



Council Offices, Almada Street
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Tuesday, 02 March 2021

Dear Councillor

South Lanarkshire Council

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the Council to be held as follows:-

Date: Wednesday, 10 March 2021
Time: 11:30 (or immediately following the Executive Committee, whichever is the later.)
Venue: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

Members

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, Mo Razzaq, John Ross, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

BUSINESS

- 1 Declaration of Interests**
- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting** 3 - 14
Minutes of the meeting of South Lanarkshire Council held on 16 December 2020 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)
- 3 Minutes of Special Meetings** 15 - 16
Minutes of the special meetings of South Lanarkshire Council held on 16 December 2020 (copy attached) and 24 February 2021 (copy to follow) submitted for approval as a correct record.
- 4 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee** 17 - 22
Minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 21 September 2020 submitted for noting. (Copy attached)
- 5 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee (Special)** 23 - 26
Minutes of the special meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 16 November 2020 submitted for noting. (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

- 6 Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee** 27 - 30
Report dated 23 February 2021 by the Chief Executive. (Copy attached)
- 7 Amendment to Membership of Licensing Committee** 31 - 32
Report dated 17 February 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 8 Notice of Motion - Benefits** 33 - 34
Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 5 January 2021, proposed by Councillor Convery and seconded by Councillor Fagan. (Copy attached)
- 9 Notice of Motion - Cycle Hire** 35 - 36
Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 15 February 2021, proposed by Councillor Lennon and seconded by Councillor Fagan. (Copy attached)

Urgent Business

- 10 Urgent Business**
Any other items of business which the Provost decides are urgent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name: Susan Somerville

Clerk Telephone: 01698 454197

Clerk Email: susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 December 2020

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Collette Stevenson (Depute), Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Jim McGuigan

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

V de Souza, Director

Also Attending:

D Richardson, Audit Scotland

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost extended congratulations to:-

- ◆ Councillor Hamilton who was attending her first Council meeting following the birth of her baby girl, Erin

- ◆ Councillors Horsham and Logan on winning the New Councillor of the Year and Life Contribution awards respectively at the LGIU Scotland and CCLA 2020 Councillor Awards

1 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 23 September 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 18 June 2020 were submitted for noting.

The Council decided: that the minutes be noted.

4 General Procedures and Practices at Committee

A report dated 18 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on matters considered and endorsed by the Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum (SPAF).

At its meeting held on 30 September 2020, the SPAF considered the following 2 issues:-

- ◆ moving/seconding recommendations at committee
- ◆ removing the requirement for named substitutes

In relation to moving/seconding officer recommendations at committee, while recognising that Standing Orders stated that the chairperson of a committee or sub-committee would have the right to move the approval of a report, the Forum endorsed a change in operational practice in terms of moving and seconding recommendations at quasi judicial committees, as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report.

In terms of named substitutes, the Forum endorsed a proposal to remove the requirement for named substitutes in respect of the Recovery Board only to allow greater flexibility, particularly given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following discussion, and, having heard from the Head of Administration and Legal Services on the matter, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Scott, moved as an amendment that Recommendation (1) be disregarded as the existing Standing Orders already allowed for this.

On a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Colette Stevenson, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson Josh Wilson

Amendment

Walter Brogan, Jackie Burns, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Davie McLachlan, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker

20 members voted for the amendment and 42 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the change in operational practice in terms of moving and seconding recommendations at quasi judicial committees, as outlined at paragraph 3.2 of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the requirement for named substitutes in respect of the Recovery Board be removed and its Terms of Reference updated.

Councillor Lowe left the meeting during this item of business and prior to the vote

5 Equity Working Group – Terms of Reference

A report dated 26 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a draft Terms of Reference for the Equity Working Group.

At its meeting held on 23 September 2020, the Council agreed that an all-party Working Group would be established which would be tasked to:-

- ◆ consider an officer’s report on recruitment disparities between white and BAME applicants
- ◆ investigate and identify sources of inequity
- ◆ develop consensus on effective ways to address them
- ◆ recommend measures to ensure equitable treatment to Council

The draft Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had been the subject of consultation, as outlined at paragraph 4.2 of the report, and endorsed by the Working Group.

The Council decided: that the Terms of Reference for the Equity Working Group, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 23 September 2020 (Paragraph 11)]

6 Committee and Council Meetings – Accessibility During the Current Pandemic

A report dated 30 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a proposal to make Committee and Council meetings accessible to the public during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council's Committee and Council meetings had been impacted by the current pandemic and, in terms of public health concerns and legislation, members of the public were not permitted to enter public buildings.

During June 2020, a pilot was undertaken to hold certain committee meetings via Microsoft (MS) Teams. Following the pilot, a survey was issued to members on its use and a copy of the outcome of the survey was attached as an appendix to the report.

Following the summer recess, the full programme of meetings had resumed and a blended approach was adopted, whereby members could choose to participate in person within the committee suite, while observing physical distancing measures, or by virtual means.

More recently, committee meetings had been held via MS Teams only, given the current level assigned to the South Lanarkshire area. For those meetings which would, in normal circumstances, be held in public, a Teams meeting invite was extended to the Local Democracy Reporter as well as the Council's Corporate Communications officers to allow Council business matters to be reported in the press.

The Head of Administration and Legal Services advised that, while the Council had conducted a trial of Microsoft Teams Live Events, it was not yet in a position to stream meetings live as there were certain issues that had not yet been resolved. Those included, in terms of equalities requirements, the ability to pin participants to allow the Interpreters to be fixed on screen and the use of subtitles.

It was proposed that, as the meetings were currently recorded for the purposes of the minutes, the recording for the non-restricted element of business be published following the committee meeting on an appropriate channel, such as YouTube, with links from the Council's website.

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Nelson, moved the following as an amendment:-

"Replace existing recommendation

- (1) that the recording from committee and Council meetings for the non-restricted element of business be published and made available following the meeting.

with the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the recording from committee and Council meetings for the non-restricted element of business be published and made available following the meeting.
- (2) the council will work towards the Live Broadcasting of all committee and Council meetings for the non-restricted element of business as soon as possible.
- (3) to facilitate this and to allow for potential teething challenges, a trial of live meeting broadcasts be aimed at the March 2021 Finance and Corporate Committee, pending no major technical glitches."

Councillor McGeever, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved the following as a further amendment:-

"Council believes that

1. Local democracy should be both transparent and inclusive and that the public and media should be able to view proceedings of the Council and its Committees
2. The vast expansion in teleconference facilities stimulated by the coronavirus pandemic opens up opportunities to provide enhanced access to the proceedings of the Council by the citizens of South Lanarkshire.

Council therefore approves the recommendation but notes that many other Local Authorities across the United Kingdom have found it possible to allow public access to Council and Committee meetings, that many Churches have facilitated online access to church services, and that numerous other public, private and voluntary sector bodies, large and small, have provided successful online access to conferences, webinars and other events.

Council agrees in principle that all relevant meetings of the Council and its Committees shall be open to the public and requests the Chief Executive to make arrangements in respect of any relevant meetings of the Council or its committees occurring after 18th January 2021 for contemporaneous virtual access to such meetings by such means as shall be most appropriate.”

Councillor Ferguson intimated that, while he welcomed the proposal to make virtual meetings open to the public, he considered that there was a need to ensure they were fully accessible to all by incorporating British Sign Language interpretation and subtitles. By doing so, this would promote South Lanarkshire Council as being one of the most inclusive local authorities in Scotland. He referred to the current inability of MS Live Events to pin participants and how it was important that trials be undertaken to get it right for all.

In response to various points raised by members, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) advised that it was the Council’s intention to move towards live streaming, however, at this point, he could not confirm timescales. Currently, MS Teams was not suitable for streaming to a wide public audience and, as MS Teams Live Events had a different look and feel to the current offering, it would require further pilot events to be held. He continued that he would like to have progressed the procurement of better IT hardware, however, due to other priorities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as rolling out MS Teams across the Council and facilitating the business grants process, this had not proven possible. He advised that his intention would be to do this in the first quarter of 2021 and the current proposals were only the first stage in moving towards live streaming.

There followed a full discussion and, as no-one moved the recommendations in the report, the amendment by Councillor Campbell, being the first received, became the motion.

On a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Archie Buchanan, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Colette Stevenson, Jared Wark, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, David Watson

24 members voted for the amendment and 37 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the recording from committee and Council meetings for the non-restricted element of business be published and made available following the meeting;
- (2) that the Council work towards the live broadcasting of all committee and Council meetings for the non-restricted element of business as soon as possible; and
- (3) that in order to facilitate live broadcasting and to allow for potential teething challenges, a trial of live meeting broadcasts be aimed for the March 2021 Finance and Corporate Resources Committee, pending no major technical glitches.

Councillor Burns left the meeting during this item of business and prior to the vote

7 Notice of Motion – A Pesticide Free Council

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Dryburgh, was submitted as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council notes:-

- a. the increasing public concern about the use of pesticides, particularly those containing glyphosate, in weed control and the potential damage to health and to biodiversity.
- b. The potential expiry in December 2022 of the licence to use glyphosate.

The Council agrees:-

1. To identify and audit the extent of the Council’s spending on pesticides
2. To develop a pesticide policy stating for public information the current uses made of pesticides by the Council and their locations
3. To consider and report on alternatives to pesticide weed control and the potential for reducing longer term costs
4. To pilot alternative methods of weed control and pesticide free zones in partnership with local groups where appropriate
5. To commit to the aim of a pesticide-free Council (joining numerous other towns and cities across Britain and in other countries) and to set a timetable for the phased elimination of pesticide use by Council resources and their contractors”.

Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved the following as an amendment:-

“Replace the wording from "South Lanarkshire Council notes:-

- a the increasing public concern about the use of Pesticides and Herbicides, particularly those containing glyphosate, in weed control and the alleged potential damage to health and to biodiversity.
- b The potential expiry in December 2022 of the licence to use glyphosate.

With the Council agrees:-

To bring a paper to the Climate Change Committee

- 1 To identify and audit the extent of the Council's spending on pesticides and herbicides

- 2 To explain the current pesticide and herbicide policy stating for public information the uses made of pesticides and herbicides by the Council and where they are currently used.
- 3 Consider both the costs and efficacy of alternative weed control of pesticide and herbicide along with the feasibility of free zones in partnership with local groups where appropriate
- 4 To consider the implications of being a pesticide-free Council and whether to set a timetable for the phased elimination of pesticide and herbicide use by Council resources and their contractors.”

During discussion, Councillor Allison referred to point 3 of the amendment and asked for clarification on the wording. Councillor Craig confirmed that it should have read as ‘Consider both the costs and efficacy of alternative weed control methods and to consider the use of pesticide and herbicide along with the feasibility of free zones in partnership with local groups where appropriate.’

Following concerns highlighted by members that Councillor Ferguson could not fully participate in the remainder of the meeting as the Interpreters required to leave the meeting to attend other commitments due to insufficient time booked for their services, the Provost, in terms of Standing Order No 13, adjourned the meeting at 2.04pm to allow time to establish whether alternative Interpreter services could be secured.

The meeting reconvened at 2.30pm, with the attendance of 2 Interpreters. The Provost, on behalf of the Council, offered sincere apologies to Councillor Ferguson, with the assurance that steps would be taken to prevent a recurrence of the situation. Councillors Buchanan and Carmichael were not present when the meeting reconvened.

Following a full discussion, on a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, David Watson

Amendment

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marris, Ian McAllan, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Colette Stevenson, Jared Wark, Josh Wilson

36 members voted for the amendment and 23 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) to note the increasing public concern about the use of pesticides and herbicides, particularly those containing glyphosate, in weed control and the alleged potential damage to health and to biodiversity;
- (2) to note the potential expiry in December 2022 of the licence to use glyphosate; and

(3) that a report be brought to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee to:-

- ◆ identify and audit the extent of the Council's spending on pesticides and herbicides
- ◆ explain the current pesticide and herbicide policy stating, for public information, the uses made of pesticides and herbicides by the Council and where they were currently used
- ◆ consider both the costs and efficacy of alternative weed control methods and to consider the use of pesticide and herbicide along with the feasibility of free zones in partnership with local groups, where appropriate
- ◆ consider the implications of being a pesticide-free Council and whether to set a timetable for the phased elimination of pesticide and herbicide use by Council resources and their contractors

8 Notice of Motion – Covid-19 Testing

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Walker, was submitted as follows:-

“Further to the Statement to the Scottish Parliament by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on 25 November 2020 on Covid-19 (Roll-out of Testing Programme), the Council notes its concern:

- ◆ That the roll-out of visitor testing to all care homes in Scotland will not be completed until February 2021.
- ◆ That the roll-out of regular testing to the home care workforce, including permanent and visiting staff and personal assistants in a person's home, covering residential settings, sheltered housing and day care, will not be completed until March 2021.
- ◆ That South Lanarkshire is not included in initial trials for targeted geographic testing.

The Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Cabinet Secretary on behalf of the Council, requesting that the Scottish Government take all reasonable steps to accelerate the provision of visitor testing in care homes, the testing of home care workforce and wider community testing in South Lanarkshire.

The Council investigates means of independently accelerating visitor testing in care homes, home care testing and wider community testing, should the Scottish Government be unwilling to do so.

The Council resolves to consult joint trade unions to identify occupational areas where additional testing of key workers may be prioritised.”

Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Bradley, moved the following as an amendment:-

“Delete from ‘the Council notes its concern’ to end and replace with ‘the Council welcomes:

Plans to significantly expand testing as a further layer of protection for those most at risk of contracting Covid-19

That lateral flow tests are now available nationally for designated care home visitors, adding a further layer of protection for residents. PCR testing will also be provided over the Christmas period for those that do not have access to lateral flow tests.

The hard work of staff across the Health and Social Care Partnerships, Social Care, Scottish Care, CCPS and COSLA to deliver testing for designated care home visitors.

That plans for a Lanarkshire regional testing facility are currently underway.

The beginning of the vaccine programme which will further protect individuals from contracting the virus.”

Councillor Nelson suggested the following addition and slight amendment to the wording of the original motion:-

Addition

“The Council thanks all staff who will be involved in delivering the vaccination roll-out and for their continued dedication during this pandemic. Also, that this Council gives a clear commitment to the vaccination programme and that the focus is on getting the vaccination delivered.”

Amendment:

Replace ‘The Council resolves to consult Joint Trade Unions . . .’ with ‘The Council will work in partnership with Joint Trade Unions . . .’

This was accepted by Councillor Fagan.

Following a full discussion, on a vote being taken by roll call, members voted as follows:-

Motion

Alex Allison, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Graeme Campbell, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson

Amendment

John Anderson, John Bradley, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Grant Ferguson, Geri Gray, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Katy Loudon, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Gladys Miller, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Colette Stevenson, Josh Wilson

22 members voted for the amendment and 36 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) that, further to the Statement to the Scottish Parliament by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on 25 November 2020 on Covid-19 (Roll-out of Testing Programme), its concerns be noted that:-
- ◆ the roll-out of visitor testing to all care homes in Scotland would not be completed until February 2021
 - ◆ the roll-out of regular testing to the home care workforce, including permanent and visiting staff and personal assistants in a person’s home, covering residential settings, sheltered housing and day care, would not be completed until March 2021
 - ◆ South Lanarkshire was not included in initial trials for targeted geographic testing

- (2) that the Chief Executive write to the Cabinet Secretary, on behalf of the Council, requesting that the Scottish Government take all reasonable steps to accelerate the provision of visitor testing in care homes, the testing of home care workforce and wider community testing in South Lanarkshire;
- (3) that means of independently accelerating visitor testing in care homes, home care testing and wider community testing be investigated, should the Scottish Government be unwilling to do so;
- (4) to work in partnership with Joint Trades Unions to identify occupational areas where additional testing of key workers may be prioritised;
- (5) to record its thanks to all staff who would be involved in delivering the vaccination roll-out and for their continued dedication during this pandemic; and
- (6) that a clear commitment be given to the vaccination programme, with a focus on getting the vaccination delivered.

Councillor Fulton was not present during the vote

9 Amendment to Membership of Committees etc

A report dated 9 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on proposed amendments to the memberships of Committees, etc.

The Council decided:

- (1) that Councillor Burns be replaced by Councillor Wardhaugh as a member of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee;
- (2) that Councillor McGavigan be replaced by Councillor Corbett as a member of the Executive Committee;
- (3) that Councillor Corbett be replaced by Councillor Harrow as a substitute member of the Executive Committee and that, as a consequence, he no longer serve as a substitute member on the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum and the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee;
- (4) that Councillor McGavigan be replaced by Councillor Holford as a member of the Rural Task Force;
- (5) that Councillor McGavigan be replaced by Councillor Harrow as a substitute member of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee;
- (6) that Councillor McGavigan be replaced by Councillor Hose as a substitute member of the Planning Committee; and
- (7) that Councillor McGavigan be replaced by Councillor McCreary as a substitute member of the Education Resources Committee.

10 External Auditors Annual Report to South Lanarkshire Council 2019/2020

A report dated 25 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the External Auditor's, Audit Scotland, Annual Report to the Council for 2019/2020.

The Council decided: that the External Auditor's Annual Report 2019/2020 to the Council be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee (Special) of 16 November 2020 (Paragraph 2)]

11 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Minutes of special meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 December 2020

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Alistair Fulton, Councillor Geri Gray, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor Collette Stevenson (Depute), Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Archie Buchanan, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Joe Lowe

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

V de Souza, Director

1 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

2 Review of the South Lanarkshire Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils

A report dated 2 December 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed amendments to the South Lanarkshire Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils.

At its meeting held on 23 September 2020, the Council agreed to commence a restricted review of the Scheme to address the issue of restrictions placed on Community Councils to hold their meetings in public and the requirement for members of the public to be physically present, which had been highlighted during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft amendments to Clause 11 of the Scheme would:-

- ◆ allow all or some of the members of the Community Council, press and public to attend a meeting using remote access
- ◆ suspend the requirement for the public to be able to physically attend any meetings

In accordance with legislation, a public consultation on the proposed amendments was undertaken for a period of 8 weeks and was advertised in line with the temporary provisions put in place through the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

Following the consultation period, the Council had received 19 representations. While many of those representations were supportive of the principle that Community Councils be permitted to meet online, they also made objections and expressed concerns in relation the proposals. A summary of issues raised and the Council's response to those issues were detailed in the report.

It was recommended that the Council adopt the amendments to the existing Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2.

The Head of Administration and Legal Services responded to members' questions.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the responses to the consultation on the proposed amendments to the South Lanarkshire Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils (the Scheme) be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed amendments to the current terms of Clause 11 of the Scheme, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 23 September 2020 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor McGuigan joined the meeting during this item of business

RISK AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 21 September 2020

Chair:

Councillor Graeme Campbell

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Carol Nugent

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Jared Wark

Attending:

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; Y Douglas, Audit and Compliance Manager; S Dunsmore, Insurance and Risk Manager; P MacRae, Administration Adviser

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 18 June 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Internal Audit Plan 2020/2021

A report dated 1 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the proposed Internal Audit Plan for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2021.

As a result of a change of working arrangements for the Internal Audit function in light of the Coronavirus pandemic, a work programme for the period 1 April to 31 August 2020, had been developed. This Plan was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, together with an update on progress at 28 August 2020.

A formal Audit Plan had now been prepared for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2021. The proposed Internal Audit Plan, which included a brief outline scope for each proposed assignment, was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The Audit Plan aimed to reflect the key objective of the Service which was to deliver a programme of work that would inform the annual audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control arrangements.

The Plan would remain under review during the remainder of the year and might require amendment should resources be limited through absence or through a requirement to deliver a range of redeployed tasks. Any proposed changes to the Plan would be submitted to the Committee for approval.

The 2020/2021 Audit Plan would be delivered within the context of the revised Internal Audit Charter, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, and in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards (PSIAS).

The Committee decided: that the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 April 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Internal Audit Activity as at 28 August 2020

A report dated 28 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on work completed by Internal Audit during the period 30 May to 28 August 2020.

As a result of a change of working arrangements for the Internal Audit function due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a work programme had been developed and this was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

In practice, since March 2020, the Internal Audit function had also been redeployed, at times to a significant extent, to help deliver key finance tasks in light of the coronavirus pandemic. From 1 April to 31 August 2020, Internal Audit had delivered an element of planned audit work, in addition to specific COVID-19 related tasks across various Council Resources.

Delivery of the audit strategy would now be aligned to completion of the 2020/2021 Audit Plan and updates would be reported to each meeting of the Committee.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 June 2020 (Paragraph 6)]

5 2019/2020 Year End Insured Risks Report

A report dated 24 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Council's insurance claims for the year to 31 March 2020 for the following main classes of insurance:-

- ◆ employer's liability
- ◆ public liability
- ◆ motor insurance
- ◆ property insurance and other miscellaneous risks

Appendix 1 provided annual comparisons of the numbers and values of claims by Resource for the years 2015/2016 to 2019/2020. The comparison showed an overall downward trend in claims numbers. Claims costs had fluctuated over the last 5 years with 2019/2020 showing the lowest number of claims received during the last 5 years.

Appendix 2 compared claim numbers and costs for 2019/2020, at 31 March 2020, with the equivalent position for 2018/2019. This showed a reduction of 36 claims (3.49%) on the numbers reported in 2018/2019 and a decrease in the cost of claims from £2.113 million in 2018/2019 to £1.947 million in 2019/2020.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ measures in place and mitigating actions proposed to manage insurance hotspots
- ◆ claim highlights for the year
- ◆ positive risk management activity aimed at reducing the number and cost of claims

A central fund was held to assist Resources in funding specific risk management initiatives. All bids for the limited funds were considered on their individual merits against set criteria.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 November 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

6 2018 National Fraud Initiative Exercise

A report dated 31 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the 2018 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) exercise.

The NFI matched similar data across public sector systems and identified possible inconsistencies. Those inconsistencies, known as matches, required to be investigated by participating public bodies with a view to detecting fraud. Until 2014, the focus of the initiative had alternated annually between a limited and a full exercise. The full exercise continued to be undertaken every 2 years, however, the limited Single Person Discount (SPD) exercise, where the electoral register and council tax data were compared to detect cases where Single Person Discount was being claimed and there was more than 1 person over 18 in the household, could now be carried out annually. The 2018 NFI had been a full exercise and involved Council wide comparisons including:-

- ◆ benefits
- ◆ payroll
- ◆ creditors
- ◆ licences
- ◆ blue badge holders
- ◆ recipients of direct funding
- ◆ private nursing home residents

Records had also been matched to the Department for Work and Pensions' deceased persons' records, and to Home Office immigration records.

Details were given on the results of the 2018 exercise which, for the Council, highlighted that:-

- ◆ at September 2019, a total of 22,926 matches had been identified. Following further data refreshes and a subsequent release of additional matches, the final number of matches totalled 22,942. Of those, it was intended to investigate a minimum of 2,099 matches
- ◆ 29 errors had been detected through the NFI exercise to date, with an estimated amount to be recovered of £29,846
- ◆ the non-cancellation of blue badges had resulted in a notional cost of £83,375

The following information was provided in Appendices 1 to 3 to the report respectively:-

- ◆ details of the match areas covered in the 2019/2020 exercise
- ◆ a comparison of matches reported to the Committee in 2019
- ◆ a detailed breakdown of the target investigations and outcomes

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 September 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

7 The National Fraud Initiative 2018/2019

A report dated 29 August 2018 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the 2018/2019 National Fraud Initiative (NFI).

The NFI matched similar data across public sector systems and identified possible inconsistencies. Those inconsistencies, known as matches, required to be investigated by participating public bodies with a view to detecting fraud.

Audit Scotland published an overview report that set out NFI outcomes across Scotland, drew conclusions from those results and made a number of recommendations for consideration ahead of participation in the next NFI exercise.

The current exercise included a pilot of businesses inappropriately claiming Small Business Bonus Scheme relief. Incorrect records totalling £412,974 were identified across 7 local authorities participating in the pilot and the Scottish Government was now considering a national roll-out across all Scottish councils as part of future NFI exercises.

Details were given on the results of the 2018/2019 exercise which highlighted that:-

- ◆ 124 Scottish public bodies including central government, local authorities and the NHS took part in the 2018/2019 NFI exercise. This was an increase from the previous exercise where 113 bodies took part
- ◆ despite an increase in the number of bodies participating in the exercise, the overall number of matches across Scotland fell to 580,393 (a decrease of around 11.6%) and overall financial outcomes fell to £15.3 million (a decrease of around 13.6%). Within South Lanarkshire, matches increased marginally by 643 (2.9%) and outcomes decreased by £15,154 (33.7%)
- ◆ Audit Scotland had concluded that the reduction in matches might be due to immigration data that was excluded from the exercise by the Home Office and the reduction in outcomes potentially reflected that there was less fraud and error, that stronger internal controls existed or that there had been a less effective detection of fraud and error.

Audit Scotland had highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on the fraud risk faced by the public sector and noted that challenges of delivering public services within the context of a pandemic had increased the risk of fraud and error linked to the extreme pressures faced and the necessity to revise controls and governance arrangements.

Action plans on the planning and management of the NFI and on working more effectively were attached as Appendices 4 and 5 of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the action plans detailed at Appendices 4 and 5 to the report be endorsed; and

(2) that the contents of the report be noted

[Reference: Minutes of 18 September 2019 (Paragraph 7)]

8 Fraud Statistics Annual Report 2020

A report dated 31 August 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on fraud statistics for the year to 31 March 2020 and comparing those figures with the previous year's statistics.

The number, types, outcomes and costs of fraud investigations, together with performance measures for the year to 31 March 2020, were detailed in the report. A comparison to the statistics for the same period in the previous year was also provided. Those statistics highlighted that:-

- ◆ 137 fraud investigations with a total value of £132,000 had been reported in the period, representing a decrease in number and in value from the previous year
- ◆ 66% of cases investigated were founded
- ◆ all except one founded case related to benefit fraud or fraud committed by a third party

On conclusion of all internal investigations, an assessment was made on whether improvement actions were necessary. 7 improvement plans had resulted from fraud investigations during the year to 31 March 2020.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 September 2019 (Paragraph 8)]

9 Forward Programme for Future Meetings

A report dated 1 September 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the outline forward programme for the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9 December 2020.

As part of future arrangements, members were invited to suggest topics for inclusion in the Committee's forward programme.

The Committee decided: that the outline forward programme for the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9 December 2020 be noted.

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

RISK AND AUDIT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of special meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 November 2020

Chair:

Councillor Graeme Campbell

Councillors Present:

Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Martin Lennon

Councillor Also Present:

Councillor John Ross

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; Y Douglas, Audit and Compliance Manager; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; E A McGonigle, Administration Officer; J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy)

Also Attending:

Audit Scotland

A Kerr, F Mitchell-Knight and D Richardson, External Auditors

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 External Auditors' Annual Report to South Lanarkshire Council 2019/20

The following documents were submitted by Audit Scotland, the Council's external auditors:-

- ◆ letter and appendices relating to the 2019/2020 Annual Audit report on South Lanarkshire Council and registered charities administered by South Lanarkshire Council
- ◆ 2019/2020 South Lanarkshire Council proposed Annual Audit report to members of the Council and the Controller of Audit

The Audit Director, Audit Scotland, introduced the report and the Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland, spoke on the Annual Audit report and highlighted the following:-

- ◆ the audit of the 2019/2020 Annual Accounts
- ◆ financial management
- ◆ financial sustainability
- ◆ governance and transparency
- ◆ best value
- ◆ key messages
- ◆ 2019/20120 action plan on recommendations for improvement
- ◆ significant audit risks identified during planning of the audit
- ◆ summary of national performance reports 2019/2020

The Senior Auditor also referred to significant findings from the audit of financial statements in relation to:-

- ◆ impact of COVID-19
- ◆ pension liability
- ◆ non-domestic rates (NDR)
- ◆ holiday pay accrual – teachers and non-teachers
- ◆ recognition of liability
- ◆ long term debtor classification
- ◆ credit balances in debtors
- ◆ council houses – assets under construction
- ◆ asset register – fully depreciated assets
- ◆ housing revenue account (HRA) – rent arrears

The Senior Auditor also referred to an “emphasis of matter” paragraph contained in the Annual Audit report in respect of the challenges generally faced in obtaining reliable valuations of land and buildings as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19.

The external auditors’ opinion on the Council’s Annual Accounts 2019/2020 and those of the 3 charities administered by the Council was unqualified.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commissioner for Scotland had advised that current audit appointments would be extended by one year.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

3 Audited Annual Accounts 2019/2020

A report dated 6 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ Council’s Certified Annual Accounts and Charitable Trusts’ Accounts for 2019/2020, which had received a clean audit certificate from the Council’s external auditors, Audit Scotland
- ◆ requirement to approve the Annual Accounts 2019/2020 for signature in terms of both the Council’s accounts and related charitable trusts

The accounts covered the Council as well as 3 Charitable Trusts managed by the Council, namely South Lanarkshire Council Educational Trust, South Lanarkshire Council Charitable Trust and the East Kilbride Information Technology Trust. A clean audit certificate had been received for each with no qualifications on the Council’s accounts. An agreed action plan had been included in the external auditor’s report and officers would work to ensure those were implemented in 2020/2021.

The Annual Accounts would be advertised as being available for public inspection on the Council’s website and on request from Finance Services.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire Council Annual Accounts 2019/2020 and the Charitable Trusts’ Accounts, which had received a clean audit certificate from the Council’s external auditors, Audit Scotland, be approved for signature; and

- (2) that it be noted that the external auditors' report would be referred to a future meeting of South Lanarkshire Council for noting.

4 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Report

6

Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2021
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval of the following recommendations referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021:-
 - ◆ that the Prudential Code indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 be approved
 - ◆ that the 2021/2022 Treasury Management Strategy be approved
 - ◆ that the Annual Investment Strategy, which included the change to counterparty limits as detailed in the report, be approved

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Prudential Code indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 be approved;
- (2) that the 2021/2022 Treasury Management Strategy be approved; and
- (3) that the Annual Investment Strategy, which included the change to counterparty limits as detailed in the report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1. **Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 – Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/2022 – Extract of Minute**

A report dated 7 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ Prudential Code indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024
- ◆ Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022
- ◆ Council's Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/2022

The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities was introduced through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 with the aim of supporting strategic planning for capital investment at a local level.

The key objectives of the Prudential Code were to ensure, within a clear framework, that:-

- ◆ local authorities' capital expenditure plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable
- ◆ treasury management decisions were taken in accordance with good professional practice and in full understanding of the risks involved and how those risks would be managed to levels that were acceptable to the organisation

Details were provided on the Prudential Code Indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 which had been categorised as follows:-

- ◆ capital expenditure and external debt
- ◆ affordability

The Prudential Code also recognised that, in making capital investment decisions, the authority should be informed by sound asset management planning and options appraisal.

The Prudential Indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 were shown in Appendix 1 to the report together with explanations for each indicator. An updated position for 2020/2021 was also included.

In terms of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and the Council's Financial Regulations, a Treasury Management Strategy required to be submitted to Committee every year for approval. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022 was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The main areas covered by the Strategy were:-

- ◆ debt and investment projections
- ◆ expected movement in interest rates
- ◆ borrowing strategies
- ◆ statutory repayment of loans fund advances

The Local Government Investments (Scotland) Regulations 2010 provided a formal investment framework for councils. While the regulatory framework provided greater freedom for local authorities in their investment activities, there was an onus on local authorities to act prudently in relation to their investment and treasury management activities.

The 2 fundamental principles of the Investment Regulations were that councils were:-

- ◆ required to manage their investments and deposits in a way that minimised the risk to the capital sum and optimised the return on the funds, consistent with those risks. Security should be considered first, then liquidity, and lastly the yield or return
- ◆ able to determine what investments they made, including both the type and duration of the investment

In terms of the Regulations, the Council was required to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy prior to the start of the financial year. The Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, covered the following areas:-

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ◆ investment policy and strategy | ◆ borrowing in advance |
| ◆ treasury management risks | ◆ investment projection 2021/2022 and 2023/2024 |
| ◆ permitted investments | ◆ prudential indicators |
| ◆ risk management | ◆ Common Good investments |

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

The Committee recommended to the Council:

- (1) that the Prudential Code indicators for 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 be approved;
- (2) that the 2021/2022 Treasury Management Strategy be approved; and
- (3) that the Annual Investment Strategy, which included the change to counterparty limits as detailed in the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 November 2018 (Paragraph 9) and 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 6)]

- 3.2. A link to the report submitted to the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 is provided below for information

[Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/2022](#)

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. None.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. All financial implications have been highlighted as part of the original report to the Executive Committee.

6 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. Any implications in terms of risk have been highlighted as part of the original report to the Executive Committee.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. No equality impact assessment or consultation is required in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

8.2. No consultation was required in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

23 February 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee, 10 February 2021

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

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

Susan Somerville, Administration Manager

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E-mail: susan.somerville@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Report

7

Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Amendment to Membership of Licensing Committee
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of a proposed change in the membership of the Licensing Committee

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that Councillor Fulton replace Councillor Loudon as a member of the Licensing Committee.

3. Background

3.1. On 17 February 2021, a request was received from the Business Manager of the SNP Group to replace Councillor Loudon with Councillor Fulton as a member of the Licensing Committee.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. There are no employee implications in terms of this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no financial implications in terms of this report.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

6.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications in terms of this report.

7. Other Implications

7.1. There are no implications in terms of risk.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. There was no requirement to carry out an EIA or formal consultation process.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

17 February 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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

Susan Somerville, Administration Manager

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Benefits

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 5 January 2021, proposed by Councillor Gerry Convery, seconded by Councillor Joe Fagan, as follows:-

“This Council notes that in April this year the Government plan to cut the Benefit level for millions of claimants by ending of the time limited increase to the basic rate of Universal Credit announced by the Chancellor on the 20 March last year as part of his Pandemic response package.

The £20 a week boost reflected the reality that the level of benefits were not adequate to protect the swiftly increasing number of households relying on them as the crisis hit.

Exactly because that increase was a very significant and welcome move to bolster low and middle income families’ living standards, its removal will be a huge loss.

Pressing ahead would see the level of unemployment support fall to its lowest real- terms level since 1990-1991, and its lowest ever relative to average earnings. Indeed the basic level of out-of-work support prior to the March boost was at £73 a week (£3,800 a year), less than half the absolute poverty line.

The increase in benefits have had a positive effect on the lives of thousands of local claimants who are better able to pay for life’s essentials such as food, clothing and utilities.

The local economy has also benefited from the increase in benefit levels as claimants spend their money locally thereby supporting local businesses and jobs.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Resolves to

Write to the Chancellor, Mr Rishi Sunak, and to the Prime Minister, Mr Boris Johnson, asking that the £20 increase to Universal Credit is made permanent and extended to claimants on legacy benefits.

Work with other like minded organisations to form a coalition to pressure the Government to make the £20 increase to Universal Credit permanent.”

Cycle Hire

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 19 on 15 February 2021, proposed by Councillor Martin Lennon, seconded by Councillor Joe Fagan, as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council notes the success of public bicycle-sharing schemes in towns and cities across the UK, Europe and the world.

Cycling is a mode of transport which is environmentally friendly, conducive to an active lifestyle and can bring great benefits to individuals and communities.

The introduction of public bike-sharing schemes has been demonstrated to encourage people to take up cycling and to create an environment on the roads which is safer for and more welcoming to new cyclists.

Key to the value of any scheme is the prevalence of places where users can start and end journeys, and the ability of users to use the scheme for journeys to work, education or leisure sites.

The council further notes that there are several funding streams for active travel projects available to Scottish local authorities, and that our neighbouring authority, Glasgow City Council, has hosted a successful and expanding bike hire scheme in partnership with the firm Next Bike.

The council resolves to instruct senior officers to undertake a feasibility study into creating a bicycle hire scheme in South Lanarkshire and/or extending the Glasgow ‘Next Bike’ hire scheme into South Lanarkshire. The study will report back to the relevant committees within 6 months.”

