

# **Report**

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>10 March 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b> <b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Business Plan 2021/2022</b>
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## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Update members on the production of the South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Business Plan for 2021/22.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire and Culture Business Plan for 2021/22 be noted.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited (SLLC) assumed responsibility for the operation, management and development of sports and leisure, community halls, arts venues, country parks, libraries and museums on behalf of South Lanarkshire Council.
- 3.2. The Funding Agreement requires SLLC to submit a business plan to the Council not less than four months prior to commencement of the annual period of funding each year.
- 3.3 South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) produced an annual Business Plan for the year 2021/22 which was presented to and approved by the South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) Board on 17 February 2021. This has been submitted for information by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources).
- 3.4 As in previous years, the Business Plan takes cognisance of key SLC policies and strategies including the Council Plan ('Connect') and the strategic themes of the Community Planning Partnership and SLC Community Learning and Development Plan.
- 3.5 In preparing the 2021/22 business plan, SLLC faced a number of issues which make business planning particularly challenging this year, namely:
- ◆ The ongoing work of the Cross-Party Working Group (CPWG) aims to clarify and shape the future direction for SLLC, establishing a clear strategic framework for

the provision of cultural and leisure activities in South Lanarkshire. Once the outcomes from this work are agreed, SLLC will require to adapt the 2021/22 plan to prioritise these and work in conjunction with SLC officers to ensure this new direction is fully captured in subsequent business plans.

- ◆ In terms of Covid-19, given the current and anticipated level of restrictions, the timing and nature of service resumption is uncertain. As such, it is difficult to set out in detail how and when the business will perform in the following year.

- 3.6. Notwithstanding the above, it remains important that SLLC produce a business plan so as to ensure that its stakeholders and funding partners, including the Council, are made aware of how SLLC is planning as best it can in the circumstances. For this year, SLLC recognise that, in effect, the business plan, as prepared, is a 'holding statement'. As and when clarification on the work of the CPWG is forthcoming and Covid-19 restrictions are eased, it is proposed that the business plan is reviewed.
- 3.7. SLLC's vision of 'providing opportunities to enrich people's lives' has retained its prominence throughout the plan as it continues to address the health inequalities prevalent in South Lanarkshire.
- 3.8. Priorities for the year include; recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, implementing the outcomes of the CPWG in partnership with the Council, improved partnership working and maximising income whilst controlling expenditure.
- 3.9 The Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources), have reviewed the business plan and consider that the objectives are consistent with the strategic policies of the Council. The Plan has subsequently been approved by the SLLC Board on 17 February 2021.

#### **4. Business Plan Progress 2020/21**

- 4.1. The majority of SLLC's services closed to the public on 18 March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and, consequently, many of the actions within the 2020/21 Business Plan were unable to be progressed. That said, SLLC continued to make an effective contribution to the achievement of SLC's corporate policy objectives both in terms of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the continued support of South Lanarkshire's communities.

- 4.2. Particular highlights include:

- ◆ SLLC employees supported South Lanarkshire's communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic with levels of up to 500 employees deployed at one time, including working in care homes, pharmacies, test and protect, shielding and wellbeing helpline, community meals and supporting Education hubs.
- ◆ SLLC has been working in close partnership with the Council and NHS to drive forward the community mass vaccination programme through the provision of facilities and employees at vaccination sites across South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ Extended online offering including arts and crafts classes, fitness classes, Bookbug sessions, access to eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and eNewspapers through the online Library Service.
- ◆ Continued provision of those services permitted by Scottish Government within Covid-19 compliant procedures including outdoor fitness classes, club access to athletics track, non-contact football training, tennis, golf, outdoor learning and adventure activities, weddings, with restrictions, and access to country parks.
- ◆ SLLC secured £250k external funding through the Scottish Government Relief Arts Fund to support venues in 2020/21. Although lockdown measures curtailed much of the planned programme, SLLC have successfully presented an online

programme of 48 arts courses and classes with 19 arts tutors and a Hogmanay Variety Show broadcast free on SLLC's YouTube channel with eight freelance artists commissioned to deliver. SLLC also worked in partnership with Tall Stories to put on an online broadcast and delivered an online reading project, the Christmas Big Story, with the Libraries Team.

- ♦ Active Schools have provided support to 20 emergency childcare hubs by providing daily sport and physical activity for 10 weeks. A broad range of interactive videos were delivered to encourage physical activity during lockdown. Clubs were supported ensuring 'return to sport' protocols were in place and maintained. Six Continuous Personal Development online courses were provided for 236 teachers covering various sports. One hundred and nine young people were supported through the Sports Leaders UK Dance awards.
- ♦ SLLC's Health Team, in partnership with Seniors Together, distributed salt sticks to participants who attended Active Day sessions and online classes were delivered throughout lockdown to encourage participants to stay active for their physical and mental health.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. As noted above, the continued uncertainty around service resumption will impact on the 2021/22 budgetary position. The proposed service fee for 2021/22 is £19.063m and additional payments have been made in 2020/21 to date of £1.269m. This will be closely monitored in consultation with SLLC, as has been the case throughout 2020/21.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. There are no significant implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.
- 7.2. Issues regarding sustainability are covered within the Business Plan.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. Work is carried out on a regular basis to determine the Trust's top risks and identify controls and actions to mitigate these.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in terms of the proposals and actions contained in this report. However, specific impact assessments may be required as proposals are developed and approved. Appropriate consultation will also be carried out at this stage.
- 9.2. The Business Plan is informed by both formal and informal consultation with staff, customers and other stakeholders.

**Michael McGlynn**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Efficient and Effective use of Resources

**Previous References**

- ◆ Report to Executive Committee of 25 March 2020 - South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited Draft Business Plan 2020/21

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited Draft Business Plan 2021/22

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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