

CLYDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

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

Chair:

Councillor Catherine McClymont

Councillors Present:

Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Ross Gowland (Depute), Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ross Lambie, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor David Shearer

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

J Archibald, Economic Development Officer; P Crisp, Team Leader; J Gibb, Change and Development Adviser

Education Resources

F Crooks, Headteacher; M Farr, Quality Link Officer; A Jessimer, Lead Officer; C Pennock, Headteacher

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager; C Lyon, Administration Officer; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Marrs	Can Do Community Challenge Fund Applications:-	
	◆ Forth and District Development Trust (2229)	Known to all 3 groups
	◆ Healthy Valleys (2232)	
	◆ Lanark Men's Shed (2142)	
	◆ Clydesdale Community Initiatives (2217)	Family member is an employee
McClymont	◆ Forth and District Development Trust (2229)	Member of groups
	◆ Clydesdale Community Initiatives (2217)	
Marrs	Community Grant Applications:-	
	◆ Kirkfieldbank Homing and Sporting Club, Lanark (CL/1/24)	Known to groups
	◆ Lanark and District U3A (CL/6/24)	

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 14 February 2024 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Education Scotland – Black Mount Primary School, Elsrickle, Biggar

A report dated 3 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of the inspection of Black Mount Primary School, Elsrickle, Biggar 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 6 February 2024.

A number of particular 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.

A Jessimer, Quality Link Officer and C Pennock, Headteacher, having spoken on key aspects of the report, were congratulated on the positive inspection report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

4 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources

A report dated 3 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 Lanark Primary School was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Lanark Primary School 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. Choices of spend included the continuation of zero cost trips and the increase in extra curricular clubs. The school had, to date, maintained zero cost trips. While there was still a full term left to gather results on club participation, 100% of P7s had attended at least 2 clubs so far.

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 Area Committees with:-

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

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

The Lead Officer responded to members' questions on the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 15 November 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

5 Clydesdale Way

A report dated 17 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the Clydesdale Way project.

In 2021/2022, the Council worked in partnership with Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Councils to develop a joint bid for Round Two of the UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF) targeting the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale, and Tweeddale constituency. The joint 'Three Rivers Active Tourism Project' bid had been targeted at promoting tourism, providing significant community benefits, improved culture and rural economies. The bid comprised of 3 projects, 1 from each of the 3 local authorities.

The Council's project had focused on its rural path and cycling network through the development of the Clydesdale Way to address the gaps in the regional paths network. The proposed route commenced at the end of the Clyde Walkway at Bonnington Lynn, creating a western spur to Douglas and eastern spur towards Biggar. From Wolfeclyde at Biggar, the route could travel towards John Buchan Way at Broughton in the Scottish Borders or continue south, past Coulter, Abington, Crawford, Elvanfoot and Leadhills to join the Southern Upland Way in Wanlockhead in Dumfries and Galloway. A high-level map was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

Detailed path route information had been developed through a feasibility commission carried out by Ironside Farrar in 2022, which produced RIBA Stage 2 Concept Drawings, budget costs and maps for the proposed routes.

The creation of the Clydesdale Way promoted numerous benefits, as detailed in Section 3.4 of the report.

The other local authorities' projects focused on the refurbishment wing key heritage assets, as detailed in Section 3.5 of the report.

The joint 'Three Rivers Active Tourism Project' bid had been co-ordinated by Stantec and was submitted in July 2022. The Outline Business Case and Concept Design to RIBA Stage 2 for Clydesdale Way, developed by Ironside Farrar, had been submitted as part of the bid.

The Council was informed in January 2023 that the Round 2 bid had been unsuccessful. The UK Government decided not to run a new competition for LUF Round 3 and had instead drawn on bids submitted in Round 2 which had been unsuccessful but had been assessed as 'high quality and ready to deliver'. On 20 November 2023, the UK Government advised that the Three Rivers Active Tourism Project had been provisionally awarded £22,809,416. The 3 councils were contributing £2,534,380 in match funding, bringing the total cost to £25,343,796.

The LUF grant was broken down as follows:-

- ◆ Clydesdale Way - £6,795,000
- ◆ The Chambers Institution - £4,195,800
- ◆ Annan Harbour - £13,131,796

The total project cost for Clydesdale Way was £7,550,000, and the Council had identified the £755,000 match funding as required by LUF.

The Council had completed the UK Government's validation process, and the formal offer of grant was anticipated in April 2024. This had not yet been received but was expected imminently.

The tender to appoint a consultancy team to manage and deliver the Clydesdale Way Project had been issued on 13 March 2024, with a closing date of 19 April 2024, via a Mini Competition from the Scotland Excel Engineering and Technical Consultancy Framework Lot 9.

The scope for the commission was to appoint a consultancy team to manage and deliver all professional services of the Project through RIBA Stages 3 to 6, as detailed in Section 5.2 of the report.

LUF criteria specified that grant funding should be spent by March 2026. The current programme indicated the remaining £755,000 Council match funding would be spent, and the overall project completed by September 2026.

A detailed programme of activity would be developed in conjunction with the successful contractor.

As part of the tender process, officers would carry out the assessment of bids to appoint the Consultant to manage, design and deliver the project.

An internal project team, with various disciplines across Council Resources, had been set up and would continue to meet on a regular basis to progress the project.

South Lanarkshire Council project leads would continue to meet regularly with Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Councils to co-ordinate the works, press, communication and future grant claims.

Section 11 of the report detailed implications in terms of a significant number of landowners' consents required to carry out work on those areas of land. A number of alternative routes had been identified as mitigation and to help ensure continuity of pathways.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Lanark Racecourse Masterplan and Wider Racecourse Update

A report dated 11 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the following:-

- ◆ the work that had been undertaken to prepare the Lanark Racecourse Masterplan
- ◆ proposals to publicise the Masterplan document
- ◆ next steps in implementing the Masterplan
- ◆ progress to deliver the Lanark Community Workshop

Lanark Racecourse and surrounding woodland, part of Lanark's Common Good, sat on the edge of the market town and adjacent to Lanark Loch. Formerly a racecourse, the area now performed an important role as an open space for the town. As well as there being formal uses, such as equestrian centre, grass and artificial sports pitches, the area was popular for walking, trail cycling and other outdoor leisure activities. The extensive nature and flexibility of the site also lent itself to one-off events, such as horse and dog shows, caravan conventions, sports competitions and the occasional concert.

Lanark's Common Good was 'heritable and moveable property' which was owned by the Council and passed down through local government reorganisations from the former Burgh. Common Good assets were owned by the Council and managed for the benefit of the citizens of the former Burgh. Common Good funds were held separately from other local authority funds for accounting purposes. New rules in relation to Common Good were introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and, although the Lanark Racecourse Masterplan would form the foundation for external funding applications, the relevant legislation would require the community to be formally consulted prior to the delivery of any project where a property transaction would take place.

Following a competitive procurement process, Ironside Farrar had been commissioned to develop the Lanark Racecourse Masterplan and Priority Project Report. The Masterplan had been prepared under the guidance of officers within Enterprise and Sustainable Development Services, Property Services and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC), in consultation with the community of Lanark. The process also had input from Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot.

Development of the Masterplan involved engagement with the local community since the asset formed part of the Common Good and was predominantly used by local people. The Masterplan set out the process which was undertaken in its preparation and outlined the results of community and stakeholder engagements, as detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report. The initial consultation exercise had identified the racecourse's strengths and weaknesses, as detailed at paragraph 4.4 of the report, which had allowed the team to focus on how those could be improved or enhanced.

The Masterplan set out a range of recommendations, as guided by the community and stakeholder engagement exercise. The main recommended actions/investments focused on building the site's quality, distinctiveness and appeal, as fully detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report. An Action Plan summary formed part of the Masterplan and was provided in Appendix 1 of the report. The Action Plan, which would remain a live document, set out 26 actions, together with associated timescales and potential partners/lead organisations. The Masterplan was intended to support the development and delivery of projects and would assist in securing funding to deliver projects led by a range of partners. The Masterplan would be the basis to move forward, however, approvals relating to specific projects, including funding, delivery and individual business plans, would be taken to the appropriate committee for approval.

The next steps and timescales were set out at section 5 of the report.

Section 6 of the report detailed wider Lanark Racecourse related projects. In 2016, the Council had secured funding of £807,000 from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to develop a Clydesdale Rural Development Centre. However, this project could not be delivered due to difficulties securing a site within the town. Work had been progressing since autumn 2022 to deliver a dual building project on the racecourse site. During the design process, it had become clear that the funding available would not allow the project to be delivered in its original form. Despite detailed enquiries, it had not been possible to secure sufficient additional funding streams either by the Council or the identified occupiers of the business space, Healthy Valleys. In agreement with the Scottish Government, the project had been reduced in scope to develop only the community workshop at this time.

The Council had offered to work with Healthy Valleys to assist in identification of new premises or site where a building project could be taken forward to meet its needs. The development of the Lanark Community Workshop had secured planning permission for a location close to the existing car park. The contract had been awarded and work would commence in spring 2024. The tenant of the Workshop was the Lanimer Committee.

The costs to the Council in preparing the Masterplan had been funded through external sources, with support from the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) approved at the 9 August 2022 meeting of the Committee. Each of the actions and projects identified in the Masterplan would require funding and would be considered on an individual basis. The Lanark Common Good Fund, supported by revenues attracted from the Common Good Estate, would continue to support activities related to the upkeep of Common Good assets. The use of those Funds to support new investment would only be considered where revenues allowed, and approvals would be required. It was intended that external funding would lead the delivery of investment on the Racecourse and not Common Good Funds.

Council management of the site would continue within existing identified budgets.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 6 February 2024 (Paragraph 9)]

7 Can Do Community Challenge Fund Applications

A report dated 17 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications to the Can Do Community Challenge Fund from organisations in the Clydesdale 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 £97,948.20 be awarded to various organisations, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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

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 £97,948.20.

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in applications 2229, 2232, 2217 and 2142, and Councillor McClymont, having declared an interest in applications 2229 and 2217, left the meeting during their consideration

8 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 15 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ 5 applications for community grant to be met from the 2024/2025 budget
- ◆ 4 community grant applications which had been dealt with by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair, during the period 15 February 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: | Kirkfieldbank Homing and Sporting Club, Lanark (CL/1/24) |
| Purpose of Grant: | Equipment, administration and publicity costs |
| Amount Awarded: | £250 |

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (b) Applicant: Carstairs Senior Citizens' Association (CL/2/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £405
- (c) Applicant: Law Parish Church Guild (CL/3/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300
- (d) Applicant: Lanark and District U3A (CL/6/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300

Councillor Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (e) Applicant: Elsrickle WRI (CL/7/24)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350

- (2) that the action taken during the period 15 February to 31 March 2024 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair and Depute Chair, to approve the award of community grants from the 2023/2024 budget be noted:-

- (a) Applicant: Cargill House Club, Lanark (CL/37/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £480

As the Chair had declared an interest in the above application, it was approved by the Depute Chair

- (b) Applicant: Boghead Improvement Group, Lesmahagow (CL/38/23)
Purpose of Grant: Start-up costs
Amount Awarded: £300
- (c) Applicant: Forth and Wilsontown Bowling Club, Forth (CL/39/23)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £350
- (d) Applicant: Hawksland Scottish Women's Institute, Lesmahagow (CL/40/23)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and entrance fees
Amount Awarded: £350

[Reference: Minutes of 14 February 2024 (Paragraph 7)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.