

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of special meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 24 February 2021

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 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

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

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost commented that it had almost been a year since the first lockdown due to the pandemic and, with the roll-out of effective vaccines, there was optimism for the future. He wished to recognise the extraordinary efforts of people and organisations, such as carers, NHS and health and social care staff, teachers, emergency service workers and community volunteers. In particular, he asked that the Council join him in applauding the efforts of Council and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture employees who had worked tirelessly and effortlessly throughout the pandemic.

1 Declaration of Interests

Prior to inviting declaration of interests, the Head of Administration and Legal Services, as Monitoring Officer, reminded elected members on 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.

Councillors McClymont and Shearer advised that they might have to declare an interest in Item 2, Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2021/2022, should there be detailed discussions on operational savings as they both had an involvement with Care and Repair.

2 Overall Position of Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation for 2021/2022

A report dated 9 February 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the capacity for investment following receipt of The Finance Circular issued by the Scottish Government on 1 February 2021
- ◆ the proposed Council Tax level for 2021/2022
- ◆ the proposed Revenue Budget 2021/2022, including the base budget allocations to Resources

Following receipt of the Grant Settlement, a report had been submitted to the Executive Committee on 10 February 2021 advising that there was now capacity for investment in the budget of £7.633 million, an improvement in the budget position of £12.591 million. It was also reported that, although the Scottish Government pay policy did not directly affect Local Government, the implications of a similar policy might mean that the level of pay award currently included in the Budget Strategy was insufficient and it was proposed that £3 million be set aside in the Strategy, which would leave a revised capacity for investment of £4.633 million.

The Finance Circular also advised of a 2021/2022 General Capital Grant allocation of £21.362 million. In addition, £2.141 million of Specific Grant had been allocated for Vacant and Derelict Land, as well as Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets, the breakdown of which was detailed in the report. An updated Capital Programme for 2021/2022 would be brought to committee early in the new financial year.

The Finance Settlement for 2021/2022 included funding available to those Councils which implemented a Council Tax freeze in 2021/2022. It was proposed that the Council approve the freeze, which would set the Council Tax Band D at £1,203, the same rate as the previous year.

The proposed overall budget for financial year 2021/2022, including income and expenditure, was summarised in Table 3 of the report. The proposed base budget allocations to Resources were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Should there be an increase to the final Grant Settlement, proposals would be brought to Council for its consideration at a future date.

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 and 2.1.4 to 2.1.6 within the officers' papers for Agenda Item 2, however on behalf of this Council I would like to propose the following changes to 2.1.3 to read as follows –

- (3) that the inclusion of a budget for investments of £4.633million (section 4.4) plus the savings totalling £5.421million outlined in the Savings Summary Table be used for the following investments as detailed and tabled at Council.

Children and Young People's Learning and Wellbeing **£2.245m**
The impact of COVID has been felt by everyone in South Lanarkshire – it has affected all of our lives. This Council is conscious however of the particular challenges experienced by our children and young people whose early years and schools education has been severely disrupted despite the committed and creative efforts of staff in Education Resources. We are also conscious that the impact often falls unequally and potentially most significantly on those already experiencing disadvantage. During academic sessions 2021/22 and 2022/23 this Council will target an initial £2.245m investment, including £220k to support digital inclusion, plus our quantum, when known, of a further sum of £60m recently announced by the Scottish Government for education catch-up. This investment will be used to address learning and wellbeing needs identified through meaningful discussion and engagement with our schools, children and young people as well as the wider community. This will enable Education Resources to bring forward a range of targeted initiatives to address education inequalities and to improve the life chances of pupils in South Lanarkshire.

Get South Lanarkshire Working **£3.000m**
We will invest in an ambitious £3m programme of investments designed to get South Lanarkshire's economy working, this investment will cover three areas:

- ◆ **Social Enterprise and Business Support Programme**
We will establish a Social Enterprise and Business Support Programme through a one-off contribution to be utilised over a 3 year period. This exciting and vital investment in our local communities and the development of social enterprises providing jobs and investment in our local economy. This investment will provide small social enterprise and business planning support and development grants; will provide high quality leadership development support for key staff in emerging social enterprises and small businesses; will promote a "Global South Lanarkshire" programme supporting local companies and social enterprises to continue to connect with potential markets with a view to expanding exports; will promote links to Apprenticeship/ Young Person Guarantee programmes to provide employment and training opportunities for young people in South Lanarkshire, and will link to a "Shop Social" campaign as part of a broader "Shop Local" promotional campaign and more broadly to the Council's Community Wealth Building agenda.
- ◆ **Locate in South Lanarkshire**
We will bring forward a high profile "Locate in South Lanarkshire" programme to be delivered over 2 years. As a key economic recovery investment and working closely with business interests through the Lanarkshire Economic Forum, the investment will support the development of specific materials to direct inward investors to specific council services that can provide advice and support to facilitate business relocation/ expansion. The Fund will enable South Lanarkshire Council to be more pro active and work with Scottish Enterprise and SCDI to identify and secure appropriate and sustainable inward investment to locate in South Lanarkshire. This investment is a key pillar of our strategy to secure and expand on employment opportunities to ensure that people in South Lanarkshire remain economically active and have improved life choices.
- ◆ **Tourism Cooperative and Strategy**
This Council recognises the potential for significant growth in the tourism sector taking advantage of our natural environment, activities and cultural heritage within South Lanarkshire. The third strand of our Get South Lanarkshire Working Programme will support the establishment and initial 3 year running costs of a membership led tourism co-operative and development of an ambitious and far-reaching tourism strategy. The Co-operative mission will be to develop and promote the tourism offer in South Lanarkshire; tie in with the hotel and holiday accommodation sectors; raise the area profile of South Lanarkshire and encourage the establishment of a profile for accessible outdoor activity-based attractions (cycling; walking; sports; etc) linked to the world class historical/ culture offer. These activities will provide a significant increase in employment opportunities, support economic recovery and economic renewal within our communities arising from visitor spend.

Climate Challenge South Lanarkshire	£2.000m
Despite the focus on the COVID pandemic, the Climate Change Emergency remains one of the biggest, if not the greatest, challenge we all face. The Council agreed to establish a Climate Change Committee and now we will establish a fund that will support work in this most vital of areas. This £2m investment fund will enable the Committee to prioritise match funding for external funding applications specifically linked to the UK and Scottish Government green economy and green jobs programmes. This is a signal of this Council's ambition to become a net zero carbon authority and for South Lanarkshire to be an exemplar area where renewable technologies, industries and ultimately jobs are delivered.	

Empowering our Communities

This Council is fundamentally committed to empowering and enabling our communities and the following funding programmes will support our communities to develop their own aspirations, priorities and resilience, these include:

- ◆ **Food Strategy Support Fund** **£0.300m**
Our communities are already leading the way on food growing. In recognition of the importance of food security and sustainable food growth, we propose to invest in a Food Strategy Support Fund to be utilised over 2 years to support the creation of community food growing initiatives as indicated in the Council's Good Food Strategy. We will work with a network of community organisations and facilitate land lease; community asset transfer or land acquisition where necessary. This Council will support the initial start-up of a wide range of community programmes that support access to healthy, locally grown and affordable produce. Our investment will promote domestic garden food growing – promoting self-reliance and local produce. This investment will contribute to education, inter-generational socialisation and physical health outcomes and links with the Council's Food Security/Growth and Community Wealth Building agendas.

- ◆ **Footpaths and Roads Improvement Fund** **£2.000m**
(determined by Participatory Budgeting)
We will deliver an additional £2m ring fenced investment in the Roads Capital Programme to support footpath and carriageway improvements. This investment would continue the Council's commitment to prioritise investment in roads infra structure and footpaths including those within parks. The predominant focus of the investment will target footpath improvement along with further investment to improve road conditions in South Lanarkshire. This additional sum will be allocated across the 4 administrative areas on the basis of network length and be subject to an online PB exercise allowing communities to prioritise where the further expenditure in their area is targeted. This programme of works will be informed by the road condition index and pathway conditions information.

- ◆ **Community Ownership Programme** **£0.250m**
We are committed to facilitating community ownership of public assets and unlocking community capacity to use these assets for social and economic benefits within their communities. We will establish a Fund to support a dynamic community asset transfer programme with the aim of placing assets within the control of local communities. The approach to this work would be proactive and seek out suitable Asset Transfer opportunities, it will support the capacity and sustainability of community organisations and seek to empower those organisations to gain wider community support for proposals.

- ◆ **Community Resilience** **£0.259m**
We will provide an initial fund to **equip local organisations and volunteers in supporting their communities.**
During Covid we witnessed an eagerness by many communities to become more involved, this fund will help support participation in environmental projects and other local priorities such as the winter gritting of footpaths.

In total this represents additional revenue investment in 2021/22 of **£10.054m**.

The Council accepts savings options of £5.421m as summarised on the table below within this written amendment.

Savings Summary Table

Ref	Saving	£m
CER09 (2)	Payment to Other Bodies	0.010
CER10 (2)	Environmental Service Charging	0.010
CER14 (2)	School Meal Charges	0.320
CER20 (2)	Hedge Maintenance	0.090
CER22 (2)	Market Surveillance Approach to Trading Standards Inspections	0.095
CER27 (2)	Parking Permit Charge (increase £10)	0.025
	TOTAL COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES	0.550
EDR04 (2)	Teachers in Early Learning and Childcare (Saving taken over 2 years)	0.399
EDR06 (2)	Secondary School Local Flexibility	0.605
EDR08 (2)	Learning Community Staffing	0.211
EDR09 (2)	Targeted Class Sizes Support – Primary 1	0.516
EDR10 (2)	Additional Behaviour Support in Secondary Schools	0.110
	TOTAL EDUCATION RESOURCES	1.841
FCR17 (2)	Employability and Supported Employment Services	0.122
FCR18 (2)	Remodelling of Q&A Services	0.380
FCR19 (2)	Advertising	0.083
FCR20 (2)	IT Services Staffing Structure	0.220
FCR21 (2)	Licensing and Registration Services	0.052
	TOTAL FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES	0.857
HTR06 (2)	Strategy and Support Section – Staff Reduction	0.009
HTR07 (2)	Mediation Service	0.018
HTR08 (2)	Community Wardens Service	0.105
HTR09 (2)	Efficiencies in Works Monitoring Regime	0.085
HTR10 (2)	Property Services Staffing Structure	0.272
HTR11 (2)	Staffing Efficiencies	0.077
	TOTAL HOUSING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES	0.566
SWR04 (2)	Intensive Family Support Services (FSS)	0.600
SWR05 (2)	Fás. Family Support Service	0.300
SWR06 (2)	Payments to Third Sector Organisations (partial saving)	0.158
SWR09 (2)	Through Care and Continuing Care Team	0.400
	TOTAL SOCIAL WORK RESOURCES	1.458
SLLC06	Hamilton Water Palace Leisure Pool	0.013
SLLC07	Blantyre Leisure Centre – Children's Pool	0.010
SLLC08	Blantyre Leisure Centre – Creche Facility	0.016
SLLC09	Activage Membership – Increase Price to £75 per annum	0.060
SLLC10	SLLC Management Structure	0.050
	TOTAL SLLC	0.149
	TOTAL PROPOSED SAVINGS FOR APPROVAL	5.421

Appendix – Balanced Budget Reconciliation

Investment Potential from Officers' Report (Section 4.4)	(£4.633m)	
Add Savings from Budget Amendment	(£5.421m)	
Total Potential for Investment	(£10.054m)	
Children and Young People's Learning		£2.245m
Get South Lanarkshire Working - Social Enterprise and Business Support Programme - Locate in South Lanarkshire - Tourism Co-operative and Strategy		£3m
Climate Challenge South Lanarkshire		£2.000m
Empowering Our Communities - Food Strategy Support Fund - Footpaths and Roads Improvement Fund - Community Ownership Programme - Community Resilience Fund		£0.300m £2m £0.250m £0.259m
Total Revenue Investment		£10.054m
Balanced Budget	(£10.054m)	£10.054m

In moving the amendment, Councillor Ross referred to the unique challenges faced due to the pandemic. He paid tribute to employees, working alongside community organisations and volunteers, for delivering services to communities which, at times, went above and beyond the call of duty. He advised that, following the Grant Settlement, the Council was in a much better financial position than anticipated which would present an opportunity to invest 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 to reduce the initial £52 million budget gap. He also wished to thank councillors across the political groups who came together to form the working group and, in particular, Councillor Cooper who acted as Chair. He considered that this year, more than ever, collaboration was needed to work in the best interests of South Lanarkshire's communities and expressed disappointment that the Labour Group had not participated in cross-party discussions. He advised that more than 2,000 people had taken part in the public consultation exercise and wished to thank those people as their views were important and had been carefully considered. He spoke on key aspects of the proposals and investments prior to commanding the budget to the Council which, in his opinion, was comprehensive, ambitious and progressive.

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

Councillor Cooper referred to the cross-party budget and considered that the proposals put forward would benefit people across South Lanarkshire. She advised that this had been her second year as Chair of the Working Group and that 4 out of the 5 political groups had worked together, facing challenging circumstances, to reach agreement in the best interests of local communities. She thanked officers for their support in the process as well as Leaders and Depute Leaders of the political groups for their sincere and professional approach during the discussions. She acknowledged that each of the 4 groups had different priorities but all wanted to get the best possible outcome for everyone in their communities. She considered that the Council would require to continue its work with COSLA to achieve a fair settlement every year and advised her Group had prioritised Education, as well as Community and Enterprise Resources' functions. She concluded by highlighting key investments and their associated benefits for residents.

Councillor Allison thanked staff for support given during the COVID pandemic and throughout the budget process. He intimated that political groups had a duty to represent constituents to ensure their views were considered, particularly in a budget process. He considered that it was a forward looking budget, particularly in terms of the investment proposals and to aid recovery following the pandemic. He advised that all Groups had to compromise in order to reach a consensus and thanked the other participating Groups for their willingness to negotiate. He concluded by highlighting that the budget increase equated to approximately 1%, however, there had been a 9% increase in the Scottish Government budget and, he considered, by not passing on the full increase, it was putting pressure on frontline services. He referred to COSLA having contended that local government had to be fully supported and urged that those points continue to be put forward by elected members.

Councillor Brown thanked the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and his team for all their support. He also thanked the other Groups for their contribution towards the budget. He emphasised the importance of continuing to provide services that people relied on as well as any new investments. He considered that these were difficult times, not only due to COVID but with Brexit and the general uncertainty of the constitutional future. He advised that his Group had one overarching aim to help communities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. He considered that the Council had led a tremendous effort to keep services going and support communities and it was now important to build on those foundations which, he believed, the investment proposals would achieve. He echoed the sentiments of Councillor Allison in terms of funding from the Scottish Government to local government and made reference to decisions taken at a national level which he considered damaged the independence and flexibility of local government. He concluded by highlighting that it was a good budget as it matched the challenges faced and provided a solid base on which to build.

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

"As an amendment to Item 2 'Overall Position of Revenue and Level of Local Taxation for 2021/2022', the Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) That the addition to the budget for potential pay costs of £3 million (section 4.3) be agreed;
- (2) That the capacity for investment figure of £4.633 million, following the grant settlement for 2021/22 (section 4.3), after taking account of the potential pay costs be noted;
- (3) That the inclusion of a budget for investments totalling £9.953 million be agreed to, following the inclusion of savings and reprofiling of the benefit of the Loan Fund Review, and that the investment budget be used for the purposes outlined in the Budget Investments table below.
- (4) That the position on the General Capital Grant and the Specific Grants (detailed in sections 4.7 to 4.9), be noted.
- (5) That the proposed Council Tax freeze (section 5.2), which would set the Council Tax for Band properties at £1,203, be approved; and
- (6) That the Revenue Budget for 2021/2022 including revised base budget allocations to Resources, in accordance with Recommendation 3, be approved.

Following the Scottish Budget and movement in grant, there is now a capacity for investment of **£4.633 million** as explained in the Report.

This assumes all **Operational and Management Decisions** are accepted in full, that the **Council Tax freeze** is agreed to, with receipt of compensatory grant, and that a sum is set aside for the local government pay settlement.

Savings

To increase capacity for investment it is proposed that the Council accept the following savings:

Ref	Description	FTE	£M
CER10	Environmental Services Charging	-	0.010
EDR06	Secondary School Local Flexibility	17.0	0.605
FCR17	Employability and Supported Employment Service	3.2	0.122
FCR21	Licensing and Registration Services	1.0	0.052
HTR06	Strategy and Support – Staff Reduction	4.0	0.009
HTR07	Mediation Service	1.0	0.018
HTR08	Community Warden Service	8.0	0.105
HTR09	Efficiencies in Works Monitoring Regime	2.4	0.085
HTR10	Property Services Staffing Structure	7.0	0.272
HTR11	Staffing Efficiencies	2.0	0.077
SWR05	Fas. Family Support Service	-	0.300
SWR06	Payments to Third Sector Organisations	-	0.215
SWR09	Through Care and Continuing Team	-	0.400
SLLC10	South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Management Structure	1.0	0.050
Total		46.6	2.320

These savings increase capacity for investment to **£6.953 million**.

Loan Fund Review

Allocation of benefit from the Loan Fund Review agreed by the Executive Committee will see £27.4 million used in 2022/23, £23.5 million used in 2023/24 and £14 million used in 2024/25.

The Council is asked to reallocate the equivalent of £1 million benefit from each of these future years to 2021/22 to generate £3 million.

This will have the impact of increasing the savings requirement for future years by a net total of £3.000 million but the Council is asked, nonetheless, to agree to the acceleration of Loan Fund Review benefit due to the Covid crisis.

Accelerating the benefit of £3 million from the Loan Fund Review will further increase capacity for investment to **£9.953 million**.

Budget Investments

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

Description	FTE	£M
£250 Payment for South Lanarkshire Council Staff <i>A Pro-Rata £250 Payment to all staff in South Lanarkshire Council on Grade 4 and below who did not receive the Scottish Government £500 'thank you' payment.</i>	-	2.200
£250 Payment for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust Staff <i>Provision for a Pro-Rata £250 Payment to all staff in SLLC on Grade 4 and below who did not receive the Scottish Government £500 'thank you' payment.</i>	-	0.220
Payment of SSSC Registration Fees <i>Payment of SSSC Registration Fees on behalf of all staff on Grade 2 and below</i>	-	0.085
Implementation of Cross Party Working Group on Parking Proposals <i>Implementation of recommended parking solutions in The Village, East Kilbride and Hamilton</i>	-	0.106
Expand Free School Meals – P6 and P7 <i>Raise eligibility criteria for Free School Meals to match School Clothing Grant for P6 and P7</i>	-	0.180
Expand Free School Meals – P4 and P5 <i>Introduction of Free School Meals for P4 and P5 from August 2021</i>	-	1.900
£100 Extra School Clothing Grant Payment <i>Additional Payment of £100 to School Clothing Grant Recipients for 2021 only</i>	-	1.330
Reinvest to reverse the impact of HTR04 - Planned Maintenance Efficiencies	-	0.270
Transfer to Capital <i>Officers are to report to the relevant committee with proposals on how the additional investment could be made for approval.</i>	-	1.442
Frontline First Fund <i>£2 million fund for 2021 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.</i>	-	2.000
Economic Development Service <i>Provision to replace West of Scotland Loan Fund funding for Economic Development posts with core funding, releasing Loan Fund monies for reinvestment in 2021/22. Officers are to report to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee with proposals for Economic Development in respect of the funding released.</i>	-	0.220
Total	-	9.953

Appendix

Table: Labour Amendment in Summary

	£m – Capacity for Investment	£m – Budget Investment
Balance Available for Investment	£4.633	
Additional Savings	£2.320	
Loan Fund Review – Reprofiling	£3.000	
Budget Investments		£9.953
Total	£9.953	£9.953

On moving his amendment, Councillor Fagan stated that he considered the public had to be made fully aware of the difficulties faced by local government as it was only public pressure and pressure from trades unions that could correct historical underfunding. He said he respected the decision of other Groups to enter into cross-party discussions, however, his Group would only have entered into discussions this year if cuts to breakfast clubs, lunch clubs and 'free at 3' were ruled out at the very start. He advised that his Group's alternative budget also achieved £10 million of new investment while limiting savings to less than half of that proposed by the other Groups by reprofiling the benefit of the Loans Fund Review to allow immediate investment in South Lanarkshire.

As no-one moved the recommendations in the report, the amendment by Councillor Ross, 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, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, 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, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, 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, 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 45 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the addition to the budget for the potential pay costs of £3 million, as detailed at paragraph 4.3, be agreed;
- (2) that the capacity for investment figure of £4.633 million, following the grant settlement for 2021/2022, as detailed at paragraph 4.3, after taking account of the potential costs, be noted;

(3) that the inclusion of a budget for investments of £4.633 million plus the savings totalling £5.421 million, as outlined in the savings summary table, be used for the following investments, as outlined above:-

◆ Children and Young People's Learning and Wellbeing	£2.245 million
◆ Get South Lanarkshire Working	£3.000 million
◆ Climate Challenge South Lanarkshire	£2.000 million
◆ Food Strategy Support Fund	£0.300 million
◆ Footpaths and Roads Improvement Fund	£2.000 million
◆ Community Ownership Programme	£0.250 million
◆ Community Resilience	£0.259 million

- (4) that the position on the General Capital Grant and the Specific Grants, as detailed at paragraphs 4.7 to 4.9, be noted;
- (5) that the proposed Council Tax freeze, as detailed at paragraph 5.2, which would set the Council Tax for Band D properties at £1,203, be approved; and
- (6) that the Revenue Budget for 2021/2022, including the base budget allocations to Resources, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved subject to the adjustments detailed within Recommendation (3).

[Reference: *Minutes of the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 6)*]

*Councillor Thomson joined the meeting during this item of business and prior to the vote
In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Provost adjourned the meeting during this item of business at
12.00 noon and reconvened at 12.15pm to allow time for members to consider both amendments.
Councillors Burns and Corbett were not present when the meeting reconvened which was prior to the
vote*

3 Recommendations Referred by the Executive Committee – Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2021/2022

A report dated 24 February 2021 by the Chief Executive was tabled on recommendations referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 24 February 2021. The recommendations were as follows:-

- ◆ **Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2021/2022**
 - ◆ 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 2019/2020 be approved
 - ◆ that the proposal to progress the final stage of the rent harmonisation process be approved
 - ◆ that, based on the proposed rent increase of 2.2%, the 2021/2022 Housing Capital Programme, totalling £100.801 million, be approved

Councillor Wilson, as Chair of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee, spoke in recognition of the Tenants' Budget Scrutiny Group in working in partnership with officers to consult with tenants and contribute to the proposals outlined in the report. He considered the proposals demonstrated the Council's commitment to invest and improve its housing stock while keeping rent levels among the lowest in the country. He outlined the Council's plan to increase its supply of housing stock by building a further 504 homes, in an energy efficient way, next year. The Council would also continue to invest in improving its existing housing stock to ensure it exceeded the Scottish Housing Quality Standards. The budget for the year ahead made provisions for the impact of welfare reform, universal credit, of rent collection and arrears. The Council was taking

a person centred approach, tailored to an individual's specific circumstances, and providing financial support through, for example, discretionary housing payment and the tenancy sustainment fund.

The Council decided: that the recommendations of the Executive Committee of 24 February 2021 in relation to the Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2020/2021 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 24 February 2021 (Paragraph 2)]

4 Notice of Motion – Plug the Gap

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

"This council notes the Scottish Government's recent announcement of "a package of financial flexibilities and extra funding for councils to address the financial pressures caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic over the next two years".

Whilst we welcome the recognition of the financial crises local government is in we remain concerned that this 'financial package' does not solve the problem.

Most of this was not 'new' money. Most of what was announced in the package is only available if local authorities make full use of the complicated set of 'fiscal flexibilities' set out.

These fiscal flexibilities are no substitute for a fair funding settlement. This council still faces a financial perfect storm of extra demand for services at a time of substantial loss of income which means impossible choices about the funding of services going forward.

This council notes that £2bn of 'efficiencies' have already been taken out of Scottish local government over the last decade. Throughout this period South Lanarkshire has had to make savings, reducing jobs and impacting on the services we provide. We also know that the financial impact of COVID-19 will not be confined to the next few months and with Brexit looming the effects of both on the wider economy are going to make the crisis in Local Government much worse.

This Council therefore pledges its support for the trade union campaign "Plug the Gap" and calls on the Scottish Government to Plug The Gap in Local Government finance in the 2021/2022 budget to:-

- ◆ **Reward Local Government Workers** - Local Government workers have been the hidden heroes of this pandemic. Their invaluable contribution to the Covid response should be recognised and rewarded. The government's £500 for health and social care workers is welcome but many other council workers have made tremendous efforts during the pandemic.
- ◆ **Secure the long term financial stability of Local Government** – Local Government needs long term stability to protect essential jobs and services for the future. The salami slicing of services needs to stop. We call on the Scottish Government to deliver a fair financial settlement for councils in 2021/2022 to protect services, jobs and the viability of councils going forward.
- ◆ **Shape Local Government Fit for the Post-Pandemic Future** – It is a matter of fact that a number of roles undertaken by local government workers have changed as a result of the pandemic.

- ◆ **Fully Consolidate the Living Wage** –Enshrine in law the existing commitment to fully consolidate the living wage for all local government workers across Scotland.”

Councillor Allison, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved as an amendment that the:-

- ◆ first bullet point be deleted and replaced with ‘Council employees to be granted an additional day’s annual leave to be taken in 2022’
- ◆ last bullet point in respect of the Living Wage be deleted in its entirety as the Council already paid above the Living Wage rate

Following a full discussion, Councillor Fagan agreed to amend his motion to remove the preamble as it was now outdated, delete ‘therefore’ from the paragraph prior to the bullet points and add an additional paragraph that a paper be brought to a future, relevant committee for consideration of an extra day’s annual leave for Council employees in 2022.

Having heard from Councillor Cooper that she had intended to submit a motion in respect of a potential additional day’s leave, however, had been given assurances that officers would prepare a report, with the full financial and other implications detailed, to be submitted for members’ consideration at a future date, Councillor Allison, with the agreement of Councillor Campbell, withdrew his amendment.

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

For the Motion (as amended)

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

Against the Motion (as amended)

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Grant Ferguson, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, 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, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Colette Stevenson, Jim Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

Abstained

Joe Lowe, Richard Nelson

17 members voted for the motion, 42 against and 2 members abstained. The motion, therefore, failed to be carried.

The Council decided: that the motion be not carried.

Councillor Harrow was not present during the vote

5 Independent Review of Adult Social Care

A report dated 14 February 2021 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing information on the outcome and recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

The Scottish Government commissioned the Independent Review of Adult Social Care on 1 September 2020. The principal aim of the Review was to “recommend improvements to adult social care in Scotland”, primarily in terms of the outcomes achieved by, and with, the people who used services, their carers and families, and the experience of people who worked in adult social care. This was to be informed by taking a human-rights based approach rather than a needs led approach. The scope of the review did not, however, include consideration of the full health and social care system.

The Scottish Government appointed Derek Feeley, former NHS Scotland Chief Executive, to lead the review and also directly appointed an Advisory Panel to support his work. The Advisory Group did not have a representative of local government, COSLA, SOLACE or Social Work Scotland. The Review report was published on 5 February 2021 and had been debated by the Scottish Parliament during February 2021.

The Review report defined the purpose of adult social care as being that everyone in Scotland would get the social care support they needed to live their lives as they chose and to be active citizens. To achieve this purpose, it was considered that the following was required:-

- ◆ a new narrative for social care support
- ◆ a redesign of the system of social care support (including the creation of a National Care Service)
- ◆ redefining quality and closing the gap between intent and lived experience (the implementation gap)
- ◆ protecting, promoting and ensuring human rights and equality
- ◆ greater empowerment of people who needed support and unpaid carers at the level of the individual and the collective
- ◆ valuing of the social care support workforce

Details were provided on the context in South Lanarkshire in relation to Adult Social Care.

It was highlighted that a number of the Review report recommendations reflected policy positions already taken by COSLA and supported by this Council.

The Review considered that structural change in social care services was necessary and this had raised the possibility of children’s services and criminal justice services being included in the remit of the reformed Integrated Joint Boards. It had also recommended that a National Care Service be established which would see accountability for social care support move from councils to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Chalmers, seconded by Councillor Craig, moved the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor McGeever, moved the following as an amendment to replace the existing recommendations:-

“The Council:

1. Notes the contents of the Report, the findings of the review and the resultant recommendations
2. Accepts the challenges identified in the Report of needs assessment, care planning and rationing of care to those in only the greatest need which have been necessary to deal with the rapid increase in demographic related demand and limited funding available.
3. Supports the aim of delivery of high standard adult social care across Scotland but believes that such services are best organised and delivered by properly funded local Councils not by a centralised Quango
4. Welcomes the recommendations for increased investment in adult social care including the extension of a real living wage to social care staff, free non-residential social care support, increased funding for free personal and nursing care for self funders using care homes, and review of support for Unpaid Carers and respite provision

5. Notes the significant change in context that would arise from the suggested increase in resource investment (£0.660 billion) and considers this would allow the outcomes sought to be delivered without the loss of local democratic accountability.
6. Notes that the Advisory Group supporting the review did not have a representative of local government, COSLA, SOLACE or Social Work Scotland
7. Expresses its opposition to the centralisation of adult social care services and urges the Scottish Government to reject the proposal for a centralised National Care Service
8. Instructs the Chief Executive to convey the Council's views on the matter to the Scottish Government
9. Agrees to further reports being presented once the Scottish Government outlines its response to the recommendations

Councillor Bradley suggested that it might be helpful to hold a members' seminar and this was agreed. He also considered it was important that the Council proactively influence the shaping of any new governance arrangements.

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

Motion

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

Amendment

Alex Allison, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, 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,

34 members voted for the amendment and 25 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

The Council decided:

- (1) to note the contents of the Report, the findings of the review and the resultant recommendations;
- (2) to accept the challenges identified in the Report of needs assessment, care planning and rationing of care to those in only the greatest need which had been necessary to deal with due to the rapid increase in demographic related demand and limited funding available;
- (3) to support the aim of delivery of high standard adult social care across Scotland but believed that such services were best organised and delivered by properly funded local councils not by a centralised Quango;
- (4) to welcome the recommendations for increased investment in adult social care including the extension of a real living wage to social care staff, free non-residential social care support, increased funding for free personal and nursing care for self funders using care homes, and review of support for Unpaid Carers and respite provision;
- (5) to note the significant change in context that would arise from the suggested increase in resource investment (£0.660 billion) and considered this would allow the outcomes sought to be delivered without the loss of local democratic accountability;

- (6) to note that the Advisory Group supporting the review did not have a representative of local government, COSLA, SOLACE or Social Work Scotland;
- (7) to express its opposition to the centralisation of adult social care services and urge the Scottish Government to reject the proposal for a centralised National Care Service;
- (8) to instruct the Chief Executive to convey the Council's views on the matter to the Scottish Government;
- (9) to agree that further reports be presented once the Scottish Government outlined its response to the recommendations; and
- (10) that arrangements be made for a members' seminar on the matter.

Councillor Greenshields left the meeting during this item of business

6 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.