

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 11 October 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Gerry Convery (Depute), Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott (*substitute for Councillor Maureen Devlin*), Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor David Watson (*substitute for Councillor Margaret Cooper*)

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Maureen Devlin

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Housing and Technical Resources

S Gibson, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13 September 2023 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 the Period 1 April to 8 September 2023

A report dated 22 September 2023 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 to 8 September 2023.

At 8 September 2023, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account was breakeven. Details were given on:-

- ◆ budget pressures within Children and Families Services
- ◆ the position within the Adult and Older People Service following the outcome of the job evaluation exercise for home carers
- ◆ maintenance of teacher and pupil support numbers

The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 8 September 2023, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on the General Fund Revenue Account at 8 September 2023, as detailed in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 8 September 2023, as detailed in section 5 and Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Budget 2023/2024 and Monitoring for Period 6 - 1 April to 8 September 2023

A report dated 20 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress of the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 8 September 2023.

At its meeting on 13 September 2023, the Committee had approved a General Fund Capital Programme for 2023/2024 totalling £80.262 million. A revised programme of £80.356 million was now anticipated which included proposed adjustments to the programme totalling a net increase of £0.094 million. Those were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. The adjustment reflected additional funding received to install floodlights at Douglas Primary School.

At 8 September 2023, £17.898 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, against a budget for the period of £17.884 million, resulting in spending being slightly ahead of programme in the sum of £0.014 million. Actual funding received to 8 September 2023 totalled £48.282 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report.

The Housing Capital Programme 2023/2024, approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 16 August 2023, totalled £69.596 million. Details of the position of the programme at 8 September 2023 were provided in Appendix 4 of the report.

At 8 September 2023, expenditure on the Housing Capital Programme amounted to £19.378 million against a budget for the period of £21.298 million and actual funding received to 8 September 2023 totalled £19.378 million. This resulted in the Housing Programme being £1.920 million behind programme which was due to a number of external fabrics projects being reprogrammed to take account of new, more effective procurement routes and delays experienced to allow further consideration of technical options for some works.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the period 6 position at 8 September 2023 of the General Fund Capital Programme, as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 of the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, be noted; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 20 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding, totalling £1.373 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	2023/2024 (£m)
Housing and Technical	1.373
Total	1.373

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 September 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Recommendations Referred by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee - Treasury Management Activity Report 2022/2023, Prudential Code Indicators and Annual Investment Report

A report dated 27 September 2023 by the Chief Executive was submitted on recommendations which had been referred to this Committee by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 27 September 2023.

The recommendations of the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee were as follows:-

- ◆ that the Treasury Management Activity Report for 2022/2023 and the 2022/2023 Treasury Management and Prudential Code Indicators be noted
- ◆ that the Council's Annual Investment Report for 2022/2023 be endorsed and referred to the Council for formal approval

Officers responded to a member's questions on the report.

The Committee decided: that the recommendation referred by the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee in relation to the Treasury Management Activity Report for 2022/2023 and the 2022/2023 Treasury Management and Prudential Code Indicators be noted.

The Committee recommended to the Council: that the Annual Investment Report 2022/2023 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 27 September 2023 (Paragraph 9)]

7 Religious Representation on the Education Resources Committee

A joint report dated 26 September 2023 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted providing an update on the current position regarding the appointment of a third church/religious representative to serve on the Education Resources Committee.

At its meeting on 29 June 2022, the Committee had approved the appointments of the nominated religious representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church respectively with the appointment of Dr Iskander, the third religious representative on the Committee, being extended until a new third church/religious representative was in place. The extension was an interim measure as Dr Iskander had intimated that he wished to stand down from the position.

As had been the case in previous years, an advertisement was placed in local newspapers in July 2022 requesting nominations for a person interested in the promotion of religious and moral education. At the close of nominations, 2 applications had been received for 1 available place, however, subsequently, 1 applicant withdrew their application and the remaining applicant did not pursue their interest in the appointment. A further advertisement was placed in local newspapers in August 2023 requesting expressions of interest to serve as the third religious representative on the Education Resources Committee. However, after the closing date, no nominations or expressions of interest had been received.

In the absence of interest from parties to serve as the third religious representative on the Committee, it was proposed that the Committee continue to operate with the 2 confirmed religious/church representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

The Committee decided:

- (1)** that it be noted that it had not been possible to appoint a third church/religious representative to the Education Resources Committee; and
- (2)** that the Committee continue to operate with the 2 confirmed religious representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2022 (Paragraph 7) and 17 May 2023 (Paragraph 11)]

8 Revision of Costs and Increase in Funding to Extend, Adapt and Modernise Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, East Kilbride/Glasgow City Region City Deal - East Kilbride Community Growth Area Business Case

A report dated 27 September 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ providing an update on the cost issues and funding solution associated with the Our Lady of Lourdes extension, adaptation and modernisation project
- ◆ advising on action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c), because of the timescales involved and the urgent requirement to award tenders, by the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Depute Chair and an ex officio member, to grant permission to commence works and to approve the Full Business Case, in line with the required governance arrangements of the City Deal

Following the return of tenders for both the New Build (Phase 1) and Refurbishment (Phase 2) elements of the project, costs for all elements of the tendered packages for Phase 2 were significantly higher than expected. A full tender review and value engineering exercise had been undertaken and it had been possible to reassess the specification to reduce costs, while still maintaining the level of accommodation associated with the Council's schools' modernisation programme. Additional funding, however, required to be identified and the cost issues and funding solution were detailed in the report.

Urgent approval had been sought to:-

- ◆ proceed with the project using additional funding identified to cover the increased costs
- ◆ allow the refurbishment construction contract to commence as soon as possible, thereby minimising disruption to the school as well as minimising additional pupil transportation costs

There was also a requirement to obtain approval for the Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Full Business Case, attached as an appendix to the report, in line with the required governance arrangements of the City Deal. Grant funding would be obtained in accordance with the City Deal Grant Distribution Process, outlined in the Assurance Framework in relation to the delivery of the project, with the precise arrangements to be agreed by the City Deal Chief Executive's Group (CEG) and City Deal Cabinet.

There followed a discussion during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report
- ◆ provided assurances on the quality of alternative materials being used

The Committee decided:

that the action taken, in terms of Standing Order No 37(c), because of the timescales involved and the urgent requirement to award tenders, by the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Depute Chair and an ex officio member, to grant permission to commence works and to approve the Full Business Case in line with the required governance arrangements of the City Deal be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2023 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.