

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 15 May 2024

Chair:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Celine Handibode, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq (Depute), Councillor John Ross, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Richard Nelson

Attending:

Education Resources

M Farr, Lead Officer; L Gardner, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer; L Horn, Headteacher, Newfield Primary School and Nursery, Muirhead, Stonehouse; J Marnie, Principal Teacher, Neilsland Primary School, Hamilton

Finance and Corporate Resources

L Hamilton, Administration Officer; S Jessup, Administration Assistant; J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

T Keay, Group Commander; W Wilkinson, Station Commander

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
	Can Do Community Challenge Fund Applications:-	
Devlin, Johnston-Dempsey	◆ Bothwell Futures	Members
McCreary	◆ Bothwell Futures/MorphFit	Member/Friend of owner

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 28 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 – 2023/2024 Annual Performance and Activity Report

T Keay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) gave a presentation on the Hamilton Area Performance and Activity Report 2023/2024.

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 2 years. 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)
- ◆ Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

T Keay responded to members' questions on various aspects of the presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

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

4 Education Scotland Report – Newfield Primary School and Nursery Class, Muirhead

A report dated 3 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Newfield Primary School and Nursery Class, Muirhead, Stonehouse made by Education Scotland.

The inspection had taken place in December 2023 as part of a national sample of primary education and the inspection letter reporting on the findings had been published on 27 February 2024

A number of strengths of the school had been highlighted in the inspection letter. The areas for improvement, agreed with the school and education authority, had been incorporated into the school's improvement plan and parents would be informed of progress.

The Quality Improvement Officer and L Horn, Headteacher:-

- ◆ discussed key elements of the positive inspection report
- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources - Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 23 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 Neilsland Primary School, Hamilton was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Neilsland Primary School demonstrated commitment to PB, pupil voice and the voice of its stakeholders, specifically in relation to equity and the cost of the school day. Choices of spend included:-

- ◆ the purchase of 5 Chromebooks
- ◆ stationery stations for each classroom
- ◆ all of the above

The overwhelming choice from the vote was the latter option of purchasing the Chromebooks and the stationery stations and the school's fund of £3,430 enabled them to do that.

Through the results of the PB work, Neilsland Primary School aimed to increase engagement levels of targeted pupils and increase their punctuality and attendance. Data was provided in the report with a comparison to data in 2023.

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.

J Marnie, Principal Teacher, responded to members' questions and comments on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 November 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Can Do Community Challenge Fund Applications

A report dated 23 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on applications to the Can Do Community Challenge Fund from organisations in the Hamilton Area.

The Can Do Community Challenge Fund was a 1 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 £69,805.12 be awarded to various organisations, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report

- ♦ provided background on when Area Committees had been notified of the Can Do Community Challenge Fund and the process by which the Fund was allocated for approval at Area Committees

The Committee decided: 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 £69,805.12.

Councillors Devlin and Johnston-Dempsey, having declared an interest in Bothwell Futures, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor McCreary, having declared an interest in Bothwell Futures and MorphFit, chose to withdraw from the meeting for the entire item

7 Playscheme Grant Applications

A report dated 29 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for playscheme grant for 2024/2025.

The playscheme funding would allow an allocation of £660 to be made to playschemes that operated over the summer, October and 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: Childcare in the Community, Hamilton (PS/HA/1/24)
Amount Awarded: £440
- (b) Applicant: REACH Lanarkshire Autism, Hamilton (PS/HA/2/24)
Amount Awarded: £440

[Reference: Minutes of 21 June 2023 (Paragraph 8)]

8 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 25 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ 8 applications for community grant to be met from the 2024/2025 budget
- ♦ 5 community grant applications which had been dealt with by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, during the period 29 February to 31 March 2024 to ensure that the 2023/2024 budget was utilised as fully as possible

There followed a lengthy discussion on the recommended grant awards to community groups which were presented to the Area Committee and the fact that the Committee had voted to award the maximum eligible amount at the last meeting of the financial year. It was expressed by some members that this was unfair on groups who had applied earlier in the financial year.

In response to a member's request that more information be provided to the Committee in relation to each grant application, the Administration Officer advised that, following a similar debate at a previous meeting, an agreement had been made with the 4 Area Committee Chairs that a copy of each grant application would be circulated to the Area Committee to help inform the amount awarded by the Committee. This procedure had been in place since early 2023.

The Committee decided:

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

- (a) Applicant: Larkhall New Parish Church Guild Outings Fund (HA/1/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (b) Applicant: Eddlewood Bowling Club Ladies' Section, Hamilton (HA/2/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (c) Applicant: The Art Room, Hamilton (HA/3/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and materials
Amount Awarded: £330
- (d) Applicant: SLC Radio, Hamilton (HA/4/24)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £300
- (e) Applicant: Bothwell Horticultural Society (HA/5/24)
Purpose of Grant: Materials, printing costs, outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £710
- (f) Applicant: Earnock Residents' Association, Hamilton (HA/7/24)
Purpose of Grant: Administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £250
- (g) Applicant: Hamilton District Youth Theatre (HDYT) (HA/8/24)
Purpose of Grant: Entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350
- (h) Applicant: Smile Children's Charity (SCIO), Larkhall (HA/9/24)
Purpose of Grant: Start-up costs – administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £300

(2) that the action taken during the period 29 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: Muiredge Primary School Parent Council, Uddingston (HA/39/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £600
- (b) Applicant: Trinity Church Woman's Group, Hamilton (HA/40/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (c) Applicant: Hamilton South Townswomens' Guild (HA/41/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (d) Applicant: Sharp and Gentles Fly Tying and Fishing Club, Hamilton (HA/42/23)
Purpose of Grant: Entrance fees and materials
Amount Awarded: £440

(e) Applicant: Dalserf Church Guild, Larkhall (HA/43/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350

[Reference: Minutes of 9 November 2022 (Paragraph 6) and 28 February 2024 (Paragraph 9)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.