

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 12 December 2023

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Kirsten Robb, Margaret B Walker
P Manning, Chief Executive Designate (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

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

Community and Enterprise Resources

H Gourichon, Policy Officer for Food Development

Larkhall Plan Partnership

N Barr

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Margaret Cooper, John Ross

C Sneddon, Chief Executive; S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

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 5 September 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Larkhall Plan Partnership

A report dated 24 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Larkhall Plan Partnership (LPP).

The community of Larkhall was in a unique geographic position as it was close to the urban area of Hamilton, whilst on the edge of the rural Clyde Valley. It was a Community Growth Area, with its population expected to increase by 25%, to an estimated 17,000, in the next 5 to 10 years, which would bring challenges, at a time of financial pressures, on public services.

The LPP was established in 2018, on behalf of the Larkhall community, primarily to focus on opportunities that might present themselves in the future. It had a considerable impact on operational and strategic developments in the town, both in partnership with the statutory sector and as a stand-alone organisation.

The LPP worked in partnership with Larkhall Community Network, which was established as part of the local community's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Together, they comprised a partnership of third, public and private sector organisations. The LPP viewed CWB as an opportunity from which local groups could benefit and to which they could contribute.

The LPP provided a structure that enabled creative thinking and project development, enhancing all aspects of community life, building strong partnerships and healthier, more prosperous communities in Larkhall and the surrounding areas and villages.

A representative from the LPP gave a presentation on its shared vision of what it considered CWB would mean for Larkhall. The LPP hoped that Commission members would recognise the value of the contribution voluntary organisations could bring to the CWB agenda.

The next steps were detailed in the report and included an invitation to Commission members to visit Larkhall.

Nancy Barr from the LPP responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the content of the report and presentation be noted; and
- (2) that the invitation to visit Larkhall, meet some of the people involved and see what was being achieved be noted.

4 Community Wealth Building Action Plan: Q2 Update

A report dated 14 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Quarter 2 update of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy Action Plan.

The CWB Action Plan had been approved by the Commission at its meeting on 5 September 2023. The report provided an update on the actions contained within the Action Plan for the 6 month period April to September 2023.

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

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 5 September 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Community Wealth Building and Neighbourhood Planning

A report dated 24 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the provision of an annual empowerment report on local wealth building indicators on a locality basis.

The Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 established the purpose of Community Planning and placed duties on Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to define several localities in which communities experienced significantly poorer outcomes than either the rest of the CPP area, or Scotland as a whole, and then undertake locality planning for each of those.

Locality Planning would enable CPPs and their partners to tackle inequalities for communities facing disadvantage in well-targeted and effective ways. Each plan would show how CPP partners were deploying resources in support of the agreed outcomes in ways which promoted prevention, the reduction of inequalities and the building of community capacity. It was more beneficial for community bodies to participate in community planning at locality or neighbourhood level, where it would have most relevance to their lives and circumstances.

The South Lanarkshire CPP had defined the 4 localities as Cambuslang and Rutherglen, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Clydesdale, which aligned with other locality boundaries. Within those localities, the CPP had developed 9 Neighbourhood Plans in very local neighbourhoods that were listed within the top 10% of deprivation on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Community Wealth Building (CWB) aimed to ensure the economic system built wealth and prosperity for everyone which aligned well to Neighbourhood Planning policy and purpose. The CWB Strategy was a “place-based approach to economic development where anchor institutions, which were deeply rooted in their localities, did all they could to spend local”.

The CWB Strategy recognised that bespoke approaches were needed in localities reflecting the differences between them. Neighbourhood Plans and locality planning more widely, aimed to do the same.

It was considered that compiling CWB metrics by locality and providing more detailed information, broken down by neighbourhood planning areas within localities, would begin to provide insights for the Commission on where anchor resources were directed to build community wealth. It was, therefore, proposed to develop annual locality-based indicator reports for each of the 4 localities and Appendix 1 to the report outlined what type of information would be contained in those reports. Where possible, the information would be broken down by neighbourhood planning area within each locality to demonstrate specific investment in areas with poorer outcomes.

Over time, locality-based indicator profiles would assist in establishing CWB plans and targets that were bespoke to the needs of each of the 4 locality economies.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the content of the report, be noted; and
- (2) Development of a locality-based set of CWB indicators, agreed.

6 Context for Community Wealth Building: Data Digest

A report dated 2 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Technical Resources) was submitted presenting data on the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire as a context for Community Wealth Building (CWB).

In order to set the scene for the work of the CWB Commission, a 'data digest' was compiled and presented to the inaugural meeting of the Commission in August 2021. The digest covered a range of demographic, social and economic indicators and grew out of a joint Community Planning Partnership session on tackling inequalities.

The Commission agreed that regular updates on key statistics be provided to assist debate and provide essential context for the work of the Commission. An updated data digest was presented to the Commission on 28 June 2022. The data digest had been refreshed for 2023 and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The data digest covered a range of topics including:-

- ◆ general population
- ◆ claimant unemployment and universal credit claimants
- ◆ child poverty
- ◆ welfare service statistics
- ◆ economic performance, including GVA, business start-ups and failures, and businesses per population
- ◆ health
- ◆ impact of Covid-19 on the labour market
- ◆ a range of public health indicators, including road accident casualties, crime statistics and hospital admissions data

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

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of Community Wealth Building Commission of 31 August 2021 (Paragraph 3) and 28 June 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

7 Food Procurement: Findings of the Market Capability Assessment and Next Steps

A report dated 22 November 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the Council's Market Capacity Assessment on food procurement and the next steps as described in the action plan.

The Council aimed to provide suppliers with opportunities to increase the provision of local food and drink, as set out in the Good Food Strategy, Procurement Strategy and Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy. Local procurement was one of the key strands of the Council's CWB Strategy and the exercise aimed to identify opportunities for increasing local spend.

A Project Review Group on Sustainable Food Procurement was established in February 2021 to identify options to progress this objective. In particular, a decision was taken to source funding to undertake research into the food and drink market in South Lanarkshire, with a view to identifying actions to increase local spend and overcome potential barriers.

A successful application was made in October 2021 to the Council's Food Strategy Fund for £10,000 to recruit a consultant to undertake a Market Capacity Assessment to understand the capacity of local food and drink businesses to supply the different buyers of the Council.

Following a Quick Quote procedure, the contract was awarded to Fare Consulting Limited for a budget of £14,500, the additional funding having come from the Food Strategy Fund.

The objectives of the Market Capacity Assessment and activities undertaken to deliver the project were detailed in the report.

A summary of Fare Consulting Limited's findings and additional data provided by Scotland Excel were detailed in the report including:-

- ◆ overview of Council buyers
- ◆ overview of food purchased
- ◆ overview of the local food and drink market and engagement with businesses including current suppliers
- ◆ overview of practices developed by other local authorities in Scotland
- ◆ key findings
- ◆ challenges and opportunities

The report also detailed the evaluation of the Market Capacity Assessment, next steps and monitoring.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

8 Forward Programme for Future Meetings

A report dated 23 November 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.

9 Any Other Competent Business

There were no other items of competent business.