

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 29 August 2023

Chair:

Councillor Robert Brown

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Ross Clark (*substitute for Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey*), Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor David Shearer (*substitute for Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller*), Councillor Helen Toner, Councillor David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald

Councillor Also Present:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; A Brown, Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development Services; F Carlin, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services; G Newbigging, Area Manager; C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services; I Ross, Project Manager; M Wilkie, Performance and Policy Development Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Davitt, Public Relations Team Leader; L Harvey, Finance Manager; S Jessup, Administration Assistant; E Maxwell, Human Resources Business Partner; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); M M Wilson, Legal Services Manager

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

| Councillor(s) | Item(s) | Nature of Interest(s) |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Devlin | Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2023/2024 ♦ Clyde Cycle Park | Trustee |
| Gowland | Hagshaw Energy Cluster Development Framework | Trustee of Hagshaw Windfarm Trust |

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 30 May 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

Councillor Gowland entered the meeting after consideration of the above item of business

3 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/2023

A joint report dated 9 June 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 31 March 2023 against budgeted expenditure for 2022/2023 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

The year end outturn position was an underspend of £0.025 million after approved transfers to reserves. The underspend was a net effect of underspends in employee costs within Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services, Planning and Regulatory Services, Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services and an over-recovery of Planning and Building Standards income and vehicle maintenance income within Fleet Services.

Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets at appendices B to F of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resources' outturn position as at 31 March 2023 of an underspend of £0.025 million, after approved transfers to reserves, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to F of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 March 2023 (Paragraph 3) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 21 June 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/2024

A joint report dated 31 July 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 14 July 2023 against budgeted expenditure for 2023/2024 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

At 14 July 2023, there was a breakeven position against the phased budget.

Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on Community and Enterprise Resources' revenue budget, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to F of the report, be approved.

5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2022/2023

A joint report dated 9 August 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' Capital Programme 2022/2023 and summarising the expenditure position at 31 March 2023.

The total Capital Programme for Community and Enterprise Resources for 2022/2023 was £48.444 million. The final expenditure position at 31 March 2023 was £36.324 million. The underspend was mainly due to the timing of project spend on a number of projects detailed in the report. The underspend on those projects, along with the funding, would carry forward into 2023/2024 as required.

The Committee decided: that the Community and Enterprise Resources' Capital Programme of £48.444 million, and expenditure for the year of £36.324 million, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 14 March 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2023/2024

A joint report dated 9 August 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2023/2024 and summarising the expenditure position at 14 July 2023.

The Capital Programme for 2023/2024 amounted to £42.925 million and was based on the overall Capital Programme for 2023/2024 which was presented to the Executive Committee on 21 June 2023. The total Capital Programme was based on the original programme of projects that had been approved by Council on 22 February 2023 which had been updated to include budget carried forward from financial year 2022/2023 and additional funding received. Expenditure at 14 July 2023 was £3.931 million, which represented a small overspend of £0.002 million.

The Committee decided: that the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme of £42.925 million, and expenditure to date of £3.931 million, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council (Special) of 22 February 2023 (Paragraph 4) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 21 June 2023 (Paragraph 6) and 16 August 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

7 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring – April to June 2023

A joint report dated 26 July 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period April to June 2023:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers and exit interviews

The Human Resources Business Partner responded to member's question in relation to whether the Resource's absence figures were now comparable to absence rates prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 May 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

8 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund – Grant Applications

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on 3 applications to the various Community Benefit Funds. The Community Benefit Funds had been established to provide funding to suitable projects providing community benefit in eligible areas.

It was proposed that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the projects had been secured, a grant of up to:-

- ◆ £81,671 be awarded to Wiston Village Hall Association towards eligible costs associated with the appointment of an architect team and associated surveys for the design and development of refurbishment works to the village hall from the Middle Muir Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund (REF)
- ◆ £27,465 be awarded to Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society towards eligible costs associated with the installation of solar panels and air-to-air heat source pump system from the Andershaw Windfarm REF
- ◆ £79,570 be awarded to Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club towards eligible costs associated with facilitating flood light installation from the Middle Muir Windfarm REF

In response to a member's question in relation to using the REF in a more strategic manner that would benefit communities and public assets more widely, the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) advised that a review of the REF had started. Outline proposals had been taken to the Rural Task Force detailing how that review would operate. Further information on the review would be reported at a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided: that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the projects had been secured, a grant be awarded of up to a maximum of:-

- ◆ £81,671 to Wiston Village Hall Association towards eligible costs associated with the appointment of an architect team and associated surveys for the design and development of refurbishment works to the village hall from the Middle Muir Windfarm REF
- ◆ £27,465 to Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society towards eligible costs associated with the installation of solar panels and air-to-air heat source pump system from the Andershaw Windfarm REF
- ◆ £79,570 to Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club towards eligible costs associated with facilitating flood light installation from the Middle Muir Windfarm REF

[Reference: Minutes of 30 May 2023 (Paragraph 8)]

9 Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2023/2024

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the progress made during 2022/2023 in implementing the South Lanarkshire Delivery Plan for the Scottish Government financed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)
- ◆ the proposed VDLF Programme for 2023/2024

The Scottish Government had allocated £737,000 to the Council for the VDLF in 2022/2023 and a Local Delivery Plan had been approved by the Committee on 9 August 2022 to implement the following key objectives:-

- ◆ tackle long-term vacant and derelict land
- ◆ stimulate economic growth and wealth creation
- ◆ develop a diverse sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening
- ◆ support communities to flourish and tackle inequalities

Details were provided on the progress achieved in 2022/2023. In August 2022, the Committee had allocated £500,000 towards a greening project at Cuningar Loop Phase 3 focused on a site adjacent to the current Council food growing allotment site. Match funding to implement proposals, currently being developed by Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company (URC), remained to be identified and it would be some time before firm proposals for the site were developed. To ensure that VDLF funding was not lost, it was proposed that the Cuningar Phase 3 allocation be redirected to a proposal in the 2023/2024 VDLF Delivery Plan, namely the ongoing remediation and development activity at Shawfield, Rutherglen.

The Scottish Government allocation to South Lanarkshire for the VDLF in 2023/2024 was £687,000. A Local Delivery Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Government. Details of the Delivery Plan were provided in the report and it was proposed that allocation of funding would be as follows:-

- ◆ Langlands West Strategic Industrial Development Site, East Kilbride - £500,000
- ◆ Clyde Cycle Park Phase 2 – Development of Community Cycling/Active Travel Facilities - £87,000
- ◆ Carnwath Community and Business Enterprise Hub – Town Centre Community and Business Space - £100,000
- ◆ Clyde Gateway URC, Shawfield Remediation and Development – £500,000 from the reallocation of 2022/2023 VDLF funding from Clyde Gateway's Cuningar Phase 3 project

The Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development Services responded to a member's questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress achieved during 2022/2023 in delivering the agreed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme in South Lanarkshire be noted; and
- (2) that the allocation of funds in the 2023/2024 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Delivery Plan, as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 9 August 2022 (Paragraph 14)]

Councillor Devlin, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

10 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan.

The UKSPF would run for 3 financial years from 2022/2023 to 2024/2025. It was reported at this Committee on 9 August 2022, that the Council had received a conditional allocation of £12,221,811 from the UKSPF, providing a mix of capital and revenue funding for projects that met the 4 investment themes of:-

- ◆ communities and place
- ◆ supporting local business
- ◆ people and skills
- ◆ multiply

The approach detailed at the meeting of the Committee on 9 August 2022, was to submit a single Investment Plan as part of the Glasgow City Region (GCR), however, delivery and project management would remain at local authority level. Priorities for South Lanarkshire had also been agreed at the August 2022 meeting. The GCR Investment Plan, with a combined total of £73,874,280, was submitted on 30 August 2022.

Approval of the Investment Plan had been received from the UK Government on 5 December 2022 and, following the conclusion of the grant agreement and assurance documentation, the Council received the 2022/2023 allocation of £1,865,176 in February 2023.

Due to delays in approval of Investment Plans, the UK Government had recognised the need for councils to reprofile the expected spend in years one and 2 of the UKSPF programme. A reprofiling exercise, along with credible plans for the spend in 2023/2024, was prepared by the Council and submitted to GCR in March 2023. Those were recently approved by the UK Government. The revised spend profile for the Council was detailed in Table 1 of the report. Budgets had been allocated to priorities and those were set out in the Activity Plan in Appendix 1 to the report. The UKSPF allowed councils to use up to 4% of the allocation for management and administration and, consequently, the Council could access £0.489 million over 3 years to manage the programme. Aligned with the UKSPF priorities, were a range of outputs and outcomes and those were summarised in Appendix 2 to the report.

Delivery across the programme had commenced and would be monitored by officers in the Enterprise and Sustainable Development Service. A cross-resource programme governance group had been established to monitor progress and advise of changes to expenditure profiles and outcomes. This would be reported to the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). To ensure effective delivery of the UKSPF programme in South Lanarkshire, and to minimise the risk of underspend, it was proposed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), as set out in section 4.8 of the report.

Quarterly and 6-monthly monitoring and reporting to GCR and the UK Government would be undertaken and the Committee would receive progress reports annually.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress of the UKSPF be noted;
- (2) that the expenditure profile set out in Table 1 and the Activity Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved;
- (3) that powers be delegated to the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), as set out in section 4.8 of the report, to ensure the effective delivery of the UKSPF Programme in South Lanarkshire and minimise the risk of underspend; and

- (4) that it be noted that progress reports will be brought to the Committee annually.

[Reference: Minutes of 9 August 2022 (Paragraph 12)]

11 Community and Enterprise Resource Plan – Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Community and Enterprise Resource Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Resource Plan measures were rated using a traffic light system of red, amber or green as well as blue (BRAG) which indicated that an action had been completed.

Details were provided on:-

- ◆ progress against all Resource Plan measures, as detailed in the Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023, attached as Appendix 2 of the report
- ◆ key achievements made by the Resource to date
- ◆ measures which had changed in status from Quarter 2 to Quarter 4, as contained in Appendix 3 of the report.

The Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resource Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2022/2023, as summarised in paragraph 5.2 and attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements made by the Resource to date, as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the areas for improvement and associated management actions, as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report, be noted; and
- (4) that the additional scrutiny of changes in BRAG status between Quarter 2 and Quarter 4, as summarised at paragraph 5.5 and detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 October 2022 (Paragraph 11)]

12 Hamilton Town Centre Masterplan

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted informing of the:-

- ◆ work being undertaken to prepare a masterplan for Hamilton Town Centre
- ◆ status of the Hamilton Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan

Like most town centres across the UK, Hamilton had seen a change in customer behaviour over the past 20 years which had resulted in vacant retail space. The continued growth of online shopping, mobility of customers, and move towards a click and collect model had changed retailers' requirements with less demand in business models for town centres.

Hamilton was a town centre with strong assets and a strong sense of identity. This was evident through the strong civic presence, business base, historical architecture and investment to date. Those attributes would provide the foundations for Hamilton to reassert itself as a strong and vibrant town centre. Recognition of the change in retail requirements allowed focus to be placed on other key aspects of town centres, including leisure and cultural offerings, services and town centre living. As one of South Lanarkshire's largest towns, Hamilton was well placed to provide a variety of functions to a large catchment area.

Due to a number of commercial factors, such as a decline in retail provision and loss of key town centre anchors, the opportunity had arisen to review a number of prominent town centre sites as a whole, with a view to creating a masterplan that would meet current and future needs.

Following a successful procurement exercise, the Enterprise and Sustainable Development Service had appointed 360 Architecture to undertake a masterplanning exercise which would involve key sites within the south-eastern quarter of the town centre. Sites identified were detailed at section 4.1 of the report. The key components of the masterplan exercise were set out at section 4.2 of the report and included:-

- ◆ analysis of market potential
- ◆ land-use strategy
- ◆ demolition and site clearance
- ◆ neighbouring uses
- ◆ sustainable place-making/urban design
- ◆ creation of a high development prospectus

The development of the masterplan was considered a unique chance to deliver transformational change to Hamilton Town Centre and the process would follow a 12-week programme. A period of consultation and community engagement would follow.

The Hamilton Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan was approved by the Committee in October 2018 and was due to be renewed in 2023. The Strategy presented a town centre action plan which captured the priorities for Hamilton and illustrated where resources and activities should be focused. Progress on key actions of the Action Plan was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Hamilton Town Centre Strategy included areas that were not covered by the masterplan, however, the masterplan would be a key component in shaping the direction of the Strategy over the next few years. It was, therefore, deemed prudent to delay publication of the Strategy until such time as it could be updated with key elements of the masterplan. The Committee would be updated on the outcomes of the masterplan and the renewed Hamilton Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan in due course.

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

The Committee decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 March 2018 (Paragraph 14) and 30 October 2018 (Paragraph 9)]

13 Hagshaw Energy Cluster Development Framework

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the work undertaken to prepare and adopt the Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster as Supporting Planning Guidance.

The Council had been invited by NatureScot to take part in a new project, piloting an innovative approach to renewable energy development. The cross-boundary project was intended to bring together a number of different renewable energy developers, working cross-boundary with South Lanarkshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, NatureScot and Architecture and Design Scotland, to explore how a more strategic, joined-up approach to renewable energy development could be taken to achieve greater benefits.

The project centred around Hagshaw Hill, which sat on the western edge of South Lanarkshire Council, between the communities of Coalburn and Douglas in South Lanarkshire and Muirkirk in East Ayrshire. The majority of the area sat within South Lanarkshire, with a relatively small part sitting within the East Ayrshire Council side of the boundary.

In July 2021, Land Use Consultants (LUC) had been commissioned by NatureScot, in collaboration with both councils and wind farm developers, to prepare a Development Framework for the Hagshaw Cluster as Supporting Planning Guidance (SPG). The Development Framework, attached as an appendix to the report, set out the long-term vision for the Hagshaw Cluster and was underpinned by 6 inter-related themes that priorities and projects should seek to deliver, details of which were provided in the report.

The purpose of the Framework was twofold in that it would:-

- ◆ set out, at strategic level, the opportunities for the cluster in terms of maximising renewable energy output and to provide guidance on the location and design of future renewable energy projects in the subject area
- ◆ provide an opportunity to deliver a far greater range and scale of social, economic and environmental benefits for communities, the environment and the local economy in a more collaborative and co-ordinated manner

A report on the draft Framework was approved at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 11 October 2022 and a 6-week consultation process had been agreed and carried out during November and December 2022. The Planning Committee had also agreed that if there were no significant changes following the consultation, then the guidance would be adopted by the Council as SPG. The Development Framework was now a material consideration in the determination of planning applications alongside the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the adopted South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2.

Since the report to the Planning Committee, the Council had appointed an Economic Development Officer, on a temporary contract, with a specific remit for the communities of Coalburn, Douglas, Glespin, Lesmahagow and Rigside, in the Douglas Valley in which the Hagshaw Cluster sat. The Douglas Valley Advisory Group (DVAG) was administered by the Council and consisted of a 10-member group, with representation from community councils, Tenants' and Residents' Association and community members. The DVAG aimed to provide strategic overview and direction to new investment proposals and advise the Council on community benefit investment. Work was also ongoing on an Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Tourism Feasibility Study and Concept Designs for the Douglas area.

The potential value of community benefit from the Hagshaw Cluster at a generating capacity of 584 MW was £2.9 million per annum. The Council considered that the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) was the preferred mechanism for distributing funds, with the DVAG providing strategic direction. Community benefits generated by windfarms could be administered outwith the Council at operators' discretion and discussions were ongoing regarding future funding structures and mechanisms.

Officers responded to members' questions in relation to:-

- ◆ using the funds to benefit more communities, not just those in close proximity to windfarms and, specifically, looking at ways of improving rural transport

- ◆ whether the value of community benefit generated was future proofed for inflation

The Committee decided: that the Development Framework for the Hagshaw Energy Cluster, which would be used as Supporting Planning Guidance, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Planning Committee of 11 October 2022 (Paragraph 19)]

Councillor Gowland, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

14 Whitemoss Tennis Courts – East Kilbride

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of the forthcoming upgrade of Whitemoss Tennis Courts in East Kilbride, which was fully funded by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) via the Parks Renovation Fund award.

In January 2022, the Council submitted an expression of interest to Tennis Scotland for funding from their £12 million Parks Renovation Fund. The aim of the Fund was to improve the condition of parks across the country, improve playability and help implement sustainable operating models and activity to safeguard the future of tennis in parks for generations to come.

Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) was the National Governing Body of Tennis in Great Britain and was appointed by Tennis Scotland as park delivery partner to manage the Parks Investment Strategy and the Parks Renovation Fund. Following a meeting held with the LTA in July 2022 to discuss possible sites for funding, it was confirmed that the 3 Whitemoss Tennis Courts in East Kilbride would be suitable and that the Council should progress an application.

The condition of the Whitemoss Tennis Courts had been subject to several complaints and negative press coverage. South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) and the Council had undertaken limited investment in the courts and it was recognised that more significant investment would be required for a long-term solution. A grant award from the Parks Renovation Fund would help to deliver an all-weather court surface and introduce a customer friendly booking system.

Stakeholder meetings had been held to progress the project, with ongoing communication and consultation between the LTA, SLLC and Tennis Scotland on the Fund's terms and conditions and the ability of SLLC and the Council to meet the funding criteria which were fully detailed at section 4.1 of the report. A requirement of the funding award, which totalled £92,814, was that the Grant Funding Agreement required to be signed off by 31 July 2023. The Agreement had been reviewed by Legal and Procurement Services and signed off in line with the Council's Standing Orders.

Part of the funding criteria was a commitment to use booking software called 'Clubspark' and for SLLC to appear on the LTA court search website 'LTA Rally'. The customer journey was outlined in section 5 of the report.

Another of the funding criteria was a stipulation of a mixture of 'pay to play' and 'freeplay' and coached activity available. It was intended that income generated from the 'pay to play' would be used to sustain the courts' condition over their lifespan. Details of initial playing schedule and pricing were provided at section 6 of the report.

There followed a full discussion during which members:-

- ◆ requested assurance that there would not be any obligation on the Council with regards to funding the sustainability commitment to maintain the courts to a playable standard annually for 15 years
- ◆ requested assurance that money was being ring-fenced for future maintenance and upgrades
- ◆ expressed concern that there was only a commitment to have one hour of free, organised tennis activity and wondered if there would be opportunity at some point in the future to increase this
- ◆ stressed the importance of ensuring that the free hours of play per week, outlined at section 6.3 of the report, were scheduled to take place at a mixture of times throughout the week
- ◆ suggested there could be benefit in coordinating with schools in East Kilbride regarding the hours of free play
- ◆ asked if consideration had been given to entering into partnership with the East Kilbride Tennis Club
- ◆ requested further information on the online booking system, Clubspark, and sought assurance that additional measures would be available to those people who could not access online systems

Officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ undertook to circulate the schedule of free play, which had been drafted by SLLC, to members for information

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the forthcoming upgrade of Whitemoss Tennis Courts following a successful external funding bid of £92,814 to the Lawn Tennis Association be noted; and
- (2) that the obligations on the Council with respect to the management of the courts, as per the LTA funding criteria, detailed at section 4.1 of the report, be noted.

15 Roads Asset Management Plan 2023 - Update

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP) 2023.

The principles of asset management had been developed, at both a national and local level, to provide a basis for associated investment decisions and to ensure that a sound understanding of investment needs was available.

The main purpose of developing the RAMP was to ensure:-

- ◆ a knowledge of the extent and condition of main asset groups
- ◆ an understanding of where gaps existed to allow consideration of how those might be addressed
- ◆ an understanding of the level of current investment on each asset group and the associated condition trend

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the Council's main roads asset groups

- ◆ the overall condition of the infrastructure
- ◆ issues for consideration in relation to roads and related infrastructure

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 December 2022 (Paragraph 10)]

16 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

17 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Committee decided: that, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information in terms of Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

18 Business Gateway – Future Delivery Model

A report dated 7 August 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing:-

- ◆ an update on the future delivery model for Business Gateway
- ◆ recommendations for further actions

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the options appraisal process in relation to the future delivery model for Business Gateway be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed to conclude the existing Business Gateway contract on 29 February 2024; and
- (3) that the proposed change to an in-house Pan Lanarkshire delivery model, led by North Lanarkshire Council on behalf of North and South Lanarkshire Councils, for the provision of the Business Gateway service in Lanarkshire from 1 March 2024 be agreed.