

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 7 February 2022

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Joe Fagan
C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Federation of Small Businesses

A Aird, Group Chair

NHS Lanarkshire

E Russell, Head of Health Improvement

University of the West of Scotland

T Adamson, Estate Environmental Manager

VASLan

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Council

S Balfour, Project Officer; H Calley, Administration Officer; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; P Elliott, Head of Planning and Economic Development; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); R Leith, Community, Participation and Development Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources); S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care; S Keating, Property Development Manager; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager

NHS Lanarkshire

H Knox, Chief Executive

University of the West of Scotland

E O'Reilly, Head of Campus Services

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Wealth Building Commission held on 27 October 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Membership of the Community Wealth Building Commission Progress Group

A report dated 6 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the membership of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission Progress Group.

As its meeting on 27 October 2021, the Commission agreed to the establishment of a progress group. This would ensure the Commission's initial workplan and actions to meet the objectives of the CWB Strategy were progressed and delivered in order to contribute to the priorities of the South Lanarkshire Community Plan.

It had been agreed that S Sweeney and A Aird be appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the CWB Commission Progress Group and partners were invited to submit nominations to the Council's Chief Executive.

Finalised membership details were provided in Appendix 1 to the report, however, it was noted that the membership would be flexible to allow others to attend, as required, depending on the topics/areas of work to be progressed.

The Chair of the Progress Group advised that the first meeting had been very positive, with discussion and opportunity to comment on papers prior to their finalisation for today's meeting. He advised that, as well as the strategy and workplan, the Progress Group would focus on other work areas such as the 'green' agenda/sustainable development and how it impacted on CWB in South Lanarkshire.

The Commission decided: that the membership of the Community Wealth Building Commission Progress Group, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 October 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

4 Community Wealth Building - Local Spend

A report dated 5 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the Council's current position on local spend to support the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

Five pillars supported the delivery of the Community Wealth Building Strategy, with the spend pillar focusing on how more could be spent locally to support wealth creation and employment.

The Council was currently monitored on local spend performance through the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF), although a wider contextual analysis of the Council's spend profile could inform the impact of the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

The Council's total annual 'core' spend on trade works, goods and services was £346.5 million in 2020/2021, of which £58.6 million (17%) was spent with enterprises registered with a South Lanarkshire address.

Details were given on the Council's performance in recent years compared to the average position across Scotland.

The Council had analysed 2020/2021 expenditure and a diagram showed the geographical profile of core trade expenditure within South Lanarkshire, across Lanarkshire as a whole, within Glasgow City Region and throughout Scotland.

Future reporting on spend would include detail on the levels outwith South Lanarkshire to ensure that changes in spend levels were tracked over time.

For the purposes of local spend, only companies registered within South Lanarkshire were included. Those companies which had a production or service base in South Lanarkshire but were registered or owned elsewhere were not included. It was recognised that while those organisations were not included in the measure of local spend, the expenditure was supporting local economic activity and creating local employment opportunities, examples of which were given in the report.

The Council's spend with Scotland Excel frameworks in 2020/2021 totalled £35.4 million, of which £4.9 million (14%) was spent locally. However, spend across all organisations accessing Scotland Excel frameworks with South Lanarkshire based suppliers totalled £40 million, a significant contribution to the South Lanarkshire economy resulting from collaborative procurement.

In 2020/2021, the Council spent £20.8 million on construction projects through Hub South West, the Scottish Futures Trust construction alliance. Hub South West was registered in North Lanarkshire, therefore, this spend did not qualify as local. However, £8.4 million (40%) was sub-contracted to South Lanarkshire based contractors, although this was not included in local spend analysis.

It was highlighted that there were several commodities where there was very limited scope to source goods or services from South Lanarkshire enterprises, including financing and leasing contracts, information technology spend and utility contracts.

Further actions that would be taken to progress better understanding of the factors that influenced the level of local spend and the identification of further opportunities for local spend were outlined as follows:-

- ◆ analysis of the mix of South Lanarkshire businesses and how it compared to those in North Lanarkshire
- ◆ further analysis of council spend across the 5 levels comprising:-
 - ◆ South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ pan-Lanarkshire
 - ◆ Glasgow City Region
 - ◆ Scotland
 - ◆ outwith Scotland
- ◆ analysis of the spend leakage report provided by Grow Local, a Scottish Government reporting tool
- ◆ appropriate arrangements to be implemented to quantify the level of sub-contracting spend with South Lanarkshire businesses

An update report on progress would be submitted to a future meeting of the Commission.

During discussions, it was highlighted that South Lanarkshire's ambition was to be in the top quartile by listening to suppliers, building good relationships and working towards improving performance.

The Head of Finance (Transactions) responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report. He also undertook to provide more information on Grow Local, the Scottish Government reporting tool, at a future meeting.

E Russell advised that NHS Lanarkshire was actively reviewing procurement spend through anchor organisations and baseline assessments. She confirmed this was currently a work in progress but would be keen to link up with the work of the CWB at a future point. She further advised that Public Health Scotland was undertaking a similar exercise at a national level.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the analysis of local spend and the wider context to interpret spend, as outlined in the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the next steps to progress further understanding of the factors that influenced the level of local spend and the identification of further opportunities for local spend be noted.

Councillor Brown left the meeting following this item of business

5 South Lanarkshire Tourism Co-operative and Strategy Update

A report dated 6 January 2022 by the Head of Planning and Economic Development was submitted providing an update on work undertaken to facilitate a wide-ranging consultation on the potential development of a South Lanarkshire tourism membership organisation and to create a new tourism strategy following the allocation of additional resources under the 'Get South Lanarkshire Working' theme in the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget.

As part of the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget, the Council agreed that funding be allocated to the potential creation of a Tourism Co-operative and development of a South Lanarkshire Tourism Strategy.

It was proposed that the allocated funding would be used to recruit 2 members of staff, with the remainder of the £0.5 million funding, after staff costs, to be spent on technical support and advice needed to set up a new body as well as promoting and marketing it to the industry to maximise numbers of local tourism businesses signing up.

Tourism offered an opportunity to contribute towards Community Wealth Building (CWB) ambitions, particularly in terms of employment. The re-purposing of land and property to create new tourism assets not only offered the potential to create new attractions to entice visitors to visit the region to spend money, but could also create facilities that local communities could use and benefit from.

A survey was issued in May 2021 to South Lanarkshire tourism businesses to gather information and views on current challenges, opportunities and priorities for the sector moving forward.

Informal discussions with individual businesses had also informed the Council's strategic approach.

There were a number of tourism destination management organisations (DMOs) in existence in Scotland. Some DMOs were structured as co-operatives but other operating models existed. Council officers had undertaken extensive research to gather information on DMO model options. Details were provided on the benefits and risks of establishing a South Lanarkshire DMO.

It was highlighted that no existing DMOs in Scotland were self-financing. Membership fees were typically supplemented by council and other public support, therefore, the Council might need to expect to provide additional funding longer-term.

It had been identified that, should the decision be made to establish a new membership organisation, there were 3 DMO models which might work in South Lanarkshire:-

- ◆ Option 1 - setting up a tourism co-operative
- ◆ Option 2 - establishing a tourism district
- ◆ Option 3 - establishing a not-for-profit tourism membership company limited by guarantee

In developing the South Lanarkshire Tourism Strategy, work had been undertaken to review best practice from around Scotland. A draft Strategy had been prepared, with input from key partners, such as VisitScotland and Skills Development Scotland, which had identified the following 6 priority areas:-

- ◆ people
- ◆ place
- ◆ business
- ◆ marketing
- ◆ responsible tourism
- ◆ partnership working and the possible creation of a new South Lanarkshire DMO

In addition to inviting Council Resources to contribute actions that would positively impact the South Lanarkshire visitor economy, strategic partners and local further education establishments had also been invited to feed in related activity they would be leading on. Those were included in the draft Strategy.

Officers had partnered with VisitScotland to hold an industry event on Tuesday 1 February 2022 which introduced the main themes in the tourism Strategy, invited feedback and comments on the Strategy and sought the industry's views on the opportunity to create a new DMO in South Lanarkshire.

S Balfour advised that feedback was being collated following the event and would be taken account of going forward. He confirmed that the general feedback had been positive, however, in terms of collaboration, businesses had indicated that they had limited time and resources at the current time. He advised that Elevator, who ran the Business Gateway contract, was running a South Lanarkshire Leadership Programme which would begin in March 2022.

The draft Tourism Strategy was open for consultation until 22 February 2022 and available on the Council's website. Responses and feedback would be collated, analysed and the draft Strategy updated for submission to committee following the Local Government Elections.

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

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

6 Community Wealth Building Annual Report Proposal

A report dated 13 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a proposal to submit an annual report on the progress of Community Wealth Building in South Lanarkshire.

In August 2021, the Commission approved an action plan for delivery of the CWB Strategy. The action plan contained a range of actions over a 3 to 5 year timeframe, setting out how the aspirations of the Strategy could be progressed for each of the 5 pillars of CWB.

It was proposed that an annual report, highlighting progress over the first year of the Strategy and showcasing examples of significant work under the 5 pillars, while further explaining the importance of CWB and why the Council and partners considered CWB was an important way of working in South Lanarkshire, be produced.

It was not intended that the annual report would replace the formal reporting of Q2 and Q4 progress but would be a more public-facing and accessible presentation of information. The report would cover the period April 2021 to the end of March 2022. A communications plan would be developed to ensure that the report was widely disseminated to appropriate audiences.

The Commission decided:

that an annual report be produced, as outlined in Section 4 of the report, and a draft submitted to the Commission in early summer 2022 for approval.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that arrangements would be made, following the Local Government Elections, to schedule a meeting in June 2022.

8 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.
