

# COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 28 February 2023

## **Chair:**

Councillor Joe Fagan

## **Present:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillors Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Kirsten Robb, Margaret B Walker

C Sneddon, Chief Executive; P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

### **NHS Lanarkshire**

J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health; E Russell, Consultant in Public Health

### **University of the West of Scotland**

T Adamson, Estates Environmental Manager

### **VASLan**

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

## **Also Attending:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

#### **Community and Enterprise Resources**

S Keating, Property Development Manager

#### **Finance and Corporate Resources**

H Calley, Administration Officer; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager

## **Apologies:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillor John Ross; S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services (Finance and Corporate Resources)

### **Federation of Small Businesses**

H Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland

### **NHS Lanarkshire**

J Gardner, Chief Executive

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Wealth Building Commission held on 6 December 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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## **3 Membership Update**

A report dated 9 February 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of a change to the membership of the Commission.

Following a request from NHS Lanarkshire, J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health, was added to the membership of the Community Wealth Building Commission, in addition to the current representation of Jann Gardner, Chief Executive, NHS Lanarkshire.

The Chair, on behalf of the Commission, welcomed J Pravinkumar to her first meeting.

**The Commission decided:** that the change in membership be noted.

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#### **4 NHS Lanarkshire as an Anchor Organisation**

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A report dated 23 January 2023 by the Consultant in Public Health, NHS Lanarkshire (NHSL), was submitted:-

- ◆ providing an update on the work being undertaken by NHSL to harness its ambitions as an inclusive anchor organisation
- ◆ detailing how its programme of work would be taken forward; and
- ◆ highlighting the recently developed Cost of Living Delivery Plan

CWB was a progressive approach to economic development which aimed to retain opportunities and wealth in communities for the benefit of the local population. This was achieved by harnessing the economic and social power of locally rooted organisations, often referred to as local anchors.

Anchor organisations were large, locally rooted organisations and included the NHS, local authorities, colleges and universities, and private businesses with local headquarters. As they employed many people, spent substantial amounts of money, owned and managed land and assets, and often delivered crucial services, they had a considerable impact on local communities and economies.

Anchor organisations were pivotal to CWB as a result of the scale and ways in which they operated and significantly added to local employment, business growth, skills, incomes, health and wellbeing. They helped places thrive and be places where people wanted to live and where businesses wanted to invest, setting them on a path to long term success and shared prosperity.

As noted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), there were 5 areas of activity where anchor organisations could make a difference:-

- ◆ as an employer
- ◆ through procurement of goods
- ◆ through environment and assets
- ◆ through products and service delivery
- ◆ through corporate and civic behaviours

The Scottish Government recently launched a Care and Wellbeing Programme which included an anchor workstream. The aim of the programme was to support Scotland's health and social care providers to become active anchor organisations which would help to mitigate against some of the drivers of socioeconomic inequalities within their area.

The JRF, in partnership with Leeds City Council, had developed an Anchor Progression Framework as a tool for organisations to use to self-assess where they were against the 5 anchor pillars, the details of which were attached to the report.

In the absence of a Scottish toolkit, work was undertaken in 2022 to scope out the NHSL baseline position as an anchor organisation against each of the pillars using the JRF Progression Framework. Public Health Scotland was also developing a Scottish Anchor Assessment Framework to support the national Care and Wellbeing Programme. It was anticipated Boards would be expected to report on this new assessment framework as part of annual performance monitoring.

Overall, NHSL performed well across many of the anchor pillars and there were opportunities for it to further enhance its role and influence as an anchor, particularly with regards to targeting opportunities and services to those who were most vulnerable and through further developing employability, procurement and asset strategies. A summary of the areas where NHSL had made progress as an anchor was detailed in the report.

NHSL aimed to capitalise on the opportunities afforded through the development of the new healthcare strategy, *Our Health Together*, to intentionally “do things differently” and strengthen anchor commitments. Critical to this aim, was working collaboratively with other local anchors to share learning and build on the existing strong partnerships already in place.

An anchor workshop was being planned for spring 2023 to review the NHSL anchor baseline assessment in light of the national programme and framework. This would help to prioritise key actions and performance monitoring measures going forward.

The Consultant in Public Health, NHSL, answered members’ questions on the integrated quality impact assessment and socioeconomic inequalities; the employment pillar and innovative approaches with recruitment from vulnerable groups; details of co-location services in relation to transport issues; how financial wellbeing was included for patients at acute centres; resource capacity to harness and analyse data captured through the public health intelligence hub and plans for some services to be accessible outside of hospitals.

The Chief Executive Officer, VASLan, noted the issues with awareness and understanding of CWB as well as the level of engagement with communities but hoped there would be opportunities, at locality level or pillar-by-pillar, to raise awareness which the third sector would support.

**The Commission decided:** that the report be noted.

*E Russell left the meeting after this item of business*

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## **5 Community Wealth Building and the Role of Charters**

A report dated 18 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an overview and examples of how charters had been used to support Community Wealth Building (CWB).

The South Lanarkshire CWB Strategy aimed to develop resilient, inclusive local economies, with more local employment and a larger and more diverse business base. It set out South Lanarkshire’s ambitions across each of the 5 pillars of CWB of spending, workforce, land and property, finance and building the generative economy.

The report included examples of how charters and anchor frameworks had been used in different localities to support CWB and suggested ways in which the CWB Strategy might be supported by means of a Charter for South Lanarkshire.

Although there were limited examples of the use of Charters in Scotland, in October 2020, the CWB Commission in Ayrshire launched the Ayrshire CWB Anchor Charter, which committed local and regional anchor institutions to a range of pledges across the 5 pillars of CWB and a '6<sup>th</sup> pillar' of climate action. The 2021 annual report indicated that 7 organisations had signed up to the Charter. The pledges were relatively high-level statements and were detailed in the report with the full Ayrshire Charter attached as Appendix 1.

In April 2022, a Fife Anchor Charter was approved which was essentially the same as the Ayrshire Charter, although it lacked the additional 6<sup>th</sup> pillar on climate action. In Fife, the partners had taken the approach of agreeing the charter first (as part of the Fife Recovery and Renewal Plan 2021 to 2024) and then looked to develop a delivery plan covering all 5 pillars of CWB. The Fife Charter was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

A different approach was taken by Stirling Council, which had adopted a charter that focused on "the progressive procurement of goods and services", the first of the 5 pillars of CWB. Its charter included a pledge to CWB principles and a number of actions similar to those already in the South Lanarkshire Action Plan. The Stirling Procurement Charter was attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

The Leeds Anchor Network drew membership from over a dozen organisations, including NHS Trusts, universities and colleges, Leeds City Council, Yorkshire Water, British Library and Northern Gas Networks, which formed a network and used a Progression Framework, developed with support from the JRF and others, to set out the commitments and behaviours expected of an anchor organisation. Although not a charter, the Progression Framework served a similar function and examples were attached as Appendix 4 to the report.

Other examples were detailed in the report, including a Health Anchors Learning Network and the Stevenage Charter.

The examples illustrated that there was no one-size-fits-all charter for CWB. Different approaches had been adopted by different localities at different times, depending on local circumstances, opportunities, existing networks and the level of maturity of CWB.

It was proposed that the CWB Progress Group be tasked with assessing the benefits of adopting a charter and provide a report, with recommendations, to a future meeting of the Commission. Consideration would also be given to developing a Charter which was Lanarkshire-wide and involved other anchor organisations.

Work would also be done to establish how other areas, including North Ayrshire and Preston, had communicated and engaged with their communities on CWB.

**The Commission decided:**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the Progress Group be tasked with evaluating the potential benefits of developing a charter for South Lanarkshire; and
- (3) that a further report with recommendations be brought to a future meeting of the Commission.

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## **6 Area Profiling Tool for South Lanarkshire**

A report dated 18 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing the Commission with an overview of an online tool which provided statistical information on small areas and communities within South Lanarkshire.

The Commission had been provided with statistical information on the economic and social context within South Lanarkshire at previous meetings. When the data digest was presented, a commitment was given to bring regular updates to the Commission to inform decision-making and provide appropriate context for Community Wealth Building (CWB) work in South Lanarkshire.

The Council's website included an Area Profiling Tool, developed by the Council, which provided data to aid understanding of the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire.

The Tool enabled thematic reports to be generated about areas within South Lanarkshire, which were defined by the user, with any combination of data-zones selected to form a user-defined area for analysis. The Tool had 2 main features, the ability for users to select an area of interest or to define their own "custom" area, with the ability to select what sort of information they would like to see about the area.

The Tool stored statistics about individual data-zones which were the lowest level to which analysis could be provided. The Tool had a number of pre-defined geographical areas built in and once an area was selected, users chose a statistical theme, which reflected the outcomes in the Council Plan, Connect.

Appendix 1 to the report provided a sample report which combined all themes using the Hamilton Area Committee area.

The Tool would continue to be updated with new data as it became available and as the Council rolled out new technologies for data management, the Tool would be reviewed to assess options for migrating it to an alternative platform, possibly within a dashboard-style Tool which provided a wider range of intelligence about the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire.

The Commission would continue to receive an annual refresh of the data digest previously provided, the next iteration being available in summer 2023.

Officers gave an undertaking to send members a link to the Tool and to respond to a member's question regarding using it in relation to 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Although members acknowledged the benefits of the Tool, it was noted that it would not provide data on groups of people, for example, older people or trends. Also, data would not identify who needed help and where, for example, rural areas.

**The Commission decided:** that the report be noted.

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## **7 Community Wealth Building Scottish Government Consultation**

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A report dated 3 February 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of a consultation on Community Wealth Building, launched by the Scottish Government and proposing a joint response be developed by the Progress Group, on behalf of the Commission, with the final submission to be tabled at the next meeting of the Commission.

In the Programme for Government 2022/2023, the Scottish Government indicated that it would hold a consultation on CWB legislation. The consultation was launched on 31 January 2023 and sought views on what was required to accelerate and deepen CWB in Scotland. The closing date for responses to the consultation was 25 April 2023.

The consultation paper, Building Community Wealth in Scotland, set out a vision for CWB as part of a strategic approach to the development of a wellbeing economy. The commitment to the introduction of legislation on CWB in the current Parliamentary session was seen as part of a strategic approach to creating a wellbeing economy, empowering communities and supporting local and regional economic development.

Other activity to support the agenda included the upcoming Land Reform Bill, the commitment to a series of Just Transition Plans, the National Planning Framework 4, the Refreshed Fair Work Action Plan and the review of the Community Empowerment Act.

The consultation paper had 3 parts. Part 1 described what CWB was, provided an overview of CWB activity in Scotland and outlined the background to and ambitions for CWB legislation; part 2 set out proposals for a duty to advance CWB and explored each of the pillars in turn, looking at what might be required to advance CWB in Scotland, with suggestions collated from stakeholder engagement so far; and part 3 provided details on how to respond to the consultation and next steps.

The consultation paper was attached as Appendix 1 and the questions set were attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The consultation included a proposal to implement a duty to advance CWB giving 3 options, which were detailed in the report. The consultation also included the question “are there ways in which the law could be changed to advance this pillar?” for each of the 5 pillars of CWB. To assist respondents, the consultation provided examples of suggestions made by stakeholders in the course of engagement on CWB to date, as detailed in the report.

It was proposed that the CWB Progress Group develops a draft response which would be circulated to Commission members for approval prior to its submission by the closing date.

**The Commission decided:**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the Progress Group be tasked with developing a draft response on behalf of the CWB Commission;
- (3) that the draft response, once approved, be submitted to the Scottish Government by the closing date of 25 April 2023; and
- (4) that the final submission be formally tabled at the next meeting of the Commission on 6 June 2023.

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## **8 Meeting Timetable 2023/2024**

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A report dated 9 February 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted proposing that future dates of the Community Wealth Building Commission take place at 2pm on the following dates:-

- ◆ Tuesday 6 June 2023
- ◆ Tuesday 5 September 2023
- ◆ Tuesday 12 December 2023
- ◆ Tuesday 12 March 2024

**The Commission decided:**

that future meetings of the Commission be held on the dates detailed above.

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## **9 Forward Programme for Future Meetings**

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A report dated 9 February 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of the forward programme for meetings of the Commission and inviting members to suggest topics for inclusion in the Commission's forward programme.

**The Commission decided:**                      that the report be noted.

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## **10 Any Other Competent Business**

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There were no other items of competent business.