

# **SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

Minutes of special meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 23 February 2022

## **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 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 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, Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

## **Councillors' Apologies:**

Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Kenny McCreary

## **Chief Executive's Service**

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

## **Community and Enterprise Resources**

A McKinnon, Interim Executive Director

## **Education Resources**

T McDaid, Executive Director

## **Finance and Corporate Resources**

P Manning, Executive Director; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager; J Taylor, Head of Finance (Strategy); L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

## **Housing and Technical Resources**

D Lowe, Executive Director

## **Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care**

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

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## **Request in Terms of Standing Order No 4(c)**

Following Councillor Watson's request that matters in relation to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture be considered as urgent business, the Provost, having regard to advice by the Head of Administration and Legal Services, ruled that the issues be not discussed at this time.

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

Prior to inviting declaration of interests, the Head of Administration and Legal Services, as Monitoring Officer, reminded elected members of restrictions on voting in setting the level of Council Tax in the event that any member present was at least 2 months in arrears with payment of Council Tax or had outstanding bills for Community Charge/Poll Tax.

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2022/2023**

A report dated 8 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the 2022/2023 budget position, following the Finance Settlement for 2022/2023
- ◆ the proposed Council Tax level for 2022/2023
- ◆ the proposed Revenue Budget for 2022/2023, including the base budget allocations to Resources.

At its meeting on 23 June 2021, the Executive Committee approved the Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/2023. The Strategy assumptions resulted in an initial budget gap of £54.403 million. The Strategy then identified funding solutions of £12.704 million and the benefit of £27.400 million from Reserves, including the Loans Fund Review.

The paper had included an assumption of a 3.5% increase in Council Tax, leaving a budget gap of £9.420 million

Since then, an exercise had been undertaken to identify any further funding solutions in order to balance the budget position.

On 20 December 2021, the Scottish Government issued Finance Circular 9/2021, which detailed individual grant settlement figures to all councils for 2022/2023.

On 27 January 2022, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced that an amendment would be brought forward during Stage 2 of the Budget Bill to allocate an additional £120 million to local government.

Details were provided on the following:-

- ◆ pre-settlement position
- ◆ 2022/2023 settlement impact
- ◆ additional Stage 2 monies
- ◆ total Revenue Budget and Council Tax
- ◆ details of the Budget Bill and Local Government Finance Order
- ◆ information on the budget beyond 2022/2023

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) responded to a member's question in relation to the allocation of the £150 payment for those receiving Council Tax Reduction or those within Bands A to D.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Cooper, proposed the following as an amendment, which had been agreed by those political/independent groups which had participated in the cross-party Budget Working Group:-

“That this Council accepts recommendations 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3 and 2.1.6 (adjusted for the proposals on investments below) within the officer’s papers, however on behalf of this Council, I would like to propose the following changes to 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 to read as follows –

- (4) that the proposed Council Tax increase of 3.5% (section 6.1) be amended to a 2.5% Council Tax increase which would set the Council Tax for Band D properties at £1,233 be approved.

And

- (5) that the capacity for investments of £7.042 million as a result of the Stage 2 Budget for 2022/2023 (section 6.2) be allocated and invested as follows –

#### **Community Led Activities £800k**

We will invest £800k to support communities deliver on their priorities as identified through neighbourhood plans which may include initiatives to reduce social isolation, provide access to food/ community meals, develop public toilet facilities to rural areas and offer health and wellbeing activities

The funding will also employ a community development worker for two years to support community hall management committees to develop activities.

A grant-based fund will be provided for community halls to improve access to the building, toilet facilities, ensure kitchens have adequate food storage facilities and address safety concerns.

#### **Community Wish List Scheme £60k**

We will invest £60k to set up and maintain a community wish list scheme establishing better connections between local communities and local businesses. Communities can express practical ‘wishes’ and local providers/businesses select projects they can support which are very local to them. These can be fairly modest wishes but make a big difference locally and is a further step in neighbourhood planning.

#### **Valuing Volunteers £500k**

We are working with VASLan and other partners to develop a Volunteering Strategy which will ensure **every** Volunteer is valued. The SL Volunteering Strategy, led by experts in the voluntary and third sector, will provide a coordinated and collaborative approach to recruitment, training and recognition of volunteers, removing barriers to volunteering and developing new opportunities.

We will invest £500k in the implementation of this strategy over a two-year period. This investment recognises and hopefully helps to build on the fantastic formal and informal volunteering in our communities throughout the Covid pandemic. We hope it will further enhance partnerships, mutual aid and resilience within our neighbourhoods, community organisations and third sector.

#### **Cardio Fitness and Rehabilitation Equipment £300k**

This investment of £300k in Cardio Fitness and Rehabilitation Equipment across a range of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture fitness gyms links directly to the outcomes of the HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan whilst offering SLLC a commercial advantage in attracting new members towards a physically active lifestyle benefiting both physical and mental health outcomes.

### **Children and Young Persons Change Fund £800k**

We will invest £800k to establish a Children and Young Persons Change Fund. This will provide additional capacity for low level interventions at the early years stage to make sure children can take full advantage of education. Providing support with everyday routines, parental substance misuse, mental health, parenting skills and developmental support for very young children would all help prevent or improve life chances, address adverse childhood events, reduce referrals to social work and ultimately help reduce accommodation of children within the care system. We would hope that this investment will help attract further external funding to support this vital work.

### **Waste Management / Fly Tipping £682k**

Waste Management is a real challenge for some of our communities. We believe the best way of finding solutions to these challenges is for our officers and communities to work together taking a Place-Based Approach. This investment will address 4 specific challenges: Food waste in rural areas – Hot Composter Project; Recycling in Tenement Properties Fly Tipping in both Rural and Urban Areas.

This one-off investment would be utilised over a two-year period.

### **Pavement and Footpath Improvement £2.5m**

Following the participatory budgeting investment in roads and footpaths completed in 2021/2022, this second phase of investment will focus on the improvement of pavements, making our towns and villages safer for pedestrians, supporting healthy lifestyles through physical activity and improving the look and feel of our environment. Again, we will empower our residents to participate in the decision making on how this investment is targeted locally.

### **Amount Required to Reduce Council Tax Increase to 2.5% in comparison to Budget Strategy (3.5%) £1.4m**

The political groups that participated in the Budget Working Group through to the end have taken a responsible approach to the budget, noting that the additional £7.042m has been provided on a one off basis. We recognise that any reduction in council tax will increase the potential budget gap for future years, however we also recognise the financial hardship that will be faced this year by many households. For that reason we propose to meet the £1.4m gap in the 2022/2023 budget arising from deciding to increase council tax by only 2.5% as opposed to the 3.5% in the budget strategy papers from the additional one off allocation.”

### **Appendix – Balanced Budget Reconciliation**

<b>Investment Potential from Officers' Report (Section 6.2)</b>	<b>£7.042m</b>	
Investments:		
Valuing Volunteers		£0.500m
Community-Led Activities		£0.800m
Community Wish List Scheme		£0.060m
Additional cardio fitness and rehabilitation equipment		£0.300m
Children and Young Persons Change Fund		£0.800m
Environmental Waste / Including Fly tipping		£0.682m
Pavements and footpaths		£2.500m

<b>Total Revenue Investment</b>	<b>£5.642m</b>	
<b>Remaining amount</b> – to be used to fund decision to increase council tax by only 2.5% as opposed to the 3.5% in the budget strategy papers	<b>£1.400m</b>	

#### **Restatement of Net Expenditure Figure (report section 7)**

Net Expenditure figure within Revenue Budget Paper (sections 7.2 and associated appendices)	<b>£835.140m</b>
<b>Reduction</b> as investments figure is £5.642m, less than the £7.042m included in section '7.2'	£1.400m
<b>Revised Net Expenditure figure for Revenue Budget</b>	<b>£833.740m</b>

#### **Restatement of Net Sum Funded by Council Tax (report section 7.3)**

Restated Indicative Budget for 2022/2023 (from table above)	£833.740m
Deduct: Government Grant (including council share of £120m)	£658.991m
Deduct: Use of Reserves / Underspends in the Budget Strategy (June 2021)	£30.575m
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax ( <i>figure per report £145.574m less £1.400m reduction through increase of 2.5% instead of 3.5% in budget strategy</i> )	<b>£144.174m</b>

In moving the amendment, Councillor Ross referred to challenges faced by people due to COVID-19 and financial difficulties. He praised the outstanding efforts of Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture staff in helping to improve the lives of South Lanarkshire residents. He also paid tribute to the contribution made by local voluntary organisations. He advised that, due to prudent decisions taken, the Council was in a much better financial position than anticipated which would present an opportunity to bring forward a number of new investments in South Lanarkshire. He commended the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and his team, as well as the other Executive Directors, for their efforts in the budget process. He also wished to thank councillors across the political/independent groups who came together to form the working group and, in particular, the co-Chairs, Councillor Cooper and Councillor Chalmers. He expressed his disappointment that the Labour Group had withdrawn from cross-party discussions. He welcomed the additional monies from the Scottish Government which enabled the Council to be in a more favourable position to reduce the increase in Council Tax to 2.5% which, he predicted, would be among the lowest in Scotland. He spoke on key aspects of the proposals and investments prior to commending the budget to the Council.

The Provost then invited each Group representative, in turn, to speak on behalf of their Groups, on the proposals.

Councillor Cooper referred to this being the third year she had undertaken the role of co-Chair of the cross-party Budget Working Group. She considered it a significant achievement to maintain a Working Group to negotiate on priorities in order to protect services and achieve the best outcome for constituents. She thanked the 4 Groups who had participated in the Working Group and the hard working team of officers for their contribution. She wished to thank, in particular, her co-Chair, Councillor Chalmers, as well as Councillor Brown for his constructive input to reach resolutions. She referred to the many economic and social pressures and considered that the investments and reduction in the proposed increase of Council Tax would help address those as well as the priorities of her Group.

Councillor Allison concurred with the Leader in thanking officers. He wished to highlight the excellent effort of staff in addressing a £54 million gap to a nearly balanced budget prior to members' involvement. He referred to South Lanarkshire as having one of the lowest Council Tax levels in Scotland due to sound financial management by officers. He considered it positive that each Group had represented the views of constituents and had managed to achieve a balanced budget, although considered it would have been easier had the block grant from the Scottish Government been higher, although acknowledged the efforts of Leaders at COSLA in securing additional monies. He concluded that the extra funding would allow investment in priorities such as young people and their wellbeing, pavements, environmental challenges and assistance in toilet provision, particularly in the rural area.

Councillor McGeever said it had been a challenge for the political parties/groups to achieve common ground, however, members had a responsibility to put the needs of constituents first. He advised that his Group's priorities were pavements, addressing the cost of living crisis, supporting businesses, children and young people, the local environment and protecting local services. He considered it was important to work constructively and commended the role played by the co-Chairs and hard work of the officers. While agreement was reached, he considered it was not ideal as local government was held back from taking action due to reduced funding and Scottish Government directives which did not always take account of individual local government needs.

Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved the following as a further amendment:-

"As an amendment to Item 2 'Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2022/2023', the Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the proposed Council Tax increase of 3.5%, be amended to 2.2%, which would set the Council Tax for Band D properties at £1229.
- (2) that the inclusion of a budget for investments totalling £7.042 million be included and that the investment budget be used for the purposes outlined in the table below.
- (3) that it be noted that, prior to the Special Budget meeting on 23 February 2022, no report on Budget Strategy has been presented to South Lanarkshire Council or a Committee of the Council since summer 2021.
- (4) that a formal procedure governing the development of the Council Budget, reflecting the fundamental role of elected members, be presented to the Council for approval within 9 months.
- (5) that it be noted that as of 23 February 2022, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd has yet to be formally reconstituted, following the recommendations of the Cross Party Working Group on Leisure and Culture.
- (6) that a formal procedure outlining the role of the elected members in the democratic oversight of leisure and culture in South Lanarkshire, including service provision and configuration and the conditions of employment of SLLC staff, be presented for approval to the new Council.

## Context

The Labour Group have publicly set out three tests for the Council Budget. The Labour Group believe that the Budget for 2022/23 must:

**PUT THE FRONTLINE FIRST** by delivering a major cash injection into core council services, to strengthen essential services and safeguard jobs as South Lanarkshire builds back from the Covid crisis.

**TAKE ACTION ON THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS** by keeping down Council Tax rises, providing help for vulnerable and older residents with new fire alarm costs and funding extra support for South Lanarkshire families and households.

**END BUDGET SECRECY** by requiring new procedures to guarantee the open, transparent and democratic development of the Council Budget and clarify the relationship between South Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust, including the role of councillors in overseeing service provision and conditions of employment.

## Labour Group Amendment

The Labour Group are therefore proposing to use £7.042 million in one-off expenditure for the purposes set out in the Budget Investments table below. This includes over £3 million for a Frontline First Fund to invest in service recovery, protecting essential jobs and strengthening local services. To help clean up South Lanarkshire, our amendment proposes to introduce an additional free waste uplift for 2022/23.

Our amendment also includes a Cost of Living Action Plan, backed up by over £3 million of investment. Our Action Plan keeps Council Tax rises down to 2.2%, in line with this year's rent increase, supports older and vulnerable residents to comply with new fire alarm regulations and makes a further payment to recipients of the School Clothing Grant.

Finally, our amendment requires that new procedures formalising the budget-setting process of the Council and oversight of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd use of council funds in the configuration of services and conditions of employment of staff are brought forward for consideration and approval within nine months.

## Budget Investments

It is proposed to use capacity for investment for the following purposes:

<b>Description</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Frontline First Fund</b> £3.238 million fund for 2022/23 to support the recovery of frontline services. Officers are to report to the relevant committee with proposals on how the additional investment could be made for approval. At least £1 million must be ring-fenced for Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services to help clean and maintain our communities.	£3.238
<b>Additional Free Waste Uplift</b> Remove charges for second waste uplifts in 2022/23. Provide investment to address additional demand for free uplifts, such as staff, resources and assets.	£0.650
<b>Cost of Living Action Plan – Capping Council Tax Rise at 2.2%</b> Keep the Council Tax rise for 2022/23 capped at 2.2%, reflecting the anticipated increase in council house rents.	£1.820
<b>Cost of Living Action Plan – Interlinked Fire Alarm Assistance</b> Provide additional support for older and vulnerable people in South Lanarkshire to install interlinked fire and smoke alarms, reflecting current national eligibility criteria.	£0.100
<b>Cost of Living Action Plan – School Clothing Grant £100 Bonus</b> Additional Payment of £100 to School Clothing Grant Recipients for 2022/23.	£1.234

## Summary

The Labour amendment provides:

- ◆ £3.238m Frontline First Fund – to strengthen core services, with £1m ring-fenced for cleaning and maintaining our communities
- ◆ an additional free waste uplift to help prevent fly-tipping.
- ◆ a £3.154m Cost of Living Action Plan to keep Council Tax rises down, deliver an extra £100 to the School Clothing Grant and help older and vulnerable people in South Lanarkshire access support to install new interlinked fire alarms.
- ◆ a guarantee that new procedures will come forward to the Council, within 9 months, to make budget decisions more transparent.

## **Appendix - Balanced Budget Reconciliation**

<b>Investment Potential from Officers' Report (Section 6.2)</b>	<b>£7.042m</b>	
Investments:		
Frontline First Fund		£3.238m
Additional Free Waste Uplift		£0.650m
Cost of Living Action Plan – Interlinked Fire Alarm Assistance		£0.100m
Cost of Living Action Plan – School Clothing Grant £100 bonus		£1.234m
<b>Total Revenue Investment</b>	<b>£5.222m</b>	
<b>Remaining amount – to be used to fund decision to increase council tax by only 2.2% as opposed to the 3.5% in the budget strategy papers</b>	<b>£1.820m</b>	

## **Restatement of Net Expenditure Figure (report section 7)**

Net Expenditure figure within Revenue Budget Paper (sections 7.2 and associated appendices)	<b>£835.140m</b>
<b>Reduction</b> as investments figure is £5.222m, less than the £7.042m included in section '7.2'	£1.820m
<b>Revised Net Expenditure figure for Revenue Budget</b>	<b>£833.320m</b>

## **Restatement of Net Sum Funded by Council Tax (report section 7.3)**

Restated Indicative Budget for 2022/2023 (from table above)	£833.320m
Deduct: Government Grant (including council share of £120m)	£658.991m
Deduct: Use of Reserves / Underspends in the Budget Strategy (June 2021)	£30.575m
Resultant Net Sum to be Funded Locally from Council Tax (figure per report £145.574m less £1.820m reduction through increase of 2.2% instead of 3.5% in budget strategy)	<b>£143.754m</b>

In moving his amendment, Councillor Fagan outlined his Group's reasons for not continuing representation on the cross-party Budget Working Group. He thanked Council staff and communities for their hard work and response to the pandemic. He referred to the ongoing funding crisis in local government and, while additional monies were welcomed, he highlighted that they were on a one-off basis and not baselined. He acknowledged the efforts of all COSLA Leaders in highlighting the financial difficulties within local government, however, considered it was too little too late. He said his amendment sought a cash injection into frontline services, wanted to keep Council Tax rises to a minimum and aimed to make the budget transparent and open for public scrutiny.

As no-one moved the recommendations in the report, the amendment by Councillor Ross, being the first received, became the motion.

Following a full discussion, 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, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Hugh Macdonald, Julia Marrs, Ian McAllan, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

#### **Amendment**

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

17 members voted for the amendment and 44 for the motion which was declared carried.

#### **The Council decided:**

- (1) that the solutions totalling £9.420 million that contributed towards the budget shortfall identified in the Council's Budget Strategy (Table 1) be noted;
- (2) that, following receipt of the Local Government Settlement, the allocation of funds to meet additional costs, as detailed at paragraph 5.4 of the report, be noted
- (3) that the allocation of £1.828 million (£0.928 million to PPP inflation and £0.900 million to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust), as detailed at paragraph 5.5 of the report, be approved;
- (4) that Council Tax be increased by 2.5%, which would set the Council Tax for Band D properties at £1,233;

(5) that the capacity for investments of £7.042 million, as a result of the Stage 2 Budget for 2022/2023, be allocated and invested as follows:-

◆ Community Led Activities	£0.800 million
◆ Community Wish List Scheme	£0.060 million
◆ Valuing Volunteers	£0.500 million
◆ Cardio Fitness and Rehabilitation Equipment	£0.300 million
◆ Children and Young Persons' Change Fund	£0.800 million
◆ Waste Management/Fly Tipping	£0.682 million
◆ Pavement and Footpath Improvement	£2.500 million
◆ Amount required to reduce Council Tax increase to 2.5% in comparison to Budget Strategy (3.5%)	£1.400 million

(6) that the Revenue Budget for 2022/2023, adjusted for the proposals on investments below, including the base budget allocations to Resources, as shown in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved.

*[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 23 June 2021 (Paragraph 9)]*

*Councillors Campbell and Lennon joined the meeting during consideration of the above item of business*

*In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Provost adjourned the meeting during this item of business at 10.30am and reconvened at 10.35am to allow members time to consider the amendment submitted by Councillor Ross. The meeting was further adjourned at 11.03am and reconvened at 11.15am to allow time for members to consider the amendment by Councillor Fagan. Councillor Burns was not present when the meeting reconvened, which was prior to the vote*

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### **3 Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee – Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2022/2023**

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A report dated 3 February 2022 by the Chief Executive was submitted on recommendations referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 2 February 2022. The recommendations were as follows:-

- ◆ **Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2022/2023**
  - ◆ that the rent increase of 2.2% for Council houses, travelling persons' sites, lockups and garage sites be approved and the Revenue Estimate proposals for the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022/2023 be approved
  - ◆ that, based on the proposed rent increase of 2.2%, the 2022/2023 Housing Capital Programme, totalling £52.230 million, be approved

**The Council decided:** that the recommendations of the Executive Committee of 2 February 2022 in relation to the Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2022/2023 be approved.

*[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 2 February 2022 (Paragraph 6)]*

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### **4 2022/2023 Capital Programme Update**

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A report dated 8 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing a proposed General Services Capital Programme for financial year 2022/2023, reflecting the spend requirements identified by Resources and the availability of funding.

A proposed capital programme for 2022/2023 had been developed which included ongoing commitments from previous financial years, such as the Glasgow City Region City Deal Programme.

Details of the proposed 2022/2023 capital programme, totalling £82.284 million, were as follows:-

	£million
Ongoing programmes of work (paragraph 4.2 and Appendix 1)	20.250
New priority projects (paragraph 4.3 and Appendix 2)	5.230
Specific capital projects (paragraph 4.4)	3.203
Glasgow City Regional City Deal (paragraph 4.5)	3.357
Education growth and capacities (paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7)	1.218
2021/2022 net movements (paragraph 4.8)	45.829
New projects approved in 2021/2022 (paragraph 4.9)	3.197

The level of funding available to support the programme was provided at paragraph 5.1 of the report, with a detailed breakdown of funding sources included as Appendix 4 to the report.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and undertook to provide Councillor Thomson with further details in terms of Blantyre Leisure Centre.

**The Council decided:** that the 2022/2023 Capital Programme, totalling £82.284 million, as detailed in paragraph 4.10 and Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

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## **5 Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2022/2023**

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A report dated 8 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ Prudential Code indicators for 2022/2023 to 2024/2025
- ◆ Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/2023
- ◆ Council's Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/2023

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

A revision of the Prudential Code was issued by CIPFA in December 2021, however, the key objectives of the Code remained unchanged. The Prudential Code now required changes to the way that investments were categorised. Also, provisions within the Code regarding borrowing in advance of need had been strengthened to make it clear that borrowing to fund commercial investments purely to benefit from the return on those investments was not permissible. The key developments in the updated Code were included within Appendix 1 to the report.

Appendix 1 to the report also included details on the Prudential Code Indicators for 2022/2023 to 2024/2025, together with explanations for each indicator. An updated position for 2021/2022 was also included, although a further report would be presented to committee later in the year to show actual achievement against the 2021/2022 indicators.

The Prudential Indicators included estimates of capital expenditure and showed the level of borrowing required.

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

When considering potential capital investment, the Council ensured that the objectives of capital investment were relative to the Council's strategic plans and that the investment was informed through the asset management planning process.

In 2022/2023, the Council was required to adopt a new International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 Leases which meant that assets previously accounted for as operating leases would be brought onto the balance sheet along with a liability to make future lease payments. Those liabilities would be classed as external debt, however, there was no requirement to borrow those amounts and there was, therefore, no impact on borrowing costs. Should any Prudential Indicators need to be revised as result of this, the changes would be reported to committee during 2022/2023.

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.

An update to the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice was issued by CIPFA in December 2021. The key changes were an increased need for documenting and retaining knowledge and skills, as well as developing areas such as environmental, social and governance considerations and investment management practices for non-treasury investments. CIPFA had stated that the code should be fully implemented in 2023/2024.

The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/2023 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 2022/2023, attached as Appendix 3 to the report, covered the following areas:-

- ◆ investment policy and strategy
- ◆ treasury management risks
- ◆ permitted investments
- ◆ risk management
- ◆ borrowing in advance
- ◆ investment projection 2022/2023 to 2024/2025
- ◆ prudential indicators
- ◆ Common Good investments

**The Council decided:**

- (1) that the Prudential Code indicators for 2022/2023 to 2024/2025, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the 2022/2023 Treasury Management Strategy, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the Annual Investment Strategy, as detailed in section 6 of the report, be approved.

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## **6 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.