

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 2 March 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 Janine Calikes, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, 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 Richard Lockhart, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Julia Marrs, 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 Bert Thomson, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Collette Stevenson

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services

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; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost:-

- ♦ welcomed all present to this final meeting of the Council for this term and, in particular, David Booth as it was his first meeting of the Council in his capacity as the newly appointed Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)
- ♦ advised that, in terms of Standing Order No 4(c), he had agreed to a request for an item of urgent business which would be dealt with at the appropriate point in the meeting

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 1 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Minutes of Special Meeting

The minutes of the special meeting of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 23 February 2022 were tabled for approval as a correct record.

The Head of Administration and Legal Services responded to a point made by Councillor Watson in relation to the subject matter of his request for an item of urgent business, as recorded in the minutes.

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

4 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 17 November 2021 were submitted for noting.

The Council decided: that the minutes be noted.

5 Minutes of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 7 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

6 Minutes of Housing and Technical Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee held on 8 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

7 Minutes of Planning Local Review Body

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Local Review Body held on 13 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

8 Minutes of Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee held on 14 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

9 Minutes of East Kilbride Area Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the East Kilbride Area Committee held on 15 December 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Leader of the Council responded to a point made by Councillor Watson in terms of East Kilbride to Glasgow railway link.

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

10 Minutes of Housing and Technical Resources Committee

The minutes of the special meeting of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee held on 19 January 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

11 Minutes of Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum held on 25 January 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

12 Minutes of Employee Issues Forum

The minutes of the meeting of the Employee Issues Forum held on 25 January 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

13 Minutes of Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee held on 26 January 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

14 Minutes of Climate Change and Sustainability Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee held on 2 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

15 Minutes of Appeals Panel

The minutes of the meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 3 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

16 Minutes of Education Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 8 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

17 Minutes of Social Work Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Social Work Resources Committee held on 9 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

18 Minutes of Finance and Corporate Resources Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee held on 9 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

19 Minutes of Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum

The minutes of the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 10 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

20 Minutes of Conference Allocation Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Conference Allocation Committee held on 15 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

21 Minutes of Planning Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

22 Minutes of Clydesdale Area Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 15 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

23 Minutes of Petitions Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Petitions Committee held on 16 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

24 Minutes of Hamilton Area Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 16 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

25 Minutes of Licensing Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 22 February 2022 were tabled for approval as a correct record.

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

26 Minutes of Equal Opportunities Forum

The minutes of the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Forum held on 23 February 2022 were tabled for approval as a correct record.

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

27 Notice of Motion – Protecting Bus Services for South Lanarkshire Communities

In terms of Standing Order No 19, a motion proposed by Councillor McGeever, seconded by Councillor Brown, was submitted. Prior to considering the matter, Councillor McGeever advised that he had circulated a revised version of the motion to take account of comments received in respect of rural wards, which read as follows:-

“South Lanarkshire Council holds that it is vital every community has meaningful access to reliable, frequent, and efficient bus services, which connect residential areas to urban centres and integrate with the wider regional public transport system.

This council affirms that connectivity across the whole Glasgow City Region is key to improving the lives of residents and helping local businesses succeed. Council notes that a lack of such bus services – as in the west end of Lindsayfield – causes many of our residents to face significant constraints on their life chances and their quality of life, and holds back our local economy.

The Council welcomes the recent extension of free bus travel to young people under 22 years of age but holds that such entitlement will have little benefit to those unable to access bus services where they live.

This council remains extremely concerned by the suspension and withdrawal of bus services on which our communities depend – including the X1 Express between Earnock in Hamilton and Glasgow City Centre, and the 31 serving Stewartfield in East Kilbride.

Therefore, this council calls on:-

- ◆ First Bus and all other operators to urgently reinstate the X1, the 31 and other routes within South Lanarkshire that they have withdrawn or suspended since the beginning of the pandemic;
- ◆ the Scottish and UK governments to work with bus providers to address the challenges faced by bus service operators in both urban and rural areas; and
- ◆ the leaders of all eight councils of the Glasgow City Region to explore the creation of a London-style model of bus provision across our metropolitan area, including the ability for councils to identify community service routes that must be provided by operators to fully connect urban and rural areas.”

In moving his motion, Councillor McGeever referred to the fact that a lack of bus services was a major problem for all communities, therefore, getting a policy solution was a priority that hopefully transcended party politics. He considered the absence of reliable, frequent and cheap bus services affected people, businesses and the economy. He understood members shared similar views and welcomed comments on the matter. Councillor Brown seconded the motion.

Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, moved the following as an amendment:-

“As an amendment to the Motion proposed by Councillor Mark McGeever and seconded by Councillor Robert Brown, the Labour Group ask the Council to:

- 1) Amend “the whole Glasgow City Region” to “Strathclyde”.
- 2) Remove the final bullet point beginning “the leaders of all eight councils...” and replace text with “the leaders of all Strathclyde Partnership for Transport member authorities to commit to the creation of a London-style model of bus provision across the Strathclyde region, including the ability for councils to identify routes that must be provided by operators.”
- 3) Insert an additional bullet point to read “support the extension of municipal control and ownership of bus services to ensure bus networks better serve the needs of passengers and communities across all geographies of Strathclyde, including our rural communities.”
- 4) Insert a further additional bullet point to read “regard voluntary agreements and Bus Service Improvement Partnerships as inadequate solutions to bus network decline that must be rejected in favour of progressive systems of democratic control, such as a London-style franchising framework and municipal ownership and control of local bus services.”

In moving his amendment, Councillor Fagan thanked Councillor McGeever for bringing the motion forward. He considered that there would be no seamless, integrated, reliable London-style network until the deregulated market was abolished. He intimated that the Council should be making the most of its new bus franchising powers and the Scottish Government should be laying the regulations to back up those powers as soon as possible. Councillor Hamilton seconded the amendment.

Councillor Allison suggested that Councillor McGeever make a small change to his motion to reflect the fact that it was not Glasgow City Region but Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) who had responsibility for transport within the old Strathclyde area.

Following discussion, Councillor McGeever indicated that, in response to Councillor Allison's suggestion, he was willing to amend bullet point 3 of his motion to add in 'SPT and' prior to the 'the leaders of all eight councils of the Glasgow City Region'. In terms of Councillor Fagan's amendment, he advised that he was not able to fully support it but was agreeable to accepting points 3) and 4). On that basis, Councillor Fagan indicated he was content and, with the agreement of Councillor Hamilton, withdrew his amendment.

The Council decided:

(1) to call on:-

- ◆ First Bus and all other operators to urgently reinstate the X1, the 31 and other routes within South Lanarkshire that had been withdrawn or suspended since the beginning of the pandemic
- ◆ the Scottish and UK governments to work with bus providers to address the challenges faced by bus service operators in both urban and rural areas
- ◆ SPT and the leaders of all 8 councils of the Glasgow City Region to explore the creation of a London-style model of bus provision across our metropolitan area, including the ability for councils to identify community service routes that must be provided by operators to fully connect urban and rural areas

(2) that the extension of municipal control and ownership of bus services to ensure bus networks better served the needs of passengers and communities across all geographies of Strathclyde, including our rural communities, be supported; and

(3) that voluntary agreements and Bus Service Improvement Partnerships be regarded as inadequate solutions to bus network decline that must be rejected in favour of progressive systems of democratic control, such as a London-style franchising framework and municipal ownership and control of local bus services.

28 Equity Working Group Progress Report - Update

A report dated 16 February 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of the Equity Working Group.

At its meeting held on 22 September 2021, the Council was updated on the progress of the Equity Working Group. Since then, the Working Group had held a further 3 meetings and an overview of the topics considered was detailed in Table 1 of the report.

Members were heard in support of the progress made by the Working Group.

Councillor Razzaq, as Chair of the Working Group, wished to thank councillors for their cross-party collaboration, as well as officers for their hard work in supporting its aims.

The Council decided: that the progress update on work undertaken by the Equity Working Group be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 September 2021 (Paragraph 6)]

29 A National Care Service for Scotland – Consultation Analysis

A report dated 15 February 2022 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing an overview of the Scottish Government's published analysis of the responses to its consultation on 'A National Care Service for Scotland' published on 10 February 2022.

The Scottish Government had stated its commitment to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC) report which were to:-

- ♦ ensure that care was person-centred, human rights based and was seen as an investment in society, making Scottish Ministers responsible for the delivery of social care support with the establishment of a National Care Service to deliver and oversee integration, improvement and best practice across health and social care services
- ♦ change local Integration Joint Boards to be the delivery arm of the National Care Service, funded directly by and reporting to the Scottish Government
- ♦ nurture and strengthen the workforce
- ♦ provide greater recognition and support for unpaid carers

The National Care Service for Scotland consultation was focused on exploring the suggestions for significant cultural and system change that would need to be supported by primary legislation and new laws to ensure governance and accountability across the system to deliver successfully for people.

The consultation closed on 18 October 2021 and the Council approved its detailed response for submission at the Executive Committee.

The Scottish Government had published the consultation analysis on 10 February 2022.

Overall, responses were received from 1,291 respondents, many of which were organisational responses. It was also evident from some organisational responses that they were representing the views of a wider body of constituents. In particular, in addition to individual council submissions, parallel submissions were made by COSLA and SOLACE which represented all 32 local authorities in Scotland and had cross-party support from COSLA Leaders. Those submissions were heavily critical of:-

- ♦ the lack of detail in the consultation document
- ♦ the approach and methodology of the consultation which only provided a choice between retaining the current system with its flaws and a single model of NCS without any consideration of alternatives
- ♦ the lack of costing for an entitlements based model and lack of clarity on how it was to be funded

A Bill was expected to be introduced in the Scottish Parliament in summer 2022. The Scottish Government intended the NCS to be fully functioning by the end of the parliamentary term in 2026.

The implications for local government were outlined in paragraph 4.12 of the report.

The Chief Executive advised that further updates would be provided in the new Council term, once draft legislation was available.

Councillor Brown suggested that the Council add further recommendations, as circulated, and this was agreed.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the report be noted;

- (2) that the “heavy criticism” of the consultation process by COSLA and SOLACE, as outlined in paragraph 3.8 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the view expressed in paragraph 4.12 of the report that “if there is additional investment on the scale suggested by the NCS proposals, then councils can implement change quicker and more effectively than waiting for the major structural change represented by an NCS that, whilst consuming a huge amount of time and effort, in itself will not improve services to users and carers” be strongly supported; and
- (4) that the Scottish Government be urged to work with COSLA to develop structures to raise standards for the care service across Scotland which retained full local control and effective community links.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 3 November 2021 (Paragraph 9)]

30 Item of Urgent Business - The Russian Invasion of Ukraine

In terms of Standing Order No 4(c), the Provost decided that, in order to show the Council's support to the people of Ukraine, consideration be given to the following motion, as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Ross, moved the following:-

“South Lanarkshire Council is appalled at the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and Belarus.

Noting that the waging of aggressive war is a criminal act under both international law and the Russian constitution, the Council joins with the civilised world in condemning the actions of President Putin in initiating the war which is taking an increasing toll of military personnel and non-combatant civilians alike.

The Council fully backs the United Kingdom government in partnership with other NATO allies in deploying measures aimed at ending the illegal Russian invasion and supporting the Government and people of Ukraine in the defence of their country and the lives and liberties of their people.

The Council stands ready to assist in all appropriate ways with humanitarian support and refuge to the people of Ukraine in this ordeal.

South Lanarkshire Council is reminded that peace, stability and democracy cannot be taken for granted even in Europe and stresses the value and importance of international institutions including the United Nations, the European Union and NATO in continuing to safeguard and advance liberal democracy, mutual security and economic prosperity in Europe and beyond.

The Council requests the Chief Executive to write to **Andrey Yakovlev**, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Scotland, conveying the Council's condemnation of the actions of his Government.”

In moving his motion, Councillor Brown referred to the shock, disbelief and horror that an independent, democratic European country was the subject of bullying, aggression and attempted domination by the armed power of Russia and its Leader. He paid tribute to the courageous way Ukrainian armed forces and people had defended their homes, cities and country against the Russians. He referred to the effect of world opinion, sanctions and boycotts and of some brave people in Russia who had spoken against President Putin and his actions. He asked that the Council stand united in condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine as the war crime that it was and to offer whatever humanitarian support and refuge was within the Council's power.

Councillor Ross, in seconding the motion, referred to the heart rending scenes and how he found the bravery of Ukrainian citizens overwhelming. He said the motion's intention was to support the UK Government, in partnership with NATO allies, in deploying measures aimed at ending the illegal invasion by Russia as well as showing support to the government and people of Ukraine in defence of their country. He referred to the humanitarian approach adopted by the majority of EU countries in allowing Ukrainian citizens 3 years' visa free asylum and urged the Home Office to reconsider its position.

Following discussion, in which the views of a number of members were heard, including a request that books of solidarity be arranged for locals to write messages of hope to Ukraine, it was agreed that the motion be unanimously supported.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the terms of the motion be unanimously supported; and
- (2) that the Chief Executive write to [Andrey Yakovlev](#), Consul General of the Russian Federation in Scotland, conveying the Council's condemnation of the actions of his Government.

Provost's Closing Remarks

The Provost:-

- ♦ advised that this would be the last Council meeting that Alistair McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services (Community and Enterprise Resources) would be attending as he was retiring. The Provost, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr McKinnon for his many years of public service and wished him a happy retirement
- ♦ thanked officers for their support over this Council term
- ♦ expressed his best wishes for the future to those elected members who were not seeking re-election, in particular, to Councillor Lowe, who was one of the longest serving members
- ♦ wished those who were seeking re-election good luck in the forthcoming Local Government Elections