

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 6 December 2017

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, John Bradley, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Kenny McCreary, Hugh Macdonald, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Julia Marrs, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, Mo Razaq, John Ross, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson (Depute), Bert Thomson, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

John Anderson, Stephanie Callaghan, Ian Harrow, Catherine McClymont, Margaret B Walker, Sheena Wardhaugh

Attending:**Chief Executive's Service**

L Freeland, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; G Bow, Administration Manager, G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Social Work Resources

L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost:-

- ◆ welcomed Councillor Martin Lennon to his first Council meeting
- ◆ advised that, in terms of Standing Order No 4(c), he had an item of urgent business which would be dealt with at the appropriate point of the meeting

Death of Former MP, Jim Hood

Councillor McLachlan referred to the recent death of Jim Hood, former MP for Lanark and Hamilton East. As a mark of respect, all present observed a minute's silence.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 27 September 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Recommendation Referred by the Executive Committee - Council Plan, Connect, 2017 to 2022

A report dated 22 November 2017 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the recommendation which had been referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 8 November 2017 in relation to the new Council Plan, Connect 2017 to 2022. The recommendation was that the new Council Plan, Connect 2017 to 2022, be approved.

The Council decided: that the recommendation of the Executive Committee of 8 November 2017 in relation to the new Council Plan, Connect 2017 to 2022, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 8 November 2017 (Paragraph 15)]

4 Amendment to Standing Order No 4 - Notice of Motion

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craig, was submitted as follows:-

“Motion to amend Standing Order No 4 by replacing “3 clear days” every time it occurs with “5 clear days” (with the exception of public holidays). Amended Standing Order No 4 to read:-

4 Notice of Meeting

- a At least 5 clear days (with the exception of public holidays) before a Council meeting the following must happen.
 - The Chief Executive must publish the time and place of the meeting at the Council's offices. If the meeting is held at short notice, these will be published straight away. If the meeting is called by members of the Council, the notice must be signed by those members and must set out the business they want to deal with.
 - Every Council member must be sent an electronic summons. The summons must set out the business that will be dealt with.
- b Any summons must give a note of the business and the proposed order for dealing with business at the meeting. We cannot deal with other business unless someone brings it before us as a matter of urgency under the following paragraph. If a meeting is called by councillors, we can only deal with the business listed in the councillors' request.
- c If business has not been specified in the summons, we can only deal with any additional business at the meeting if the chairperson of the meeting rules that there are special reasons why it is urgent. We must know about the item at the start of the meeting when we decide on the order of business.
- d If a Council member does not receive a summons, the meeting will still be valid.

- e Members of the public and press can get electronic copies of the agenda for a Council meeting at least 5 clear days before the meeting (with the exception of public holidays). Hard copies will be available to view at our Council Offices, Hamilton. This will not be the case if the meeting is called at short notice. If this is the case, the public and press can get copies when the meeting is called. If an item of business is added to the agenda, the public and press can get copies at that time.

It is proposed that the implementation of this amendment will take place at the start of the financial year 2018/2019.”

In moving the motion, Councillor Ross intimated that it was similar in content to that submitted previously by Councillor S Wardhaugh and, he considered, was conducive to the Council’s commitment to openness and transparency. Councillor Craig seconded the motion.

The Council decided: that, with effect from 1 April 2018, Standing Order No 4 be amended, as detailed above, to replace “3 clear days” every time it occurs with “5 clear days” (with the exception of public holidays).

5 Equality and Inclusivity for Young People of LGBTI+ Identities - Notice of Motion

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Dryburgh, seconded by Councillor McAdams, was submitted as follows:-

“Council affirms that all young people in South Lanarkshire and across Scotland have the right to study in a learning environment which is fully inclusive, tolerant and accepting of LGBTI+ identities, and which is free of homophobic and transphobic bullying. Council notes the contribution of the recently published Stonewall School Report, a study into the experiences of lesbian, gay, bi and trans young people in Britain’s schools in 2017.

Council resolves to work closely with external stakeholders, including equalities organisations, such as Stonewall Scotland, Tie Campaign, or LGBT Youth Scotland and the Scottish Government, to ensure that homophobic and transphobic bullying in South Lanarkshire schools is effectively tackled and that South Lanarkshire classrooms actively promote equality and inclusivity for young people of LGBTI+ identities.”

In moving the motion, Councillor Dryburgh referred to the fact that some young people who had experienced homophobic and/or transphobic bullying had taken their own lives. Councillor McAdams seconded the motion.

Councillor Loudon intimated that she welcomed the motion to tackle bullying and promote inclusive education.

Councillor J Wardhaugh advised that, while he had no issues with the motion, he considered that this Council had a long record of fighting all forms of discrimination. He, therefore, moved as an amendment, seconded by Councillor Cooper, that the wording of the second paragraph of the motion be amended to read as follows:-

“Council resolves to work closely with external stakeholders, including equalities organisations, such as Stonewall Scotland, Tie Campaign, or LGBT Youth Scotland and the Scottish Government, to ensure that homophobic and transphobic bullying in South Lanarkshire schools is effectively tackled. South Lanarkshire Council will continue to actively promote equality and inclusion for all young people in its schools.”

Following a full and frank exchange of views, on a vote being taken by a show of hands, 22 voted for the amendment and 33 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided: that the terms of the motion be supported to work closely with external stakeholders, including equalities organisations, such as Stonewall Scotland, Tie Campaign, or LGBT Youth Scotland and the Scottish Government, to ensure that homophobic and transphobic bullying in South Lanarkshire schools is effectively tackled and that South Lanarkshire classrooms actively promote equality and inclusivity for young people of LGBTI+ identities.

6 State Pension Arrangements for Women Born in the 1950s - Notice of Motion

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, was submitted as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes in State Pension Age and who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with a lack of appropriate notification.

The Council fully endorses the aims of Women Against State Pension Inequality.”

Councillor Devlin moved the motion and this was seconded by Councillor Hamilton who referred to the injustice for some women losing a significant amount of money from their state pension.

Councillor Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Marrs, moved as an amendment that “UK” be inserted prior to the word “Government” in the first line of the motion. This was accepted and the motion before the meeting was duly amended. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 45 members voted in favour of the motion as amended. The Conservative Group Leader asked that his Group’s abstention to the vote be noted.

The Council decided: that the terms of the motion as amended be supported to fully endorse the aims of Women Against State Pension Inequality by calling upon the UK Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s affected by the changes in State Pension Age and who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with a lack of appropriate notification.

7 Item of Urgent Business – The Royal Bank of Scotland – Proposed Branch Closures

In terms of Standing Order No 4(c), the Provost decided that, in view of the requirement to confirm the Council’s position as soon as possible, consideration be given to the following item as a matter of urgency.

A statement by the Leader of the Council, which had cross-party agreement, was tabled in response to an announcement by the Royal Bank of Scotland of its intention to close 62 branches in Scotland which would impact on local communities, especially those in rural areas and those where there were no other bank branches.

Councillor Brown intimated that there was potential for the Council to enter into discussions with banks in relation to banking practices to assist local communities.

The Council decided: to support efforts to oppose the proposed Royal Bank of Scotland closures and mitigate the impact on local communities and residents.