

Keep the Beat Alive

Notice of Motion

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 27 May, 2024, proposed by Councillor Kirsten Robb, seconded by Councillor John Ross, as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council recognises that:-

1. Over 100 organisations from across South Lanarkshire have come together in a new campaign called Keep the Beat Alive <https://keepthebeatalive.org.uk/>, because our Third, or ‘Essential’ sector of social enterprises, voluntary and community groups are the beating heart of our communities.
2. The recent impact report shows that this sector is relied on by so many in our communities for essential, life enhancing and sometimes life saving services <https://keepthebeatalive.org.uk/#report>.
3. The sector plays a vital, different and complementary role to the public sector. It adds value, in line with the shared principles and ambitions of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership, even more important at a time when funding is tight for all.
4. For the sector to survive and thrive and therefore enhance our communities, the campaign is calling for the sector’s impact to be recognised, for funding to be smarter, and for more meaningful engagement with the public sector.

Therefore, this motion calls for South Lanarkshire Council to:-

5. Recognise the sector’s impact by sharing the impact report and videos widely internally and externally and continue to provide opportunities to showcase the impact and campaign with elected members and senior officers.
6. Endorse the principles of the Third Sector Fair Funding Charter which calls for a) A Strategic Investment Approach b) Accessible, Proportionate and Transparent Funding and Commissioning Processes c) Adequate and Secure Funding and d) Proportionate Evaluation and Reporting to Funders, but noting the financial challenges facing the Council and need for the Council to comply with its legal and regulatory framework.
7. Agree that relevant officers meet with VASLAN, as campaign representatives, to explore how the council can implement as much of the Third Sector Fair Funding Charter as it can within the scope of its legal and regulatory framework, with a report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive Committee with the outcome of this detailed consideration and discussion.

8. Engage meaningfully by inviting the sector to be in the room at an early enough stage, maximising opportunities for commissioning, collaboration, external funding, service reviews/design and local community planning, all to best meet shared outcomes for our communities, where the same is appropriate and in accordance with the Council's legal and regulatory framework.
9. Write to the Scottish Government Minister responsible for the Third Sector to convene a meeting with the council, South Lanarkshire Third Sector and the Minister to share the campaign and discuss the need for national action to support the campaign asks".