

EAST KILBRIDE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 15 December 2021

Chair:

Councillor Archie Buchanan (Chair)

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Isobel Dorman (Depute), Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Collette Stevenson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

C Park Head of Roads and Transportation Services

Education Resources

L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; A Norris, Administration Assistant

Housing and Technical Resources

J Read, Strategy Co-Ordinator

Opening Remarks

Councillor Watson referred to a previous request for the Chair to invite the Minister for Transport and the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport to address local councillors in relation to the decision to curtail the investment and plans for the East Kilbride to Glasgow railway link. Councillor Watson now wished to formally request that an invite be extended to the ministers to invite them to attend a meeting of East Kilbride councillors to discuss that decision.

The Chair advised that his understanding was that this issue had moved on and been dealt with. The Chair further advised that he would ask officers to write to the ministers with this request.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the East Kilbride Area Committee held on 6 October 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Participatory Budgeting – Housing and Technical Resources - Estate Improvement Budget

A report dated 30 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to the Estate Improvement Budget.

The Estate Improvement Budget totalled £40,000 and was split across the 4 housing divisions of South Lanarkshire. Each local housing management team directed funding to projects or improvements highlighted as a priority by customers of Housing and Property Services.

Following complaints from tenants and residents in Denholm Green, East Kilbride, regarding the existing bin stores and drying areas, consultation was underway to identify solutions including demolishing the existing bin stores and creating a more practical replacement and upgrading facilities within the drying areas. Officers had explained the benefits to each tenant and resident to allow an informed decision to be made.

A total of £10,000 was available within the East Kilbride Estate Improvement Budget during the 2021/2022 financial year and it was considered that this budget was suited for a PB approach.

A range of consultation and engagement activities would be progressed to determine the allocation of this budget area. This included organised area walkabouts, individual engagement with tenants or other customers and discussions with local tenant and resident groups.

Updates would be provided to the Committee once funds within the budget had been allocated.

Councillor Convery commented on the issues with bin stores and drying areas, which he had previously raised and wished to record that he considered PB was not an appropriate use of taxpayers' money.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Participatory Budgeting – Housing and Technical Resources - Community Safety Commissioning Budget

A report dated 30 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to the Community Safety Commissioning Budget.

In the 2021/2022 Council budget, £101,120 was allocated to the South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The final CSP Budget for 2021/2022 was approved at the Safer South Lanarkshire Board in March 2021 and included a proportion dedicated towards a commissioning approach. This allowed partners and services from across the partnership to develop projects and initiatives that tackled the partnership's 5 strategic priorities and respond to issues or problems raised by the public throughout the year.

One project proposed was to contribute to the improvement of the skatepark located to the rear of the Dollan Aqua Centre. Those improvements had been determined by users of the facilities and included new seating areas for families and lighting to improve safety and security.

From the 2021/2022 CSP budget, the Safer South Lanarkshire Board approved the allocation of £61,687 to the commissioning aspect of the budget and the skatepark project had requested a total of £10,500 from this.

As the partnership was formed by a wide range of partners, it was anticipated that a variety of customer groups would be offered the opportunity to direct funds including customers of the various Council, Police, Fire and third sector services and open consultation with the general public in particular areas where issues were identified or reported.

In relation to the skatepark, existing users had been asked to develop ideas to improve the area and make it more attractive to young people and families. In addition, young people who used the neighbouring facilities, provided by Youth, Family and Community Learning Services, were asked what would make the skatepark area more attractive and feel safer to use.

Officers completed a range of consultation activities with existing users of the facilities including online and face-to-face surveys and special 'design sessions' that sought to obtain ideas and discussions from young people, their families and officers.

The budget was available for spending by Community Safety partners during the 2021/2022 financial year and updates would be provided to the Committee once funds within the budget had been fully allocated.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Participatory Budgeting - Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 30 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Schools within the East Kilbride area had allocated £130,353.67 of their £1.559 million PEF allocation for PB. Appendix 1 to the report provided a breakdown for each learning community and Appendix 2 summarised the percentage of PEF allocation schools had allocated for PB. 77.1% of schools had allocated the minimum 5% PEF budget whilst 22.9% of schools had allocated more. A school-by-school breakdown was detailed in Appendix 3.

Schools had undertaken a rigorous consultation process led by a PB Stakeholder Group in each school. Stakeholders then engaged in the voting process, the results of which were outlined in appendices 3 and 4 to the report.

Schools were now ensuring the minimum 5% was spent by the end of March 2022, with the central Equity Team available to assist. The Equity Team was gathering examples of good practice which would be shared at a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 October 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZ) Consultation

A report dated 24 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the results of the completed Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZ) consultation.

RPPZs were generally located in proximity to high demand parking areas, such as town centres and train stations, allowing residents, their visitors, and tradespeople to park easily or, in some areas, without paying a parking charge.

As part of the 2021/2022 budget setting exercise, a charge for parking permits was considered and agreed at the Executive Committee on 10 March 2021. This was implemented as permits were being renewed over the normal 2-year cycle. This charging approach directly linked to an Audit Scotland report encouraging councils to better understand costs and seek to recover them where discretionary services were being provided.

At the full Council meeting on 22 September 2021, a motion relating to Parking Permit Charges was tabled and it was subsequently agreed that consultation with residents living in current RPPZs would be undertaken. Charging for permits was suspended pending the outcome of the consultation exercise being reported to the relevant committees.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the consultation process which involved asking households if they wished to remain in an RPPZ and pay a £5 per year administration charge or whether they wished to have their RPPZ removed
- ◆ the return rate for each of the 6 towns/areas consulted
- ◆ the split between paying and retaining or removing the zone across the 6 towns/areas

Of the households within East Kilbride which responded to the consultation, the outcome was that 81% of respondents wished to pay and retain the zone while 19% wished to have the zone removed.

As agreed at the Council meeting held on 22 September 2021, the results of the consultation were now subject to consideration by the 4 Area Committees prior to each Area Committee providing a recommendation to a future meeting of the Executive Committee on whether to accept the findings of the consultation and continue to provide permit zones with a £5 administration charge (£10 over 2 years) for the permits.

Following considerable discussion on the consultation and the options available, officers responded to members' questions, advising that:-

- ◆ the cost of the consultation would be circulated to members and included within the report to be submitted to the Executive Committee
- ◆ the outcome of the discussion at each Area Committee would be included in the report to the Executive Committee
- ◆ the Executive Committee would be the body that would take the decision on the implementation of parking permit charges

It was proposed that this Committee note the contents of the report as it would be for the Executive Committee to come to a decision.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 23 March 2020 (Paragraph 8), Minutes of the Executive Committee of 24 June 2020 (Paragraph 3) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor Campbell left the meeting during discussion of the above item

In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3.05pm for a 10-minute period

7 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 29 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

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 2021/2022 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 2022. Those grants awarded would be reported to a future meeting for noting.

The Committee decided:

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

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| (a) | Applicant: | Round Strathaven 50 (<i>EK/7/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |
| (b) | Applicant: | Midweek Walking Group, East Kilbride (<i>EK/8/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing, administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £250 |
| (c) | Applicant: | East Mains Baptist Church SCIO, East Kilbride (<i>EK/9/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £450 |
| (d) | Applicant: | Duncanrig Rambling Club, East Kilbride (<i>EK/10/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing, administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |
| (e) | Applicant: | East Kilbride Bowling Club (<i>EK/11/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |
| (f) | Applicant: | The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust Limited (<i>EK/12/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £360 |
| (g) | Applicant: | Allers Allotments' Association, East Kilbride (<i>EK/13/21</i>) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £240 |

(2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2021/2022 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 2022, subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for the receipt of funding; and

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

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.