of business

6 South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership – Area Community Partnership Update

A report dated 29 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the work of the Hamilton Community Partnership.

Following work to consider how the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board should be structured at a thematic/local level, proposals had been approved by the CPP Board in December 2019 which included the formation of Neighbourhood Partnerships at a locality level. As a result, the community planning areas were structured into 4 collaborative, locality level, Community Partnership Boards for Rutherglen and Cambuslang, Clydesdale, East Kilbride and Hamilton, which was still in development. Boards included representatives from development trusts, community councils, neighbourhood planning action groups and other local community anchor organisations and were chaired by community leaders who had a place on the CPP Board.

Those Partnerships would provide a link for the CPP to take forward the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plans alongside its Community Partners.

The Hamilton Area included communities in Blantyre, Bothwell, Lanark, Stonehouse and Uddingston and the following work was underway to develop the Partnership:-

- ◆ meetings with local groups to discuss the benefits of joining the Partnership
- ◆ mapping work to ensure the partnership would be representative of the local communities in the area
- ◆ communication of the CPP objectives and activities using both in person and online settings

At its meeting of 22 March 2023, the CPP Board agreed to continue the allocation of Lived Experience Funding to the Community Partnerships. The Partnership would utilise this funding, supported by the local area, and gather experiences of local people to inform a better understanding of inequalities.

Neighbourhood plans had been produced for Blantyre, Fairhill, Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, and Whitehill areas. Work was ongoing with communities in the Hamilton South Ward to develop a neighbourhood plan which would set out priorities for action. Communities in Bothwell and Larkhall areas had also developed neighbourhood plans.

Details were also provided on:-

- ◆ Participatory Budgeting (PB) which had been significantly developed in priority areas during 2022
- ◆ the next steps for the new Community Partnership for Hamilton
- ◆ the Can Do Community Challenge Fund

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

The Committee decided: that progress being made in respect of the Hamilton Area Community Partnership be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2022 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 4 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

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

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| (a) | Applicant: | The Art Room, Hamilton (HA/37/22) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |

- (b) Applicant: St John's Friendly Hour, Hamilton (HA/3/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and equipment
Amount Awarded: £420
- (c) Applicant: Strutherhill Lunch and Social Club, Larkhall (HA/12/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (d) Applicant: Larkhall YMCA (HA/18/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £582
- (e) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club (Ladies Section) (HA/21/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (f) Applicant: Raploch Elderly Lunch Club, Larkhall (HA/22/23)
Purpose of Grant: Specialist transport
Amount Awarded: £500
- (g) Applicant: Grow Uddingston (HA/23/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £360
- (h) Applicant: Lyndale Club, Hamilton (HA/24/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350

[Reference: Minutes of 21 June 2023 (Paragraph 9)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks – Community Payback Orders

In response to a member's request to have a future agenda item on the work of the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team, the Chair advised that contact had been made with the Head of Administration and Legal Services and, subsequently, the Community Justice Team to establish if there were opportunities to apply for unpaid work in particular areas. A request had been made for an agenda item, if appropriate, to all 4 Area Committees on community payback orders and the benefits to communities.