

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 February 2022

Chair:

Councillor Mary Donnelly

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Peter Craig (Depute), Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross (ex officio), Councillor Bert Thomson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

C Park, Head of Roads and Transportation Services

Education Resources

L Mitchell, Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer (Equity)

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Cochran, Administration Assistant; E A McGonigle, Administration Officer

Housing and Technical Resources

J Read, Strategy and Policy Advisor

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 17 November 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources

A report dated 24 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Following the consultation and voting process, which was reported at the last meeting of the Committee, schools were progressing with their spend to ensure the minimum 5% was spent in full by the end of March 2022.

Examples of good practice of PB within Hamilton schools, Woodside Primary School and Hamilton Grammar School, were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Those examples outlined the schools' journeys around PB and an impact section would be added to the infographics at Appendix 1, once the schools had spent their PB allocation in full at the end of the academic year, to show the benefit of the activity for the most vulnerable learners.

The Equity Team was available to help schools navigate any challenges faced to ensure a full spend before the end of the financial year. A consultation on the PB process would be undertaken with Head Teachers and PB Leads before the end of the financial year to gather views on what had worked and what could be improved. The findings of the consultation would be shared at future Area Committee meetings and would inform any future PB activity within Education Resources.

Education Resources would also continue to provide the Committee with the following:-

- ◆ summary report of each school's PB outcome (available late October/early November) and Local Authority and Area analysis report
- ◆ regular updates and reports at Area Committee meetings, including case studies focused on impact/success (ongoing)
- ◆ Local Authority Financial Report on how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent (May/June 2022)

The Quality Improvement Officer/Lead Officer (Equity) responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 November 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillors Lowe and Thomson joined the meeting during this item of business

4 Participatory Budgeting – Housing and Technical Resources

A report dated 28 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to the Housing Investment Programme (HIP) for the Hamilton area.

Engagement with tenants on the overall Housing Revenue Account budget for 2021/2022, and the proposed level and focus of the HIP within this, had taken place as part of the annual Resource 2021/2022 budgetary consultation process. The environmental aspect of the HIP (Environmental Programme) was a significant budget area that covered a wide range of projects that sought to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the Council's domestic housing stock.

To date, one PB project had been completed within the Hamilton area from within this budget. Residents at Barncluith Sheltered Housing Complex had been offered the opportunity to determine a range of finishes such as flooring, tiles and walls coverings. An initial meeting had taken place to explain the process and officers had prepared 'mood boards', with relevant styles on them, and completed door visits or sent letters to all households within the complex asking them to select their preferred option.

A total of 20 households had taken part in the exercise and 61% selected the preferred option. The project cost a total of £100,180, however, some the costs were attributed to background works, such as re-wiring, where tenants were not able to determine the outcome.

Officers from the Resource would continue to take forward opportunities within Hamilton to ensure tenants and other customers had the opportunity to determine the outcome of budgets within the Environmental Programme and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Commissioning budget. Updates would be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Strategy and Policy Advisor responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZ) Consultation

A report dated 24 November 2021 by the Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the results of the completed Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZs) Consultation.

RPPZs were generally located in proximity to high demand parking areas, such as town centres and train stations, allowing residents, their visitors, and tradespeople to park easily or, in some areas, without paying a parking charge.

As part of the 2021/2022 budget setting exercise, a charge for parking permits was considered and agreed at the Executive Committee on 10 March 2021. This was implemented as permits were being renewed over the normal 2-year cycle. This charging approach directly linked to an Audit Scotland report encouraging councils to better understand costs and seek to recover them where discretionary services were being provided.

At the full Council meeting on 22 September 2021, a motion relating to Parking Permit Charges was tabled and it was subsequently agreed that consultation with residents living in current RPPZ areas would be undertaken. Charging for permits was suspended pending the outcome of the consultation exercise being reported to the relevant committees.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ the consultation process which involved asking households if they wished to remain in an RPPZ and pay a £5 per year administration charge or whether they wished to have their RPPZ removed
- ◆ the return rate for each of the 6 towns/areas consulted
- ◆ the split between paying and retaining or removing the zone across the 6 towns/areas

Of the households within Hamilton and Uddingston which responded to the consultation, the outcome was as follows:-

- ◆ Hamilton - 95% of respondents wished to pay and retain the zone while 5% wished to have the zone removed
- ◆ Uddingston – 100% of respondents wished to pay and retain the zone

As agreed at the Council meeting held on 22 September 2021, the results of the consultation were now subject to consideration by the 4 Area Committees prior to each Area Committee providing a recommendation to a future meeting of the Executive Committee on whether to accept the findings of the consultation and continue to provide permit zones with a £5 administration charge (£10 over 2 years) for the permits.

The Head of Roads and Transportation Services responded to members' questions.

Following discussion, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved that the Committee accept the findings of the consultation and the decisions made by local residents to accept the charge and keep the residents' parking permit zones. Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Carmichael, moved as an amendment that the Committee only note the contents of the report and offer no recommendations to the Executive Committee.

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

Motion

Maureen Chalmers, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Graeme Horne, Martin Grant Hose, Kenny McCreary, Jim McGuigan, John Ross, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Andy Carmichael, Maureen Devlin, Allan Falconer, Mo Razzaq, Bert Thomson

Abstained
Joe Lowe

5 members voted for the amendment, 9 for the motion and one member abstained. The motion was declared carried.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted and that the view of the Committee, namely, that the findings of the consultation be accepted and that the Council continue to provide permit zones with an administration charge for the permits for 2 years, be recommended to the Executive Committee.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 23 March 2020 (Paragraph 8), Minutes of the Executive Committee of 24 June 2020 (Paragraph 3) and Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

Due to technical issues, Councillor McLachlan did not take part in the vote

6 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 31 January 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

In view of the fact that this was the last meeting of the Committee in the current financial year and to allow best use to be made of the remaining 2021/2022 community grant budget, it was proposed that the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to approve any further community grant applications meeting the relevant criteria in the period to 31 March 2022. Those grants awarded would be reported to a future meeting for noting.

The Committee decided:-

(1) that community grants be awarded as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| (a) | Applicant: | Bothwell Futures (HA/13/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up costs – administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £250 |
| (b) | Applicant: | Stonefield Area Association, Blantyre (HA/16/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up costs – administration costs and equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £200 |
| (c) | Applicant: | Shawlands Crescent Tenants' Association, Larkhall (HA/17/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up costs – administration and publicity costs |
| | Amount Awarded: | £200 |
| (d) | Applicant: | Blantyre Miners' Welfare Charitable Society (HA/18/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Materials and equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £206 |
| (e) | Applicant: | Eddlewood Bowling Club Ladies' Section, Hamilton (HA/20/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Outing |
| | Amount Awarded: | £200 |

(f) Applicant: Bothwell Horticultural Society (*HA/21/21*)
 Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
 Amount Awarded: £900

- (2) that, to ensure that the remaining 2021/2022 community grant budget was utilised as fully as possible, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources), in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to approve community grant applications in the period to 31 March 2022, subject to the applications meeting the Council's criteria for the receipt of funding; and
- (3) that the details of those applications approved be reported to a future meeting for noting.

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.