

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 1 December 2021

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Collette Stevenson, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Carol Nugent

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director; C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Corporate Communications; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

Also Attending:

G McNally, Audit Scotland

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost welcomed Gemma McNally, Audit Scotland to this meeting of the Council.

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 22 September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 22 June 2021 were submitted for noting.

The Council decided: that the minutes be noted.

4 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 15 September 2021 were submitted for noting.

The Council decided: that the minutes be noted.

5 Notice of Motion – Challenges Faced by Young People During Covid-19 Pandemic – Concerns Over Waiting Lists to See Specialists

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

“The Council recognises the challenges faced by our young people during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those with additional support needs; praises the work undertaken by Lanarkshire Autism Group based in Larkhall and indeed, all organisations who have provided vital support to families during this difficult time; raises serious concerns over the waiting lists for young people to see specialists with waiting lists throughout South Lanarkshire stating the following:

Speech and Language – 42 weeks
Neuro Development Team – 2 years
Community Paediatrician – 3 years
CAMHS – 1+ years

Understands that GIRFEC (getting it right for every child) supports families by making sure children and young people can receive the right help, at the right time, from the right people; however, agrees that this policy cannot assist families properly whilst waiting lists are out of control; further agrees to write to the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care to note this Council’s serious concerns in relation to the above waiting times and to ask the Scottish Government to outline their plans to urgently reduce these waiting times.”

In moving his motion, Councillor Nelson referred to the concerning situation facing young people, their families and carers due to the increased waiting times to access support services. He advised that he had been made aware from constituents that some young family members felt suicidal or were exhibiting suicidal behaviour, however, could not access support services that could potentially save their lives. He said it was particularly concerning as in 2020, the suicide rate in Scotland was higher than the previous 5 year average. He also referred to those families with children awaiting diagnoses of autism or ADHD and who were struggling without access to appropriate support services and failing to meet developmental milestones. Councillor Holford, in seconding the motion, referred to the good work undertaken by the Council to address mental health issues, however, considered that there was a national resourcing issue which required attention.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Bradley, moved the following as an amendment:-

Delete from 'raises serious concerns' to end in motion and insert:

"Welcomes the new Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund of £15 million that was launched on 15th October 2021 aimed to help support adult community-based initiatives across Scotland. Further welcomes that this fund is part of the £120 million Recovery & Renewal Fund to ensure delivery of the commitments set out in the Mental Health Transition & Recovery Plan in response to mental health needs arising from the pandemic; understands the pressures that NHS is facing as a result of the pandemic and urges Governments in Scotland and at Westminster to invest in public services in their upcoming budgets."

In moving the amendment, Councillor Ross referred to the pressures on the NHS and public sector and how those were not unique to Scotland.

Councillor Fagan considered that members should accept the motion but, to make it more powerful, incorporate the following wording from the amendment:-

"understands the pressures that NHS is facing because of the pandemic and urges Governments in Scotland and Westminster to invest in public services at their upcoming budgets."

Councillor Nelson intimated that he was content to accept Councillor Fagan's suggestion and the motion was duly amended.

Following discussion, on a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Alex Allison, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson

Amendment

John Anderson, John Bradley, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Katy Loudon, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, John Ross, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Josh Wilson

22 members voted for the amendment and 36 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided: that the terms of the motion be supported and the Council:-

- ♦ ask the Scottish Government to outline its plans to urgently reduce waiting times
- ♦ urge Governments in Scotland and Westminster to invest in public services at their upcoming budgets

Councillor Callaghan joined the meeting during this item of business but prior to the vote

6 External Auditor's Annual Report to South Lanarkshire Council

A report dated 17 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the External Auditor's, Audit Scotland, Annual Report to the Council for 2020/2021.

Councillors Miller, Allison and Holford, in turn, thanked, in particular, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and his team for their contribution in achieving a positive report.

The Council decided: that the External Auditor's Annual Report 2020/2021 to the Council be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee of 17 November 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Provost's Closing Remarks

The Provost advised that this would be the last Council meeting that Michael McGlynn, Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) would be attending as he was retiring. The Provost, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr McGlynn for his many years of public service and wished him a happy retirement.

Councillors Ross, Fagan, Brown, Allison and Cooper, in turn, echoed the Provost's sentiments.

Mr McGlynn responded in suitable terms and wished to record his thanks to members, past and present, and his staff, particularly in terms of their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.