

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 2 March 2022

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andy Carmichael (*substitute for Councillor Gerry Convery*), Councillor Maureen Chalmers (Depute), Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart (*substitute for Councillor Kenny McCreary*), Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Catherine McClymont (*substitute for Councillor Eileen Logan*), Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Kenny McCreary

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; T Finn, Headquarters Manager; K Lean, LEADER Manager; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; J Murphy, Planning Officer; C Park, Head of Roads and Transportation Services

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
McClymont, McGuigan, Shearer and Wilson	Notification of Contracts Awarded April to September 2021	Councillor Shearer as Chair and other councillors as Members of Care and Repair in South Lanarkshire

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 2 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 11: 1 April 2021 to 28 January 2022 and Probable Outturn

A report dated 9 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April 2021 to 28 January 2022, taking account of the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and providing a projection for the year to 31 March 2022.

The report:-

- ◆ summarised the previously reported probable outturn position for the Council's General Fund Revenue Account to 31 March 2022
- ◆ provided details on the cost of COVID-19 included in the probable outturn position
- ◆ provided details of the position on the General Fund Account, including the COVID-19 expenditure and income position to 28 January 2022
- ◆ provided details of the probable outturn together with the position to 28 January 2022 on the Housing Revenue Account

After taking account of all the approved Transfers to Reserves, totalling £49.636 million, the outturn position was an underspend of £4.794 million. The position before and after transfer to reserves was detailed in appendices 1 and 2 to the report respectively. At its meeting on 2 February 2022, the Committee agreed that the £4.794 million outturn underspend be transferred to reserves to manage the cost of COVID-19 recovery.

At 28 January 2022, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account, including COVID-19 spend and income, before transfers to reserves, was an underspend of £28.620 million. Appendix 2 to the report showed the position, after approved transfers to reserves, as an underspend of £1.758 million which was in line with the forecast position.

At 28 January 2022, the Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position and the forecast to 31 March 2022 on the Housing Revenue Account was also a breakeven position.

The total COVID-19 net expenditure before funding as at 28 January 2022 was £25.277 million. Those costs were partially offset by specific funding of £16.651 million, leaving costs of £8.626 million to be met from the non-specific funding. A summary of the current position was provided in appendices 3 and 4 of the report. The COVID-19 costs excluded the costs of the Social Work Mobilisation Plan. The assumption was that this would continue to be fully funded. The spend to 28 January 2022 in relation to the Social Work Mobilisation Plan was £14.746 million.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that, including Resources, Corporate Items and Council Tax, the Council's outturn underspend of £4.794 million, as detailed in section 4.2 of the report, would be transferred to reserves to assist in managing COVID-19 costs, as previously approved;
- (2) that the underspend position of £1.758 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 28 January 2022, after transfers to reserves, as detailed in section 6.1 of the report, be noted; and

- (3) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 28 January 2022 and the forecast to 31 March 2022 of breakeven, as detailed in section 7 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor Falconer joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business

4 Capital Programme 2021/2022 Update and Monitoring for Period 11 – 1 April 2021 to 28 January 2022

A report dated 7 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2021 to 28 January 2022.

At its meeting on 2 February 2022, the Committee had agreed a General Fund Capital Programme for 2021/2022 amounting to £72.433 million. A revised programme of £72.732 million was now anticipated. This reflected proposed adjustments to the programme totalling a net increase of £0.299 million, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. Budget for the period amounted to £42.796 million and, at 28 January 2022, £42.397 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, an underspend of £0.399 million.

Actual funding received to 28 January 2022 totalled £57.838 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

At its meeting on 22 September 2021, the Committee had agreed a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2021/2022 amounting to £79.640 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £79.640 million. The funding sources were detailed in Appendix 4 to the report. Budget for the period amounted to £57.893 million and, at 28 January 2022, £55.689 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme, an underspend of £2.204 million which mainly reflected the timing of spend across a number of projects.

The final position on the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme would be reported to the Committee and the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum respectively following completion of the financial year end.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Period 11 position at 28 January 2022 of the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed in appendices 1 to 3 of the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that it be noted that the final outturn on the programme would be presented to Committee and the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum following completion of the financial year end.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 9 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding, totalling £1.831 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Revenue Funding

Resource	2021/2022 (£m)
Community and Enterprise	1.345
Social Work	0.187
Total	1.532

Capital Funding

Resource	2021/2022 (£m)
Education	0.299
Total	0.299

Overall Total **1.831**

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillor McGuigan joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business

6 Recommendations Referred by Education Resources Committee

A report dated 15 February 2022 by the Chief Executive was submitted on a recommendation referred to this Committee by the Education Resources Committee at its meeting of 8 February 2022.

The recommendation of the Education Resources Committee was that, with effect from 1 January 2022, the Council no longer charge pupils who accessed a privilege transport place.

The Committee decided: that the recommendation referred by the Education Resources Committee that, with effect from 1 January 2022, the Council no longer charge pupils who accessed a privilege transport place be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of Education Resources Committee of 8 February 2022 (Paragraph 9)]

7 Community Benefit Funds – New Contributions - Douglas West Wind Farm

A joint report dated 16 February 2022 by the Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) and the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted proposing that-

- ◆ community benefit payments generated from the Douglas West wind farm site be managed through the Renewable Energy Fund (REF)
- ◆ 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Community Economic Development Officer be added to the establishment of Planning and Economic Development on a fixed term 23 month basis

Through the Renewable Energy Community Benefits Policy, the Council sought annual community benefit payments from developers to allow communities the opportunity to share in the rewards from their local energy resource. Those agreements with developers placed an obligation on the Council to administer community benefit funding received through the established REF processes.

The operator of Douglas West wind farm, Greencoat Capital, had agreed to contribute £2,500 per megawatt per annum to the Council's REF. It was proposed that a portion of that sum be used to fund a post of Community Economic Development Officer at Grade 3, Level 2-4 (£33,651 to £39,162) for a 23 month fixed term period to support the development of projects and REF applications in the eligible area. The eligible area for the Douglas West wind farm fund was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Details were also given on the duties associated with the post. NatureScot had agreed to contribute £5,000 to the post in 2022/2023.

Officers responded to a member's questions in relation to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council's REF incorporate provision for the receipt and disbursement of community benefit payments in respect of Douglas West wind farm site; and
- (2) that the addition of 1 FTE Community Economic Development Officer post at Grade 3, Level 2-4 (£33,651 to £39,162) to the Planning and Economic Development establishment for a fixed period of 23 months be approved.

8 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications - Crawfordjohn Public Hall

A report dated 9 February 2022 by the Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a grant application to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) from Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association. (CPHA)

The proposed grant award of £124,694.31, representing 75% of the project value, would allow CPHA to replace an inefficient ground source heat pump at Crawfordjohn Hall. The project would involve the installation of solar panels with storage batteries and a new, efficient boiler which would allow the heating system to run at a higher capacity and encourage year round activities, reducing, in turn, the hall running costs.

All REF awards were subject to suitable match funding being secured. Officers confirmed that match funding from Clyde Wind Farm and SSE Clyde Extension, in the sums of £20,782.39 and £20,782.38 respectively, had been secured.

The project was scheduled to commence in April 2022, with completion by August 2022.

The Committee decided: that, subject to all other match funding being in place, a grant be awarded to Crawfordjohn Public Hall Association of up to £124,694.31 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the Crawfordjohn Public Hall solar heating project.

9 Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZ) Consultation

A report dated 16 February 2022 by the Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the results of the completed Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZ) consultation and providing a summary of the subsequent discussions at each of the Council's 4 Area Committees.

At the Council meeting held on 22 September 2021, a motion relating to Parking Permit Charges was tabled and it was agreed that consultation with residents living in current RPPZ areas would be undertaken. Charging for permits was suspended pending consideration of the results of the consultation exercise by relevant committees. Households within the following 6 towns/areas were asked whether they wished to remain in an RPPZ and pay the £5 per year administration charge or whether they wished to have their RPPZ removed:-

- ◆ Cambuslang
- ◆ Carluke
- ◆ East Kilbride
- ◆ Hamilton
- ◆ Rutherglen
- ◆ Uddingston

The consultation return rate of 32% was higher than the typical response rate of between 5% and 30%. Details of the return rate for each of the towns/areas and the individual zones within East Kilbride were provided in Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 to the report provided details of the preference split across the 6 geographical areas, together with a further breakdown of the individual zones within East Kilbride. All 6 towns/areas, as well as the 8 individual zones within East Kilbride, voted in favour of paying the £5 per year (£10 over 2 years) charge and to remain within an RPPZ.

The results had been considered by the Council's 4 Area Committees and details of each Area Committee's recommendations to the Executive Committee were provided in the report. It was proposed that the Council continue to provide permit zones and implement an administration charge for the permits for 2 years.

Following discussion, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved approval of the recommendations contained in the report. Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Devlin, moved that the parking permit zones be retained but that no charge be applied. On a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Isobel Dorman, Mark Horsham, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, John Ross, David Shearer, Jim Wardhaugh, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Andy Carmichael, Maureen Devlin, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Catherine McClymont, Margaret B Walker

7 members voted for the amendment and 21 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Committee decided: that the recommendation to accept the findings of the consultation and continue to provide permit zones with an administration charge for the permits for 2 years be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 7), Minutes of Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee of 14 December 2021 (Paragraph 6), Minutes of East Kilbride Area Committee of 15 December 2021 (Paragraph 6), Minutes of Clydesdale Area Committee of 15 February 2022 (Paragraph 5) and Minutes of Hamilton Area Committee of 16 February 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

10 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on proposed actions in respect of land and property transactions.

The recommendations had been made in terms of agreed procedures for dealing with surplus land and property.

There followed a full discussion during which:-

- ♦ officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ♦ Councillor Allison requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee identifying changes to working practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and detailing the way in which the Council would evaluate assets which were required to fulfil the delivery of services

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the land and property, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be transferred between Resources;
- (2) that the land detailed in Appendix B to the report be declared surplus to Council requirements; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive Committee identifying changes to working practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and detailing the way in which the Council would evaluate assets which were required to fulfil the delivery of services.

11 South Lanarkshire's State of the Environment Report 2021

A report dated 9 February 2022 by the Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the completion and content of South Lanarkshire's State of the Environment Report 2021.

The Report had been prepared using data from across the Council, partner agencies and government bodies. The findings of the State of the Environment Report, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, showed that:-

- ♦ 24 indicators had a 'Good' rating, with 12 of those showing improvement
- ♦ 23 indicators had a 'Fair' rating, with 7 of those showing improvement
- ♦ 8 indicators had a 'Poor' rating, with 3 of those showing improvement

If approved, the full State of the Environment Report would be made available on the Council's website.

The Committee decided:

that the State of the Environment Report 2021 be approved and disseminated across the Council and to relevant Council partners and external agencies for use in the preparation of plans, policies, programmes, strategies, as a Strategic Environmental Assessment and as an information resource.

12 Capital Programme - Clyde Bridge Replacement Project

A report dated 11 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), due to timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to agree an adjustment to the existing capital programme in relation to the Clyde Bridge Replacement Project.

The capital cost of replacing Clyde Bridge was estimated at £7.250 million, which included a contingency allowance of £0.580 million. The Council had already provided funding of £3.500 million for the project as part of previously approved capital programmes. The balance of £3.750 million required to be added to the Council's General Services Capital Programme and funding for this had been identified, as detailed in the report.

In view of the timescales involved, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, had approved the adjustment to the existing capital programme in relation to Clyde Bridge, as detailed in the report.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) provided an update on the award of contract for the project and officers responded to members' questions on the matter.

The Committee decided: that the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, to approve the adjustment to the existing capital programme in relation to Clyde Bridge, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be noted.

13 Notification of Contracts Awarded April to September 2021

A report dated 7 February 2022 by the Director, Health and Social Care was submitted providing notification, in accordance with Standing Orders on Contracts, to Committee of contracts awarded by Social Work Resources during the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

In terms of Standing Order Nos 21.8 and 22.5 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of contracts awarded in excess of £50,000. Details of the contracts awarded by Social Work Resources were provided in the appendix to the report.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and, where further information was required, undertook to circulate this to members.

The Committee decided: that the contracts awarded by Social Work Resources during the period 1 April to 30 September 2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

Councillors McClymont, McGuigan, Shearer and Wilson, having declared an interest in the above item of business, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

14 Amendments to Committee Memberships

A report dated 21 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c) due to timescales involved, by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, in relation to amendments to the membership of the Executive Committee.

On 19 February 2022, a request was received from the Business Manager of the Labour Group that:-

- ◆ Councillor Walker replace Councillor McAdams as a member of the Executive Committee
- ◆ Councillor Cowie fill the resultant vacancy as a substitute member of the Executive Committee

In order to facilitate the request and allow the continuation of Council business, the changes detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report were made.

The Committee decided:

that the following action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 36(c), by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and an ex officio member, in respect of amendments to the membership of the Executive Committee be noted:-

- ◆ replacement of Councillor McAdams by Councillor Walker as a member of the Executive Committee
- ◆ appointment of Councillor Cowie as a substitute member on the Executive Committee to fill the resultant vacancy

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair:-

- ◆ referred to the contribution of officers and members in the work of the Executive Committee over the current Council term
- ◆ expressed his best wishes for the future to those elected members who were not seeking re-election
- ◆ wished those who were seeking re-election good luck in the forthcoming Local Government Elections