

EAST KILBRIDE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 May 2024

Chair:

Councillor Archie Buchanan

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Mathew Buchanan, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Joe Fagan (ex officio), Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Elise Frame, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Elaine McDougall, Councillor Kirsten Robb, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Kirsty Williams

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Geri Gray (Depute), Councillor Graham Scott

Attending:

Education Resources

M Farr, Lead Officer; S Harvey, Principal Teacher, Strathaven Academy

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; T Slater, Administration Adviser; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue

A Crawford, Station Commander; T Keay, Group Commander

East Kilbride Citizens' Advice Bureau

M Campbell, Bureau Manager

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 20 February 2024 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

A Crawford, Station Commander and T Keay, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), gave a presentation on the 2023/2023 Annual Performance and Activity Report for the East Kilbride area.

The presentation provided performance information covering the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, with a comparison against the same period from the previous year. Information was provided on:-

- ◆ deliberate primary fires
- ◆ deliberate secondary fires

- ♦ accidental dwelling fires
- ♦ accidental 'other' building fires
- ♦ fatal fire casualties
- ♦ non-fatal fire casualties (excluding precautionary check-up)
- ♦ special service (road traffic collisions)
- ♦ special service (fatal and non-fatal casualties)
- ♦ false alarms (malicious false alarms and unwanted fire alarm signals (non-domestic))

T Keay, having responded to members' questions, was thanked for the informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 June 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

4 East Kilbride Citizens' Advice Bureau

M Campbell, Bureau Manager, East Kilbride Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) gave a presentation entitled "Demonstrating the Value of Good Advice".

The presentation provided detailed information on the following areas:-

- ♦ the Citizens' Advice Service in Scotland
- ♦ the role of a CAB
- ♦ why the East Kilbride CAB was needed
- ♦ the East Kilbride locality, which included Strathaven and surrounding villages
- ♦ performance data for the East Kilbride CAB in 2023/2024
- ♦ top advice areas which included:-
 - ♦ benefits (42%)
 - ♦ debt (20%)
- ♦ the value of volunteering with the East Kilbride CAB
- ♦ specialist projects undertaken
- ♦ services that could be accessed through the East Kilbride CAB
- ♦ how the East Kilbride CAB contributed to the Council's priorities
- ♦ collaborative local partnership working
- ♦ national campaigns and national policy work

M Campbell, having responded to members' questions, was thanked for her informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

5 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources

A report dated 24 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

As an example of good practice, the PB work undertaken by Strathaven Academy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Strathaven Academy demonstrated commitment to PB, pupil voice and the voice of its stakeholders, specifically in relation to supporting families affected by poverty and the cost of the school day. To gather ideas for the vote, a PB group had been established with 11 pupils across all year groups, 4 staff and 4 parents.

Choices of spend included:-

- ♦ Chromebooks for use outwith school ('Chrome from Home')

- ◆ resources for the school breakfast club
- ◆ gardening resources

The overwhelming choice from the vote was 'Chrome from Home' which recognised that a lack of IT equipment at home could be a real barrier to learning. Over 500 pupils had voted during the PB process, together with over 100 stakeholders comprising of staff and parents.

Schools continued to allocate a minimum of 5% of their PEF to PB year on year. Optional PB training was planned for August 2024 for schools which had new PB Leads or where a refresh was required.

Education Resources would provide the Area Committee with:-

- ◆ a summary report of each school's PB outcome
- ◆ case studies of school activity which had seen particular impact/success

Education Resources would support schools and monitor and track the impact of PB activity. Findings would inform any future PB activity within the Resource.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 November 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor Frame left the meeting during this item of business

5 Can Do Community Fund Awards – East Kilbride

A report dated 23 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications to the Can Do Community Challenge Fund from an organisation in the East Kilbride area.

The Can Do Community Challenge Fund was a one year investment fund from the Council for communities which did not have access to Participatory Budgeting Funds. Community organisations, including Community Councils, could apply for grants of up to £10,000 to tackle identified issues within their areas. Funding available amounted to £200,000 across the Council area. Applications were scored by a panel within the Council's Community Engagement Team and details of the factors taken into consideration when scoring applications were provided in the report.

Applications to the fund had closed on 31 January 2024 and it was proposed that grants in the sum of £22,760 be awarded to various organisations as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. A list of applications that did not meet the criteria for funding was provided in Appendix 2 to the report.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the applications, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, be awarded funding from the Can Do Community Challenge Fund in the sum of £22,760; and
- (2) that the applications that did not meet the criteria for funding, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.

7 Playscheme Grant Applications

A report dated 23 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on playscheme grant funding for 2024/2025.

The playscheme funding allowed an allocation of £660 to be made to playschemes that operated over the summer, October and the Easter holiday periods with £440 for the summer period only and £110 for each of the October and Easter periods.

The Committee decided: that playscheme grants be awarded as follows:-

- (a) Applicant: Strathaven After School Club (*PS/EK/1/24*)
Amount Awarded: £660
- (b) Applicant: Special Needs Adventure Playground (SNAP) Playscheme, East Kilbride (*PS/EK/2/24*)
Amount Awarded: £440
- (c) Applicant: East Kilbride Universal Connections (*PS/EK/3/24*)
Amount Awarded: £660
- (d) Applicant: Mossneuk Out of School Service, East Kilbride (*PS/EK/4/24*)
Amount Awarded: £440
- (e) Applicant: Playcare Out of School Care, East Kilbride (*PS/EK/5/24*)
Amount Awarded: £660

[Reference: Minutes of 13 June 2023 (Paragraph 5)]

8 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 22 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ 7 applications for community grant to be met from the 2024/2025 budget
- ♦ 6 community grant applications which had been dealt with by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, during the period 21 February 2024 to 31 March 2024 to ensure that the 2023/2024 budget was utilised as fully as possible

The Committee decided:

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

- (a) Applicant: East Kilbride Men's Shed (*EK/1/24*)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (b) Applicant: Stonehouse Old Folk's Welfare Committee (*EK/2/24*)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (c) Applicant: Claremont Church – Good Companions Club, East Kilbride (*EK/3/24*)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £295

- (d) Applicant: XXR Mountaineering Club, East Kilbride (EK/4/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (e) Applicant: Kilbryde Ladies' Club, East Kilbride (EK/5/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (f) Applicant: Murray Bowling Club, East Kilbride (EK/6/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £300
- (g) Applicant: Strathaven Agricultural Exposition (EK/7/24)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £420

(2) that the action taken during the period 21 February to 31 March 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, to approve the award of the following community grants from the 2023/2024 budget be noted:-

- (a) Applicant: Stonehouse Bowling Club (EK/27/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £250
- (b) Applicant: St Leonards Rambling Club, East Kilbride (EK/39/23)
Purpose of Grant: Entrance fees, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £470
- (c) Applicant: Round Strathaven 50 (EK/40/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment and materials
Amount Awarded: £250
- (d) Applicant: Claremont Rambling Club, East Kilbride (EK/41/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £570
- (e) Applicant: South Parish Rambling Club, East Kilbride (EK/42/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (f) Applicant: PALS Plus Stroke Group, East Kilbride (EK/43/23)
Purpose of Grant: Specialist transport
Amount Awarded: £500

[Reference: Minutes of 20 February 2024 (Paragraph 8)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.