

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 6 June 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers, 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

University of the West of Scotland

T Adamson, Estates Environmental Manager

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Council

Community and Enterprise Resources

Y McBride, Economic Development Officer; I Ross, Project Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

H Calley, Administration Officer; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Housing and Technical Resources

J Read, Strategy and Policy Adviser

Local Government Improvement Service

R Hart, Project Lead, Rutherglen

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Alex Allison, Margaret Cooper, 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

VASLan

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

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 28 February 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Shaping Places for Wellbeing

A report dated 10 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted introducing the Local Government Improvement Service's (LGIS) Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme.

Shaping Places for Wellbeing was a 3 year programme, running until March 2024, delivered by Public Health Scotland (PHS) and LGIS, with local authorities and NHS Boards. It aimed to address health inequalities and attempted to stop problems developing through the use of an upstream approach to address the social determinants of health.

The Programme recognised that the ability to make improvements sat with local partners, including councils and it sought to harness this to develop new approaches that improved health and wellbeing outcomes and from which learning could be drawn and used more widely across Scotland.

In South Lanarkshire, Rutherglen had been selected as a test site due to its level of health inequalities, its strong local infrastructure and the work being complementary and supplementing the range of activity already underway. The report detailed links to the CWB agenda.

R Hart, Project Lead, Rutherglen, gave a presentation which highlighted the following:-

- ◆ Shaping Places for Wellbeing was achieved through 3 activities; local project work, local learning cohort and national leadership cohort
- ◆ the national context, including key policies and approaches
- ◆ the 'Big Picture' was "how to keep focus on long term system change when there was so much firefighting in the context of acute need and low resource?"
- ◆ the state of health and health inequalities in Scotland
- ◆ delivering a future for Scottish local authorities through 6 core anchors that underpinned the role of the local government sector of the future
- ◆ the Place and Wellbeing Collaborative
- ◆ implementation of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme
- ◆ next steps and additional resources

The Project Lead, Rutherglen, responded to members' questions on:-

- ◆ the assessment sessions and their expected outcomes
- ◆ supports provided to achieve objectives in local and neighbourhood plans
- ◆ the new Planning regulations and ensuring spatial requirements were included
- ◆ understanding of areas of health inequalities
- ◆ how emerging themes from the data profiling had impacted the Programme

The Commission decided: that the report and presentation be noted.

J Pravinkumar joined the meeting during this item of business

4 South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Strategy 2023 to 2027

A report dated 27 April 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the progress of the development of the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise (SE) Strategy.

At the first meeting of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission on 31 August 2021, members approved an action plan to accompany the South Lanarkshire CWB Strategy 2022. This new Social Enterprise (SE) Strategy was one of the high-level outcomes of the CWB Action plan, alongside the development of an SE Steering Group.

The SE Strategy set out the Council's commitment to increase the number of social enterprises and improve the sustainability of the sector in South Lanarkshire. Constructive comments had been received which had informed the SE Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The priorities and draft narrative were shared with and informed by, partners and stakeholders, within and outwith the Council, as part of a wider consultation process. A list of consultees was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The SE Strategy was a new strategy for South Lanarkshire and was in keeping with the Scottish Government's priorities for the sector and vision of a fair society and inclusive economy, as set out in the 'Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy 2016 to 2026'. The 3 high level priorities were:-

- ◆ stimulating Social Enterprise
- ◆ developing stronger organisations
- ◆ realising market opportunity

The Strategy's vision was "to cultivate a vibrant and growing social enterprise sector in South Lanarkshire, which creates social and environmental benefits for all". A summary of the sections of the Strategy was provided in the report.

The Economic Development Officer responded to a member's question on the Community Bond model.

The Commission decided: that the content of the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Strategy 2023 to 2027 be noted.

[Reference: Note of 31 August 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Supplier Engagement

A report dated 18 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the engagement activities that had been undertaken to assist local businesses to access South Lanarkshire Council tender opportunities which included the South Lanarkshire Council Supplier Engagement Survey that was cascaded to the local business base during September 2022.

A key objective of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy was to increase the levels of spend by the Council and anchor institutions within the South Lanarkshire area. An action plan supported the Spend Pillar of the Strategy and included reviewing the processes for how the Council procured, engaged and supported businesses and identified and promoted increased tender opportunities.

The CWB 'Spend Pillar' Group had agreed that ascertaining the skills, experience and thoughts of the local business base would help to tailor how to support those businesses going forward in relation to increasing the number of local Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) securing contracts with South Lanarkshire Council. This would be achieved by undertaking a survey of South Lanarkshire businesses and would complement the wide range of promotional activity and training already being undertaken.

The online survey was open from 2 to 30 September 2022. The survey was marketed via social media channels and cascaded to 13 partner organisations, as detailed in the report, to share with their client bases. An email was also sent, by the Economic Development Lead Officer on Construction Sector, to all relevant businesses on the FAME database of companies to which Economic Development subscribed.

Overall, 243 respondents completed the questionnaire, 221 of which were located in South Lanarkshire. This was considered a good return for this form of engagement and for the timescale the survey was open. Information on the make-up of the respondents, the main findings of the survey and observations from the survey were provided in the report.

Details of other supplier engagement events and activities were detailed in the report, as well as information on the Meet the Real Buyer event held on 22 February 2023.

The review of the survey responses confirmed that the range of actions which were being progressed under the current action plan in relation to training and awareness raising, were highly relevant. However, further activity would take place focusing on the preparation of an awareness and training plan for 2023/2024 to extend the reach to more businesses.

A second business survey would be completed in 2024/2025, the results of which would allow a comparison to be made with results from the one completed in 2022/2023.

The Head of Finance (Transactions) responded to a member's question on increasing feedback on the tender processes.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted and proposed further actions pursued.

Councillor Chalmers left the meeting during this item of business

6 Community Benefits Associated with the Council's Affordable Housing Supply Programme

A report dated 18 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted providing:-

- ◆ an overview of the approach taken by South Lanarkshire Council to enable maximum community benefits from construction projects within its Affordable Housing Supply Programme and non-domestic estate
- ◆ examples of recent South Lanarkshire Council-led construction projects that had direct contribution to the Community Wealth Building (CWB) ambitions across South Lanarkshire

Within the 'Land and Property' Pillar of the South Lanarkshire CWB Strategy, the Council's Housing and Technical Resources was responsible for delivering actions to increase the supply of affordable housing within South Lanarkshire and ensuring consideration was given as to how this would also result in wealth being generated or retained locally.

As set out in the South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy 2022 to 2027, increasing the supply of affordable housing would be achieved, in part, through the delivery of the Council's Affordable Housing Supply Programme which aimed to deliver a further 1,300 additional council homes by 31 March 2028.

The delivery of new council housing supply attracted significant levels of grant funding from the Scottish Government, alongside sustained investment from the Council's Housing Revenue Account. As such, opportunities existed to ensure this funding generated direct and indirect benefits for local people, businesses and services, in addition to positive outcomes for new or existing South Lanarkshire Council tenants.

Each year, Scottish local authorities spent significant sums on works, goods and services that were essential to the delivery of public services in local communities. In procuring such works, there were opportunities to consider and implement a range of initiatives that would promote skills, training, apprenticeships and employment of local people. Details of the community benefits and how those aligned with CWB were detailed in the report.

Examples of projects contributing to the CWB agenda, including the community benefits acquired from each, were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Strategy and Policy Adviser responded to a member's questions on delivery and assessment of the Community Benefit Programme and reviewing the Community Benefits Menu.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the approach taken by the Council to enable the maximum community benefits from construction projects within its Affordable Housing Supply Programme and non-domestic estate be noted; and
- (2) that the examples provided in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

J Pravinkumar left the meeting during this item of business

7 Community Wealth Building Scottish Government Consultation

A report dated 10 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted presenting the South Lanarkshire response to the Scottish Government's consultation on Community Wealth Building (CWB), which was developed by the CWB Progress Group on behalf 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 extended closing date for responses was 9 May 2023.

At its meeting on 28 February 2023, the Commission agreed that the CWB Progress Group would develop a South Lanarkshire response to the consultation which would be submitted on behalf of the Commission once approved by the Chair.

The key topics within the consultation were whether and in what form, to introduce a duty to advance CWB; how best to support such a duty and whether there were any changes to Scottish legislation which could accelerate or support the 5 pillars. In relation to the duty to advance CWB, there were 3 options which were detailed in the report.

The South Lanarkshire response supported option A as the most effective and proportionate approach, the reasons for which were detailed in the report.

The full South Lanarkshire response to the consultation was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The response addressed all the questions outlined in the consultation and supplied suggestions and reflections across all 5 pillars of CWB. The response was compiled from input by members of the CWB Progress Group and also benefited from the Glasgow City Region draft response which was circulated to Commission members in April 2023.

The Head of Finance (Transactions) responded to a member's questions regarding the size of contracts and making them more accessible to smaller groups and the retrofit supply chain.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Note of 28 February 2023 (Paragraph 7)]

8 Community Wealth Building Action Plan Q4 Update

A report dated 16 May 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Quarter 4 update on the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Action Plan.

The CWB Action Plan had been approved by the Commission at its meeting on 6 September 2022. The report provided an update on the actions contained within the Action Plan for the 12 month period April 2022 to March 2023.

The Strategy and Policy Adviser responded to a member's question on the Community Energy Efficiency Fund Programme and delays with the supply of materials.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Note of 6 September 2022 (Paragraph 7)]

9 Forward Programme for Future Meetings

A report dated 18 May 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.

10 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.