

CLYDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 22 March 2023

Chair:

Councillor Catherine McClymont

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Ross Gowland (Depute), Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor David Shearer

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; C Lyon, Administration Officer; I Mulholland, Community Asset Transfer Officer; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Housing and Technical Resources

C Frew, Strategy Co-ordinator

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
	Community Grant Applications:-	
Lockhart, Marrs and McClymont	♦ Lanark Community Development Trust (CL/37/22)	Adviser to the Trust
Gowland	♦ Lesmahagow Community Fairies, Lesmahagow (CL/38/22)	Known to group
Marrs	♦ Lanark Tennis Club (CL/44/22)	Known to group

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 25 January 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community Asset Transfer Update

A report dated 1 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the current work relating to Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 created several legal obligations aimed at improving the involvement of community members in the design, implementation and delivery of services and activities that impacted them and their fellow residents, one of which had been the introduction of CAT.

CAT enabled suitably constituted local community organisations to formally apply to lease, purchase or implement managed arrangements for any land or property owned by relevant public bodies where they could evidence that their proposed community benefit was better than the current usage.

The legislation had increasingly impacted upon the work of the authority and a dedicated Community Asset Transfer Officer had been employed from March 2022 on a 2-year contract. The Officer's role was to improve the authority's internal processes, redesign community information (website, documentation and marketing) to improve uptake, support organisations considering the process and to act as a conduit for the flow of information, both within the Council and externally.

Detailed information was provided on the following:-

- ◆ redesign of internal processes including:-
 - ◆ upgrading the existing website to a more user friendly and informative platform
 - ◆ production of a YouTube animation
- ◆ promotion of CAT processes internally via the production of a Learn On Line training package for staff and elected members
- ◆ external promotion:-
 - ◆ attendance at a wide number of third sector events to promote opportunities that existed using the legislation
 - ◆ developing strong links with key local and national agencies such as Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN)
 - ◆ hosting an information event in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) and the Scottish Football Association (SFA)

Progress to date had included contact from 75 organisation South Lanarkshire wide, 29 of which were from the Clydesdale area and of those enquiries:-

- ◆ 30 organisations were in dialogue with the CAT officer, 20 of which were from the Clydesdale area
- ◆ 2 applications had been submitted and approved and 8 more were anticipated by the end of the year. 2 of those applications were from the Clydesdale area

A presentation was given by the CAT Officer which provided further information on:-

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|--|-------------------------------|
| ◆ the legislation | ◆ timescales |
| ◆ criteria for community organisations | ◆ the role of the CAT Officer |
| ◆ the internal process | ◆ engagement with communities |
| ◆ best value | |

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Housing and Technical Resources – Participatory Budgeting - Estate Improvement Budget/Housing Investment Programme Environmental Programme

A report dated 7 March 2023 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 £10,000 had been spent from the Estate Improvement budget for 2022/2023 on 3 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 2022/2023, and the proposed level and focus of the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) within this, had taken place as part of the Annual Resource 2022/2023 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, a total of £150,000 had been spent on 2 projects that had been undertaken within the Clydesdale area which were detailed in the report.

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.

The Strategy Co-ordinator 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.

5 Community Grant Applications/Warm Welcome Initiative

A report dated 6 March 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ on applications for community grant
- ◆ on grants awarded to community and voluntary groups/organisations in the Clydesdale Area Committee area in response to the Warm Welcome Initiative
- ◆ requesting authorisation for 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 2023 from the 2022/2023 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 2022/2023 community grant budget, it was proposed that 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 2023. Those grants awarded would be reported to a future meeting for noting.

With regard to the application for a community grant submitted by Lesmahagow Community Fairies (CL/38/22), following discussion, Councillor Logan, seconded by Councillor Allison, moved that the grant award be £800. Councillor Barker, seconded by Councillor Lambie, moved as an amendment that the grant award be £1,000.

On a vote being taken electronically, 3 members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Committee decided:

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

- (a) Applicant: Lanark Community Development Trust (CL/37/22)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £800

Councillors Lockhart, Marrs and McClymont, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Gowland took the Chair for this application only

- (b) Applicant: Lesmahagow Community Fairies (CL/38/22)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £800

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

- (c) Applicant: Lesmahagow Farmers' Society (CL/39/22)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £800

- (d) Applicant: Waterside WRI, Lesmahagow (CL/40/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350

- (e) Applicant: Carluke and District Young Farmers' Club, Carluke (CL/41/22)
Purpose of Grant: Materials, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £800

- (f) Applicant: Lanark Amateur Musical Society (CL/42/22)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £800

- (g) Applicant: Lanark Community First Responders (CL/43/22)
Purpose of Grant: Start-up costs - Equipment
Amount Awarded: £300

- (h) Applicant: Lanark Tennis Club (CL/44/22)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £300

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

(2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2022/2023 community grant budget was utilised as fully as possible, 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 2023 subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for the receipt of funding;

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

- (4) that the award of 2 grants, totalling £1,650, to the following community and voluntary groups/organisations in the Clydesdale Area in response to the Warm Welcome Initiative be noted:-

(a) Applicant: Crawford and Elvanfoot Community Council
Amount Awarded: £650

(b) Applicant: Leadhills Primary School
Amount Awarded: £1,000

[Reference: Minutes of 25 January 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillor Corbett left the meeting during this item of business and took no part in the vote

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.