

Report

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

Subject:	Draft Community Wealth Building Strategy
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ present a draft Community Wealth Building Strategy for South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the draft Community Wealth Building Strategy, attached at appendix 1, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Over the last decade or so, the concept of community wealth building (CWB) has been generating considerable interest, as a people-centred approach to local economic development. With widespread recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in traditional economic models, the ideas within CWB have gained renewed impetus.
- 3.2. At a national level, CWB has been endorsed as an approach by the Scottish Government, with a range of community-led measures for economic development set out in the Programme for Government published on 1 September 2020.
- 3.3. COSLA has recently signalled its support for the principle of CWB as a means of delivery of place based, inclusive growth and has stated that it will work to support local authorities interested in taking forward CWB as a model for economic development.
- 3.4. Building on work undertaken at the end of 2020, subject experts from across the Council have prepared a draft CWB strategy for South Lanarkshire. This report presents the draft Strategy for Members' consideration.

4. The draft Community Wealth Building Strategy

- 4.1. Community Wealth Building is an alternative approach to traditional economic development, which seeks to develop resilient, inclusive local economies, with more local employment and a larger and more diverse business base.
- 4.2. Elected Members received a briefing on CWB in November last year which provided background information on the approach and signposted a range of examples where CWB had been pursued by local authorities and their partners.

- 4.3. The briefing also informed Members of steps taken by council officers to examine CWB and how it could be applied in South Lanarkshire, including:
- ◆ an evaluation of the council's current practice in terms of how it aligns with the principles of CWB
 - ◆ a desktop review of approaches that have been adopted in other council areas;
 - ◆ liaison with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies to benefit from best practice and experience gained elsewhere
 - ◆ subject experts within the council looking at specific CWB objectives in the South Lanarkshire context
- 4.4. This work has now been brought together in a draft Strategy for the consideration of Elected Members which is attached at appendix 1. The draft Strategy mirrors the approach taken by a number of other authorities which sees high level objectives set out alongside a selection of case studies to highlight local successes arising from existing service activity.

5. Next Steps and recommendations

- 5.1. The draft Strategy sets out high-level aspirations in relation to CWB. A detailed action plan will be developed to support the delivery of these aspirations over an appropriate time-period (3 to 5 years).
- 5.2. Within this, decisions will have to be made about priorities, timescales and the sequence in which commitments are delivered. Elected Member input to this aspect of the Strategy will be an important requirement as this agenda is progressed in South Lanarkshire.
- 5.3. In line with strategies developed elsewhere, the draft CWB Strategy commits to the publication of annual reports on progress, as well as the development of a dashboard of suitable indicators to track the direction and pace of change. This reporting framework will be integrated with the Council's other performance reporting arrangements, including the annual Resource Plans and reporting on the Council Plan, Connect.
- 5.4. Recognising that CWB could signal a fundamental shift in the Council's approach across a number of services, a robust risk assessment and register will be developed to accompany the detailed action plan.
- 5.5. If the committee approves the draft Community Wealth Building Strategy, officers will take it forward for discussion with community planning, social enterprise and voluntary sector partners.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct employee implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no climate change implications as a result of this report. A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be undertaken if required.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. None.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. The specific action plans developed to support the CWB strategy will be subject to Equality Impact Assessments. Consultation on how the CWB approach is developed in practice will be integrated with planned consultation and engagement activities through 2021 and beyond.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

20 January 2021

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Ambitions

- Ensure communities are safe, strong and sustainable
- Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and tackle disadvantage

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- None

Contact for Further Information

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

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