

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 12 March 2024

Chair:

Councillor Joe Fagan

Present:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Alex Allison, Robert Brown, John Ross

P Manning, Chief Executive; J Taylor, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Federation of Small Businesses

H Kuboyama, Development Manager, West of Scotland

NHS Lanarkshire

J Pravinkumar, Director of Public Health

University of the West of Scotland

T Adamson, Estates Environmental Manager

VASLan

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

Also Attending:

South Lanarkshire Council

Chief Executive's Service

J Kerr, Community Engagement Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; S Somerville, Administration Manager, I Strachan, Head of Administration and Legal Services

Community and Enterprise Resources

I Ross, Project Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

J Read, Strategy and Policy Advisor

HubSW

J Drugan, Social Value Manager; M Ross, Chief Executive; S Sands, Development Director

Apologies:

South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Margaret Cooper, Kirsten Robb, Margaret B Walker

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

NHS Lanarkshire

J Gardner, Chief Executive

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 12 December 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 HubSW – Social Impact and Community Wealth Building in South Lanarkshire

A report dated 22 February 2024 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted providing an overview of community benefits delivered through the Council's partnership with HubSW across affordable housing, education and health investment projects in South Lanarkshire.

HubSW had been established by the Scottish Government in 2012 as 1 of 5 new public/private partnership approaches to support the effective delivery of investment and infrastructure projects across southwest Scotland.

HubSW operated across 6 local authority areas which included South Lanarkshire, with a focus on delivering projects across the housing, education, health and leisure sectors. A key ambition of the partnership was to maximise the social value and benefits gained from those projects.

M Ross and J Drugan, HubSW gave a presentation outlining HubSW's partnership with the Council to date and its commitment to supporting Community Wealth Building in South Lanarkshire.

Further updates would continue to be provided to the Commission as the Council's Affordable Housing Supply Programme was delivered which aimed to provide 1,300 additional council homes by 31 March 2027.

M Ross and J Drugan responded to members' questions on maximising capital investment with diminishing budgets, the challenge of working towards net zero and local authorities' input in terms of planning for programmes.

The Chair thanked the representatives from HubSW for their informative presentation.

The Commission decided:

- (1) that the report and presentation be noted; and
- (2) that the future opportunities to expand the social value and community benefits of investment projects through HubSW from across Commissions membership organisations, be considered.

4 Community Wish List

A report dated 20 February 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing an update on the establishment and development of the Community Wish.

Community Wish Lists had been established across the public sector where communities were enabled to put forward requests for specific needs or benefits that could be supported, on selection, by suppliers delivering contracts. The main advantage was it encouraged and provided a more bottom-up approach to delivering community benefits as part of the public sector procurement process, where communities' needs were being directly specified by communities and met by contractors.

In July 2022, the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission received an update that all 8 local authorities in the Glasgow City Region had agreed to work together to develop a regional web-based Community Wish List interface, which had a shared backroom and individual landing pages. This would allow South Lanarkshire and the other member authorities to have control over their own process and the content of their web page. The procurement process was expected to start in 2022 but was subsequently delayed. However, it was now about to commence.

At that time, South Lanarkshire Council identified investment funding which supported a fixed term 0.5 FTE officer post in the Community Engagement Team to work with communities to promote understanding and awareness of the Community Wish List. This enabled progress with the Wish List in South Lanarkshire despite the delay in the regional platform.

Preparatory work had been done with communities to introduce the new concept prior to the interface going live in July 2023.

The Community Engagement Manager advised that, by the end of February 2024, 123 wishes had been registered, some of which had been withdrawn, and 33 had been answered at a value of £26,300.

The current platform was free of charge as it was hosted within the Council's existing website but required 'staff resource' to update and maintain it. Moving to the new regional platform and automating the service would need to be considered for cost and also for content and function control which would be assessed once it was procured.

Information on the delivery model and process were detailed in the report as well as future considerations for the concept as the temporary funding for the project officer was due to end on 30 June 2024.

The Head of Communications and Strategy responded to a member's question in terms of the temporary post and ways in which the concept could be delivered going forward. In response to a further question, the Community Engagement Manager confirmed that the Community Wish List had been fully integrated into the Community Benefits menu.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

5 Town Centre Update

A report 22 February 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on town centre activity.

The nature of town centres across the UK remained in a transitional stage. The range of issues involved in the challenges town centres were facing were broad and complex. Factors such as Covid-19 pandemic, internet shopping, growth of out-of-town shopping malls, changes in retailer's business models and consumer expectations had resulted in a decline in town centre footfall.

Supporting town centres remained a priority and the Council would continue to work closely with the appropriate groups and organisations in each town, through a partnership approach, to achieve common goals.

Local communities remained supportive of their town centres and had a desire to see them thrive. It was accepted that the traditional function of a retail town centre needed to change to meet the needs and expectations of modern communities.

I Ross, Project Manager advised that the Place Based Investment Programme was now at the end of Year 3, with Year 4 monies committed and Year 5 remaining available for new projects.

An update was provided on the following town centres:-

- ◆ Hamilton
- ◆ East Kilbride
- ◆ Rutherglen
- ◆ Lanark

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

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

6 Community Wealth Building Progress Group Terms of Reference

A report dated 15 February 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the updated Terms of Reference for the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Progress Group.

At the Council's Executive Committee meeting on 10 March 2021, the CWB Strategy was approved which included the formation of a CWB Commission.

At its meeting on 27 October 2021, the CWB Commission approved the Terms of Reference for the CWB Progress Group where it was recommended that it meet on an 8-weekly basis, however, recognised that the frequency of the meetings might need to be adjusted following an initial period of activity.

The Progress Group would now meet 4 times per annum, to reflect the frequency of Commission meetings. The revised Terms of Reference were attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Commission decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community Wealth Building Commission of 27 October 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

7 Meetings Timetable 2024/2025

A report dated 15 February 2024 by the Chief Executive was submitted proposing that future dates of the Community Wealth Building Commission take place at 2pm on the following dates:-

- ◆ Tuesday 11 June 2024
- ◆ Tuesday 10 September 2024
- ◆ Tuesday 3 December 2024
- ◆ Tuesday 18 March 2025

The Commission decided: that future meetings of the Commission be held on the dates detailed above.

8 Forward Programme for Future Meetings

A report dated 15 February 2024 by the Chief Executive 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.