



Council Offices, Almada Street
Hamilton, ML3 0AA

Monday, 29 November 2021

Dear Councillor

Community and Enterprise Resources Committee

The Members listed below are requested to attend a meeting of the above Committee to be held as follows:-

Date: Tuesday, 07 December 2021
Time: 14:00
Venue: By Microsoft Teams,

The business to be considered at the meeting is listed overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

Members

John Anderson (Chair), Isobel Dorman (Depute Chair), John Ross (ex officio), John Bradley, Graeme Campbell, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Peter Craig, Joe Fagan, Grant Ferguson, Graeme Horne, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Hugh Macdonald, Monique McAdams, Ian McAllan, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Mark McGeever, Davie McLachlan, Lynne Nailon, Graham Scott, Margaret B Walker, David Watson, Josh Wilson

Substitutes

Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Stephanie Callaghan, Andy Carmichael, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Allan Falconer, George Greenshields, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Mark Horsham, Jim McGuigan, Jim Wardhaugh

BUSINESS

1 Declaration of Interests

- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting** 5 - 12
Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 28 September 2021 submitted for approval as a correct record. (Copy attached)

Monitoring Item(s)

- 3 Community - Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022** 13 - 22
Joint report dated 2 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022** 23 - 26
Joint report dated 17 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring - August and September 2021** 27 - 34
Joint report dated 7 September 2021 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Decision

- 6 Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan - Consultative Draft** 35 - 84
Report dated 17 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 7 Placed Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and Town Centre Capital Fund - Update** 85 - 100
Report dated 8 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 8 South Lanarkshire Gift Card** 101 - 106
Report dated 8 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 9 Building Standards Service - Additional Officers** 107 - 116
Joint report dated 12 November 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)

- 10 Workforce Planning and Recruitment in Planning and Building Standards Services** 117 - 120
Joint report dated 17 November 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources). (Copy attached)
- 11 Community Benefit Fund - Renewable Energy Fund - Grant Applications** 121 - 124
Report dated 9 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)

Item(s) for Noting

- 12 Roads Asset Management Plan - 2021 Update** 125 - 134
Report dated 17 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 13 East Kilbride Rail Enhancement Project Update** 135 - 140
Report dated 11 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 14 Crossford Traffic Calming Request** 141 - 144
Report dated 9 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 15 Resident Only Parking - McNeil Street Larkhall** 145 - 148
Report dated 9 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)
- 16 Community and Enterprise Resources - Notification of Contracts Awarded - 1 April to 30 September 2021** 149 - 154
Report dated 11 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources). (Copy attached)

Urgent Business

- 17 Urgent Business**
Any other items of business which the Chair decides are urgent.

For further information, please contact:-

Clerk Name:	Elizabeth-Anne McGonigle
Clerk Telephone:	01698 454521
Clerk Email:	elizabeth-anne.mcgonigle@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 28 September 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Anderson

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Margaret Cowie (*substitute for Councillor Graham Scott*), Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin (*substitute for Councillor Monique McAdams*), Councillor Isobel Dorman (Depute), Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Grant Ferguson, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor John Ross (*ex-officio*), Councillor Graham Scott

Councillors Also Attending:

Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Allan Falconer

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; L Carr, Amenity Services Manager; P Elliott, Head of Planning and Economic Development; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services; I Russell, Construction Unit Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

J Davitt, Public Relations Officer; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; L Harvey, Finance Manager; M C Lunny, Legal Services Advisor; E Maxwell, Human Resources Business Partner; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy)

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 29 June 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022

A joint report dated 25 August 2021 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 13 August 2021 against budgeted expenditure for 2021/2022 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

At 13 August 2021, there was an overspend of £1.939 million against the phased budget. The reported overspend related primarily to costs as a result of COVID-19. This position did not reflect any impact for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) as at 13 August 2021.

Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overspend on the Community and Enterprise Resources' revenue budget of £1.939 million as at 13 August 2021, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to G of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022

A joint report dated 8 September 2021 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2021/2022 and summarising the expenditure position at 13 August 2021.

The revised capital programme for 2021/2022, as agreed at the 25 August and 22 September 2021 meetings of the Executive Committee, amounted to £47.564 million and, at 13 August 2021, expenditure was £8.770 million.

The Committee decided: that the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme of £47.564 million, and expenditure for the year of £8.770 million, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2021 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring – May to July 2021

A joint report dated 7 September 2021 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period May to July 2021:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health statistics
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers and exit interviews
- ♦ staffing watch as at 12 June 2021

In response to a member's question, officers undertook to provide members with figures for 2019 for comparison purposes.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 29 June 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

6 Community and Enterprise Resource Plan – Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021

A report dated 27 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Community and Enterprise Resource Plan 2020/2021 in relation to the actions and measures within the Resource.

Details were provided on:-

- ♦ objectives that were established to support the delivery of the Connect priorities in 2020/2021, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report
- ♦ progress made in implementing the priority projects identified in the Resource Plan 2020/2021, as detailed in the Quarter 4 progress report, attached as Appendix 2 to the report
- ♦ those measures which had changed in red/amber/green (RAG) status, during the period from Quarter 2 to Quarter 4, as summarised at paragraph 5.5 and detailed at Appendix 3 to the report

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of Council services had been suspended or reduced in accordance with Government guidance. The Council had also redirected resources in order that vital new services for individuals, communities and businesses could be delivered. This had inevitably impacted on performance in some areas.

The Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) responded to members' questions and comments in relation to the following:-

- ♦ Spaces for People project in terms of delays and supply issues
- ♦ various matters in relation to electric vehicle (EV) pool cars and charging points
- ♦ the use of charging points for free and he advised that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee in relation to charging options
- ♦ consideration given to the cost effectiveness of using a pool car versus a personal vehicle

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Quarter 4 Progress Report for 2020/2021, as summarised in paragraph 5.2 and attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements made by the Resource to date, as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that it be noted that there were no areas for improvement and associated management actions, as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of the report; and
- (4) that the additional scrutiny of changes in red/amber/green (RAG) status between Quarter 2 and Quarter 4, as summarised at paragraph 5.5 and detailed at Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 15 September 2020 (Paragraph 13)]

7 Play Park Renewal Fund – Landscape Development Officers

A joint report dated 6 September 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ the funding received in relation to play parks
- ♦ a proposed increase to the Resource's staffing establishment within the Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services

The Scottish Government made a manifesto commitment to renew play parks across Scotland. Funding of £60 million would be made available to local authorities over the current Parliamentary term, with the first allocation of funding made within the first 100 days of the new Government.

For 2021/2022 initial funding of £5 million had been agreed and would be distributed between each of the 32 local authorities in Scotland based on the agreed funding model of:-

- ◆ 95% on population aged 0 to 14 years
- ◆ 5% on rurality

South Lanarkshire's allocation had been confirmed as £0.298 million for 2021/2022.

Consideration was being given to the funding profile of the remaining £55 million across the remainder of the Parliamentary term and the Council would be informed once a decision was made. The initial £5 million of funding would be used to commence the programme of renewal within each local authority.

The Council had 233 existing play areas that would be assessed for renewal. Detailed plans would be developed for sites to ensure a costed improvement programme was in place to implement the programme when the next phase of funding was allocated. It was possible that not all play areas would require to be renewed and the outcome of the review of the 233 locations would be reported back to Committee at a future meeting.

To deliver on those objectives, it was proposed that 2 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts of Landscape Development Officer on Grade 3, Level 2-4 (£32,994.19 to £38,779.13) be added to the current team, on a fixed term basis of 23 months. All associated costs would be funded by the Scottish Government with the remaining funding used to support additional design and assessment work to inform the development of the renewal programme.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that 2 FTE posts of Landscape Development Officer on Grade 3, Level 2-4 (£32,994.19 to £38,779.13) be added to the establishment of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services, for a fixed term of 23 months, as detailed in section 6 of the report;
- (2) that the update on funding for play parks be noted; and
- (3) that the outcome of the review of all 233 play areas be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

8 Economic Development Officer (External Funding) – Establishment of Additional Post

A joint report dated 9 September 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a proposed increase to the Resource's staffing establishment within the Planning and Economic Development Service.

The Council's Funding and Development team within Planning and Economic Development Services fulfilled a corporate role in supporting all Resources in the Council and its Community Planning Partners in attracting external funds to deliver projects and initiatives.

The UK Government had opened 2 new multi-year funds in 2021, the UK Levelling Up Fund (UK LUF) and the UK Community Ownership Fund. Each Scottish local authority had been provided with £125,000 to help support the development of the UK LUF applications and the Council would have discretion on how this funding was used.

Additional resources would be required to ensure that all technical aspects of preparing and submitting the UK LUF bids could be progressed and supported. This would include the development of full business cases, technical design and economic modelling for the bids being progressed by the Council. Each bid could be up to £20 million and the Council would prepare up to 4 of these.

To deliver on those requirements, it was proposed that 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) post of Economic Development Officer on Grade 3, Level 2-8 (£32,994.19 to £42,410.68) be added to the current team, on a fixed term basis of 23 months. All associated costs would be met from the £125,000 funding received from the UK Government.

The Committee decided: that 1 FTE Economic Development Officer on Grade 3, Level 2-8 (£32,994.19 to £42,410.68) be added to the Planning and Economic Development establishment for a fixed term of 23 months, as detailed in section 5 of the report.

9 Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2021/2022

A report dated 27 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the progress made during 2020/2021 in implementing the South Lanarkshire Delivery Plan for the Scottish Government financed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)
- ◆ the proposed VDLF Programme for 2021/2022

The Scottish Government had allocated £697,000 to the Council for the VDLF in 2020/2021 and a Local Delivery Plan had been approved by the Committee on 31 March 2020 to implement the following key objectives:-

- ◆ tackle long-term vacant and derelict land
- ◆ stimulate economic growth and wealth creation
- ◆ develop a diverse sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening
- ◆ support communities to flourish and tackle inequalities

Details were provided on the progress achieved in 2020/2021.

The Scottish Government allocation to South Lanarkshire for the VDLF in 2021/2022 was £737,000. A Local Delivery Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Government. Details of the Delivery Plan were provided in the report and it was proposed that allocation of funding would be as follows:-

- ◆ Clyde Gateway, Cuningar Loop Phase 2, Rutherglen - £500,000
- ◆ Cuningar Loop Phase 3, Rutherglen, food growing space - £237,000 and a further £182,000 from the 2020/2021 budget

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress achieved during 2020/2021 in delivering the agreed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme be noted; and

- (2) that the allocation of funds in the 2021/2022 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Delivery Plan, as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 March 2020 (Paragraph 13)]

10 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund – Grant Application

A report dated 13 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a grant application to the Community Benefit Fund. Community Benefit Funds had been established to provide funding to suitable projects providing community benefit in eligible areas.

It was proposed that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the project had been secured, a grant of up to £65,872 towards eligible costs associated with the refurbishment of the Coalburn Miners' Welfare halls be awarded from the Kypemuir Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund (REF).

The Committee decided: that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the project had been secured, a grant be awarded of up to a maximum of £65,872 towards eligible costs associated with the refurbishment of the Coalburn Miners' Welfare halls from the Kypemuir Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 May 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

11 Update of the Community and Enterprise Resources' Risk Register and Risk Control Plan

A report dated 2 September 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on Community and Enterprise Resources' Risk Register and Risk Control Actions.

Community and Enterprise Resources had followed Council guidance in developing, monitoring and updating its Risk Control Register on an ongoing basis. The Register had been developed to ensure that the Resource:-

- ◆ was fully aware of the main risks
- ◆ was able to prioritise those risks
- ◆ had controls in place to eliminate or minimise the impact of the risk

The risks were scored in accordance with the Council's scoring mechanism which scored risks based on likelihood and impact of risk. This resulted in risks being scored between 1 to 25 (low to very high). Risks were scored on their inherent risk (risk if nothing was done) and their residual risk (risk after applying controls). The risk scoring matrix was attached at Appendix 1 to report.

The Risk Register for the Resource had been developed and was monitored on an ongoing basis to add new risks and to review the score of existing risks. The Register was maintained within Internal Audit and updated by designated officers within Community and Enterprise Resources.

Details of all risks which had scored very high and high were provided in Appendix 2 to the report. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on everything the Resource did and was one of the 3 risks that scored in the very high risk category.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the current position with regards to the Community and Enterprise Resources' Risk Register be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that any outstanding Risk Control Actions identified during the year would be progressed by relevant officers.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 November 2020 (Paragraph 15)]

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair advised that S Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services, had retired on 24 September 2021. The Chair, on behalf of the members of the Committee, wished to record his thanks to Ms Clelland for her valuable contribution, assistance and advice to the Committee over the years and wished her well on her retirement.

Report

3

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide information on the actual expenditure measured against the revenue budget for the period 1 April to 8 October 2021 for Community and Enterprise Resources

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that an overspend of £2.468m as at 8 October 2021 on Community and Enterprise Resources' revenue budget, as detailed in Appendix A of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed budget virements be approved.

3. Background

3.1. This is the third revenue budget monitoring report presented to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee for the financial year 2021/2022.

3.2. The report details the financial position for Community and Enterprise Resources in Appendix A and the individual services' reports in appendices B to F, including variance explanation and outlines the specific costs incurred in relation to the Resources' COVID-19 response in Appendix G

4. Employee Implications

4.1. None

5. Financial Implications

5.1. As at 8 October 2021, there is a reported overspend of £2.468m against the phased budget.

5.2. The current cost of COVID-19 for the Resource is an overspend of £2.460m.

This reflects expenditure of £1.344m relating to increased staff costs in support of the COVID-19 response; costs resulting from increased waste tonnage; additional transport costs and the costs of PPE and enhanced cleaning regimes. In addition, £1.352m represents loss of income from parking charges, private care of gardens and

school meals, with a minor budget underspend of £0.236m on food cost for school meals, corporate catering and the cancellation of the Firework event offsetting these costs. This position does not reflect any impact for South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) as at 8 October 2021.

5.3. The core budget for the Resource has a minor overspend position of £0.008m at 8 October 2021 and variance explanations for each service area are detailed in appendices B to F where appropriate.

5.4. Virements are proposed to realign budgets across budget categories and with other Resources. These movements are detailed in appendices B to G of this report.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or environment in terms of the information contained in the report

7. Other Implications

7.1 The main risk associated with the Council's Revenue Budget is that there is an overspend. The risk is managed through four weekly Budget Monitoring Meetings at which any variance is analysed. In addition, the probable outturn exercise ensures early warning for corrective action to be taken where appropriate.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

8.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in the report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

2 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

♦ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee – 28 September 2021

List of Background Papers

♦ Financial ledger and budget monitoring results to 8 October 2021.

Contact for Further Information

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

Louise Harvey, Finance Manager

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SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period 7 Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

Community and Enterprise Resources Summary

	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
<u>Budget Category</u>									
Employee Costs	87,074	87,074	0	42,471	41,961	510	under	1.2%	
Property Costs	3,477	3,477	0	2,169	2,344	(175)	over	(8.1%)	
Supplies & Services	16,642	16,642	0	7,278	7,356	(78)	over	(1.1%)	
Transport & Plant	20,521	20,521	0	10,560	11,323	(763)	over	(7.2%)	
Administration Costs	906	906	0	260	268	(8)	over	(3.1%)	
Payments to Other Bodies	30,432	30,432	0	21,756	21,740	16	under	0.1%	
Payments to Contractors	39,948	39,948	0	19,597	20,391	(794)	over	(4.1%)	
Transfer Payments	604	604	0	151	151	0	-	0.0%	
Financing Charges	185	185	0	92	108	(16)	over	(17.4%)	
Total Controllable Exp.	200,289	200,289	0	104,334	105,642	(1,308)	over	(1.3%)	
Total Controllable Inc.	(84,086)	(84,086)	0	(55,462)	(54,302)	(1,160)	under recovered	(2.1%)	
Net Controllable Exp.	116,203	116,203	0	48,872	51,340	(2,468)	over	(5.0%)	

Variance Explanations

Detailed within Appendices B to G.

Budget Virements

Budget virements are shown in Appendices B to G.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period 7 Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

Facilities, Streets, Waste and Grounds (including Support)

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	56,846	56,846	0	27,811	27,509	302	under	1.1%	1,a,c,d
Property Costs	2,319	2,319	0	1,153	1,187	(34)	over	(2.9%)	2,c
Supplies & Services	7,874	7,874	0	3,269	3,274	(5)	over	(0.2%)	b,c
Transport & Plant	7,467	7,467	0	3,796	3,828	(32)	over	(0.8%)	3
Administration Costs	305	305	0	114	115	(1)	over	(0.9%)	a
Payments to Other Bodies	516	516	0	11	11	0	-	0.0%	b
Payments to Contractors	14,332	14,332	0	7,095	7,096	(1)	over	0.0%	d
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	77	77	0	36	38	(2)	over	(5.6%)	
Total Controllable Exp.	89,736	89,736	0	43,285	43,058	227	under	0.5%	
Total Controllable Inc.	(20,505)	(20,505)	0	(12,561)	(12,107)	(454)	under recovered	(3.6%)	4,c
Net Controllable Exp.	69,231	69,231	0	30,724	30,951	(227)	over	(0.7%)	

Variance Explanations

1. The under spend in employee costs is due to vacancies within School Crossing Patrollers, Catering and Cleaning services and within Business Support which are being recruited.
2. The variance relates to the upgrade of the CCTV system and previous year's water charges at the Castlehill Transfer station.
3. The over spend relates to cost of hired vehicles and fuel.
4. The under recovery of income is due to less cash received from school meals and the demand for private care of garden services being less as result of the COVID-19 pandemic which is partially offset by an over recovery within Waste from the sale of bins and an increased demand for additional Waste clearance services.

Budget Virements

- a. Transfer of budgets from Finance & Corporate Resources to Facilities Management for Fairhill Café and to Support Services for Climate Ready Clyde. Net effect £0.055m: Employees £0.045m, Administration £0.010m.
- b. Transfer of investment balances to reserves to reflect expenditure plans. Net effect (£1.785m): Supplies & Services (£0.260m), Payment to Other Bodies (£1.525m).
- c. Creation of budgets within Facilities to reflect service delivery and additional service provision to Education (ELC & summer clubs). Net effect £0.000m: Employees £0.429m, Property £0.484m, Supplies £0.177m, Income (£1.090m)
- d. Transfer from reserves to Support services for food development officer and Streets for cemetery infrastructure. Net effect £0.090m: Employees £0.050m, Payment to Contractor £0.040m

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

Fleet and Environmental Services (Incl Projects)

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	9,014	9,014	0	4,548	4,324	224	under	4.9%	1,a
Property Costs	181	181	0	141	143	(2)	over	(1.4%)	
Supplies & Services	355	355	0	178	202	(24)	over	(13.5%)	2,a,b
Transport & Plant	8,731	8,731	0	4,653	5,156	(503)	over	(10.8%)	3,a
Administration Costs	91	91	0	33	36	(3)	over	(9.1%)	a
Payments to Other Bodies	258	258	0	31	32	(1)	over	(3.2%)	a,b
Payments to Contractors	919	919	0	510	508	2	under	0.4%	b
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	25	25	0	13	12	1	under	7.7%	a
Total Controllable Exp.	19,574	19,574	0	10,107	10,413	(306)	over	(3.0%)	
Total Controllable Inc.	(20,217)	(20,217)	0	(12,760)	(12,757)	(3)	under recovered	0.0%	4,a,b
Net Controllable Exp.	(643)	(643)	0	(2,653)	(2,344)	(309)	over	11.6%	

Variance Explanations

1. The variance is mainly due to vacant posts within the services which are being recruited.
2. The variance is mainly due to IT costs, the purchase of office equipment and equipment repairs within Fleet and IT costs for the new Flare system within Environmental service.
3. The overspend mainly relates to the timing in the achievement of efficiencies and greater than budgeted expenditure within the workshop for materials and outside repairs, which is due to the vacancies in the service.
4. The under recovery relates to less income from taxi inspections through Fleet Services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, partially offset by income from sale of vehicles.

Budget Virements

- a. Realignment of Fleet services budgets to reflect service delivery. Net effect £0.000m: Employees (£0.001m), Supplies and Services (£0.006m), Transport and Plant (£0.642m), Administration £0.002m, Payment to Other Bodies (£0.001m), Financing Charges £0.001m, Income £0.647m.
- b. Creation of budget for Environmental services for external income and to reflect service delivery changes in Projects. Net effect £0.000m: Supplies and Services (£0.005m), Payment to Other Bodies (£0.010m), Payment to Contractors £0.465m, Income (£0.450m).

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	4	4	0	2	2	0	-	0.0%	
Property Costs	98	98	0	41	41	0	-	0.0%	
Supplies & Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Transport & Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Administration Costs	8	8	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Payments to Other Bodies	80	80	0	20	0	20	under	100%	1
Payments to Contractors	19,280	19,280	0	9,632	9,632	0	-	0.0%	
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Total Controllable Exp.	19,470	19,470	0	9,695	9,675	20	under	0.2%	
Total Controllable Inc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Net Controllable Exp.	19,470	19,470	0	9,695	9,675	20	under	0.2%	

Variance Explanations

1. The variance relates to the cancellation of the Fireworks events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Budget Virements

There are no budget virements.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

Planning and Economic Development

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	5,359	5,359	0	2,415	2,353	62	under	2.6%	1,a
Property Costs	607	607	0	294	294	0	-	0.0%	
Supplies & Services	119	119	0	82	82	0	-	0.0%	
Transport & Plant	33	33	0	15	15	0	-	0.0%	
Administration Costs	105	105	0	55	56	(1)	under	(1.8%)	
Payments to Other Bodies	23,739	23,739	0	11,375	17,375	0	-	0.0%	a,b,c
Payments to Contractors	529	529	0	486	466	0	-	0.0%	
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	34	34	0	18	18	0	-	0.0%	
Total Controllable Exp.	30,525	30,525	0	20,720	20,659	61	under	0.3%	
Total Controllable Inc.	(22,744)	(22,744)	0	(19,455)	(19,536)	81	over recovered	0.4%	2,c
Net Controllable Exp.	7,781	7,781	0	1,265	1,123	142	under	11.2%	

Variance Explanations

1. The underspend is mainly due to staff working reduced hours and flexible working arrangements.
2. The over recovery is due to a greater demand for Planning and Building standard applications.

Budget Virements

- a. Transfer of investment balances to reserves to reflect expenditure plans. Net Effect (£2.585m): Payment to Other Bodies (£2.258m), Employee Costs (£0.327m)
- b. Transfer of COVID-19 discretionary fund from reserves. Net Effect £4.496m: Payment to Other Bodies £4.496m
- c. Establish budget for COVID business support grants, Levelling Up Fund, Low Carbon and Clyde Cycle vacant & derelict land investment programme. Net effect £0.000m: Payments to Other Bodies £0.637m, Income (£0.637m)

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

Roads Total (Inc Roads Constructing Services)

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	15,851	15,851	0	7,695	7,449	246	under	3.2%	1
Property Costs	772	772	0	540	585	(45)	over	(8.3%)	2
Supplies & Services	8,294	8,294	0	3,749	3,753	(4)	over	(0.1%)	a,b
Transport & Plant	4,290	4,290	0	2,096	2,098	(2)	over	(0.1%)	
Administration Costs	397	397	0	58	59	(1)	over	(1.7%)	a
Payments to Other Bodies	5,839	5,839	0	4,319	4,322	(3)	over	(0.1%)	a
Payments to Contractors	4,888	4,888	0	1,894	2,044	(150)	over	(7.9%)	3,a
Transfer Payments	604	604	0	151	151	0	-	0.0%	
Financing Charges	49	49	0	25	32	(7)	over	(28.0%)	
Total Controllable Exp.	40,984	40,984	0	20,527	20,493	34	under	0.2%	
Total Controllable Inc.	(20,620)	(20,620)	0	(10,686)	(9,902)	(784)	under recovered	(7.3%)	4,a
Net Controllable Exp.	20,364	20,364	0	9,841	10,591	(750)	over	(7.6%)	

Variance Explanations

1. The variance is mainly due to staff turnover and post are being actively recruited.
2. The overspend is mainly due to higher than anticipated water charges and repair costs for depots and higher than anticipated electricity costs for electric vehicle charging points as a result of increased demand.
3. The overspend is mainly due to increased level of subcontractors being used due to staff turnover during the year and specialist works.
4. The under recovery is mainly due to reduced fee income for parking due to COVID-19.

Budget Virements

- a. Realignment of budget to reflect service provision (WoSLA, Flooding, Road Safety). Net effect £0.000m: Supplies and Services £0.007m, Administration (£0.008m), Payment to Other Bodies £0.571m, Payment to Contractors £0.061m, Income (£0.631m).
- b. Funding to support increased charges for electrical street lighting. Net effect £0.176m: Supplies & Services £0.176m

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

Community and Enterprise Resources: Period Ended 8 October 2021 (No.7)

COVID-19

Budget Category	Annual Budget	Forecast for Year	Annual Forecast Variance	Budget Proportion 08/10/21	Actual 08/10/21	Variance 08/10/21		% Variance 08/10/21	Note
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000			
Employee Costs	0	0	0	0	324	(324)	over	n/a	1
Property Costs	0	0	0	0	94	(94)	over	n/a	2
Supplies & Services	0	0	0	0	45	(45)	over	n/a	3
Transport & Plant	0	0	0	0	226	(226)	over	n/a	4
Administration Costs	0	0	0	0	2	(2)	over	n/a	
Payments to Other Bodies	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Payments to Contractors	0	0	0	0	645	(645)	over	n/a	5
Transfer Payments	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Financing Charges	0	0	0	0	8	0	-	n/a	6
Total Controllable Exp.	0	0	0	0	1,344	(1,344)	over	n/a	
Total Controllable Inc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	n/a	
Net Controllable Exp.	0	0	0	0	1,344	(1,344)	over	n/a	

Variance Explanations

1. The variance is directly related to employee costs associated with the Resources' response to the pandemic.
2. The variance relates to additional cleaning costs and materials as a result of enhanced cleaning regimes.
3. The variance relates to additional costs for equipment, PPE and health and hygiene.
4. The variance relates to fuel and vehicles costs directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. The variance relates mainly to additional costs in relation to waste tonnage as a result of the pandemic.
6. The variance relates to IT equipment leasing charges.

Report

4

Report to: **Community and Enterprise Resources Committee**
 Date of Meeting: **7 December 2021**
 Report by: **Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject: **Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide information on the progress of the capital programme for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period 1 April to 8 October 2021

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme of £44.115 million, and expenditure to date of £16.586 million, be noted.

3. Background

3.1. This is the third capital monitoring report presented to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee for the financial year 2021/2022.

3.2. As noted in the last report to this Committee on 28 September 2021, the budget for Community and Enterprise Resources for financial year 2021/2022, was £47.564 million.

3.3. Since that meeting, the Executive Committee (3 November 2021) has agreed changes to the Community and Enterprise Resources' Capital Programme totalling an increase of £0.051 million. Further adjustments totalling a decrease of £3.500 million will be presented to the Executive Committee on 1 December 2021 for approval. The details are shown in Appendix A. Taking these adjustments into account, takes the Community and Enterprise Resources' programme for 2021/2022 to £44.115 million.

3.4. The report details the financial position for Community and Enterprise Resources in Appendix A.

4. 2021/2022 Capital Programme Update

4.1. As detailed in Section 3.3, the revised capital programme for Community and Enterprise Resources for 2021/2022 is £44.115 million. Anticipated spend to date was £16.523 million and spend to 8 October 2021 amounts to £16.586 million. This represents a position of £0.063 million ahead of profile.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications as a result of this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The financial implications are detailed in section 4 of this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The main risk associated with the Council's Capital Programme is that there is an overspend. The risk has been assessed as low given the detailed project management plans prepared and monitored for each project. The risk of overspend is managed through four weekly Investment Management Meetings.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

17 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 28 September 2021
- ◆ Executive Committee, 3 November 2021
- ◆ Executive Committee, 1 December 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Financial ledger to 8 October 2021

Contact for Further Information

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

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South Lanarkshire Council
Capital Expenditure 2021/2022
Community and Enterprise Resources
For Period 1 April 2021 to 8 October 2021

<u>Community and Enterprise Resources</u>	Base Budget £000	Budget Adjustments £000	Slippage £000	Anticipated Spend £000	Actual Expenditure £000
Fleet and Environmental	325	0	0	0	0
Facilities, Waste and Grounds	3,375	1,334	(445)	689	762
Planning and Economic Development	13,159	0	(2,766)	2,835	2,789
Roads	29,876	(328)	(415)	12,999	13,035
TOTAL	46,735	1,006	(3,626)	16,523	16,586

For Information Only

Budget Adjustments presented to Executive Committee, 3 Nov. 2021:

Budget Adjustments

National Cycle Network Raith interchange to Uddingston
 Calderglen Country Park

Total Budget Adjustments

£0.010m

£0.041m

£0.051m

Budget Adjustments presented to Executive Committee, 1 Dec. 2021:

Budget Adjustments

Synthetic and Grass Pitches (£0.245m)
 Memorial Headstone Remedial Works (£0.200m)
 Cunningar Allotments – Vacant and Derelict Land fund (£0.137m)
 On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme £0.118m
 Glasgow City Region City Deal – Stewartfield Way (£0.400m)
 Prettsmill Bridge (£0.015m)
 Sustrans – School Cycle and Scooter Parking £0.008m
 Glasgow City Region City Deal Community Growth Area:-
 - Hairmyres Park and Ride (£0.079m)
 - Jackton Primary School (£1.850m)
 - Calderside Academy (£0.200m)
 - Glengowan Primary School Extension (£0.500m)

Total Budget Adjustments

(£3.500m)

Report

5

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community and Enterprise Resources – Workforce Monitoring – August and September 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide employment information for August and September 2021 relating to Community and Enterprise Resources

2. Recommendation(s)

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

(1) that the following employment information for August and September 2021 relating to Community and Enterprise Resources be noted:-

- ◆ attendance statistics;
- ◆ occupational health;
- ◆ accident/incident statistics;
- ◆ discipline, grievance and Dignity at Work cases;
- ◆ analysis of leavers and exit interviews;
- ◆ staffing watch as at 11 September 2021

3. Background

3.1. As part of the Council's performance management arrangements, regular workforce monitoring reports are submitted to Committee. This report for Community and Enterprise Resources provides information on the position for August and September 2021.

4. Monitoring Statistics

4.1. Attendance Statistics (Appendix 1)

Information on absence statistics is analysed for the month of September 2021 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

The Resource absence figure for September 2021 was 7.5%, this figure has increased by 1.6% when compared to the previous month and is 1.1% higher than the Council-wide figure. Compared to September 2020, the Resource absence figure has increased by 2.4%.

Based on the absence figures at September 2021 and annual trends, the projected annual average absence for the Resource for 2021/2022 is 6.0%, compared to a Council-wide average figure of 5.0%.

For the financial year 2021/2022, the projected average days lost per employee equates to 14.8 days, compared with the overall figure for the Council of 11.6 days per employee.

Managers follow the procedures outlined in the Maximising Attendance Policy to support employees to remain at work, or to return to work after a sickness absence. There are comprehensive employee supports in place and additionally, Personnel Services work in close partnership with line managers and Resource Management Teams on a case management basis to ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

The attendance information contained in this report includes absences as a result of COVID-19, and employees are being supported through this difficult time to maintain attendance levels where they can. At the time of this report, the Council overall absence level was 7.01% with 1.21% of this relating to COVID-19 for sickness and special leave.

4.2. Occupational Health (Appendix 2)

In terms of referrals to occupational health, which include medical examinations and physiotherapy, overall, 258 referrals were made this period. This represents an increase of 81 when compared with the same period last year.

4.3. Accident/Incident Statistics

There were 12 accidents/incidents recorded within the Resource this period, a decrease of 3 when compared to the same period last year.

4.4. Discipline, Grievance and Dignity at Work (Appendix 2)

During the period, 4 disciplinary hearings were held within the Resource, an increase of 1 when compared to last year. No appeals were heard by the Appeals Panel. No grievance hearings were raised within the Resource. This figure remains unchanged when compared to the same period last year. No Dignity at Work complaints were raised within the Resource, this represents a decrease of one when compared to the same period last year.

4.5. Analysis of Leavers (Appendix 2)

There were a total of 46 leavers in the Resource this period eligible for an exit interview. This figure has increased by 21 when compared with the same period last year. Ten exit interviews were conducted.

4.6. When processing an employee termination, managers were asked to identify whether they intended to replace the employee who had left the Council. If they indicated that they did not intend to replace the employee, they were asked to select from the following options:-

- ◆ plan to hold for savings
- ◆ fill on a fixed term basis pending savings
- ◆ transfer budget to another post
- ◆ end of fixed term post

4.7. Appendix 2a provides a breakdown of vacant posts and whether these are being replaced or held for savings. In the period August and September 2021, 90 (44.96 FTE) employees in total left employment, managers indicated that 85 (40.69 FTE) posts were being replaced and 5 posts (4.27 FTE) were due to the end of a fixed term contract.

5. Staffing Watch

- 5.1. There has been a decrease of 57 in the number of employees in post from 12 June 2021 to 11 September 2021.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for employees arising from the information presented in this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. All financial implications are accommodated within existing budgets.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications in terms of the information contained within this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 10.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

7 September 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable
- ◆ Ambitious, self aware and improving
- ◆ Excellent employer
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources – 29 June 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Monitoring information provided by Finance and Corporate Resources

Contact for Further Information

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

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**Absence Trends - 2019/2020, 2020/2021 & 2021/2022
Community and Enterprise Resources**

APT&C				Manual Workers				Resource Total				Council Wide							
	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022		2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022		2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022		2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022				
April	4.0	3.1	2.3	April	4.4	5.3	5.7	April	4.3	5.0	5.2	April	4.0	4.4	4.3				
May	3.6	2.4	2.7	May	5.1	4.3	6.4	May	4.9	4.0	5.9	May	4.4	3.1	4.9				
June	3.9	1.6	2.8	June	5.5	4.0	6.6	June	5.3	3.6	6.0	June	4.4	2.7	4.7				
July	3.9	1.8	2.9	July	4.3	3.6	5.3	July	4.3	3.4	4.9	July	3.4	2.3	4.0				
August	4.0	1.7	2.9	August	5.1	4.9	6.4	August	4.9	4.4	5.9	August	3.7	3.1	4.7				
September	2.9	1.6	3.4	September	5.9	5.8	8.2	September	5.4	5.1	7.5	September	4.5	4.2	6.4				
October	3.4	3.1		October	5.9	6.3		October	5.5	5.8		October	4.6	4.8					
November	4.8	3.6		November	6.6	7.1		November	6.4	6.6		November	5.5	5.8					
December	5.4	3.1		December	7.0	6.4		December	6.8	5.9		December	5.7	5.6					
January	4.1	3.4		January	6.6	6.0		January	6.2	5.6		January	5.3	4.8					
February	3.8	2.8		February	7.1	6.5		February	6.6	5.9		February	5.6	4.8					
March	4.5	2.6		March	7.1	6.8		March	6.7	6.2		March	6.2	4.9					
Annual Average	4.0	2.6	3.0	Annual Average	5.9	5.6	6.5	Annual Average	5.6	5.1	6.0	Annual Average	4.8	4.2	5.0				
Average Apr-Sep	3.7	2.0	2.8	Average Apr-Sep	5.1	4.7	6.4	Average Apr-Sep	4.9	4.3	5.9	Average Apr-Sep	4.1	3.3	4.8				
No of Employees at 30 September 2021				550	No of Employees at 30 September 2021				2993	No of Employees at 30 September 2021				3543	No of Employees at 30 September 2021				16177

For the financial year 2021/22, the projected average days lost per employee equates to 14.8 days.

APPENDIX 2		
COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES		
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS		
Number of Employees Attending	46	78
EMPLOYEE COUNSELLING SERVICE		
Total Number of Referrals	6	14
PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE		
Total Number of Referrals	59	85
REFERRALS TO EMPLOYEE SUPPORT OFFICER	62	81
REFERRALS TO COGNITIVE BEHAVIOUR THERAPY	4	0
TOTAL	177	258
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS		
Specified Injuries*	0	0
Over 7 day absences	3	2
Over 3 day absences**	0	1
Minor	11	6
Near Miss	0	1
Violent Incident: Physical****	0	1
Violent Incident: Verbal*****	1	1
Total Accidents/Incidents	15	12
<p>*A Specified Injury is any fracture (other than to the fingers, thumbs or toes), amputation, loss of sight, serious burns, crushing injury, scalping, loss of consciousness caused by asphyxiation/ head injury, a chemical or hot metal burn to the eye or pen</p> <p>**Over 3 day / over 7day absence is an injury sustained outwith specified injury category that results in a period of absence of absence as defined by the HSE.</p> <p>***Near Miss - Any unexpected, unplanned occurrence (except Dangerous Occurrences) that does not lead to injury of persons, damage to property, plant or equipment but may have done so in different circumstance.</p> <p>****Physical violent incidents are included in the "Specified" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Specified" figures.</p> <p>*****Physical violent incidents and ***** Verbal Violent Incidents are included in the "Over 3-day or Over 7-day" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Over 3-day or Over 7-day" figures.</p> <p>****Physical Violent Incidents and ***** Verbal Violent Incidents are included in the "Minor" figures, where applicable, to provide the "Total Minor" figures.</p>		
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
RECORD OF DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS		
Total Number of Hearings	3	4
Total Number of Appeals	2	0
Time Taken to Convene Hearing Aug-Sep 2021		
0-3 Weeks	4-6 Weeks	Over 6 Weeks
2	1	1
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
RECORD OF GRIEVANCE HEARINGS		
Number of Grievances	0	0
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
RECORD OF DIGNITY AT WORK		
Number of Incidents	1	0
	Aug-Sep 2020	Aug-Sep 2021
ANALYSIS OF REASONS FOR LEAVING		
Career Advancement	1	2
Poor Relationship with Manager/Colleagues	0	2
Moving Outwith Area	1	0
Further Education	0	2
Childcare/caring responsibilities	0	1
Other	2	3
Number of Exit Interviews conducted	4	10
Total Number of Leavers Eligible for Exit Interview	25	46
Percentage of interviews conducted	16%	22%

Appendix 2a

	August - September 2021		Cumulative total (Apr 21 - Mar 22)	
	FTE*	H/C**	FTE	H/C
Terminations/Leavers	44.96	90	105.60	198
Replace employee	40.69	85	99.33	191
Filling on a temp basis	0.00	0	0.00	0
Budget transfer to other post	0.00	0	0.00	0
End of fixed term contract	4.27	5	6.27	7
Leave vacant pending service review	0.00	0	0.00	0
Plan to remove for savings	0.00	0	0.00	0

* Full time equivalent

** Head count/number of employees

**JOINT STAFFING WATCH RETURN
COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES**

1. As at 11 September 2021

Total Number of Employees									
MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL					
F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T						
1330	229	196	1470	3225					
*Full - Time Equivalent No of Employees									
Salary Bands									
Director	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Fixed SCP	Teacher	TOTAL
1.00	1553.38	409.85	232.16	46.05	17.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	2264.44

1. As at 12 June 2021

Total Number of Employees									
MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL					
F/T	P/T	F/T	P/T						
1344	244	191	1503						
*Full - Time Equivalent No of Employees									
Salary Bands									
Director	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Fixed SCP	Teacher	TOTAL
1.00	1584.83	405.87	234.69	48.05	15.00	4.00	5.00	0.00	2298.44

Report

6

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan - Consultative Draft
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Committee of the work undertaken to prepare the consultative draft of Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan
- ◆ seek Committee approval to consult on the consultative draft plan
- ◆ inform the Committee of the next steps in implementing the consultative draft plan

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the consultative draft Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, and a period of consultation as described in section 5 of the report, be approved; and
- (2) that it be noted that the finalised Strategy will be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee for approval and adoption.

3. Background

- 3.1. Members may recall that this town centre strategy and action plan for Blantyre is the latest in a rolling programme of Town Centre Strategies. This completes the programme of 4 towns, Hamilton, Cambuslang, Larkhall and Blantyre, set out at the start of the programme. These strategies seek to engage with local businesses and communities throughout South Lanarkshire and create a dynamic Action Plan to tackle issues within the various towns and help repurpose them for the future. Several of our towns such as Lanark and Carluke are well advanced with community led plans and strategies and officers are consulting with communities to inform the next stage of the programme and the merit in applying the town centre strategy and action plan approach to other towns. Officers are also working towards a 5 year rolling programme of refreshing the existing Strategies and Action Plans which will begin with Hamilton in 2022.
- 3.2. Strategies and Action Plans have already been approved for Hamilton, Cambuslang and Larkhall and approval is now being requested in this report to commence consultation on the attached draft Strategy for Blantyre.
- 3.3. To produce the Strategies, audits have all been completed in consultation with Scotland's Towns Partnership and this has helped to inform the Strategies and Action Plans along with a specifically designed community engagement and

consultation process which now required to be undertaken for Blantyre as the latest town to be covered by the programme.

- 3.4. The nature of town centres across the UK is in a transitional stage. The range of issues involved in the challenge's town centres are facing are broad and complex. Factors such as the current and previous economic conditions, the COVID-19 crisis, internet shopping, the growth of out-of-town shopping malls, changes in retailer's business models and consumer expectations have resulted in a decline in town centre footfall.
- 3.5. Some of the issues are local and specific to individual towns, however, many are issues seen across the country influenced by wider economic patterns, consumer behaviour and corporate decisions.
- 3.6. Supporting our town centres remains a Council priority and we continue to work closely with the appropriate groups and organisations in each town through a partnership approach to achieve our common goals. In the case of Blantyre, the key partner is the Blantyre Business Community with a focus on town centre regeneration.
- 3.7. Local communities remain supportive of their town centres and have a desire to see them thrive. The way in which they use their town centres is, however, very different to that of a generation ago. It is broadly accepted that the traditional function of a retail town centre needs to change to meet the needs and expectations of modern communities. There is, therefore, a collective need to establish a new role and function for our town centres to ensure that they can continue to thrive and remain relevant in the years ahead.

4. Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan

- 4.1. South Lanarkshire's town centres support a diverse range of economic, social, and civic functions. In common with the rest of the UK, our town centres have felt the effects of both the economic conditions and changes in shopping patterns.
- 4.2. Despite these challenges, Blantyre town centre retains numerous assets that provide a solid foundation to help develop the centre to adapt to societal changes and provide a place that people will continue to wish to visit and spend time.
- 4.3. The future of all town centres is dependent on reacting to changing behaviours by both consumers and retailers and recognising that town centres can no longer place such heavy reliance on their retail offer. Town centres need to diversify to give users the broadest range of reasons to visit and stay in the town centre. Retail remains a fundamental part of a healthy town centre, however, residential development, leisure activity, café culture, evening economy and local services for local communities have an increasing role and importance within the town centre mix. In addition, the current COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the need for town centres to evolve.
- 4.4. The Consultative Draft Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action plan (Appendix 1) sets out a range of initiatives which the Council wish to pursue with partners to support the vitality and viability of the centre. The private sector has a key role in providing shopping services and leisure offers that will attract and meet the needs of the local community. Private sector support coupled with strengthening links between local businesses and the community will provide a strong base from which to drive town centre activity forward.

- 4.5. The Strategy is informed by Scottish Towns Partnerships Your Town Audit (Appendix 2) which is a framework which has been developed to measure and monitor the performance of Scotland's towns and town centres using a series of Key Performance Indicators. The results allow more meaningful comparison of towns based on their similarities and challenges and helps practitioners develop more meaningful solutions.
- 4.6. Officers have engaged with Blantyre business owners and community groups and held a series of face to face and virtual community group meetings which have informed the Strategy. The Strategy, once approved by Committee, will go for wider community consultation and any alterations will be reported as part of the report seeking final approval.
- 4.7. The Strategy considers the national and local policy context for the improvement of our town centres and considers the key challenges and areas of opportunity for the town centre. Recognising these challenges while focusing on the areas of opportunity are key to the successful delivery of the Strategy.
- 4.8. The Strategy recognises a series of objectives for which Blantyre should aim for and are consistent with the activity being promoted by Scottish Towns Partnership (STP) and others, namely a collaborative approach across all sectors is the only way to bring meaningful and sustainable regeneration.
- 4.9. Finally, the Strategy presents a town centre action plan which captures the priorities for Blantyre and illustrates where resources and activities should be focused. The action plan will remain a live document with projects and priorities evolving over time.
- 4.10. The Action Plan considers the potential activity under 6 main headings these are:-
- ◆ Objective One: To support safe sustainable town centre growth, mixed-use development, and investment opportunities through planning and economic development initiatives in line with the "Town Centre First" policy initiative.
 - ◆ Objective Two: To ensure that town centre accessibility and movement supports all modes of transport and meets the needs of users through measures to ensure convenient and safe access by foot, cycle, car and public transport.
 - ◆ Objective Three: To ensure that the town centre has a welcoming, safe and attractive physical environment that supports the needs of both business and town centre users and provides a focus for community life and events
 - ◆ Objective Four: To improve the commercial viability of the town centre by supporting enterprise through business advice, training, events and marketing, finance, and other support measures for existing and potential new businesses.
 - ◆ Objective Five: To exploit the opportunities of digitalisation for business growth and usage of the town centre.
 - ◆ Objective Six: To create the conditions for social regeneration and improve the health and wellbeing of the community, creating a town centre that is welcoming to all and safe with a strong sense of community
- 4.11. The locally focussed objectives link to Council and wider national outcomes and are shown in the chart in section 8 of the Strategy, titled "Town Centre Action Plan". Included in this are the timescales and responsible partners

- 4.12. The Strategy has been drafted by officers within the Planning and Economic Development Service, engaging with local community groups to capture the ongoing activity of the Council and Partners. In addition, officers have sought input from Scottish Town Partnership and EKOS Economic Consultants, all of whom have wide experience of producing similar plans across the country, thereby ensuring that the development of the plan is informed by best practice.

5. Next Steps and Timescale

- 5.1. Following Committee approval, it is intended that the Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan would be published and made available for wider consultation during January, February, and March 2022.
- 5.2. The consultation will have 2 main elements as follows:-
- ◆ Partner and Blantyre Future engagement - sharing the plan with partners and businesses for feedback on the content through regular ongoing stakeholder meetings.
 - ◆ Stakeholder engagement through a series of consultations, focussed around public meetings at the Leisure Centre, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.
- 5.3. Dependent on the current pandemic situation during the consultation period, the additional element of a virtual consultation support may be added.
- ◆ A virtual engagement process will be organised through an open electronic on-line consultation event to allow the community to consider the proposals and offer feedback on the Strategy.
- 5.4. The Strategy and feedback questionnaire will be available online for the duration of the consultation process.
- 5.5. Following consideration of the comments received, a finalised Strategy will be prepared and presented to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee following the closure of the consultation. The planned completion date is the end April 2022 with the final document to be presented to the first available Committee of the new Council session.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The development and implementation of the plan will be taken forward by officers within Planning and Economic Development Services.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Implementation of the Strategy will focus on the co-ordination of activity and events that will be funded through existing resources. The financial resources required to deliver the objectives of the Action Plan will be considered on a project-by-project basis. In addition, the Strategy provides a basis to support funding bids from a range of sources, however, it is important to note that much of the success of the plan will relate to support and investment from the private sector and the buy in from the community by increasingly using their town centre.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The recommendations in this report and the content of the Strategy and Action Plan aim to align with the Council's climate change and sustainability policies and bring forward meaningful change in the town centre in support of these aims.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The risks associated with not supporting the proposal is that Blantyre town centre will not have a coordinated approach to the challenges it faces. The support and partnership working within Blantyre Town Centre could be lost leading to a loss of activity in the town centre. The Council's reputation could also be damaged if it is not seen to actively support and encourage business initiatives and investments in Blantyre Town Centre.

10. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no Impact Assessment is required.
- 10.2. Consultations have been co-ordinated by Economic Development Services with a range of other Council Services who have an ongoing role in delivering services and initiatives in our Town Centres. This consultation and co-operation will continue throughout the duration of the initiative.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

17 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Blantyre Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix One)
- ◆ Your Town Audit – Blantyre – EKOS / STP (Appendix Two)

Contact for Further Information

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

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Blantyre

A vibrant community focussed town centre

A strategy for Blantyre town centre

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A vibrant community focussed town centre

1. Introduction

Town centres are a key part of successful places and have an increasingly important role in building stronger, more sustainable communities. Alongside towns across the UK, Blantyre has been challenged by changing patterns of use and shopper behaviours and this, plus the current pandemic issues have all impacted on their ability to support their community. To maintain their vitality and relevance, town centres must now react to social and economic changes and consider their offer, purpose, and value to communities.

South Lanarkshire Council (SLC), working with Blantyre Community and town centre partners, seek to support change that promotes additional vibrancy and vitality within the town centre and support its sustainable future. To support this, SLC commissioned a 'Your Town Audit' (YTA), conducted by Scotland's Towns Partnership and EKOS, which was completed in June 2018 and provides a comprehensive audit of Blantyre. Although the YTA study was pre COVID-19 the underlying issues are still relevant and will continue to influence the town centre post pandemic, and as such is a relevant base point to use.

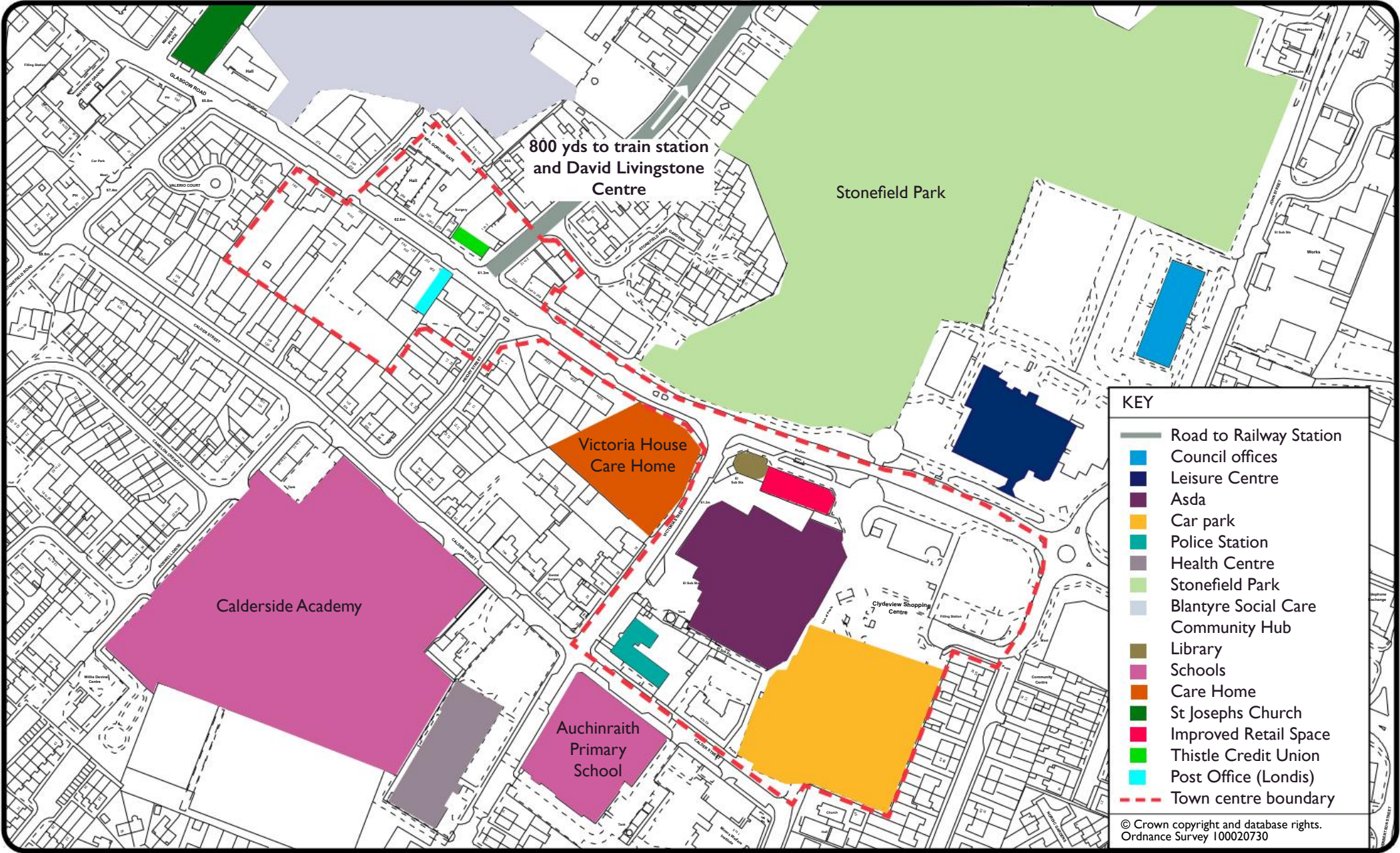
This is a five-year strategy from 2022 supporting actions to assist in the development of Blantyre town centre to respond to the current and future issues. The strategy seeks to

support and coordinate action aimed at revitalising Blantyre town centre, keeping relative to the community's needs whilst supporting local business to develop and grow. It is a partnership between public and private sector for mutual benefit, creating a range of supports that are relevant and enjoyed by local people.

This strategy document sets out a range of initiatives which will contribute both in the short and long term to town centre activity by establishing a welcoming, safe, and attractive centre to encourage footfall, create and support employment, and generate additional spend. Critical to the success of the strategy is partnership working. This will help to secure project goals and coordinate combined effort across public, private, third sectors and the local community for its successful delivery.



Blantyre town centre



2. Background context

Blantyre is a suburban town approximately fifteen miles south-east of Glasgow. It is bounded by the River Clyde to the north, the Rotten Calder to the west, the Park Burn to the east (denoting the boundary with the larger adjoining town of Hamilton) and the Rotten Burn to the south. The town is very well connected by bus and rail to Hamilton, Glasgow, Central Scotland, and the wider South Lanarkshire.



Blantyre's core retail area is focused on Glasgow Road, a busy A-class road leading to Hamilton and Cambuslang in either direction which connects to the East Kilbride Expressway and M74 motorway onward to Glasgow and wider West Central Scotland.

The town centre area provides access to local services which, alongside a mix of retailers and business services, includes a library, police station, youth

centre, community centre, credit union and Post Office (within Londis convenience store).

The town centre provides a focus for local peoples and within walking distance of the town centre is the rail hub, with connections to Glasgow and wider central Scotland and the David Livingston Centre, a national heritage attraction. One of the highlights in town every summer is Blantyre Gala Day, providing a weekend of fun and entertainment. The popularity of this event shows the potential appetite for similar events to be scheduled throughout the year to encourage footfall in the town centre.

The redevelopment of the Clydeview Shopping Centre area in 2019 saw improvements and upgrades made to the ASDA store, adjoining car park and petrol station. The vacant retail and office units on Glasgow Road have been demolished and will be replaced

with proposed new modern units which will help encourage businesses back to this part of the town centre.

The current town centre has a mix of goods and services available to the consumers including convenience stores, charity shops, hairdresser, beauty salon, post office, health clinics, travel agent and a florist. There are also several leisure facilities located in and around the town centre including Blantyre Leisure Centre, Dance Central as well as a children's play area, skate park and football pitches located at a large public park known as Stonefield Park.

The YTA conducted in 2018 found that 70% of retailers are independently owned alongside several national chains including ASDA, Greggs, and Optical Express accounting for c.30% and of the total businesses in the town centre, 50% serve the evening rather than day-time economy.

In line with other town centre's across the UK, the Blantyre town centre has experienced challenges due to several factors such as previous economic downturns and austerity measures, the current coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, decreasing consumer confidence and disposable income, the rise of convenience culture and the progressive rise of internet sales and digital high street.

Although the Your Town Audit reported that 21% of the town centre retail units are vacant, this vacancy rate has reduced with the redevelopment of the Clyde-view Shopping Centre and ASDA store.

The findings of the 2019 Community Action Plan have also been considered as part of this strategy and the findings have been used to influence the findings and outcomes.



Blantyre has the potential to be a more thriving and successful centre.

The town's population has grown over the past decade and is projected to grow further. The YTA audit confirms that the population of the town has increased by 2% over the ten year period from 2006-2016 which contrasts with the average 5.7% increase recorded from other YTA audited towns. At 3%, the town centre has a slightly higher housing vacancy rate than the 2% average across Blantyre as a whole, meaning there is opportunity to increase the town centre population base and its customer base.

Although retail remains a fundamental part of a healthy town centre, leisure activity, café culture, evening

economy and local services for local communities have an increasing role and importance within the town centre. As highlighted in the previous section, Blantyre is well served with a range of goods and services it presents to its consumers. The opening of the Costa Coffee drive-thru, granted planning permission on the 6 June 2019 will add to the daytime provision of 'café culture'.

In addition, the re-opening of David Livingstone Centre in July 2021 will reinstate one of Blantyre's iconic attractions. Following a £9.1 million regeneration, the Centre now includes a new exhibition space in historic shuttle row tenements where the

explorer was born and raised, a newly refurbished shop and café, new children's play park and 11 hectares of free to access parkland.

This strategy and action plan will focus on a range of short and long term actions that will make the town centre more attractive to a local customer base by encouraging private sector involvement, enhancements to the physical environment and softer regeneration initiatives such as marketing and events.

South Lanarkshire Council, together with a range of partners and stakeholders have an interest and role in reacting to changing behaviours and recognising that Blantyre town centre must diversify its offer to give users the broadest range of reasons to visit and spend time there.

The private sector has a key role in providing a shopping, service and leisure offer that will attract and meet the needs of the local community.

The public sector has a role in ensuring that planning, investment, development, and other relevant policies maximise the attractiveness of the business environment. The wider community must be encouraged to support local business and safeguard the vitality of the town centre.

The regeneration of Blantyre town centre is a collective responsibility

3. A vision for Blantyre



The vision statement reflects the wider South Lanarkshire aspirations and the outcomes of the Community plan for Blantyre town centre providing a direct link from wider Scottish/South Lanarkshire strategy to the community aspirations for their local centre to be a focal point for social and community activity for their town.

The vision for Blantyre is of an attractive, commercially successful, community focused, welcoming town centre which generates a sense of civic pride in its citizens.

Blantyre town centre has the potential to develop the quality of its offer and the appeal of place. The town centre must build on its strengths, celebrate its heritage, town centre connectivity and facilities associated with its town centre core.

The town can build on a range of current initiatives and trends such as local shopping and more specialist markets, associated with the increasing appeal of place and the importance of connections to modern living. A sense of place is the collection of qualities and characteristics that define a location. Sense of place is what makes Blantyre distinctive and creates its appeal.

Blantyre has well developed social networks and an active community. It has excellent accessibility and good quality greenspace close at hand, including a current application for a local nature reserve on the outskirts of town. The town needs to ensure that it can promote these advantages and present itself as a great place to live, shop, work and play.

The vision for Blantyre town centre therefore seeks to build on these strengths to create:

- An attractive, safe, and welcoming town centre providing a focal point for all sectors and age groups of the community to connect.
- A successful town that meets the needs of the community it serves.
- A town that remembers and retains its heritage.

Capturing investment, building confidence in the business community, engaging residents, and strengthening enterprise activity can all be better supported through collective action with South Lanarkshire Council, businesses and local community interests all committed to facilitating the delivery of the strategy through further engagement.

4. Aims and objectives

The aim of the Blantyre Town Centre Strategy is to create a town centre that is an attractive, commercially successful, sustainable, and vibrant place for people to live, work and socialise.

This strategy takes the theme from the 2019 Community Action Plan and wider strategic documents to detail actions to be considered for mutual benefit. This thread runs through all the hierarchy of plans below, taking the broad aspirations to a logical and achievable outcome.

Promoting inclusive growth (SL Community Partnership, Community Plan)	Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth (SLC Connect Plan 2017-2022)	South Lanarkshire Development Plan 2- Chapter 4 Economy - The support of Blantyre as a strategic centre and the policy to safeguard and support them in adapting to the changing needs of occupiers and technology.	Glasgow Road and shopping facilities (Blantyre Community Action Plan theme)	Blantyre Town Centre Strategy
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The strategy seeks to set out a range of objectives for Blantyre Town Centre and outlines in the Action Plan where resources and activities should be focused to deliver the desired outcomes. There is no one solution or intervention which will address all the issues facing the town centre. The issues and solutions are wide ranging, interrelated and complex. The approaches and actions adopted will need to be given time and progressed as a coordinated suite of measures to deliver the most effective impact. Regeneration requires long term sustained activity and initiatives and these actions need to be delivered flexibly.

The Scottish Government have completed a wide range of work identifying good and best practice to support the quality of local and regional centres.

Key initiatives include:

- Business Improvement Districts
- The Scottish Governments Town Centre Action Plan and Toolkit
- A policy framework based on Designing Places, Designing Streets
- Town Centre Audits

Scotland's Towns Partnership, who completed the Your Town Audit (YTA), also provide a useful resource at sharing best practice. South Lanarkshire Council, together with partners and stakeholders believe that the Strategy and related actions should be framed through the following objectives. These objectives reflect national, regional, and local policy and the commitment of the council and town centre partners to supporting inclusive growth through the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Objective one: To support sustainable town centre growth, mixed use development and investment opportunities through planning and economic development initiatives in line with the Town Centre First policy initiative.

Objective two: To ensure that the town centre accessibility and movement is inclusive and supports all modes of transport and meets the needs of users through measures to ensure convenient and safe access by foot, cycle, car, and public transport.

Objective three: To ensure that the town centre has a welcoming, safe, and attractive physical environment that supports the needs of both business and town centre users and provides a focus for community life and events.

Objective four: To improve the commercial viability of the town centre by supporting enterprise through business advice, training, events, marketing, finance, and other support measures for existing and potential new businesses.

Objective five: To exploit the opportunities of digitalisation for business growth and usage of the town centre.

Objective six: To create conditions for social regeneration and improve the health and wellbeing of the community, particularly through the reduction of fear of crime and anti-social behaviour - creating a town centre that is welcoming to all and safe with strong sense of community.

The links to these objectives are shown in column five of the action plan in section eight.

5. Opportunities and challenges

On the 23 March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to high streets, town and city centres effectively close for business as a 'Stay at Home' order was announced by the Government. Most retailers, offices, restaurants, coffee shops, cultural and leisure destinations shut their doors, as only essential stores were allowed to stay open.

Following months of on and off coronavirus lockdown, non-essential retailers were able to re-open their doors. However, the evolving COVID-19 situation is complex with retailers having to adapt their operations and commercial decision making to rapidly to reflect the new day to day reality.

The impact of COVID-19 is still not known at this time and as such the Town Centre Strategy needs to encourage and support the development of new actions and flexible plans to respond to not only the challenges but the opportunities to out-perform their less agile competitors, increasing the focus on improving the experience at Blantyre Town Centre as an attractive place to dwell, shop, see friends and run errands.

The specific opportunities and challenges that relate to Blantyre Town Centre are as follows:

Opportunities

Physical/Environmental

- Good access to local services
- Good road and rail links to central Scotland and the wider South Lanarkshire area
- Local greenspace (Stonefield Park)
- Close proximity to M74
- Proximity to East Kilbride Expressway and M74 motorway onward to Glasgow and West Central Scotland

Social/cultural

- Growing population
- Distinctive local heritage (David Livingstone)
- Strong community involvement
- Sport and Leisure Facilities
- Civic Pride
- Gala Day Event
- Youth Centre (Terminal One)
- More working from home

Challenges

Physical/Environmental

- Use and control of town centre parking
- Perception of High Blantyre and Blantyre
- Attractiveness of Blantyre Town Centre
- Cycle parking facilities
- A safe environment
- COVID-19 issues

Social/cultural

- High levels of deprivation in small pockets of the town centre
- Communication strategy to market events
- Ensuring the town centre is accessible to all sectors and age groups of the community
- Lack of programme for social and leisure events
- COVID-19 issues

Opportunities

Economic/Commercial

- Vacancy rate is low at the time of writing
- Strong evening economy
- High proportion of independent traders - opportunity for distinctive offerings
- Local banking provision

Policy

- Commitment of relevant partners
- SLC Business Support team
- SLC Community Planning Partnership
- Opportunity to coordinate town centre activity through the strategy

The above assessment indicates that the challenges for Blantyre are broad and varied however there are a number of areas of opportunity which can be exploited to the benefit of the town centre.

Blantyre has a mix of opportunities and constraints that impact on the appeal and functionality of the centre. Many of the opportunities and challenges result from a legacy of historic conditions (shop closures, street patterns) and business practices (retail mix/shop opening hours) and changes in consumer buying behaviour (digital shopping). Key areas to review and address include:

Challenges

Economic/Commercial

- Daytime economy is not as strong as the evening economy
- Competition from within and edge of town supermarket and discount retailers
- Lack of mix of use
- Online competition
- Traditional shopping hours (no late-night shopping 5-8pm)
- No town centre wifi
- Vacant units and the ability to attract a diverse range of businesses to balance day and evening
- COVID-19 issues

Policy

- Limited local authority and central government funding available
- Ensuring that all public and private investment in Blantyre directly benefits the town and its community

- Strengthening the appeal and the experience of the centre and not only making it a more attractive but safe place to visit and mix leisure/retail experiences with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Reviewing town centre parking and sustainable modes of transport arrangements that could address any perceived barriers to accessing and using the centre.
- Building on Blantyre's heritage and community spirit with a targeted program of events, marketing, and softer regeneration initiatives.
- Adapting to the new day to day reality with the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Consultation with stakeholders

As the local authority South Lanarkshire Council has powers and resources in key areas of planning, investment and business support that influence economic growth. Decision making and resource allocation in these areas will support the strategy.

Importantly, there are partners and stakeholders whose commitment is required to work towards a common goal of improving the physical, economic, and social conditions of the town. These include:

- MP, MSP's, and local Councillors
- Scottish Government
- Scotland's Towns Partnership
- South Lanarkshire's Community Planning Partnership
- Business owners/managers
- Property owners
- Blantyre Community
- Police Scotland (local community policing team)
- Local social media groups and networks

Successful delivery of the strategy will require commitment from all stakeholders.

As part of the development of the strategy the following groups were involved in discussions; Blantyre Community Council, Blantyre Futures, Blantyre Community Committee, Blantyre Volunteer Group, Blantyre Miners Welfare, Blantyre Soccer Academy, Community Links, Hyper Cyber, Lanarkshire Credit Union, Liber8/Beacons and Terminal One. We would like to thank them and all who took part, for their assistance in completing this strategy.



7. Town Centre Action Plan

The tables below detail the range of projects and initiatives along with the potential framework of delivery, although this will be dependent on several factors such as COVID-19 restrictions, availability of funding and market research. The action plan is broken down into three main themes:

- Physical Environment
- Accessibility and Transport
- Attractive Community and Business Environment

Each project within the theme are listed relating to the initiative they support followed by project details, progress to date, partners links to council and government objectives and finally timescale. Column five relates to the objectives on page six, and the initials in column six shows the link to the Scottish Government's Town Centre Plan (TCAP) objectives and the category under which they would fall. These categories are: **Town Centre Living (TCL)**, **Vibrant Local Economies (VLE)**, **Enterprising Communities (EC)**, **Accessible Public Services (APS)**, **Digital Towns (DT)** and **Pro-active Planning (PaP)**.

Action Plan theme one: Physical Environment

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Shopfront improvement scheme	Refreshing of shopfronts (cleaning for cosmetic purposes)	Consultation with landlords and business owners	Business community	1/3	VLE	24 months
Funding plan	Development of funding package for the Action Plan	Identification of funding options and timetable for submitting bids	SLC and partners	All	All	6-12 months
Greenspace improvements	Improvement/upgrading of existing greenspace	Discuss the options for greenspace improvements	SLC and partners	3	VLE	6-12 months
Civic Space provision	Development or designation of Civic Space	Discuss the options of a community space in the town centre	SLC and partners	3	VLE	12-18 months
Skatepark maintenance programme	Maintain existing skatepark	Identify works required to bring skatepark up to standard and funding options	SLC and partners	3	VLE	24 months
Upgrade of leisure facility	Upgrading of Blantyre Leisure Centre	Based on the report presented at South Lanarkshire Council meeting 25 March 2020 assess options and funding issues	All	3	VLE	36 months

Action Plan theme two: Accessibility and Transportation

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Parking provision	Review of park and ride strategy across South Lanarkshire	Agreed at SLC Community and Enterprise Resource Committee 04/02/2020, further consideration will be given to expanding parking opportunity at nearby park and ride facilities at Newton Station	SLC	2	VLE	ongoing
	Parking demand management review	Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 22/01/19, Blantyre is included in Phase three of the review (timescale tbc)	SLC	2	VLE	12 months
	Residents Parking Permit Zones (RPPZs)	Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 04/02/2020, to bring forward localised restrictions in the short term	SLC	2	VLE	ongoing
Active travel	Provision of cycling parking. Promotion of walking/cycling routes to improve physical and mental health	<p>Agreed by SLC Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 15/09/2020, Active Travel Projects 2020/2021 report outlining</p> <p>Cycling parking provision on Glasgow Road, Blantyre programmed for completion in the coming months</p> <p>Active Travel Studies to be commissioned and carried out for Blantyre</p> <p>Spaces for People initiative which provides support to town centre's, to enable the local community to make essential trips by active travel methods</p> <p>Further publicity campaigns, building on the first to again encourage local shopping is to be undertaken in the coming weeks/months</p>	SLC			24 months

Action Plan theme three/four/five: Attractive Community and Business Environment

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2021	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Business forum	Development of a Blantyre Business Forum	Identify lead for business forum. Possible development of a newsletter or business forum	Business group	4	VLE	6-18 months
Town centre marketing	Development of marketing strategy for Blantyre business sector	Creation of a town centre app	SLC	3	VLE	6-18 months
Town centre event programme	Development of events strategy - weekly, monthly and annual program of community events to attract visitors to the town centre throughout the year	Consult with businesses and residents on potential events and identify funding options	SLC and business group	3	VLE	6-18 months
Commercial Strategy	Development of commercial strategy	Identify lead for strategy development. Collation of ideas, innovation, business gaps, good practice from possibly other towns and resources	Business group	4	EC	12 months
Promotion of SLC service support (Business Gateway and Business Support Team)	Support for existing and potential businesses with advise on property, grants and funding, business cases	Provide an overview of SLC service support and access options available	SLC	4	EC	ongoing
Town centre hanging baskets, murals and street furniture	Brighten up the environment with town centre hanging baskets, murals and street furniture	Identify and review options	Community group	3/6	VLE	24 months
Creation of a wifi zone	Delivery of free wifi network	Look at feasibility of creating a town centre wifi zone providing a free town centre network	SLC and partners	5	EC	24 months

Initiative	Project	Actions/progress - 2019	Lead partner	Town Centre Objective (TCO)	TCAP	Timescale
Digital Skills Training	Provision of training for businesses and residents	Identify and review options	SLC and partners	5	DT	36 months
Networking/ Close to home working facility	Provision of community facilities suitable for hot desking	Identify suitable existing sites and review options	SLC and partners	4	VLE	36 months
Crime and antisocial behaviour	Reduction of fear and crime and anti-social behaviour	Regular meetings between the local community and Police Scotland	Blantyre Futures Group	6	TCL	ongoing
Blantyre 'Something for All'	Consider initiatives which will make the town centre more attractive to young families/young people and community in general	Identify and review options	SLC and partners	3	VLE	12-18 months

8. Monitoring and reporting

The main indicators for monitoring the outputs of the Action Plan, recorded and reviewed annually are as follows:

Objective	Indicator	Source of information
1	Progress with improvement in appearance of shopfronts	SLC/C/BG
2	Progress with improving parking demand management	SLC
2	Progress with provision of cycling parking and promoting walking/cycling routes	SLC
3	Progress with improving/upgrading of existing greenspace	SLC/CG
3	Progress with the development/designation of Civic Space	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with skatepark maintenance program	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with Town Centre Marketing Plan	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with Events Strategy	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with town centre murals/Hanging baskets	CG
3	Progress with communication strategy	SLC/C/BG
3	Progress with initiatives to make the Town Centre more attractive to young families/young people and community in general	SLC/C/BG
4	Progress with developing commercial strategy	SLC/C/BG
4	Business support provided for existing and new businesses	SLC/C/BG
4	Progress with developing a business forum	SLC and Business Group
4	Progress with the provision of community facility for hot desking	SLC/C /BG
5	Progress with developing wifi strategy and training	SLC/C/BG
5	Progress with provision of digital skills training	SLC/C/BG
6	Progress with initiatives undertaken by Police Scotland	Police Scotland

The key indicators for assessing the results of the Action Plan, over a five year period are as follows:

Indicator	Data Source	Baseline
Retail profile - diversity/range of shops	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Vacancy rate (trend relative to average)	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Employment in town centre	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018
Community perceptions of town centre	Blantyre Community Action Plan	Blantyre Community Action Plan
Residents living in town centre	SLC/SG data	Your Town Audit 2018



9. Next steps

Coordinated and sustained activity is key to supporting Blantyre Town Centre. The delivery of the range of projects and initiatives will require agreement across the range of partners and stakeholders but also a coordinated approach to delivery.

This needs to reflect the resources available across the partners, the alignment and deliverability of the various proposals and timescales. It is therefore proposed that the strategy provides a basis to consult with a range of partners and the local community. The consultation will have three main elements:

- Partner and Community Council engagement - sharing the plan with partners for initial feedback on the content.
- Stakeholder's engagement to be facilitated by SLC and partners.
- Public engagement organized through a consultation event to allow the community to consider the proposals and feedback.

These three elements will run concurrently. This combined approach will allow feedback from those in the town but also independent feedback from those in the town but also independent feedback from place-making professionals who can bring learning and best practice from across the country.

It is anticipated that the consultation process will take around 8-12 weeks following which Economic Development Services will collate and review feedback. In turn a finalized plan for Blantyre Town Centre will be prepared and implementation strategy established. In advance of this consultation the Council has engaged with Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP) to carry out a town centre audit of Blantyre which captures 250 key performance indicators across seven themes. The full findings of the audit are benchmarked against comparator towns and can be found attached to the strategy document. This

report, summarized within the format of the Town Toolkit - Active, Attractive and Accessible, will provide a strong baseline from which to benchmark the current performance of the town, measure the success of the plan going forward and give the ability to and knowledge to update/revisit when appropriate.

The strategy will be used to engage with key stakeholders and to support funding bids and submissions for specific projects. Funding may be available through a variety of sources including the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Town Centre Community Funds and funds associated with any developer contributions, grants and public and private sector programs.

Engagement and sharing the Town Centre vision, objectives and strategy is important to building a broad base of support for action. The events, consultations and facilitated workshops, taken together, will provide all parties with a clear understanding of the vision of the town over the next 5-10 years and allow all to work in a collective approach to delivery.



A vibrant community focussed town centre



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Your Town Audit: Blantyre

June 2018



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1. Understanding Scottish Places Summary

This report presents a summary of the Your Town Audit (YTA) for Blantyre, conducted by Scotland's Towns Partnership and EKOS. The detailed YTA Framework and Data Workbook are provided under separate cover.

YTA was developed to provide a framework to measure and monitor the performance of Scotland's towns and town centres using a series of Key Performance Indicators. It provides a comprehensive audit of Blantyre with data on up to 180 KPIs across seven themes – Locality, Accessibility, Local Services, Activities + Events, Development Capacity, Tourism, and Place + Quality Impressions.

The [Understanding Scottish Places](#) (USP) data platform provides a summary analysis for Blantyre and describes Blantyre in the following general terms:

Blantyre's Inter-relationships: Blantyre is an interdependent town. Interdependent towns have a medium number of assets in relation to their population; average diversity of jobs; and residents travel a mix of short and long distances to work and study. These towns are attractors of people from neighbouring towns who come to access some assets and jobs but they are also reliant on neighbouring towns for other assets and jobs.

Blantyre's Typology: Social and council housing are the norm in these large towns. Manufacturing and construction are the dominant forms of employment. Health and social work services are particularly active. There is a relatively high level of unemployment. Educational attainment is low. Car ownership is low, meaning that many residents in these towns are reliant on public transport.

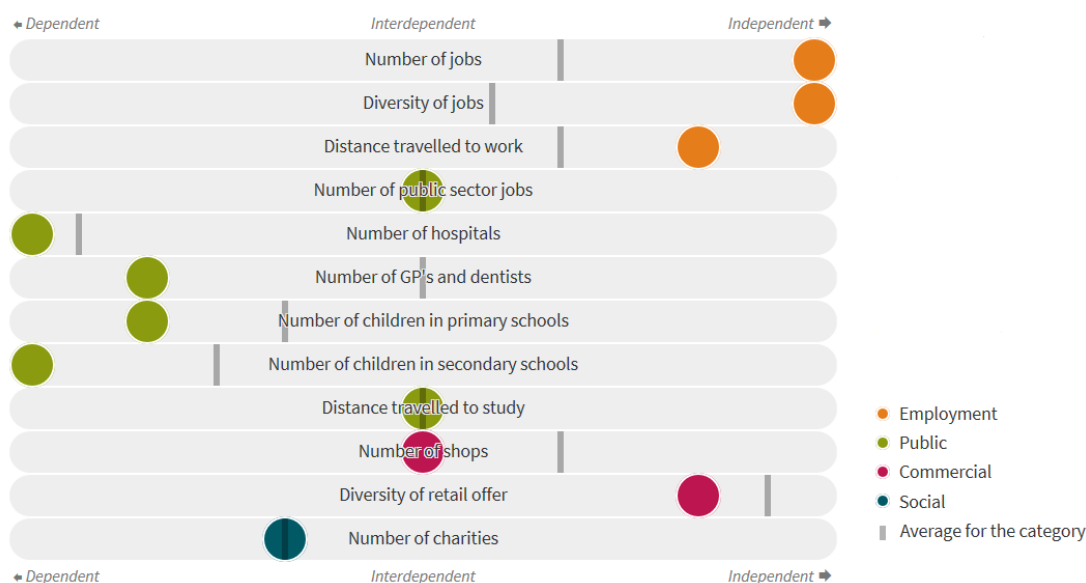
Combining inter-relationships and typology, the USP data platform – www.usp.scot – provides a summary analysis for Blantyre and identifies 11 comparator towns that have similar characteristics, with the most similar being Ardrossan, Airdrie, Grangemouth and Bellshill¹.

These towns have similarities in terms of the number of charities, shops, public sector jobs, and distance travelled to study.

¹ The other comparator towns are identified as Irvine, Larkhall, Rutherglen, Wishaw, Port Glasgow, Alexandria and Dumbarton.

Blantyre differs in terms of the number of GP's and dentists, number of jobs, diversity of jobs, distance travelled to work, number of children in secondary schools and the number of children in secondary schools.

Inter-relationships



Building on the USP, this report presents the results of our detailed analysis of Blantyre based around the Scottish Government's [Town Centre Toolkit](#) – an online resource available via the USP website which provides advice, guidance and case studies across three thematic areas: Accessible, Active and Attractive.

Our analysis of Blantyre is based on analysis of data collated from a range of sources including official government statistics (Census, SIMD, BRES, etc.), the USP data and bespoke data collected during an audit of Blantyre town centre.

In total 38 YTA audits have been prepared for towns across Scotland providing consistent data across a range of KPIs². Where appropriate, this report provides comparisons for Blantyre against the YTA town average. In particular, YTAs have been prepared for four of the USP Comparator towns defined earlier – Ardrossan, Alexandria, Dumbarton and Irvine – and specific reference is made to these towns where relevant.

² It has not been possible to collect full KPI data for all towns – the number of YTA comparator towns therefore differs across this report.

2. Accessible Town Centre

Blantyre is a suburban town located approximately 15 miles south east of Glasgow. At settlement level the 2011 Census recorded a population of 17,240 people, however, by 2016 the mid-year population estimates record a decrease to 16,923 people. Blantyre's core retail area is focused on Glasgow Road, a busy A-class road leading to Hamilton and Cambuslang in either direction which connects to the East Kilbride Expressway and M74 motorway onward to Glasgow and West Central Scotland.



The town is very well connected by bus and train to central Scotland and the wider South Lanarkshire area, and is around 20 miles from Glasgow International Airport. While the town centre is well-served by bus routes, the train station is located around one-third of a mile north of the town centre, c. ten minute walk from the main retail area. Trains to Glasgow city centre take around 35 minutes and run every 15 minutes or so throughout the day. There is a Park & Ride facility at Blantyre train station with c. 50 spaces, and a taxi rank at the ASDA supermarket.

Although there is no allocated bus station within Blantyre, there are a number of bus stops spread throughout both the town centre area and wider settlement. Buses from Blantyre to Glasgow city centre, also run every ten minutes during the day and every 30 minutes in the evening. These services take approximately 45 minutes.

Bus and train services also connect the town with other settlements across South Lanarkshire including Hamilton (20 minutes by bus and 5 minutes by train) and Cambuslang (20 minutes by bus and 7 minutes by train). Despite the proximity, public transport connections to towns in North Lanarkshire require changes and have lengthy journey times – Airdrie (1 hour 25 minutes by bus and 1 hour 15 minutes by train) and Motherwell (35 minutes by bus and 15 minutes by train).

Parking is available throughout the town centre area of Blantyre, with a number of free on-street parking spaces (approximately 40 on Glasgow Road). There is a large off-street car park located at the ASDA supermarket on Glasgow Road at the

eastern end of the town centre (approximately 400 spaces), however the spaces at ASDA are time restricted to two hours.

There is also a smaller off-street car park on Stonefield Road with 20 free spaces at the eastern end of the town centre, off Stonefield Road. This car park does not, however, appear to have been well maintained and is in need of improvement.

There is good signage within the town centre for those travelling by foot, car or bike, with the National Cycle Route 74 running through the town to the north of the centre. Despite this, the audit did not identify any cycle parking facilities that would encourage passing cyclists to stop in the town.

There can be a great deal of traffic travelling through the town centre area, especially on Glasgow Road, however, there are four sets of pedestrian crossing points from Stonefield Road at the western end through to ASDA at the eastern end. These provide safe crossings for those on foot, particularly older and less physically able people. The roads and pavements throughout the town centre area are generally in a good condition and have been well maintained, with no major trip/ fall hazards identified from uneven or cracked surfaces.



The town centre area provides access to local services which, alongside a mix of retailers and business services, includes a library, police station, youth centre, and community centre. There is, however, no commercial bank operating in Blantyre, albeit the Blantyre Credit Union and Post Office (within Londis convenience store) will provide some financial services.

There are a number of primary school and one secondary located on the edges of the town centre, medical/ dental/ facilities, police station, places of worship, sports/ leisure centre, petrol filling station and a small retail park. These are all located within walkable distance of the town centre and will help to drive an element of footfall that will sustain Blantyre's retail and service outlets.

There is 4G coverage available throughout the town, but there is no town-wide free WiFi. We did not identify any cultural facilities through the audit (museum, gallery,

cinema, theatre, historic property open to public, etc.) but the website for the Parkville Hotel notes that it hosts regular live music sessions.

3. Active Town Centre

Blantyre has a relatively small and compact town centre. The town's performance is affected by the ongoing proposals to redevelop the ASDA supermarket and adjacent retail parade where ten retail units are currently vacant, awaiting redevelopment.

3.1 Population and Housing

According to the 2016 Scottish Statistics, Blantyre has a population of around 16,920 people, of which around 1,820 live in, or are within walkable distance of, the town centre. Using the best fit area for the town centre zoned boundary identifies a total of 303 people, just 2% of the town's total population, living within the immediate town centre area³. Over the past decade, the wider town centre population has increased by 2% – this is in contrast to the average 5.7% increase recorded from 34 other YTA audited towns.

The majority of housing within the town centre⁴ is flatted accommodation (40%), or terraced housing (33%), with tenure split between private ownership (56%), social rented (31%) and private rented (12%). At 3%, the town centre has a slightly higher housing vacancy rate than the 2% average across Blantyre as a whole, creating opportunities to increase the TC population base. The 3% vacancy rate is slightly lower than the average found across 38 other YTA audited towns of 3.5%, and is similar to vacancy rates in Musselburgh and Newton Mearns (both 3%) both of which are commuter settlements with good public transport connections.



Over four-fifths (83%) of the housing in Blantyre town centre are in council tax bands A, B and C⁵. The streets surrounding the town centre shopping streets are almost

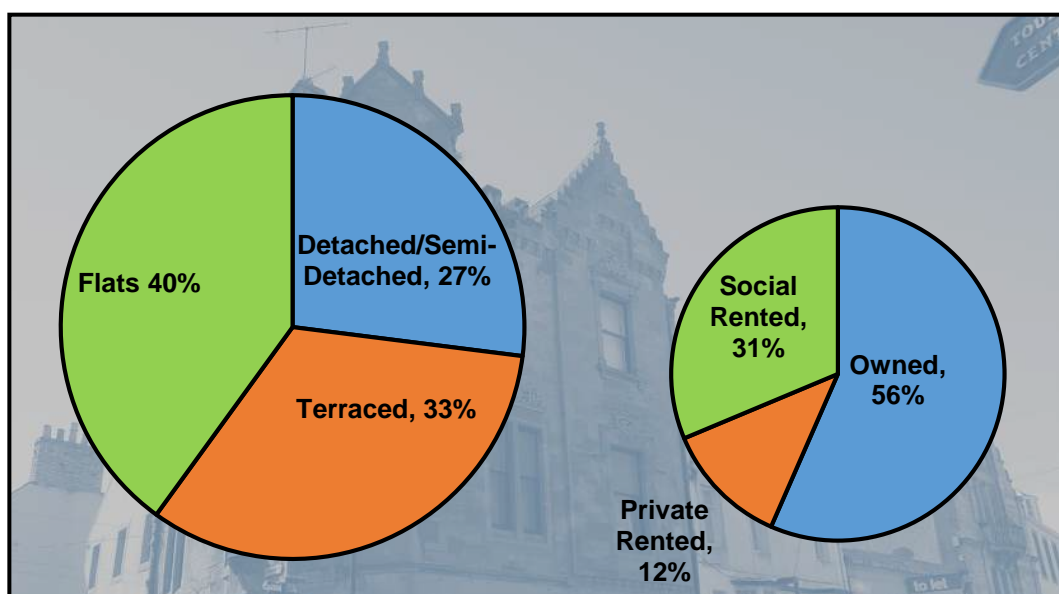
³ 2011 Scottish Output Zones: S00132315, S00132759 and S00131810.

⁴ Scottish Statistics, 2016.

⁵ Scottish Statistics, 2016.

solely residential – primarily flats and detached/ semi-detached houses – these provide a large catchment population for the town's retail and service businesses.

The average purchase price of a town centre dwelling in Blantyre (£76,350) is lower than that of the town as a whole (£81,869)⁶. Prices in the town centre have increased by 35% in the decade to 2013, and by 14% in the wider town. In comparison with other YTA audited towns, Blantyre has a much lower average purchase price (YTA average of £103k from 36 YTAs) and lower average ten year increase (YTA average of 42% from 33 YTAs).



There is, however, significant variation across the audited towns, from £55k to £200k average price for town centre properties. Of the four towns identified as USP comparators, Blantyre has mixed results:

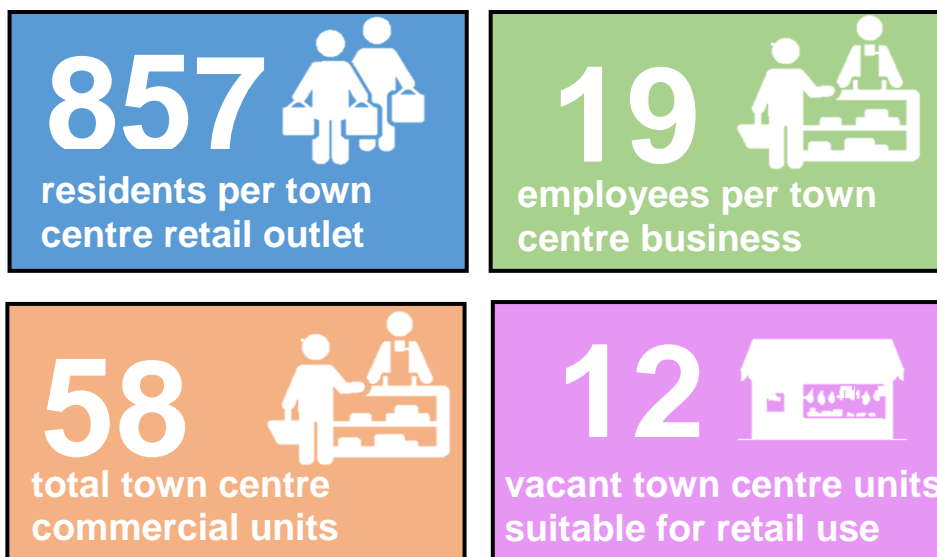
- Alexandria had a lower vacancy rate but higher average purchase price;
- Ardrossan had a lower vacancy rate and lower average purchase price;
- Dumbarton had a higher vacancy rate but lower average purchase price;
- and
- Irvine had a higher vacancy rate and higher average purchase price.

All four towns recorded significantly higher ten year average price increases, ranging from 52% to 76%, an average of 65% compared with 35% in Blantyre.

⁶ Scottish Statistics, 2013.

3.2 Town Centre Employment and Business

Just 9% of the 11,950 jobs in Blantyre are located in the town centre area. National statistics recorded 610 businesses within the settlement. The YTA street audit located 56 commercial/ service units within Blantyre town centre, of which, 19 are retail businesses – comparison/ convenience/ retail service.



Across 38 YTAs the average is one retail unit per 238 town population – at 857 Blantyre has a much higher ratio, and is the highest score recorded across all YTAs. Typically, the higher the rate, the more the town's retailers depend on custom from local residents – those towns with very low rates tend to be destination towns that rely on visitor spending.

Other YTAs with similar rates include Neilston (822), and Stevenston (672), both of which have a small retail base with 13 and 15 retailers respectively. The data for Blantyre will, however, be affected by the redevelopment proposals at the ASDA supermarket where 10 of the town's 12 vacant retail units are located. If retail occupiers are secured for some or all of these units, the average population/ retail outlet in Blantyre would reduce significantly but would remain more than double the 38 YTA average of 238/ retail outlet. This suggests that the town centre does not have an oversupply of retail units and that there should be demand for the redeveloped units at Asda without creating vacancies elsewhere in Blantyre.

There is a large business and industrial area to the east of the town centre and SLC Area Office, David Dale House, to the north of the town centre. These will accommodate a substantial workforce and ready footfall for the town's businesses.

3.3 Town Centre Retail

The traditional town centre retail area is focused on Glasgow Road which runs through the town centre and connects to adjacent streets, such as Station Road and Priory Street where other retail units can be found.



Beyond the ASDA store, there is also a retail park on the eastern outskirts of the town with three large outlets – B&M Bargains, Farmfoods and Lidl. As this is a stand-alone retail park, outwith the town centre, with its own access and large car park, these units have not been included in the YTA analysis.

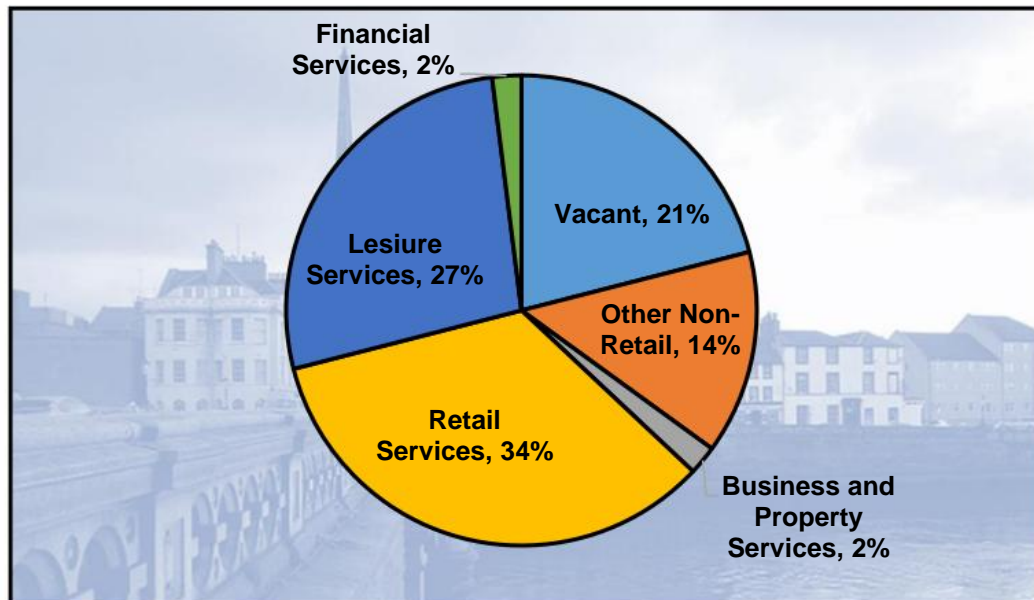
This audit found that 21% of Blantyre's retail units in the town centre were vacant, which is the highest recorded vacancy rate across all YTAs, with the average retail vacancy rate across 36 YTA towns being 9.3%. However, it should be noted that 10 of the 12 vacant units in Blantyre are located in a single row on Glasgow Road. These units are part of the Clydeview Shopping Centre, which is currently undergoing an extensive redevelopment along with the ASDA store.

The redevelopment of ASDA and the Clydeview Shopping Centre will see improvements and upgrades made to the ASDA store, adjoining car park and petrol station. The vacant units on Glasgow Road will be demolished and replaced with new modern units which will encourage businesses back to this part of the town centre. Securing occupiers for these premises, once redevelopment is complete, will obviously have a positive impact on the town's vacancy rate.

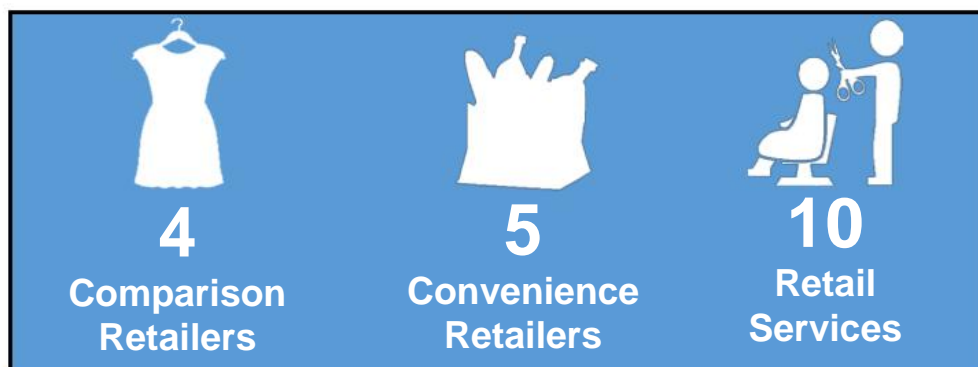


Shops located within the town centre are typically open from around 9am until 5/6pm Monday to Sundays, with some shops closed all of Sunday.

Town Centre Unit Mix



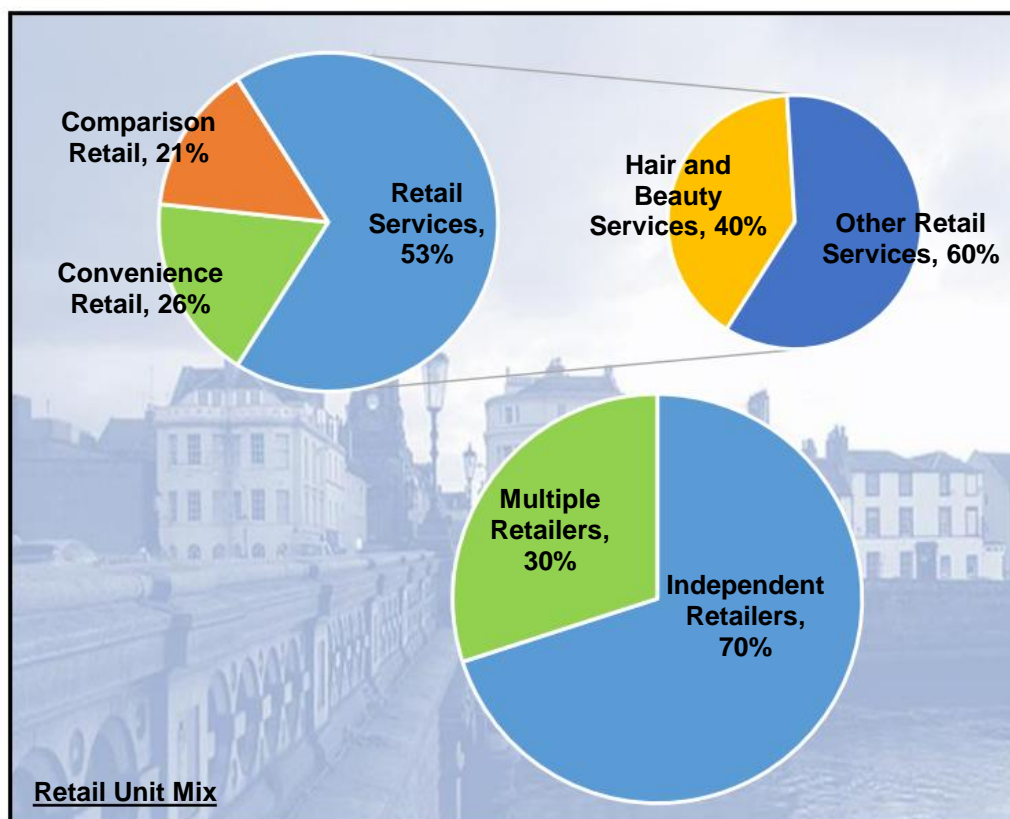
While the largest single use in Blantyre town centre is retail, accounting for 34% of all activities, it is significantly lower than the 38 YTA average of 46%. Securing retail



operators for the redeveloped units at Clydeview Shopping Centre will help bring scores into line with the YTA average.

The YTA analysis is based on the following retail definitions:

- **Convenience Retail:** primarily low cost goods that are typically bought out of habit or on impulse i.e. food, drink (alcohol and non-alcohol), news, tobacco, etc. – *five convenience retailers were identified in Blantyre town centre including ASDA and Londis;*
- **Comparison Retail:** all other retail purchases comprising goods bought at infrequent intervals where consumers will compare and contrast products and prices – *four comparison retailers were identified in Blantyre town centre made up of three charity shops and a florist; and*
- **Retail Services:** services that consumers would expect to find in a town centre including hairdresser, beauty salon, repair of goods, hire of specialist clothing, health clinics, post office, travel agent, etc. – *ten retail service operators were identified in Blantyre town centre, of which four are hair and beauty businesses.*



The town has a variety of independent retailers, alongside a number of national chains. Key national retailers include ASDA, Greggs and, Optical Express.

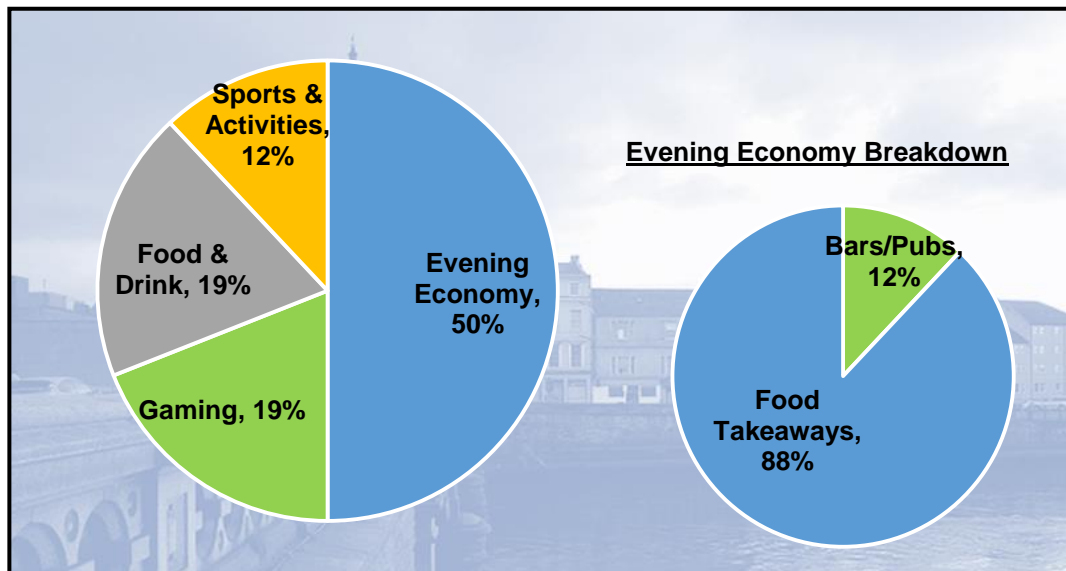
The majority of retailers (70%) in Blantyre town centre are independently owned – only slightly lower than 38 YTA average of 71%. This rate is broadly comparable with the two smaller comparator towns – Alexandria 65% and Ardrossan 75% - but substantially higher than the larger two comparator towns – Dumbarton 52% and Irvine 48%. Typically, independent businesses tend to be locally owned and, with a local vested interest in the town's wellbeing, tend to get more involved in efforts to sustain and improve the town centre.

The majority of retail in Blantyre is spread along Glasgow Road – independent traders include a florist, butcher, optician and travel agent. Of the 12 national multiples three are charity shops (Marie Curie, Salvation Army and St Andrews Hospice) and three are betting shops (Betfred, Ladbrokes and William Hill).

While there is no commercial bank operating in Blantyre, the Credit Union and Post Office will provide some financial services and there are a number of ATM machines in units across the town centre. Other non-retail businesses – all 15 of which are independently owned and 10 of which are food & drink related businesses – include seven hot food take-away outlets, two cafés and one bar, two funeral directors, one nursery and one lawyer.

4. Attractive Town Centre

4.1 Leisure Mix



Half of leisure offering in Blantyre town centre is made up of evening economy uses. The evening economy comprises seven hot food takeaways and one pub/ bar. The evening economy outlets are all located on Glasgow Road, apart from one takeaway on Station Road. Takeaways in the town centre includes the Spice of Life Indian Takeaway and Graham's Fish and Chip Shop. The pub /bar is the Stonefield Tavern – two other pubs are located to the west and south of the town centre.



The Parkville Hotel is located on the western edge of the town centre, a small five bedroom boutique hotel with public bar/ restaurant and large function suite.

4.2 Leisure Facilities

Blantyre Library is located within the town centre area on Glasgow Road at the Clydevie Shopping Centre. The library is open every day apart from Sundays, typically from 9:15am-5pm everyday apart from 1:15pm-8pm on Thursdays.

The Blantyre Leisure Centre is located just outside of the town centre area on Glasgow Road, and opened in 1982. The centre is open from 6:15am until 10pm Monday to Friday, from 7am until 7pm on Saturdays and from 9am until 9:30pm on Sundays. The leisure centre has gym, health suite, swimming pool and sports hall, and offers a range of programmed fitness classes on both pay-as-you-play and membership basis.

Another leisure outlet in the town centre of Blantyre is Dance Central on Station Road. Dance Central offers kids classes at a variety of different levels to suit all age groups, in many different dance styles including disco, jazz, ballet, contemporary, hip-hop, street dance, commercial musical theatre, stretch classes and gymnastics, technique. Classes are on from 4:30pm until 8:30pm on Thursdays and from 10am until 2pm on Saturdays.

4.3 Attractions



Stonefield Park is a large public park in Blantyre to the rear of the Leisure Centre with a children's play area, skate park, football pitches and pathways. The main access point is off Glasgow Road, opposite ASDA, where new public realm and seating has been created. To the east of Stonefield Park is the Blantyre Victoria FC Stadium and Members Club. Established in 1890, the team play in the Scottish Junior FA.

One attraction in Blantyre is the David Livingstone Centre, a biographical museum in dedicated to the life and work of the explorer and missionary David Livingstone. The centre is operated by the David Livingstone Trust and is housed in a category A listed building, less than one mile (c. ten minute walk), outside of the town centre area. The Centre and surrounding parklands are typically open seven days a week, year-round from 11am until 4pm.

Another attraction near Blantyre is Bothwell Castle, located 5 miles (c. 10 minute drive) from Blantyre. The Castle is a large 13th century stone castle overlooking the River Clyde, based around medieval Scotland with its 13th century prison tower and the 14th century great hall and chapel. The Castle and surrounding grounds are open from 9:30am until 5:30pm between April and September, and from 10am until 4pm between October and March.

4.4 Historic Town Centre

There are no conservation areas or listed buildings within Blantyre town centre area, however, there are a number of listed buildings nearby.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Mayberry Place, is a Category B listed building, built in 1905 – it is described on the National Churches website as being designed by the Pugin & Pugin family firm in 1905, and being of rectangular Gothic-style with marble altar. The building is in very good condition having undergone full fabric restoration in recent years including installation of stained glass windows commemorating the Blantyre Colliery mining disaster of 1877 which killed 215 miners. The Church continues to be used as an active place of worship.

Adjacent to St Joseph's is the Category B listed Livingstone Memorial Church. The building dates back to 1880, and was named after the famous Blantyre missionary and explorer David Livingstone. The Church website records that it was built in 1894 and is a traditional sandstone building with a wooden arched ceiling that depicts African flowers. The Church also continues to be used as an active place of worship.

Blantyre Community Council

Blantyre Community Council meets in the Priestfield Hall in High Blantyre each month at 7.15pm. Meetings are open to the public and involve discussions about issues and topics regarding the local area⁷.

4.5 Place and Quality Impressions

The YTA includes an independent review of place and quality impressions, with Blantyre scoring below average in comparison with other towns. Individual unit fronts and shop window displays were graded out of ten during the on-street audit, with a town centre average score of 6.0 for the condition of unit fronts and 5.8 for quality of window display. This is below the average across other audited town centres, of 6.9 for window displays and 6.9 for building fronts.

However, it should be noted that the vacant units on Glasgow Road which are associated with the redevelopments at this end of the town centre will be impacting on the overall rates for the condition of the unit front and window displays. It would then be expected that as works are completed and these units replaced with modern units and new retailers that these scores will experience a positive change.

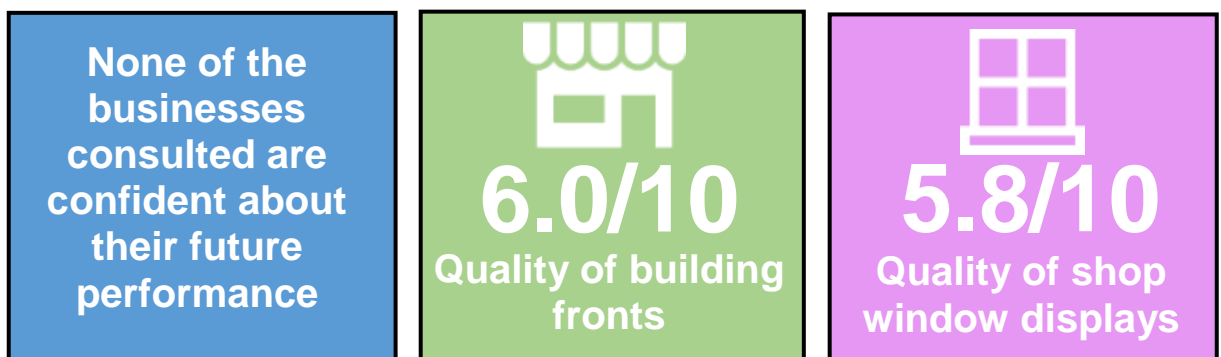
At the time of the audit it was noted that the streets were relatively clear with little litter to be found, and few weeds present. Benches are not spread throughout the town centre, with many of them being found within the Clydeview Shopping Centre and at the new public realm area across from the Centre. No flower boxes/ basket displays were identified in the town centre area, which would be a welcomed addition that would help to brighten up the area.

⁷Blantyre Community Council Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlantyreCommunityCouncil/>



As part of the YTA audit a sample of businesses are asked to comment on their past performance and future confidence. Being a small centre with a number of vacant units at present, it proved difficult to obtain feedback in Blantyre and only four responses were achieved. Results therefore need to be treated with caution, and are reported to provide comparison with other centres.

Of the four businesses, turnover and employment has either declined or remained static over the past five years and none are optimistic about the future performance of their business in Blantyre town centre. The overall confidence score for Blantyre is 3.8 / 10 which is substantially lower than the average of 5.7 / 10 from 31 YTAs, and the second lowest score gathered across all YTAs behind Cambuslang with 2.3 / 10.



During the in-street audit, the appearance of shop fronts and window displays in Blantyre were rated. This is a very subjective analysis – buildings were rated at 6.0 / 10 and window displays at 5.8 / 10 – but is consistent with the approach adopted for other YTA audited towns where the average from 34 YTAs is 6.9 / 10 for building fronts and 6.9 / 10 for window displays.



5. YTA Summary and Key Points

The following are offered as final comments on the Your Town Audit of Blantyre within the framework of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Toolkit.

5.1 Accessible Town Centre

- Blantyre is well connected with good public transport links and services – while car ownership in the area is high, regular bus and train services connect across South Lanarkshire, Glasgow and further afield creating good access for people visiting Blantyre town centre and also for residents travelling to work/ study elsewhere;
- the majority of off-street parking in Blantyre town centre is provided at the Asda car park – it is important that there is a good visual connection and pavement/ lighting connecting the traditional retailers at the eastern end;
- the off-street car park at Stonefield Road is in need of improvement;
- there are no bicycle parking facilities within the town centre, this could help to increase uptake of cycling by residents, and with additional signage/ promotion could encourage those on the nearby National Cycle Route 74 to stop and use the town's food and drink traders; and
- Blantyre has good 3G/4G mobile phone coverage, but no free WiFi connectivity for town centre visitors.

5.2 Active Town Centre

- Blantyre has a population of 16,923⁸ and a workplace based population of 11,950 people – of these almost 1,820 and 1,125 respectively are within, or within walking distance of, the town centre giving businesses a large potential catchment to draw custom from;
- of the 865 residential properties within the town centre catchment area just 25 are recorded as vacant, equating to 3% which is in line with the overall YTA average of 3.5% from 38 towns – combined with the lower than average house price in Blantyre and increasing trends toward town centre living there may be an opportunity to secure redevelopment of these empty

⁸ Scottish Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimate 2016.

homes and also attract new residential development in other parts of the town centre;

- at present Blantyre records the highest level of vacant units of all YTA audits – 21% of all properties and 23% of retail units, compared with 10% for 36/38 YTA average – this is, however temporary and should be significantly reduced once the redevelopment of the Clydevie Centre is complete;
- there is a high proportion of independent retailers chains (68% compared with the YTA average of 71% from 38 towns), which could create an opportunity for the town to promote its unique and independent business base. These independent businesses are likely to be strong allies in supporting future events/ activities in the town centre to increase footfall;
- a more varied retail offering would help to increase visitor numbers to the town centre area, as retail currently is dominated by service businesses (e.g. hairdressers) and by convenience stores. However, with much shopping being moved online it is hard to predict the retail requirements of residents and visitor to the town centre area;
- there are currently no community events which take place annually in the town centre, which is something that could be addressed moving forward. Events such as Christmas fairs and summer festivals are useful in creating a sense of community which can help to engage and attract residents both within and outwith the immediate town centre to the area, thus increasing footfall and possibly spend; and
- although the David Livingstone centre celebrates an element of the town's historic past, the addition of cultural and leisure activities (i.e. cinema, theatre, events venue etc.) would broaden the offer for residents. A number of towns have used vacant retail or other business premises on both short-term and permanent basis to expand the cultural and leisure offer.

5.3 Attractive Town Centre

- the leisure offering in Blantyre relates solely to food & drink, with no cultural offering i.e. no cinema, museum, theatre or nightclub and no hotel accommodation;
- the evening economy in Blantyre is very much dominated by takeaways in the mix of uses – 88% of all leisure businesses and 12% of the make-up of all town centre commercial premises. As there are no restaurants,

nightclubs and only one bar in the town centre, this suggests there may be an opportunity to expand the leisure offering and better meet the needs of local residents;

- while drawing from a very small base (four) none of the businesses consulted were optimistic about the future performance of their business in Blantyre town centre. The overall confidence score for Blantyre is 3.8 / 10 which is significantly lower than the average of 5.7 / 10 from 31 YTAs, and the lowest score gathered across all YTAs;
- the appearance of shop fronts and window displays in Blantyre were rated as 6.0 / 10 for building fronts and window displays at 5.8 / 10 – these scores are lower than the averages from 34 YTAs is 6.9 / 10 for building fronts and 6.9 / 10 for window displays, but will be affected by the current vacant units at the Clydevue Centre; and
- although the redevelopment of the ASDA unit and adjoining shop units will improve the sense of vacancy felt at that end of the town centre and will make the town centre more attractive once completed, more could be done in the meantime to improve the appearance of shop fronts and displays to the remaining units.

Report

7

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and Town Centre Capital Fund - Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update to members on the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) for 2021/2022
- ◆ seek approval to proceed with year 2 application process for the PBIP, subject to confirmation of the expected allocation from Scottish Government

2. Recommendation

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

- (1) that the update on the projects approved at the 29 June 2021 meeting of this Committee be noted; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised to proceed with the allocation of funding for the year 2 application process for the PBIP, as set out in section 5 of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Government announced in its Programme for Government in February 2021 that it proposed to implement a place based investment programme over the 5 year period of the Parliament. The funding is targeted at addressing some of the challenges faced by Scotland's places across the country. The Government confirmed the details of the allocation of the funds to each local authority in a letter dated 10 May 2021 which included its proposal to allocate the funds on a weighted formula based on the number of towns and population in a local authority area and deprivation indices.
- 3.2. The Council was awarded £2.003m for the financial year 2021/2022 and was allocated across 11 projects and project development funding as set out and updated in Appendix 1. The award letter also set out the overall amount of funding across Scotland for the 5 year programme. Based on a pro rata calculation for subsequent years, the Council could receive approximately £1.4m in financial year 2022/2023 and £1.2m in each of the remaining 3 years of the programme, thereby providing a funding programme in the region of £7.003m over the 5 year period.
- 3.3. The confirmation of a 5 year programme allows a more structured approach to the preparation allocation and delivery projects when compared to previous annual allocations for town centre funding.

- 3.4. The objectives of the fund were set out in the report to Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 29 June 2021 and are linked to the improvement of Places rather than being focussed solely on town centres. The Place Based funding allocation has, therefore, widened the eligible centres and the fund now covers all towns, villages and settlements in South Lanarkshire. This includes many of the neighbourhood centres which were not previously eligible and has allowed the appraisal process to recognise areas and assets beyond designated town centres, which are valued and supported by local communities. Nonetheless, it is important to note that the constraints around completing spend within the relevant financial year remain, and, therefore, year 2 funding of approximately £1.4m must be spent and/or fully committed by 31 March 2023, with future years following a similar structure.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. Following the Committee approval of 29 June 2021, officers in Economic Development Services have engaged with the individual project leads to confirm funding and agree detailed delivery structures. Officers have put in place an application and review process for communities looking to develop their projects for future years and the Council has received several proposals. A small amount of funding remains available (c. £15-20,000) for other communities to develop their projects by the end of this financial year, with a view to being able to apply for project funding in future years.
- 4.2. As agreed in the Committee report of 29 June 2021, this is the first update report to be presented to the Committee to monitor progress. Appendix 1 sets out the details on progress of each project to date.
- 4.3. The report to Committee on 29 June 2021 recommended that a process of direct allocation of funding projects be used in the first year, due to the time constraints placed on the Council. It was proposed a bidding process mirroring that used for the Town Centre funding over 2019 and 2020 be used for the allocation of funding for future years, commencing in the financial year 2022/2023. The intention was, therefore, for a report to be brought to this Committee in the spring of 2022 to seek approval to fund the projects which had scored highest in the assessment process.
- 4.4. However, the diary of Committee meetings, due to the election in May 2022, does not allow for this and consequently approval is sought for the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) to be given delegated authority to award funding in line with the previous accepted assessment criteria. While the level of the second year funding has been indicated by the Scottish Government, it has yet to be confirmed and we do not anticipate confirmation until spring 2022. It has, therefore, not been possible to formally open the application process early enough to allow sufficient preparation to report the outcome of bids to this Committee. Officers are also mindful that a number of groups are still in the process of working up their projects and submissions with support from the project development funding. Bringing the timescales forward to report to this Committee would have prevented them from meeting the timescales to be included in the year 2 programme. The time constraints requiring funding to be spent by the end of each financial year means that delaying the decision on what projects to support would result in undue pressure on the groups delivering these projects and add an unacceptable and unnecessary level of risk to the programme. The outcome of this process will be reported to the first available Community and Enterprise Resources Committee following the election. However,

waiting until that point in time would put projects at considerable risk due to the curtailed timeframe.

- 4.5. The Town Centre Capital fund has supported numerous projects across South Lanarkshire providing essential gap funding for many projects which would not have been possible without this funding. A number of these projects, such as the residential development projects are continuing beyond the date at which the Town Centre Capital Funding element has been spent. The programme for delivery always envisaged that they would continue beyond the timescales within which the funding support was to be drawn down. The funding has been used to forward fund some of the more challenging aspects of the projects allowing them to proceed when they would not otherwise have been viable.
- 4.6. A comprehensive update on the current status of the projects funded in year one of PBIP and Town Centre Capital Fund is shown in Appendix 1.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The response from our communities, in the extremely challenging timescales set out, has been exceptional. The groups' commitment and dedication to their communities is a credit to all involved and gives the Council, and hopefully communities and groups representing them, an enhanced working relationship from which to build future successes. For year 2, we aim to build on this and provide our communities with as much time as possible to prepare good quality applications and opportunity to deliver their projects. While the government have indicated the likely level of support under PBIP in year 2 it has yet to be formally awarded. The award letter for year one was issued to councils in May 2021 and we are yet to be informed if the confirmation of year 2, will be earlier in the year. In preparation, however, officers are engaging with as many communities as possible to allow them to be able to submit their bids for funding once it is in place. As an indicative timetable, officers will be ready to launch the funding immediately on receipt of confirmation and would aim to provide the following timescales which mirror previous application process and timescales. Should the award be earlier in the year it may be possible to increase timescales to ease the pressure on groups:-
- ◆ information document circulated online and through social media immediately following confirmation of award, with regular updates as required
 - ◆ online application system will go live immediately following confirmation of funding
 - ◆ officer support to applicants throughout the process
 - ◆ regular FAQ updates issued
 - ◆ close of application 5 weeks after launch
 - ◆ assessment of application 2 weeks after close
- 5.2. The engagement has taken different forms including supporting new initiatives to be worked up and strengthening and enhancing existing projects and bids to improve their prospect of securing funding and aid deliverability. While this engagement has been broad, officers would welcome approaches from any other groups or communities who have not done so yet. Members have been approached to make Economic Development Officers aware of organisations in their wards who may have a worthwhile project, and this is further encouraged moving forward.

- 5.3. In year one, several groups took advantage of the funding to develop new projects in support of full funding applications in future years. To support this, it is proposed that year 2 of the fund continues in the same format with £50k set aside as a capacity building fund targeted towards developing new projects through to application stage.

The award of grant to all year 2 projects will be tied to the same conditions as year one. These conditions will include but not be limited to:-

- ◆ groups must deliver the project as described in their application
- ◆ groups must use all endeavours to complete the projects within the timescales required
- ◆ groups must agree to an officer of the Council being invited to all project meetings to monitor progress, timescales and spend
- ◆ where appropriate, as determined by the Council, that officer may become a full member of the project team to assist in project delivery
- ◆ groups must comply with all obligations placed on the Council, in relation to the management of the grant, by the Scottish Government, throughout the life of the grant period and subsequent monitoring period
- ◆ funding can only be drawn down based on actual spend following the presentation of a valid payment certificate or equivalent. No pre-payment of grant can be considered

- 5.4. Officers from Economic Development Services will work with each of the successful groups to complete the projects in line with their project plans and agreed timescale. This will include the initial baseline surveys requested by Scottish Government to ensure the monitoring of the projects is accurate and in line with fund requirements.

- 5.5. As noted above, an update report will be brought to the first available Community and Enterprise Resources Committee following the election, to update members on the applications, assessment and awards of funding.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The continued development and implementation of this and future years of the PBIP will be taken forward by officers within Planning and Economic Development Services, in consultation with colleagues across all other Council resources and CPP partners as appropriate.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. On confirmation of funding from the Scottish Government, the year 2 funds, where appropriate, will be brought into the Council's General Services Capital Programme and will be subject to the normal monitoring and financial processes. This will feed into the requirements of the Scottish Government to report on progress and identify spend.
- 7.2. The proposals in this paper will allow the Capital Programme funding allocation application process for year 2 of the PBIF to be launched as per the terms and conditions set out at approval in June 2021.
- 7.3. In respect of the size of the applications, many of the groups involved will not have the cash flow to finance their planned project and may request advance funding to allow their project to progress. In line with previous funds, forward funding of projects is not available.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The projects and initiatives identified in this report will be delivered using a range of sustainable techniques and models, having regard to best practice and current construction industry guidance. It is also noted that many of the projects will result in the redevelopment of vacant buildings and land.

9. Other Implication

- 9.1. Due to the diverse portfolio of projects, the timescales within which projects have been developed and the capacity of groups involved assessed, however, there is a risk that some projects may not proceed in the way envisaged and fail to meet the timescales required.
- 9.2. Ultimately, this could result in grant not being expended in the relevant time frame and opportunities to implement these specific projects will not be maximised. This may result in project funding being withdrawn. To mitigate this risk, where possible, a reserve list of projects has been compiled and will be used if needed.

10. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no Impact Assessment is required.
- 10.2. Consultations have been co-ordinated by Economic Development Services with a range of other Council Services who have an ongoing role in delivering services and initiatives in our Town Centres. This consultation and co-operation will continue throughout the duration of the initiative.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

8 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

Improve the quality of the physical environment

- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 29 June 2021 – Place Based Investment Program

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Application Guidance
- ◆ Weekly FAQ reports

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Iain Ross Project Manager, Planning and Economic Development Services

Ext: 4227 (Tel: 01698 454227)

E-mail: Iain.ross@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Project Summary and Update

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
1 TCCF*	Royal Oak, Lanark	Social rented housing development on the site of a derelict hotel.	Development has all statutory consents in place and work began on site in April 2021 with completion expected in mid-2022	£345k / c£4m	Q 2 2021 / Mid 2022	Green
2 TCCF*	Former Hamilton Advertiser Building, Hamilton	Social rented housing development on the site of a former print works	Demolition works are complete, and the main works are progressing well. Completion spring 2022	£300k / £3.2m	Q1 2021 / Q1 2022	Green
3	East Kilbride Shared Workspace	To create 10,000 sq. ft. of business start-up space on floor 7 of Plaza Tower. Funds of £200k reallocated to the Civic Centre feasibility project as reported to 29 June Committee	Private sector match funding could not be secured, project not proceeding	N/A	N/A	Red
4 TCCF*	Vogue Site, Hamilton	Social rented housing development on the site of a former bingo hall Progress has been slower than anticipated due to COVID-19	Planning application lodged. Site investigations and essential repairs carried out. Contracts in place to proceed. Council approval to dispose of site to RSL obtained March 2021	£440k c.£4.3m	Q3 2021 / Q1 2023	Amber

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
		restrictions and procurement difficulties around materials however programme should still be achievable.				
5	Former Poundstretcher, Hamilton	<p>Redevelop the Poundstretcher site as a mixed use residential/retail development.</p> <p>Funds of £180k put back into the programme to support phase 1 delivery.</p>	Property could not be secured - project not proceeding	N/ A	N/A	Red
6 TCCF*	Cambuslang Streetscape	Streetscape improvements including pavement resurfacing.	Works progressing well despite some delays around materials. Completion due by the end of 2021	£845k	Phase Q1 2020 – Q4 2021	Green
7 TCCF*	South Lanarkshire Heritage App	Development of a South Lanarkshire wider town centre app.	<p>Second phase roll out in progress with the 9 more towns part of the launch. Towns now able to access the app include</p> <p>Hamilton, East Kilbride, Blantyre, Rutherglen, Cambuslang, Carluke, Larkhall, Lanark and Biggar.</p> <p>Promotional activity underway</p>	£150k / £240k	Phased Q2 2020 – Q4 2021	Green
8	Forth Café and Cinema	To create a cinema and kitchen café in town	Works complete	£60k	Q1 2021	Blue

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
TCCF*		centre hall for community town centre events and increase town centre footfall.				
9 TCCF*	Carnwath site assembly	Acquisition of a derelict site to facilitate a community project	Acquisition will be finalised on completion of remediation works by existing owner programmed by end of 2021. Development subject to other funding which is now in place	£335k / £650k	Q4 2021 Q4 2022	Green
10 TCCF*	Hunters Close, Lanark	Removal of a derelict building and creation of town centre car parking / market space	Works complete	£257k	Phased Q1 – Q3 2021	Blue
11 PBIP**	Rankin Gait, Carluke	Regenerate the Rankin Gait Precinct creating the Rankin Gaitway Community Space.	Design and procurement work progressing in line with programme to complete works by March 2021	£100k	Q1 2022	Green
12 PBIP**	Carnwath Community and Enterprise Hub)	Acquire retail premises and hold for the future benefit of the community.	Negotiations and legal work being finalised.	£25k	Q1 2022	Green
13 PBIP**	Forth Business and Outdoor Development	Creation of an outdoor space to expand the Rainforest Cafe at Forth, St Paul's church and provide a safe	Design complete and procurement works progressing in line with programme to complete works by March 2021	£75k	Q1 2022	Green

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
		space for various activities				
14 PBIP**	Welcome to Larkhall	The project aims to improve the appearance of the main shopping street, making it more attractive to shoppers and visitors.	Phase 1 heating project in Lighthouse community building complete and designs and statutory consultations being progressed on phase 2 signage project	£100k	Q1 2022	Green
15 PBIP**	Rutherglen Town Centre Business Support	Creation of a business hub providing space for new starts and/or existing business. A design improvement to extend the frontage of the shopping centre to include all shops	Works completed April 2021	£100k	Q2 2021	Blue
16 PBIP**	Development of the Thomson Suite in the Town Mill, Strathaven	Development of the Thomson Suite in the Town Mill, provision of a tourist information point in the town centre and further development of the Strathaven Inside Out app	Designs and statutory consultations being progressed	£100k	Q1 2022	Green
17 TCCF*	Newcross Centre Hub	Community/business/enterprise hub which will include office space,	Design complete and works out to tender	£1.27m	Phased Q1 2021 – Q2 2022	Amber

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
PBIP** RCGF***		private and shared facilities for businesses, a community café, youth activities and business start -up space Cost saving exercise required which has delayed programme				
18 TCCF*	EK Civic Masterplan	Feasibility work regarding the potential to move out of the Civic Centre which is underutilised and no longer fit-for-purpose investigate, and commission design work aimed at relocating remaining Council services into the East Kilbride shopping mall	Negotiations proceeding with Town Centre Owners and design progressing Following a period of transition, the new asset team representing the Town Centre have renewed the commitment to working with the council to deliver on this programme	£201k / TBC	Q1 2022	Amber
19 TCCF*	Near to Home Working	Pilot project to provide flexible business space for people who are working from home	Transport Scotland have put the project on hold due to concerns over budget and the availability and cost of materials. Alternative proposals are being progressed with the Town Centre Owners and will be reported in next update report.	£250 / £425k	Q1 – Q3 2021	Red

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
20 RCGF***	EK Zone	Community / business / enterprise business space alongside other public and voluntary sector partners	Funding application unsuccessful. Project on hold until alternative funding secured. Refreshed application being prepared for RCGF 2021	N/A	Q4 2022	Amber
21 PBIP**	Project Feasibility	Development of capacity and projects for future years	Allocation of funding under Executive Director's delegated authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesmahagow TC improvements – up to £10k • Grow 73 – Community Garden – up to £10k • Blackwood Estate – Outdoor classrooms – up to £10k • Discover Lanark – outdoor seating – up to £10k • Kirktonholme pavilion improvements to make DDA compliant – up to £10k • Avon Bridge design and procurement – SLLC Bid – up to £10k 	£253k	Q1 2022	Green

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regent Centre Hamilton masterplanning – £50k • Silverbank Carpark resurfacing – £50k • Bothwell Library CAT – £28k • Forth additional project costs – £20k • Allenshaw Signage Improvements – up to £10k • Allenshaw Roads design – up to £15k • Biggar – Solar energy pilot – up to £10k 			
22 PBIP**	Halfway Community Council	Park refurbishment at Halfway Park including play equipment, drainage, and paths	Design and procurement work progressing	£100k	Q1 2022	Green
23 PBIP**	David Livingston Centre	Allow works which had to be removed from the original scope to achieve cost savings to be reinstated. These	Design and procurement work progressing in line with programme to complete works by March 2021	£400k	Q1 2022	Green

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
		include external features such as landscaping, play and picnic areas and paths linking to the Clyde and town centre				
24 PBIP**	Mitchell Arcade Rutherglen	Bring forward a package of improvements which will support the town centre, business and social enterprise	Design and procurement work progressing in line with programme	£300k	Q1 2022	Green
25 PBIP**	Newcross Centre HUB (Project 17)	Allow works which had to be removed from the original scope to achieve cost savings to be reinstated.	See project 17	£300k	Q1 2022	Green
26 PBIP**	Bothwell Community Council	Support projects in the Bothwell Futures community plan.	Design and procurement work progressing in line with programme on the group's priority project to complete a community asset transfer of the library	£150k	Q1 2022	Green
Total Funding			TCCF* – £3,408k PBIP** – £2,003k RCGF*** – £1,589 (£869k TBC) Total Grant Funding - £7m Estimated leverage of private sector investment - £10.4m			

Project Number FUND	Name	Summary	Update	Project Value Grant / project value	Target grant spend / Project completion	BRAG
			Total Project value – c.£17.4m			

*TCCF – Town Centre Capital Fund

**PBIP – Place Based Investment Programme

***RCGF – Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

Report

8

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Gift Card
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform members of the South Lanarkshire gift card proposal from Scotland's Towns Partnership
- ◆ seek approval to progress with the promotion of the gift card for year one

2. Recommendation

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

- (1) that it be agreed that the Council sign a concordat with Scotland's Towns Partnership to promote Scotland Loves Local Gift Card and related actions, as set out in section 5 of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. Along with all other local authorities in Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council is being asked by the Scottish Government, through Scotland's Town Partnership (STP), to support a Scotland Loves Local Gift Card scheme, designed to encourage local shopping, drive footfall to local businesses and keep spend in the local area for longer. This initiative is also backed by COSLA.
- 3.2. The scheme is intended to allow local people to buy a gift card which can only be used in local businesses, therefore, keeping spend in the local economy. The scheme is open to all local businesses with a physical presence in South Lanarkshire to sign up to. Gift cards will be available for customers to buy from local businesses or online. They can be spent in any business who has signed up to the scheme within South Lanarkshire. The administration of the initiative is fully funded and supported by the Scottish Government for the first year (September 2021 to August 2022). STP have carried out a procurement exercise and appointed marketing agency, Miconex, who will administer the scheme.
- 3.3. Should a local authority agree to sign up to the scheme via a concordat, 5,000 gift cards will be made available for its local area for the first year. Each local authority is being offered the programme on the same basis. This is inclusive of a fully paid and managed service for the first year. Thereafter, the local authority has the option to agree to continue the scheme for a further year subject to covering the running costs.
- 3.4. The Council is being asked to sign up to a concordat, through which the Council will give its support to the scheme for an initial one-year period. Through this, the local authority would be agreeing to:-

- ◆ promote the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card scheme amongst outlets, merchants, and local attractions in the local authority area
- ◆ a local launch and promotion of the Gift Card to businesses in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ provide content for a landing page specific to South Lanarkshire

In order to fulfil our obligations under the concordat and reach businesses across South Lanarkshire, officers will be required to undertake an extensive period of promotion and liaison with businesses. It is anticipated that alongside digital and print marketing, officers will hold information sessions with businesses, or associated Business Improvement Districts or town centre organisations across South Lanarkshire. SPT (through Miconex) are the lead when it comes to the technical aspects of the card. However, as the Council will be promoting the card, the public and businesses may associate the Council as being the first port of call for any enquiries or problems associated with the card. An officer will be required to accommodate this into their workload.

- 3.5. The gift cards use the existing MasterCard network and can, therefore, be accepted by small independent businesses and national retailers who use this network. STP, on behalf of Scottish Government, have a contract in place with Miconex and will cover the full costs of the first year including licence fee, administration, support and management costs. Data will also be collected. This data will be used to track spend on the cards and provide information to determine what the benefit is to businesses from such a scheme.
- 3.6. STP have advised that the only cost to the Council for the initial year pilot period will be officer time. While there are some synergies with the work of Economic Development, it is anticipated the amount of officer time could be extensive. Officers will be required to liaise with businesses across South Lanarkshire to explain how the card works and what potential benefits there may be to the businesses. Officers will be the first port of call for any enquiries from businesses. Further, a marketing campaign will require to be undertaken. This campaign will be twofold, with one element promoting the card to businesses to sign up to the initiative, and the other making the public aware of the scheme so they can consider the card as a gift option. There will be costs to the Council in undertaking this marketing campaign. Beyond year one, there are increased resource implications for the Council through a monthly fee of £600. Funding is not allocated within any budget and year one promotion and marketing costs will be required from a new budget line. Recommendations on whether to continue beyond year one will consider both the wider economic benefits and the value for money to the Council and will be the subject of a future report to this Committee.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. The proposal is that 5,000 tailored Love Local Gift Cards will be produced per Scottish local authority area. All production and fulfilment of the product, as well as merchant and customer care, will be managed by STP and Miconex. Miconex will provide all purchase and fulfilment functions. This means that the Council will have no role in the functionality and e-commerce aspects of the gift card. The Scottish Government will cover the full costs of the first year including the 5,000 cards, licence fee, administration, support, management costs and data collection. If additional cards were required due to demand, these can be provided but this will be at a cost to the Council. The cards themselves are designed with the Scotland Loves local logo and the design is the same for all local authorities with the exception of the local authority's name.

- 4.2. Collection of data is key in being able to track spend regarding the individual cards and provide information that can then determine the value of a local gift card to our local businesses and the local authority area. STP estimate that on average people spend 65% more than the value of the gift when they go out to spend their card. If this proves to be the case, there is the potential to bring significant benefit to our local businesses and further support the Shop Local campaign.
- 4.3. Each business must register to be able to accept the card within their business. This can be completed at the Scotland Loves Local website. Once a business has registered, gift card recipients will be able to spend their Local Gift Card in that business and the business will appear on the relevant map and business directory listings. As the cards use the existing MasterCard infrastructure, Scotland Loves Local Gift Cards can be accepted by independent businesses and national retailers alike. Business must, however, have a physical presence in the local authority area to which the Gift Card corresponds. Local Gift Cards can also be used online, but only where that business also has a physical presence within that local authority area.
- 4.4. The messaging from Scottish Government and STP is that rollout success hinges on each local authority signing up to support the scheme to allow use of the Gift Card in every region of Scotland. The Gift Cards will be available to purchase online once the local authority has signed up to the concordat. By signing the concordat, the local authority will then support the use of the gift card in the local authority area, in so doing, allow the sale, use and circulation of gift cards in South Lanarkshire.
- 4.5. The benefits of the proposal are difficult to fully assess in advance of the roll out and, therefore, officers will bring an update report back to this Committee once the benefits have been established and the take up is known, along with recommendations on whether to continue to support the scheme. Officers are open to the benefits of the scheme but remain to be persuaded that it represents a long-term benefit to our towns and businesses. Whilst the card is being promoted by the Scottish Government it is understood that the Council is not obliged to take on the gift card. If the Council was not to go forward with the card, then the year one gift cards would be offered to local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and similar outlets to promote. However, as there are no significant financial implications for the Council in year one, it is recommended that the Council support the scheme.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The first year of the scheme is already underway, therefore, if committee approval is granted officers will have to dedicate time to get the South Lanarkshire Scheme up and running. The next steps would be as follows:-
- ◆ sign the concordat
 - ◆ information provided to SPT for South Lanarkshire landing page
 - ◆ a series of meetings to be held with business groups/town centre organisations across South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ organise launch event
 - ◆ digital and physical marketing to be launched across South Lanarkshire
 - ◆ a follow up second digital and physical marketing campaign to be launched mid-2022
 - ◆ monitoring of impact
 - ◆ report to Committee in August 2022 with recommendations for continuation based on success of year one

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. Officer time is required to promote the card to both businesses and the local public, organise a launch event and support general enquiries etc.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. While there is no cost in year one, funding will be required to support the marketing and implementation of the card. It is anticipated that this will be in the region of £10,000 in order to have reach across South Lanarkshire. After year one, additional maintenance costs of £7,200 per annum will be required alongside the yearly marketing costs. As noted above, proposals to support future funding will be subject to a further report to this Committee.
- 7.2. Should the Council wish to remain within the scheme beyond the pilot year, there would be a monthly fee of £600 as well as card printing costs. The fee incorporates participation in the scheme, fulfilment, promotion, e-commerce and platform access. If a bespoke design was to be added to the card the costs of the cards may well increase. If a local authority chooses to leave the scheme there is a 3-month notice period.
- 7.3. The above costs will be met from existing budgets.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no climate change or environmental implications as a result of this report.

9. Other Implications for the Council

- 9.1. The card is being widely promoted by STP and has attracted the attention of local Business Improvement Districts.
- 9.2. Although the card is being managed by STP/Miconex, South Lanarkshire Council will be promoting the card and as such there will be a risk of reputational damage to the Council should any complications arise.

10. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no Impact Assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

8 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Scotland's Towns Partnership Gift Card Campaign Pack.

Contact for Further Information

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

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Report

9

Report To:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Building Standards Service: Additional Officers
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:-

- ♦ seek approval to increase the Planning and Economic Development Service establishment by the addition of Building Standards Officers for an initial fixed term period of 23 months, with consideration of a further period based on workload and fee income levels after the initial 23 month fixed term period and the addition of a Building Standards Modern Apprentice for a 24 month period

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the additional posts, as detailed in section 9 of this report, be approved.

3. Background

3.1. The Council's statutory role as Building Standards Authority for its area is undertaken by the Building Standards Service. This function sits within the Planning and Economic Development Service within Community and Enterprise Resources. The Building Standards Service is responsible for ensuring development is carried out in accordance with Building Regulations and associated Technical Standards, so that the health and safety of users of buildings and the general public is protected. It also has a statutory enforcement role involving the inspection of dangerous buildings and structures and seeking remedy for unauthorised or defective work. As well as its statutory functions, the Building Standards Service carries out a range of important non-core business including emergency call out cover, licensing activity, liaison with disability groups, participation in the Operation Doric scheme, which seeks to address doorstep crime and includes partnership working with Police Scotland, provision of general advice and guidance and property searches.

3.2. The broad range of services provided by Building Standards are key in supporting the Council to deliver commitments outlined in the Resource Plan and reflected in the Planning and Economic Development Service Plan, namely:-

- ♦ physical development and land use in the area is enabled, guided and controlled to help facilitate economic growth
- ♦ vacant, derelict and contaminated land is brought back into productive use
- ♦ provide sound financial stewardship for the Council

- 3.3. In addition to the above, it is highlighted the current and future key role Building Standards fulfils contributing to addressing the effects of climate change. This role involves undertaking a quality assessment of the energy design of new buildings and checking building work on site to ensure compliance with energy standards. The Scottish Government's current consultation on 'proposed changes to energy standards' reinforces this role and seeks to enhance it through proposals to improve compliance and reduce the gap between the designed and as-built energy performance of buildings. Members may recall this consultation was reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 3 November 2021.
- 3.4. The current establishment and structure of the Service is noted in Appendix 1 along with the proposed structure resulting from the recommendations within this report.

4. Verification Appointment

- 4.1. In March 2017, the Council was re-appointed by Scottish Ministers as verifier for the Council area for the maximum period available of 6 years. The verification role involves the timeous and efficient processing of building warrant applications together with the inspection of works on site to ensure development is being carried out in compliance with the building warrant and technical standards. This appointment recognised the consistently strong level of performance by the service during the previous appointment period from 2011 to 2017.
- 4.2. The next verification appointment term starts from 1 May 2023, and leading up to this, consideration of appointment terms will begin in early 2022 as Scottish Ministers review performance to select which authorities will be appointed and for what period of time.
- 4.3. The reappointment, for a full 6-year period, is conditional on meeting the performance requirements outlined in the Building Standards Verification and Operating Frameworks (2021). Assessment against these frameworks covers overall performance along with seeking evidence of investment in resources to deliver high quality services.
- 4.4. The assessment methodology used by the Building Standards Division (BSD) outlines 'strong' performance as resulting in a 6-year appointment period, with 'good' performance likely to attract a 3-year appointment period. Anything less will likely attract one year rolling appointments with ongoing scrutiny and adherence to a strict improvement plan.
- 4.5. Scottish Government Ministers expect verifiers to deliver a quality customer experience, with operational and financial efficiency, and to act in the public interest. The performance framework for verifier states, 'Verification services should be underpinned by efficient utilisation of funds and resources; high levels of productivity and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and Verifiers are committed to 'raising the bar' and ensuring a consistent effort to improve building standards verification across the performance framework'.
- 4.6. The content and recommendations of this report must be considered against the increased focus on the delivery of Building Standards related services post Grenfell. The nature of this increased focus is outlined within the work of the Scottish Government's Building Standards Futures Board. The work of this Board has and will continue to make additional demands on Building Standards services in the areas of workforce/succession planning, digital transformation, an increased focus on

compliance checks, and increased standards of verification. All of this requires additional resources.

- 4.7. A key work stream of the Futures Board related to a national Workforce Strategy for Building Standards outlines several local and national actions which together seek to ensure a sustainable workforce, a skilled workforce, a professional framework and a profession for everyone.
- 4.8. The annual workforce data collection process for 2021, which forms part of the requirements of the Workforce Strategy, highlights the challenge ahead in terms of improving capacity and addressing the issue of succession planning. The 2021 data shows that 52% of current operational staff are over 50 years of age, including 19% who are between 56 and 60 years of age. This collectively represents more than 350 years of experience which the Council will lose over the next 5 to 10 years, with a significant proportion of this being potentially lost within the next 3 to 5 years. Actions to address this loss of skill and experience needs to start now and is reflected in the report by the proposal for a Modern Apprentice to be taken on by the Service in 2022, with further apprentices to be considered in the future.

5. Current performance

- 5.1. This section of the report will outline the current performance level of the Building Standards service against key national and local performance indicators. These indicators provide a measure of compliance with the Verification Operating Framework.
- 5.2. Table 1 shows performance against 2 important key performance objectives (KPOs) together with the number of applications received.

Table 1

TARGETS			
South Lanarkshire	95% of first reports (for building warrants and amendments) issued within 20 days	Re-submissions - 90% of building warrants and amendments issued within 10 days from receipt of all satisfactory information.	Application numbers submitted
2021/2022 Q2	78.06%	73.83%	732
2021/2022 Q1	65.74%	68.70%	799
2020/2021 Q4	92.27%	86.94%	714
2020/2021 Q3	95.05%*	88.68%	719
2020/2021 Q2	96.76%*	86.27%	639
2020/2021 Q1	96.55%*	84.21%	376
2019/2020 Q4	92.89%	85.25%	598
2019/2020 Q3	91.71%	82.62%	56
2019/2020 Q2	86.50%	66.91%	719
2019/2020 Q1	87.70%	74.68%	699

* Indicates periods where application numbers and site inspection requests reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- 5.3. This information shows that in recent years it has been a challenge for the service to meet Scottish Government targets related to the timeliness of building warrant assessment. This is due to the increasing complexity in application assessment (for example, increased fire engineering solutions, alternative design solutions, use of innovative products and systems, and the assessment of the energy efficiency of buildings). There has also been an increase in general enquiries, provision of technical advice, support to other Council services and pre application discussions.
- 5.4. The increasing focus on compliance checks (site visits), means the current prioritisation of assessment tasks against inspection activity is no longer sustainable. In turn, it is anticipated that without investment in additional resources there will be further challenges in meeting national standards.
- 5.5. In addition to a range of performance indicators reported nationally, several further indicators are reported locally, some of which are included within the Planning and Economic Development Service Plan.
- 5.6. Two of the measures are reported through iMPROVE. These are (a) percentage of building warrant applications receiving initial assessment within 20 working days, and (b) percentage of certificate of completion submissions responded to within 3 working days. Presently both measures are sitting at 'red'.
- 5.7. The performance data outlined in this paper shows that when the service is faced with 'normal' levels of application numbers, achieving the required targets is not currently possible. This can be seen when viewing KPO data for 2019 to 2021 within Table 1. Any increase in normal levels of application numbers creates further challenges as can be seen from the KPO data for Q1 and Q2 for 2021/2022.
- 5.8. With limited resilience or ability to effectively manage current workload, resources become further stretched and performance further drops during holiday periods and periods of absence.
- 5.9. The challenges faced in delivering verification services is further exacerbated with the current increase in non-verification duties, as outlined in the following section.

6. Enforcement and public safety

- 6.1. The role of the Building Standards service, with regards to responding to dangerous and defective buildings and other enforcement matters such as unauthorised work, is set out in primary legislation and represents a key part of the Building Standards role.
- 6.2. The Building Standards service has no separate enforcement team with enforcement matters being undertaken by the operational area teams with support from the HQ team. Given the potential public safety aspect of Building Standards enforcement work, any incident requiring investigation takes priority over verification work.
- 6.3. Over the last 12 to 24 months the service has seen a significant increase in enforcement activity, some requiring immediate and substantial involvement from surveyors and team leaders. For example, the recent gas explosion in Main Street, East Kilbride required extensive Team Leader involvement. At times this has been at the exclusion of other duties, given the nature and complexity of this incident. The amount of officer time spent on public safety related matters and by extension the effect this has on other areas of service delivery is becoming more significant. The potential impact on public safety, however, means that the Building Standards service has no choice but to intervene in cases of real potential danger.

- 6.4. Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the service, priority is always given to enquiries which relate to matters of public safety. Building Standards remains able to respond to such incidents in accordance with current service standards, this being to attend any incident within 2 hours (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

7. Non-core activities

- 7.1. As well as undertaking verification and enforcement work, the service also has extensive involvement in a large and diverse range of other activities which support the wider delivery of Council services. All have a link to public safety, for example, those related to licensing, safety at sports grounds and live entertainment.
- 7.2. Should sufficient additional resources not be secured; the Building Standards service will need to review whether it can continue to deliver non-fee earning activities.

8. Summary and recommendations

- 8.1. Focus on Building Standards has increased since the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the Edinburgh Schools' failures. The work of the Scottish Government's Futures Group outlines the importance placed on the successful delivery of Building Standards services. Scottish Ministers expect councils to support and invest in their Building Standards services to deliver, not only verification services, but also other services which seek to ensure the safety of the public in and around buildings.
- 8.2. The key message within this report is to outline the potential risks to verification appointment in 2023, along with the possible reputational damage which is associated with a reduced appointment period. In addition, the service faces other challenges related to overall performance, managing matters related to enforcement and public safety and delivering on non-core activities, all as outlined in the previous sections of the report.
- 8.3. Based on current staffing and resource levels, there is a potential risk to verification re-appointment, an inability to improve performance and challenges in discharging our statutory enforcement and public safety duties and maintaining our contribution to non-core activities. Such duties are key in supporting the local economy and contribute to achieving climate change targets.
- 8.4. Taking into consideration the content of this report and to allow the Building Standards service to deliver on verification and non-verification duties, the additional resources, outlined in section 9 of this report, are requested.

9. Employee Implications

- 9.1. It is proposed that the following are added to the establishment of the Planning and Economic Development Service for a 23-month fixed term period, with consideration of a further period based on workload and fee income levels after the initial 23-month fixed term period.

Post title	Number of posts	Grade / SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual salary (excluding on-costs)	Gross salary (including on-costs 30.3%)	Total (23 months)
Building Standards Surveyor	3	Grade 3 Level 2 - 4 SCP 63-74	£18.08 - £21.25	£32,994 - £38,779	£45,448 - £53,416	£261,325 - £307,141

Post title	Number of posts	Grade / SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual salary (excluding on-costs)	Gross salary (including on-costs 30.3%)	Total (23 months)
Building Inspector	1	Grade 2 Level 3 SCP 46 - 48	£14.05 - £14.48	£25,639 - £26,424	£33,408 - £34,431	£64,032 - £65,992

9.2. It is proposed that the following are added to the establishment:

Post title	Number of posts	Grade / SCP	Hourly Rate	Annual salary (excluding on-costs)	Gross salary (including on-costs 30.3%)	Total (24 months)
Building Standards Modern Apprentice	1	Grade 1 Level 1 - 3 SCP 20 - 27	£9.60 - £10.64	£17,519 - £19,416	£22,827 - £25,300	£45,654 - £50,600

Skills Development Scotland is fully supportive of the national Building Standards Modern Apprentice (MA) programme and funding will be provided direct to the colleges that are delivering the programme. This means that each local authority, as the employer, will require sufficient budget for the apprentice's salary costs only.

9.3. The additional posts outlined above would be used to assist service delivery as noted below:-

- ◆ 3 Building Standards surveyors – these officers will support the two operational teams and the HQ team in terms of the volume of work related to building warrant plan assessment, low and medium risk inspection activities, enforcement investigations and general enquiries.
- ◆ 1 Building Standards inspector – this officer will supplement the existing two inspectors with regards to required inspections related, in the main, to multi-plot housing development, but also as related to other routine inspection activity as volume of work will allow. This will address, in part, the current level of under inspection of ongoing construction activity.
- ◆ 1 Building Standards Modern Apprentice – this apprentice will start to address the challenges of succession planning and indicate the Council's commitment towards the local actions within the national Building Standards Workforce Strategy.

10. Financial Implications

10.1. These posts will be funded from existing budget including turnover, Planning and Economic Development reserve balances and over recovery of fee income within the service over the next two years.

11. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 11.1 The Building Standards Service plays a key role in addressing the effects of Climate Change. This role involves undertaking a quality assessment of the energy design of new buildings and checking building work on site to ensure compliance with energy standards.

12. Other Implications

- 12.1 None

13. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 13.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, strategy or plan and is not subject to impact assessment requirements.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

12 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ 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:-

Pauline Elliot

Head of Planning and Economic Development

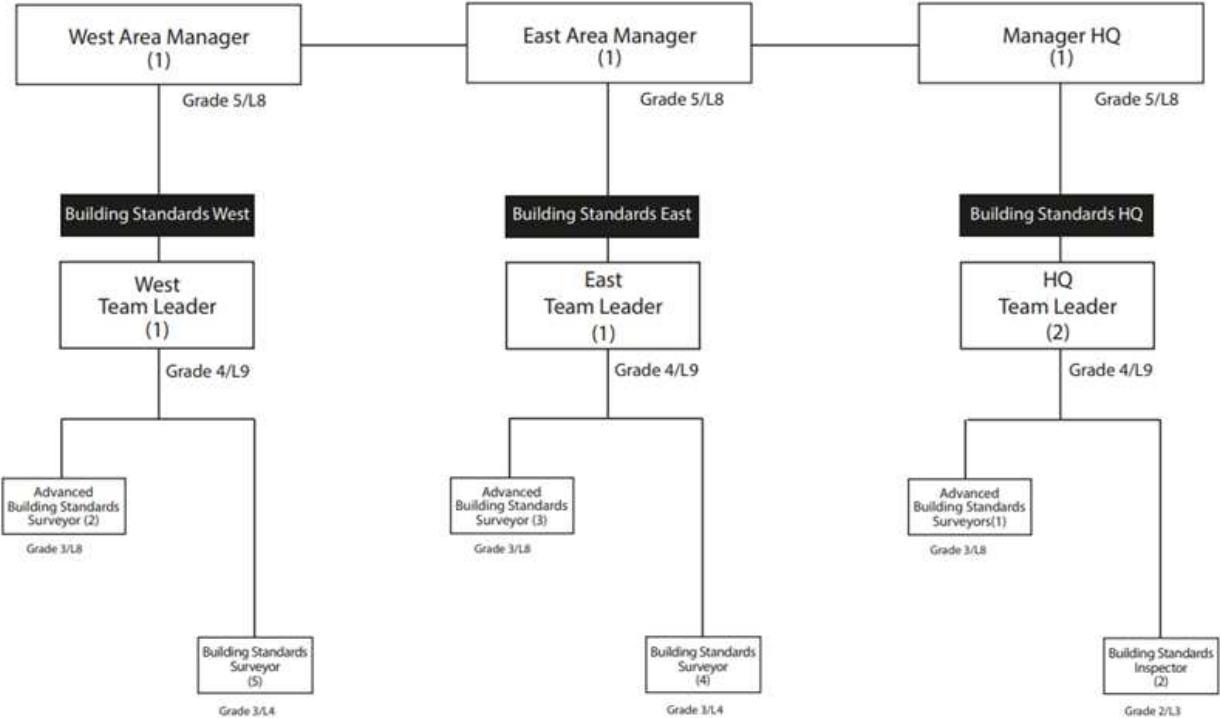
Ext: 5126 (Tel: 01698 455126)

E-mail: Pauline.elliott@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Current and Proposed Establishment and Structure

Building Standards Establishment within Planning and Economic Development - Current

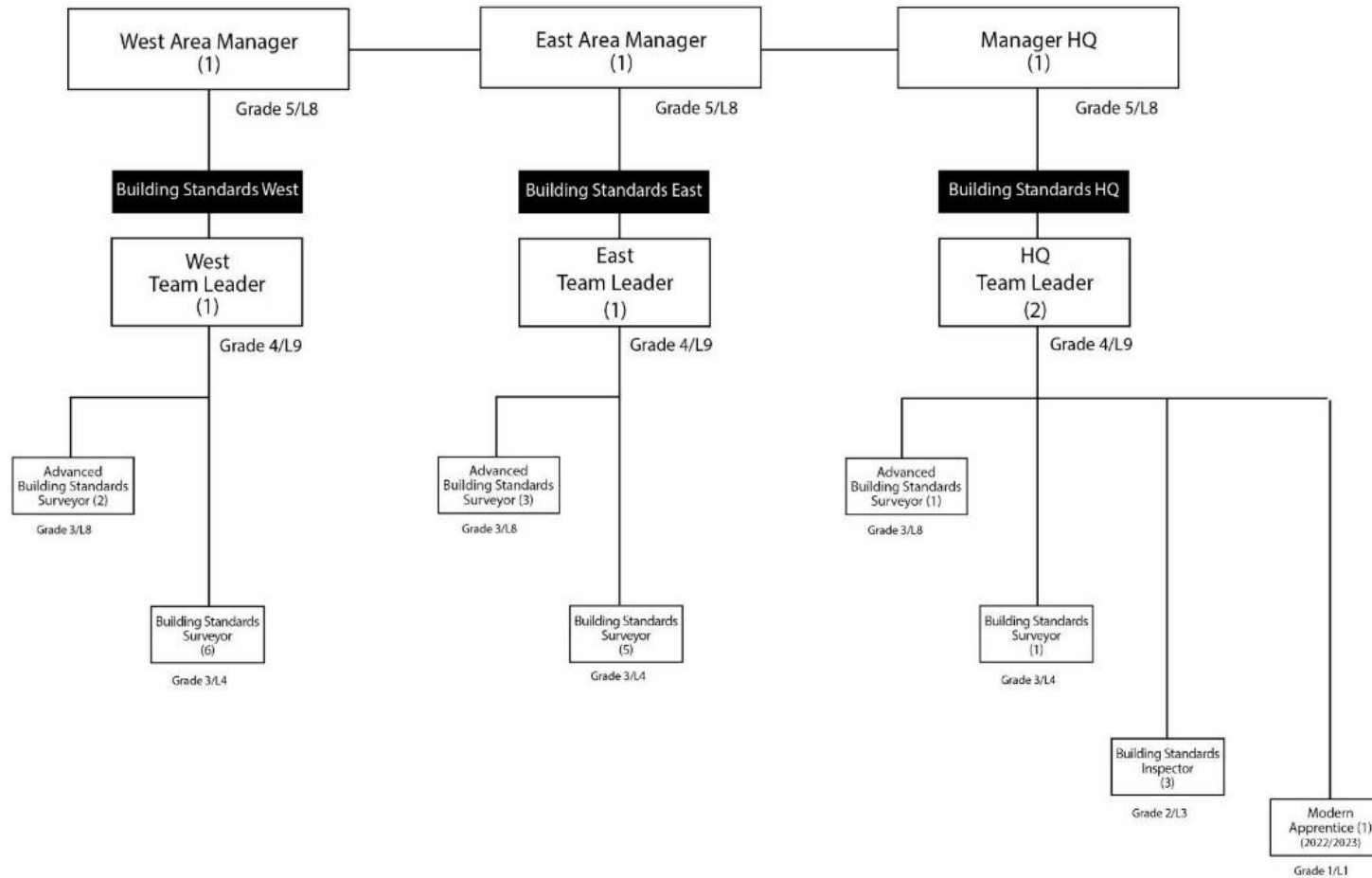
Notes	
Building Standards West	9
Building Standards East	9
Building Standards HQ	6
Total number of posts:	24



Building Standards Establishment within Planning and Economic Development - Proposed

Notes

Building Standards West	10
Building Standards East	10
Building Standards HQ	9
Total number of posts:	29



Report

10

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Workforce Planning and Recruitment in Planning and Building Standards Service
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1. Purpose of the report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ seek approval for 3 full time equivalent (FTE) Graduate Planning Officer posts in the establishment to be extended on a fixed term basis for an additional 11 months

2. Recommendations

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

- (1) that the fixed term 12 month contract of 3 FTE Graduate Planning Officer posts on Grade 2, Level 2 - 4 (£23,140 to £30,147) within the Planning and Economic Development establishment be extended for a further 11 months, as detailed in section 6 of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's statutory role as Planning Authority for its area is undertaken by the Planning service which sits within the Planning and Economic Development Service. The Planning Service is responsible for the preparation of the Local Development Plan and associated supporting guidance; the processing of planning applications; and the enforcement and monitoring function. In addition, officers within the service provide advice and guidance on a wide range of planning matters as well as dealing with consultations from licensing, property enquiries, information requests and liaison with groups and community bodies.
- 3.2. The Planning Service is responsible for delivering a front-line statutory function. Within the context of a changing economic climate and budgetary matters there was a reduction in the number of frontline planning officers/team leaders within the Service, at the end of July 2021. In addition, the number of managers within the service was reduced from 4 to 3 in March 2018. Analysis of the workforce profile of the service shows over 50% of officers, team leaders and managers are now over 50.
- 3.3. The table below provides information on the total number of all types of applications received by the service since 2018/2019.

All application types	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	1 April to 30 Sep 2021
Received	2001	1892	2131	1196

An additional 239 applications were received during 2020/2021 compared to the previous 12 months. In addition, the first 6 months of 2021 has seen 1196 applications submitted which, if this rate continues for the remainder of 2021/2022, would result in a 36% increase in the number received compared to 2019/20. This reflects the trend of an upturn in the economy which has seen increasing activity by developers including housebuilders.

- 3.5. The following table shows the number of enforcement cases received by the service during the same period.

Enforcement cases	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	1 April to 30 Sep 2021
Received	187	188	280	192

The figure for 2020/2021 represents a 49.7% increase compared to the previous year. In addition, the number of cases opened in the first 6 months of 2021/2022 is higher than for the whole of the years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

- 3.6. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 received Royal Assent in July 2019. It will result in the introduction of a number of additional statutory duties across the planning service which will have an impact on the role and responsibilities of officers. This will include major changes to the way in which Local Development Plans are produced, the matters to be addressed and the way in which they are presented; the introduction of the ability of community bodies to prepare Local Place plans; and a requirement to prepare an Open Space Strategy and Play Sufficiency Assessment. In addition draft national planning policy (National Planning Framework 4) is due to be published by the Scottish Government for consultation in the autumn. A position statement published by the Government in November 2020 highlighted the significant role the planning system will have in tackling climate change, meeting the needs of local communities (this includes an emphasis on placemaking and introduces the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods), health and wellbeing and economic recovery.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. Ongoing recruitment has been taking place since July 2021 in order to fill vacant posts (0.5 team leader and 0.5 advanced officer), the backfilling for an officer on maternity leave with a temporary graduate officer (12 months) and the creation of a total of 5 additional graduate planners posts (2 permanent and 3 temporary for 12 months).
- 4.2. The cost of funding the permanent positions have been met within the Service. In response to the critical situation within the Service, permission was also given from The Head of Personnel Services to recruit three temporary graduate planning posts on 12-month contracts.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The overall effect of the creation and filling of these posts has been two-fold. Firstly, it has helped address capacity issues within the planning service and allowed an initial improvement in the management of workloads. Secondly the recruitment of graduate level officers has to some extent redressed the ageing structure of the service and will contribute to succession planning in the longer term. The 2 permanent graduate posts are now embedded within the establishment.

- 5.2. The additional temporary positions will have a beneficial impact in the short term in relation to the allocation of workload and progressing policy matters and new statutory duties. In view of the above, the retention of the temporary posts for an additional 11 months is being sought.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. It is proposed that the following posts be extended for an additional 11 months (23 months in total) to the Planning and Economic Development Services establishment as detailed below.

Post	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost (inc on costs 30.3%)	Total inc on costs (23 months)
Graduate Planning Officer (23 months)	3.0	Grade 2 Level 2 - 4	SCP 63 - 74	£12.68 to £16.52	£23,140 to £30,147	£30,151 to £39,282	£173,368 - £225,872

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The overall cost of the 3.0 FTE temporary graduate Planner posts for 23 months will be £225,872. This will be met from existing budgets.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The 2019 Planning Act and the direction of national planning policy puts tackling climate change and encouraging sustainable development at the core of the planning system. The retention of the 3 posts for an additional 11 months will help address this key issue in planning terms.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The failure to fully resource the Planning service could result in a fall in performance levels and a reputational risk to the Council. There will also be implications for implementing the additional duties placed upon the Council in the Planning Bill. Addressing the age profile of the service is also a key issue.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

- 10.2. Trade unions have been consulted in terms of the content of this report.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

17 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values/Ambitions

- ♦ Improving the availability, quality and access to housing
- ♦ Working with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities
- ♦ Supporting the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth

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:- Tony Finn, HQ Manager
Tel 01698 455105
tony.finn@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Report

11

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund - Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ consider a grant application to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) from:-
 - ♦ Robertson Social Group
 - ♦ Glassford Community Group

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Robertson Social Group of up to £102,535.95 from the Renewable Energy Fund to facilitate the Robertson Village Hall refurbishments; and
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Glassford Community Group of up to £41,394.85 from the Renewable Energy Fund for the asset purchase of Glassford Village Hall and initial running costs.

3. Background

3.1. Since 2004, the Council has collected and administered Community Benefit funding through Planning and Economic Development Services. The service is responsible for securing the contributions from developers, advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered. Processes are continuously reviewed to ensure the best practices in grant provision and monitoring are undertaken to ensure the necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.

3.2. Grant awards above £20,000 require approval from Committee, awards below this level are approved by the Head of Planning Economic Development Services under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

4. Grant recommendations

4.1. Application Number 693

Robertson Social Group– project value £236,071.89.

Proposed Grant award £102,535.95 Intervention rate of 43.4%

The proposed REF grant of £102,535.95 will be funded from Andershaw windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 4.2. By way of background, Robertson Social Group (RSG) is an established Charity with its purpose being:-
- ♦ to deliver a major refurbishment project for Robertson Village Hall and provide a facility that meets the needs of the community of Robertson and the surrounding area. RSG will work towards developing existing and new partnerships to enhance the opportunities for residents of Robertson and the surrounding area to address rural exclusion
- 4.3. The RSG has a membership of 35 regular volunteers, and it has consulted widely regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.4. The grant will allow RSG to refurbish Robertson Village Hall as demand has increased post COVID-19 lockdown. RSG have been working in partnership with the Council's Housing and Technical Resources, to secure tender costs and timescale for the refurbishment project. Within the project costs, an integrated audio-visual system will be installed as well as equipment and furniture to ensure the hall has activities the community can utilise while create a welcoming atmosphere for the village hall. Also, within the grant is up to £10,000 contribution to 2 years subsidised hall rental. This agreement has been reached between South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) and RSG to enhance the leisure and social opportunities for the Robertson area and assist in the growth in usage following the capital upgrade. The eligibility for REF to contribute to up to 2 years' revenue costs for capital projects was approved at the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 30 October 2018.
- 4.5. The project requires capital funding to cover refurbishment costs and subsidised hall rental to allow RSG to develop partnerships and opportunities.
- 4.6. The project has been established in response to community demand. It will improve rural exclusion, events, functions and activities for the area.
- 4.7. The application scored 32 and 36 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 34 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 64% of eligible costs.
- 4.8. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 43.4% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
Clyde Wind Farm	To be confirmed	£102,535.94
SLC Public Investment Funding	Confirmed	£31,000
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (43.4%)		£102,535.95
Total project value		£236,071.89

- 4.9. The project is scheduled to commence in February 2022 and be complete by October 2022. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.
- 4.10. Application Number 684
Glassford Community Group – project value £90,994.85.
Proposed Grant award £41,394.85 Intervention rate of 43.49%

The proposed REF grant of £41,394.85 will be funded from Dungavel windfarm which contributes into the REF.

- 4.11. By way of background, Glassford Community Group (GCG) is an established Charity with its purpose being:-
- ♦ to benefit the community of Glassford and surrounding housing and farms, with the following purposes. The advancement of citizenship or community development through the provision of a community venue, improvement projects and information that will better enable those in Glassford to participate in community life. The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science, to improve awareness across the community of Glassford through events and through provision of information. The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities to improve amenities available to the community of Glassford and to promote community involvement
- 4.12. The GCG has a membership of 30 regular volunteers, and it has consulted widely regarding the project to ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community it represents.
- 4.13. The grant will allow GCG to take ownership of Glassford Village Hall through the asset transfer scheme. In this regard, it is understood that this may be presented to the Housing and Technical Resources Committee on 8 December 2021. GCG have been working in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's Housing and Technical Resources, to develop the asset transfer of Glassford Community Hall to GCG. Within the project costs, the grant will include the asset transfer costs and the first year revenue costs to allow GCG to develop opportunities and additional partnerships to enhance the leisure and social opportunities for the Glassford area.
- 4.14. The project requires capital funding to cover the purchase cost of the hall and the first year's initial running costs, this will allow the group to implement the business plan that has been developed in conjunction with the community and SLC consultation exercise.
- 4.15. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will contribute to addressing rural exclusion, events, functions and activities for the area.
- 4.16. The application scored 32 and 36 out of 53 by the two appraisers during the assessment process which averages as 34 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 64% of eligible costs.
- 4.17. All Renewable Energy Fund awards are subject to suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 45.5% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

Funder	Stage	Value
SLC Asset transfer Discount	To be confirmed	£49,600
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (45.49%)		£41,394.85
Total project value		£90,994.85

- 4.18. The project is scheduled to commence in December 2021 and be complete by June 2022. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The awards will be split between two windfarms which contributes to the Renewable Energy Fund to ensure sufficient reserves remain for future applications in 2021/2022. The funds have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitment detailed in this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. Both projects will improve the longer-term sustainability which will continue to support the local community through community space within the rural area.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns, delays to the projects or match funding not being secured and the long-term use of the asset. Work will continue with the applicant to help ensure match funding is secured and that projects are delivered broadly on time and within budget.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

9 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Promote economic growth and tackling disadvantage
- ◆ Making communities safer and stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 8 August 2007
- ◆ Enterprise Resources Committee 23 November 2011

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 693
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 693
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 684
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 684

Contact for Further Information

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

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Report

12

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Roads Asset Management Plan – 2021 Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide an update on the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP) and outline the condition of roads and related infrastructure assets

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of this report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Executive Committee, at its meeting held on 22 September 2010, approved the implementation of an extended model for Corporate Asset Management from 2011. This included developing Asset Plans across several service areas, in line with CiPFA guidance, and summarised, under an overarching Corporate Asset Management Plan, which demonstrates how each area supports corporate objectives. The Service Areas are Property, Housing, ICT, Roads Infrastructure and Fleet.

3.2. The Corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP) is reviewed annually and being the Council's single largest asset group, the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP) is a key element of the corporate document.

3.3. The development of RAMPs across Scotland provides an excellent example of collaborative working across all 32 councils. A 4 year project, in which all councils participated, was completed in 2016. The good progress achieved is now being developed further via a successor project in which all Scottish Councils are again participating.

3.4. The main purpose of developing the RAMP is to:-

- ◆ ensure we have a sound knowledge of the extent and condition of our main asset groups
- ◆ understand where any knowledge gaps exist and consider how these might be addressed
- ◆ understand the level of current investment on each asset group and the associated condition trend

3.5. The roads asset consists of the following main groups.

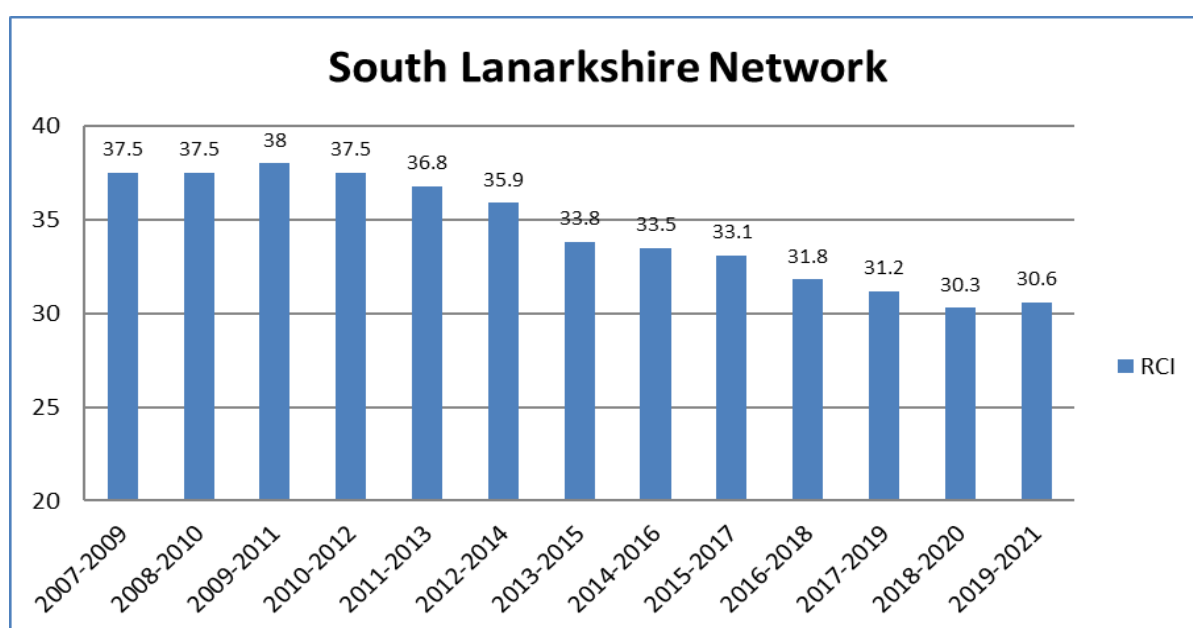
Asset Type	Asset Description and Components
Carriageway	The part of the road used by vehicles. This asset group includes drainage systems, lay-bys, bus lanes, traffic calming and verges.
Footways, Footpaths and Cycleways	Footways – used by pedestrians adjacent to the carriageway. Footpaths – used by pedestrians remote from the carriageway. Cycleways – used by cyclists and in some cases pedestrians. Pedestrianised Areas – generally located in town centres.
Structures	Primarily bridges and culverts with a span greater than 0.9 metres and retaining walls with minimum retained height of 1.35 metres.
Street Lighting	Includes lamps, columns, ducts, cabling, control pillars, illuminated road signs and bollards and festive lighting
Traffic Management Systems	Signalised junctions and pedestrian crossings, detection equipment, ducts, and cabling
Street Furniture	Vehicle restraint systems (safety fence)

4. Carriageway Asset

- 4.1. The Council is responsible for a total of 2,295 kilometres (1,426 miles) of carriageway. The Council's carriageway network is divided into four classifications A, B, C and Unclassified.
- 4.2. Inventory records are accurate for the lengths of road; however, the widths of the road are estimated based on classification of the road. Over time these widths will be collected and added into our network management system and will aid with quantification and refinement of the valuation of the carriageway asset.
- 4.3. The carriageway asset Gross Replacement Cost of the recorded asset as derived utilising the Asset Valuation tool developed by Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) is £2.27 billion.
- 4.4. Safety inspections are carried out in accordance with the Guidance Document for Road Safety Inspections and Defect Categorisations. This manual takes cognisance of the guidance contained within Well-Maintained Highways Infrastructure Code of Practice. These safety inspections are carried out on a monthly, 3 monthly or annual basis depending on the hierarchy of the carriageway.
- 4.5. In addition to these inspections, regulatory inspections to deliver our obligations under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) and the Transport Scotland Act 2005 are also carried out.
- 4.6. Annually the Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS) is undertaken on our road network by SCOTS nominated contractor WDM Limited. This survey tackles 100% of our A class carriageways in one direction, with the other direction being surveyed the following year. 50% of our B and C class roads are surveyed with the whole of the B and C class network being surveyed over a 4 year period. Only 10% of our unclassified road network is completed each year. This survey produces

our Road Condition Index (RCI) based on the percentages above and applied to the whole of the network. The survey identifies for each 10 metre section of road whether it falls into the red category (requires maintenance) amber (should be considered for maintenance) or green (serviceable). The RCI is published each year as a national performance indicator.

- 4.7. In 2017 SCOTS requested that the backlog for carriageway maintenance across Scotland was recalculated by WDM Limited, based on the latest SRMCS survey data at the time. The backlog calculation was £90.420m in 2018. This is the sum of money required to be invested in a single year to bring the Scottish (non-trunk) road network back to a serviceable standard. This backlog figure has reduced from £137m in 2013, and this is to be welcomed.
- 4.8. The condition of our carriageways has improved as outlined below although a slight regression is noted recently. The RCI is the combined value of the red and amber categories referenced at 4.6 and overall, a lower figure is better.



- 4.9. The Council's position in Scotland in terms of RCI ranking has improved from 19th reported in 2013/2014 to 8th in 2020/2021, noting again a slight drop from 7th in 2019/2020.
- 4.10. An independent assessment was undertaken by WDM Limited to calculate the Steady State cost for South Lanarkshire's network in 2018. The steady state is the amount of investment required to maintain the road network in its current condition. Based on the network condition in 2018 the steady state figure, which is based upon the needs/condition of the carriageway network, is £12.500m.
- 4.11. It should be recognised that 3 years on and given significant and observed increases in construction costs that the equivalent steady state figure is likely to have increased, although any increase may be offset slightly by an improving network across some category of roads. This figure, both in terms of needs and expected cost, is scheduled to be updated during 2022/2023.
- 4.12. It should be borne in mind that the steady figure is an estimate, rather than an actual figure and it is important to note that the need to improve the condition of the road network is assessed on an individual basis to support and justify expenditure.

- 4.13. During this financial year 2021/2022 approximately £9.200m is being directed towards carriageway improvements. This is supplemented by £2.100m of carryover funding from 2020/2021 which was not spent due to COVID-19 related issues.

5. Footway Asset

- 5.1. The Council is responsible for a total of 2,425 kilometres (1,506 miles) of footway. It should be noted that this figure represents adopted footways/footpaths only and there are other footpaths that are maintained by other parts of the Council or third parties. Most of the adopted footway network is contained within the urban area.
- 5.2. The length of footway network is an estimated length based on there being 2 footways on each length of carriageway within the urban area. All the footways have been estimated as having a 2 metre width. The footway asset Gross Replacement Cost of the recorded asset is estimated at £556.7m.
- 5.3. Inspection arrangements and maintenance categories are similar to those for carriageways in terms of the nature of inspections, but the frequencies can vary depending on the hierarchy.
- 5.4. There is no national condition survey for footways similar to that which is undertaken for carriageways. Instead, priorities for resurfacing are established via the local knowledge of our officers considering the condition of a footway and its level of use.
- 5.5. A sample survey of 59.2% of our estimated footway length was undertaken in calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 which indicated that 16.2% of our footways should be considered for maintenance purposes.
- 5.6. The estimated steady state figure for footway maintenance is £0.800m and we are currently investing at this level. This mirrors current investment levels. In the same way as the carriageway figure above, this is an estimate, rather than an actual figure and it is important to note that the need to improve the condition of the footway network is assessed on an individual basis to support and justify expenditure.

6. Lighting Asset

- 6.1. The Council has 59,432 lighting columns, 65,817 luminaires, 2,251 Control Pillars and an estimated 1,873 kilometres (1164 miles) of cabling. Inventory records for lighting columns, luminaires and control pillars are accurate, however, inventory of the cabling network and knowledge of its condition is limited as most of it is underground.
- 6.2. The percentage of lighting columns exceeding their design life is 36.5% giving the Council the sixth oldest lighting column stock in Scotland. The cost to replace all these columns at current rates would be £37.25 million. The cost to maintain the lighting asset in its current condition (steady state) is £1.04million. This should be considered relative to existing capital and revenue funding totalling £0.948m.
- 6.3. The trend in columns beyond their design life continues to improve from 48% in 2015 to 36.5% at present. This progress is primarily a consequence of the column renewal programme which was undertaken in parallel with the LED installation programme, commencing in 2015 and being completed over 3 years. This programme saw some 60,000 lighting units converted to energy saving LED's and some 7,250 of our oldest lighting columns replaced.

7. Structures Asset

- 7.1. The Council is responsible for a total of 774 structures which includes road bridges, footbridges, culverts, and subways together with a currently unquantified number of road related retaining walls.
- 7.2. Good records are held for most of these assets, however, there are currently limited records held by the Council in respect of road related retaining walls.
- 7.3. The current Gross Replacement Cost of the Structures asset is estimated at £475.9m. This figure does not include the replacement cost of any road related retaining walls.
- 7.4. Bridge inspections are carried out in accordance with the guidance and recommendations of the “Well Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice” published by the UK Roads Liaison Group. This recently published Code encourages the use of a risk based approach toward identifying bridge inspection intervals. At present General Inspections are carried out every two years and Principal Inspections every 6 years on all structures with a span more than 0.9m. More frequent Special Inspections are carried out on structures where more specific monitoring of condition is appropriate (e.g. where assessments have indicated potential capacity issues).
- 7.5. Routine repairs that are identified during the bridge inspection process are prioritised considering the severity and extent of the defect which has been observed.
- 7.6. There are 102 steel bridges across the structures asset. Properly specified and applied protective paint systems are expensive but serve to prolong the life span of steel structures and can substantially extend intervals between maintenance and repair operations. The introduction of a formalised maintenance painting regime for our steel bridges would be of significant benefit. Currently this work is tackled on a needs basis as funding permits.
- 7.7. Investment during 2020/2021 on bridge maintenance and renewal was £1.307m. This figure represents a 52%% increase upon the 2019/2020 budget allocation but it should be noted that this includes targeted investment at 2 discrete major bridge replacement projects which extended into 2021/2022. Investment presently programmed for 2021/2022 totals £3.174m which includes £1.923m for the 2 major bridge replacement schemes. The cost to maintain the structures asset in its current condition (steady state) is £5.230m.
- 7.8. In addition to the inspection process discussed above a national assessment programme, carried out to determine the suitability (i.e., strength) of the bridge stock for the introduction of 40/44 tonne vehicles onto the road network, revealed 123 bridges to have a load bearing capacity below current standards. A comprehensive bridge strengthening programme has in recent years seen excellent progress in addressing the Council’s weak bridges. Of the 123 bridges which failed the assessment only 16 remain to be addressed; these are subject to an enhanced monitoring and inspection regime.
- 7.9. The bridge assessment process included a risk analysis of vehicle containment characteristics at each bridge location. The results of the analysis revealed that, in terms of risk and containment, parapets on 8% of the Council’s bridge stock require to be upgraded. A programme to improve vehicle containment capability at these structures has been initiated. Due to competing priorities, there were no containment upgrades undertaken in 2020/2021 and 52 structures remain outstanding as a priority for the implementation of improvement measures.

- 7.10. If current funding levels continue to be provided and depending on the nature and priority afforded to other commitments arising, the completion of several containment improvement schemes per year is anticipated. Again, in terms of risk and containment, the need for upgrading works at the remaining 92% of bridges is currently considered low. It should be recognised that some of these parapets do have containment issues, but the level of risk is low given the site characteristics.
- 7.11. The condition of all highway structures is determined following a General or Principal Inspection and rated in accordance with the ADEPT Bridge Condition Index (BCI) Guidance. BCI values are generated from ratings apportioned to the severity and extent of defects recorded during a bridge inspection and can be interpreted broadly as the percentage condition score of a bridge or a group of bridges. Separate BCI figures are derived to account for the condition of all structural elements of a bridge (BCI_{av}) and for the condition of those elements defined as being of very high importance (BCI_{crit}). The condition indicators for the entire bridge stock as a single group over the past 6 years are as follows:

Year	BCI_{av}	BCI_{crit}
2013/2014	85.68	74.60
2014/2015	84.91	75.72
2015/2016	84.49	75.14
2016/2017	84.09	73.02
2017/2018	83.83	72.20
2018/2019	83.68	72.11
2019/2020	82.51	70.39
2020/2021	81.87	68.76

- 7.12. It may be observed from the second and third columns in the above table that BCI_{av} and BCI_{crit} values for the entire asset fluctuate slightly over time but have remained within the range of “good condition” (BCI value 80-90) and “fair condition” (BCI value 65-80) respectively throughout the last six years. It should be noted, however, that there has been a regression in the value of both indicators over the past 6 years which represents an overall deterioration in asset condition within that time.
- 7.13. The assembly of a register of road related retaining walls within South Lanarkshire was commenced in 2014/2015. The retaining wall asset will be of significant magnitude and the formation of the database which will contain several thousand items is a long term commitment for the Council. The code of practice suggests that all road related retaining walls should be subject to the same type of inspection regime as is currently carried out on bridges and culverts (see section 7.4).

8. Traffic Signals

- 8.1. The Council is responsible for 227 sets of traffic signals and controlled pedestrian crossings. The numbers and different types of installations are listed below:-
- ◆ 109 Traffic Signals
 - ◆ 74 Puffins
 - ◆ 15 Pelicans
 - ◆ 29 Toucans

- 8.2. South Lanarkshire has an ageing traffic signal and pedestrian crossing asset base, with many utilising older and energy inefficient technology. In recent years, the Council has initiated a programme to replace older traffic signals and pedestrian crossings with modern ones. The replacement of an average traffic signal junction costs in the region of £250k and a pedestrian crossing around £70k. The existing level of funding generally allows for the renewal of one traffic signal junction per year or 4 pedestrian crossings.
- 8.3. External funding does allow other infrastructure to be renewed but this is a changing situation as it is dependent on the availability of funding and our ability for a project to meet grant conditions. These new installations both maximise the safety benefits to all road users and improve the flow of traffic using modern computer control systems such as Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation (MOVA) and Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique (SCOOT).
- 8.4. Typically, Roads and Transportation Services receive and respond to approximately 1,500 traffic signal faults annually. In 2019/2020, officers dealt with 1,568 faults and in 2020/2021 this decreased to 1,289.
- 8.5. The gross replacement value of all traffic signal apparatus is currently estimated at a value of £33.6m. The cost to maintain the traffic signal asset in its current condition (steady state) is £1.500m.
- 8.6. In 2021/2022 funding of around £1.090m will be directed towards investment in traffic signal infrastructure. This comprises some £0.790m of external funding and £0.300m of capital funding.
- 8.7. At present, the Council is developing a 15 year lifecycle plan although the replacement of each asset is still assessed on an individual needs' basis. Any plan longer than this would result in reliability issues arising and over recent years some installations have failed resulting in emergency replacement works being necessary. The Council currently has 29 sets of traffic signals and 51 pedestrian crossings (representing 35% of our assets) that are 15 years old or older. This is a decrease of 2 sets of traffic signals and an increase of 5 pedestrian crossing compared to the previous year.
- 8.8. The age of the equipment is increasing quicker than replacement equipment is being installed, therefore, the trend for the overall condition of the asset continues to regress each year. While these older installations continue to operate, the risk of them failing is higher than at other locations with potentially greater impact if they fail during a busy period of the year.
- 9. Street Furniture - Vehicle Restraint Systems**
- 9.1. There are currently 515 vehicle restraint systems, totalling 43.3 Km. Approximately 20% of the systems have reached the end of their serviceable life (life expired) due to having timber posts suffering from rot as opposed to steel posts. Some systems have also suffered from extensive corrosion.
- 9.2. Approximately 10% of existing systems are damaged, and an estimated 95% of the systems surveyed would not comply with current design standards, although there is no need to retrospectively replace older installations unless they have suffered significant damage and need replacement. Repairs are prioritised in line with available funding.

- 9.3. The estimated gross replacement cost of the vehicle restraint systems which would bring the systems up to current standards is £12.97million. The estimated cost to replace older systems is £8.6million. The estimated annual cost to maintain the asset in its current condition (steady state) is £0.4million.

10. Conclusions and Summary

- 10.1. Roads and related infrastructure keep our communities and businesses connected. Businesses use it to deliver goods and services, buses travel along it, people use it to travel to work and communities to access shopping, learning, healthcare, and active travel priorities. This paper sets out the overall condition of this infrastructure and important matters to note are as follows:-

- ◆ Carriageways - this has generally been improving in condition because of previous investment decisions, however, a slight regression is beginning to be observed across the overall network and across some specific road categories.
- ◆ Footways/Footpaths - at least 16.2% of our network requires to be considered for maintenance.
- ◆ Structures - overall condition is generally good to fair although the overall outlook is one of slow deterioration. Good progress has been made in dealing with bridges assessed as being inadequate for current loading standards; however, greater investment is required for bridge maintenance and continuing attention is additionally required to the many bridges with sub-standard parapets. The specific investment commitment of £6.000m to replace two bridges in Clydesdale should be noted and welcomed although funding pressures are now being observed in this area.
- ◆ Street Lighting - recent investment has reduced energy use by approximately half and replaced 7,253 of the oldest lighting columns representing significant progress. Current investment is focusing on targeting columns over their critical age, to maintain a 'steady state' position. The percentage of lighting columns exceeding their design life is 36.5% giving the Council the sixth oldest lighting column stock in Scotland.
- ◆ Traffic Management Systems - the overall condition of traffic signal equipment is deteriorating as the current replacement programme is not sufficient to upgrade the number of installations that are greater than 15 years in age.
- ◆ Street Furniture - the condition of vehicle restraint systems is such that a significant number are beyond their design life and require to be improved. A prioritised programme of sustained investment will be required.

11. Employee Implications

- 11.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1. Investment in roads and related infrastructure will be necessary to lock in and retain the benefits of an already significant investment level to date. Capital programmes for future years will, therefore, consider necessary investment opportunities for the asset groups discussed above.

12.2. Similarly, opportunities will be taken to secure new sources of funding including external partner funding where possible. Significant success has already been achieved in securing external funding for traffic signal investment.

13. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

13.1. Policy and asset management directed at maintaining, improving, or making road and transport infrastructure safe and resilient is essential to support economic and sustainability priorities.

14. Other Implications

14.1. There are no other implications or risk in relation to the information contained within this report.

15. Equality Impact Arrangements and Consultation Arrangements

15.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

17 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Ambitions/Objectives/Values

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger, and more sustainable.
- ◆ Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel.

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee - 16 June 2020

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Roads Asset Management Plan – 2021 Update

Contact for Further Information

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

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Report

13

Report to: **Community and Enterprise Resources Committee**
 Date of Meeting: **7 December 2021**
 Report by: **Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

Subject: **East Kilbride Rail Enhancement Project Update**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee on the East Kilbride Rail Enhancement Project

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. At the Executive Committee on 3 November 2021, members requested that an update report on the East Kilbride Rail Enhancement Project be submitted to the next available Community and Enterprise Resources Committee. This report addresses that request.

3.2. By way of background, the railway network is owned by Network Rail, which is responsible for most of the railway infrastructure across the United Kingdom. Rail services are provided under franchises awarded by government. The current holder of the Scottish franchise is Abellio ScotRail. Transport Scotland oversees the regulation of railways in Scotland and administer major rail projects.

3.3. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the Council do not have any direct responsibility in relation to delivering rail projects, however, both organisations work closely with Transport Scotland and Network Rail to integrate our areas of responsibility for example, complementary active travel, bus and park and ride infrastructure. Where appropriate, both organisations work in close partnership with Transport Scotland and Network Rail to support investment into rail infrastructure, service improvements or complementary improvements and embed such projects or priorities within regional, local or mode specific strategies.

3.4. By way of further background, the Scottish Government, through Transport Scotland's publication "Scotland's Railway (Control Period 6: 2019 to 2024)" recognised the need to improve the East Kilbride to Glasgow rail service as a priority. After the publication of this document, a specific funding commitment of £24.800m was confirmed in May 2019 to allow Network Rail to progress development work required.

- 3.5. Members may recollect from the paper presented to, and approved by, Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 4 February 2020, a range of options were to be developed to improve train capacity and frequency including:-
- ◆ electrification and zero emissions self-powered fleets
 - ◆ track dualling
 - ◆ extended station platforms
 - ◆ longer trains
- 3.6. The Council and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) continued to work with Transport Scotland and Network Rail. In doing so, it sought to refine and further develop the East Kilbride Rail Enhancement Project to ensure that the complementary infrastructure was more defined and able to be integrated within the wider rail station, service frequency and corridor enhancement proposals being developed and progressed.
- 3.7. Through this early development work, the existing parking pressures at both East Kilbride and Hairmyres stations were noted, and it was recognised that the issues around Hairmyres Station were particularly critical. Feasibility work progressed by Network Rail considered options to relocate the existing Hairmyres station westwards and this has since been identified as the favoured option.
- 3.8. The relocated station provides the opportunity to introduce complementary infrastructure in the form of: (1) an enhanced bus/rail interchange, (2) improved active travel facilities and linkages to the cycle network, (3) electric vehicle charging hub, and (4) significant park and ride provision for current and future demands, which would be implemented on a phased basis.
- 3.9. In March 2021 Network Rail secured the final piece of land to allow the development of the enhanced bus/rail interchange, electric vehicle charging hub and park and ride facility.
- 3.10. Up until the end of September 2021, officers continued to engage with Transport Scotland, Network Rail and SPT in terms of progressing the detailed design of project and complementary measures. More recently, discussions focused on how the land acquired by Network Rail would be made available to the Council to deliver the complementary elements of the project.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. Elected members will be aware that public transport demand, across rail and bus, reduced dramatically during the pandemic and to date remains significantly lower than the original predictions which shaped the development of the original project proposals.
- 4.2. Whether passenger demand returns to pre-pandemic levels remain to be seen, however, it is expected that the development, delivery, and programming of many transport related projects across Scotland and wider United Kingdom will be influenced by such uncertainty in demand.
- 4.3. Although, during the pandemic, good progress was made in relation to the project, along with several other projects, the project still had to be considered and formally approved by Transport Scotland through internal project approval and governance processes. Neither SPT nor Council officers were party to this approval making process, which is the case with other projects.

- 4.4. A press release issued on Friday 8 October 2021 confirmed that the East Kilbride corridor had recently been given approval for single track electrification, and that further development work was required to support this.
- 4.5. The release also noted that both elements of projects were being taken forward in the face of the significant financial challenges and considering uncertain future demand. Importantly it was also confirmed, in the days that followed the press release, that the relocated and upgraded stations and wider complementary infrastructure set out at paragraph 3.7 remained part of the project proposals.
- 4.6. Transport Scotland has subsequently confirmed that the decision was supported by industry partners, and the business case was appraised in line with Scottish Government appraisal guidance and took account of ScotRail's passenger count data (pre COVID-19), anticipated demand (post COVID-19) and constraining earthworks in the area. In Transport Scotland's view these considerations identified that the single-track option to electrify the route between East Kilbride and Busby was the most optimal considering the significant financial challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.7. Transport Scotland has further advised that the Scottish Demand Forecasting Group (SDFG), which includes representatives from Transport Scotland, Network Rail and ScotRail, produced a strategic advice note to the Scottish Government. This provided advice on how the rail industry can manage the current unprecedented levels of uncertainty within its decision making by considering the whole-system risks. At the time of writing, this forecast information has not been shared with the Council.
- 4.8. This forecast information was used in the East Kilbride and Barrhead Enhancement Business Case. Officers have asked for this information to be shared to allow officers to better understand the decisions that have been taken. Along with partners, officers will continue to review the demand on the Scottish Rail network and ensure that the project now being taken forward is future proofed to ensure that rail capacity and frequency is able to meet the full range of predicted demands.
- 4.9. Officers further understand that Network Rail is investigating potential alterations to the network at Hairmyres. This is being explored to understand what benefit such alterations could offer regarding; regularising the current 4 trains per hour in the morning and evening peak to a standard pattern service, potentially running 4 trains per hour in the shoulder peak (period either side of the main peak hours) as well as the peak hour and strengthening operational resilience. Platform lengthening is also being considered, should additional carriages be required in future to cope with demand.
- 4.10. Officers have asked Network Rail and Transport Scotland to fully consider these predicted demands as part of the future design development and in particular the scale of park and ride that is required. It is worth noting that prior to the recent announcement, the Council was considering whether the park and ride element of the project could be delivered in phases and potentially increased as passenger demand required it.
- 4.11. Officers will continue to develop the proposals for the new bus and rail interchange on the southern side of the new Hairmyres station and a major new park and ride to the north. Both sites had the potential to provide around 1,200 spaces, however, prior to the recent announcement the scale of park and ride was being reviewed. This was considering the need for larger bays to cater for increased size of vehicles, the area

required for electric vehicles hubs and revised layouts associated with rerouting of the watercourse on the northern site.

- 4.12. Elected members should be assured that officers will work with Transport Scotland and Network Rail to ensure that any joint decisions taken on the final scale of the park and ride will be able to meet the full range of predicted passenger and user demands.
- 4.13. Notwithstanding the above, the recently announced changes to the project, have been raised directly with Transport Scotland by the Leader of the Council. Specifically, Transport Scotland have been asked to further consider the scope of project and to provide a reassurance that the final scheme will fulfil the needs of commuters in South Lanarkshire and meet the Council's own ambitions in relation to climate change. At the time of writing, officers are unaware of any response received to the Council Leader's letter.

5. Project Agreements

- 5.1. The key partners in this project consist of the statutory transport bodies of the Council, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, each having a wide range of duties and powers. As outlined in the report to and approved by Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 4 February 2020, there is a need for the agencies to work in partnership to ensure that they deliver benefits to the local communities.
- 5.2. In these circumstances, and with a view to formalising the shared commitment of the partners to successfully deliver the project, it remains appropriate to set out a framework to formalise the commitments of the partners via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or similar agreement.
- 5.3. While discussions continued and the project developed during the pandemic, the MoU has not yet been concluded. Certain elements of the project, for example the land purchase, were progressed by Network Rail in the absence of the MoU.
- 5.4. Discussions are ongoing with Network Rail and Transport Scotland in relation to how the purchased land will be made available to the Council and SPT, for example land transfer or long lease. This will allow both parties to commit funding to deliver the complementary infrastructure, subject to the development and approval of the necessary final business case.
- 5.5. A review is now underway in relation to the need for and, if still felt necessary, the form that any MoU or similar agreement will take.
- 5.6. Finally, the Council owns and operates the land at the existing Hairmyres station and on the basis that the new station and associated park and ride are delivered, the future use of the existing site will require to be considered. Options will require to be assessed and any future use or disposal would be subject of a future Committee report for consideration and approval.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. Whilst the commitment to the electrification of the East Kilbride line, the relocation of Hairmyres Station and complementary park and ride facilities is significant and welcomed by the Council, the decision in relation to the dualling of the track is nonetheless disappointing. The Council Leader and officers have shared that sense of disappointment with colleagues in Transport Scotland.

6.2. Officers from the Council and SPT are, however, continuing to work with Network Rail and Transport Scotland to develop the proposals as outlined above and will continue to press for the greatest investment possible for East Kilbride and South Lanarkshire in both the short and long term.

6.3. Network Rail and Transport Scotland are now developing and refining the project, and this is expected to lead to revised timescales for delivery of the project. A further report will be presented to this Committee at future date once this information is known.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. There are no significant employee implications at this stage.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. Funding of approximately £3.750m is expected to be made available from the Glasgow City Region City Deal and developer contributions. In addition, subject to approval, a further similar sum is expected from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

8.2. It is noted that within the approved Outline Business Case for the East Kilbride Community Growth Area that principle of supporting park and ride expansion has already been established.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

9.1. This project is consistent with the wider need to decarbonise the transport sector and meet the Council's own climate change and sustainability objectives and outcomes.

10. Other Implications

10.1. There are no other implications.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required

11.2. There is no requirement to undertake any consultation at this time in terms of the information contained in this report. However, as detailed proposals are developed these will be subject to appropriate consultation arrangements.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

11 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing.
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and more sustainable.
- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality thriving and sustainable communities.
- ◆ Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel.

Previous References

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Park and Ride Strategy, Community and Enterprise Resources Committee - 30 October 2018
- ◆ Update Paper, Community and Enterprise Resources Committee – 4 February 2020

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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Report

14

Report to: **Community and Enterprise Resources Committee**
 Date of Meeting: **7 December 2021**
 Report by: **Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

Subject: **Crossford Traffic Calming Request**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee on action taken in relation to a request for traffic calming in Crossford considered at the Petitions Committee meeting of 25 August 2021

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. A report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was considered by the Petitions Committee of 25 August 2021 in relation to a petition lodged by a Mr Carnegie (Lead Petitioner) requesting the installation of major traffic calming measures in Crossford.

3.2. At the Committee the Lead Petitioner referred to:-

- ◆ the speed of the traffic travelling through the village
- ◆ concerns expressed by the school and other parents regarding the speed of vehicles, particularly near the school. Measures, were, therefore, needed to slow traffic on this stretch of road
- ◆ the slow down sign on entry to the village that was not operational
- ◆ an incident where he was nearly hit by a van travelling at speed
- ◆ the fact that he felt that it was unsafe for his child to walk to school
- ◆ the paths being too narrow to walk a child to school or for people with prams etc
- ◆ a number of dead animals on the roads which had been hit by vehicles travelling at speed
- ◆ the possibility of the school carrying out a project to make signs etc to encourage vehicles to slow down
- ◆ the dangers to children and the elderly when crossing the road

3.3. Officials from Roads and Transportation Services advised the Petitions Committee:-

- ◆ that the speed limit on the road was 30mph, with part-time 20mph at the school at the times children went into and came out of school

- ◆ that the nearest vehicle counter at Rosebank had been checked and showed a 5-day average (Monday to Friday) of 7,000 vehicles a day passed through the village. Those were mainly cars and light vehicles
- ◆ that there had been zero injury accidents over the last 3 years.
- ◆ of the criteria and methodology used for identifying and prioritising roads engineering works
- ◆ that a speed limit review was undertaken 8 to 10 years ago on all A and B class roads within South Lanarkshire. From that, certain roads, including the A72, had sections of roads reduced to 40mph
- ◆ that a joint campaign involving the Council, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service on traffic speed within urban and rural environments was being considered
- ◆ that the Roads Service was unaware that a slow sign was not working, and arrangements had now been made to have the sign inspected and repaired
- ◆ that the Roads Service had been liaising with Police Scotland and it had been agreed that an enforcement campaign would be carried out. If the issue of speeding was evident, then another campaign would be undertaken at a future date
- ◆ that the school travel plan was last updated in 2016 and the school would review the plan this term. This would include a questionnaire being sent to all pupils, staff and parents/carers. Thereafter, the school would identify issues and actions required. Should speeding be identified as an issue, further consideration would be given to initiatives and measures to address this issue

3.4. The matters above were discussed and considered by the Petitions Committee and the following subsequent actions agreed:-

- ◆ that the Roads Service would progress a speed enforcement programme with Police Scotland
- ◆ that the Roads Service would assist the school in progressing the review of its travel plan
- ◆ that the Roads Service would carry out a speed survey
- ◆ that a report be submitted to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 7 December 2021 providing an update on actions taken
- ◆ that members of the Petitions Committee and Mr Carnegie be kept updated with progress

4. Update on actions

- 4.1. Following discussion with Police Scotland, speed enforcement was undertaken throughout September 2021. During this period, one fixed penalty was issued and a further 7 warnings were issued to drivers who were driving more than 35mph but less than 38mph. Police Scotland have committed to continue to undertake speed limit enforcement action commensurate with their other duties.
- 4.2. Officers from Roads and Transportation Services have been liaising directly with the School Head Teacher and the Parent Council and following consultation with staff, parents/guardians and pupils, a draft School Travel Plan has been produced. This draft document has identified several road safety actions/initiatives to be taken forward and these have been discussed in detail with the Head Teacher and the Parent Council. The document is currently being finalised and will be circulated to the school community.
- 4.3. Actions to improve road safety that are identified in the School Travel Plan (when finalised) will be assessed and progressed where appropriate. Officers will continue to liaise with the School and Parent Council to keep the School Travel Plan updated.

- 4.4. A traffic speed and volume survey has been programmed to be undertaken on A72 Lanark Road, Crossford. Results are expected to be available by the end of the calendar year and will be used to inform any future speed enforcement campaigns in the area. The results will be shared with Police Scotland and the lead petitioner, Mr Carnegie.
- 4.5. Mr Carnegie was advised of the above actions on 27 October 2021 by email. He responded advising that he was not aware of any Police Scotland enforcement action having been undertaken in September and that one of the electronic speed indicator signs in the village remains not operational.
- 4.6. As advised in paragraph 4.1 of this paper, Police Scotland have undertaken enforcement action. The electronic sign has been inspected and unfortunately a repair cannot be made to the sign as compatible replacement parts are not available. A replacement sign has been ordered and it is anticipated it will be erected early in the new year.

5 Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications as the project has utilised existing employee resources. Officers will continue to monitor road safety within Crossford in line with existing road safety policies.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications at this time.

7 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability and environmental implications associated with this report.

8 Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no other significant implications as result of the contents of this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

9 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Petitions Committee, 25 August 2021, "Petition Requesting Installation of Major Traffic Calming Measures in Crossford".

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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Report

15

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Resident Only Parking - McNeil Street, Larkhall
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Committee with background in relation to a request for a resident only parking area on McNeil Street, Larkhall considered by the Petitions Committee meeting on 25 October 2021

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. A report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was considered by Petitions Committee on 25 October 2021 in relation to a petition lodged by Yvonne Johnston (Lead Petitioner) requesting the introduction of a resident only parking area on McNeil Street, Larkhall.
- 3.2. By way of previous background in relation to Residents' Parking Permit Zones (RPPZs), Members may recollect that at the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 31 March 2020, a report was presented summarising the work undertaken and considered by the Roads Safety Forum (RSF) in relation to the review of the current RPPZs policy and the proposed way forward.
- 3.3. The RSF had agreed that RPPZs were an effective demand management approach to assist in minimising the impact on residents in areas of competing parking demand. RPPZs were seen as an additional approach that the Council could use to complement existing approaches such as waiting and loading restrictions.
- 3.4. The RSF also agreed that RPPZs could be considered at all locations where parking pressure was seen as a concern and not only in areas of high demand, for example, near town centres/train stations where parking was at a premium. There was also a discussion on whether there were any specific areas, not covered by existing or proposed RPPZs, where RPPZs should be seen as a priority for implementation.
- 3.5. 11 areas were subsequently identified following feedback from elected members for potential future RPPZ assessment as follows:-

- ◆ Reid Street, Rutherglen
- ◆ Tuphall Road, Hamilton
- ◆ Abercorn Drive/Chestnut Crescent area, Hamilton
- ◆ Biggar, in the vicinity of the town centre
- ◆ Dundas Place, The Village, East Kilbride
- ◆ South Avenue, Carluke
- ◆ Fairyknowe Gardens, Bothwell
- ◆ Main Street area, Uddingston
- ◆ Craigallian Avenue, Halfway
- ◆ Westwood area, East Kilbride

3.6. The Committee endorsed the following recommendations, and these were subsequently approved at the Executive Committee of 24 June 2020:-

- ◆ RPPZs are an effective demand management tool and should now be considered for future expansion or rolled out to new areas, subject to an appropriate assessment by officers.
- ◆ Requests for new or expanded RPPZs can now be considered, and an assessment will be undertaken to review the need or otherwise of any proposed RPPZs.
- ◆ The introduction of new or expanded RPPZs must balance the competing demands of residents, businesses, employers, and commuters.
- ◆ The enforcement of demand management measures, for example, RPPZs and other waiting and loading restrictions require to be suitably resourced, including during the evening.
- ◆ The primary process for applying for permits should be online but all other existing options should remain available at this stage.

3.7. With regards to timescales, it had originally been proposed that those areas outlined at paragraph 3.5 would have been assessed before the end of August 2020. However, the pandemic severely impacted on this programme. Further, parking behaviours and pressure in these areas were also not the norm and, therefore, the assessments have not yet been undertaken.

3.8. By way of further background, a charge for parking permits was introduced earlier this year and had been implemented as permits were renewed over the normal 2-year cycle. At the full Council meeting of 22 September 2021, a motion relating to Parking Permit Charges was tabled and it was agreed that consultation with residents living in current RPPZ areas would be undertaken.

3.9. Residents within RPPZs have since been asked whether they wish to remain in a RPPZ and pay the £5 per year administration charge or whether they wish to have their RPPZ removed. Results are being collated, reviewed, and as agreed at the Full Council will be considered by the four Area Committees before being reported to a future Executive or Full Council meeting. Meantime charging for permits has been put on hold pending the outcome from the consultation exercise being reported to Committees.

4. Petitions Committee

4.1. Following debate and consideration of relevant matters the Petitions Committee of 25 October 2021 decided that the request for residents only parking area in McNeil Street, Larkhall be referred to Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 7 December 2021.

- 4.2. The recommendation from the Petitions Committee was that the process to implement residents only parking in McNeill Street, Larkhall be commenced, and that members of the Petitions Committee and Ms Johnston be kept updated with progress.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. The introduction of any traffic management proposal or restrictions such as a RPPZ should not be considered in isolation. It should be part of a wider assessment to ensure that any issues are not just moved to another area as other restrictions may be requested or required.
- 5.2. Promoting a traffic regulation order for McNeil Street in isolation could have a knock-on effect for other areas and at this current time is not considered the most appropriate course of action.
- 5.3. The ongoing consultation in relation to whether residents wish to remain in a RPPZ and pay the £5 per year administration charge or whether they wish to have their RPPZ removed is also a key consideration for both the Council and residents when deciding on or promoting any new RPPZs.
- 5.4. With this in mind and given the matters discussed above, it is proposed that McNeil Street be added to the list of potential RPPZ areas outlined at paragraph 3.5 and that they are programmed for further assessment.
- 5.5. It remains unclear whether these areas have returned to a degree of normality, however, it is the intention to now undertake these assessments over a 6 month period commencing in the early part of 2022. It is evident that some areas, such as McNeil Street, are seeing parking pressures increasing, so these areas will be given a degree of priority.
- 5.6. Decisions on traffic restriction and management on the road network, by way of promoting Traffic Regulation Orders, presently falls to the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) and the Head of Roads and Transportation Services.
- 5.7. The RSF and subsequently Community and Enterprise Resources and Executive Committees previously agreed that this arrangement would continue and, if an RPPZ was to proceed, it would be promoted in the same manner as any other Traffic Regulation Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. It is important to emphasise that consultation with the community is a fundamental element of such processes.
- 5.8. Those areas that are to progress will be done so in line with the statutory process associated with Traffic Regulation Orders. The whole process of promoting an Order takes some 9 months though it can take considerably longer if objections are received.
- 5.9. Members of the Petitions Committee and Yvonne Johnston (Lead Petitioner) will be updated with progress and the proposed course of action above.

6 Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications as the project will utilise existing resources.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications at this time.

8 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant implications in terms of climate change, sustainability and environmental implications associated with this report.

9 Other Implications

- 9.1. There are no other significant implications as result of the contents of this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

9 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 31 March 2020
- ◆ Executive Committee, 24 June 2020
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council, 22 September 2021
- ◆ Petitions Committee, 25 October 2021

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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Report

16

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 December 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community and Enterprise Resources - Notification of Contracts Awarded 1 April to 30 September 2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide notification in line with Standing Orders on Contracts to Committee of all contracts awarded by Community and Enterprise Resources during the period 1 April to 30 September 2021

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that details of the contracts awarded be noted.

3. Background

3.1. It is a requirement of Clauses 21.8 and 22.5 of the Standing Orders on Contracts that details of the acceptance of all tenders above £50,000 be reported retrospectively to the relevant Committee for noting, other than those under Clause 21.3 where the award is not the lowest in a price only tender, or costs exceed the approved financial provision. In these instances, a report is submitted to the appropriate Committee and subsequent authority to award is granted by that Committee.

4. Contract Awards

4.1. A full list of contracts awarded during the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 on the basis of lowest offer and/or most economically advantageous offer submitted, is provided at Appendix 1.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. Contracts management including performance appraisal will be undertaken by both the main user Services and Procurement.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report which is for information purposes only. Appropriate budgetary provision is available for each of the contracts awarded.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There is a risk that failure to report awards may lead to contracts being awarded that do not represent best value, breach statutory procurement obligations and Standing Orders or do not follow internal processes which mitigate the risk.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy nor recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 9.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

11 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 29 July 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Standing Orders on Contracts

Contact for Further Information

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Community and Enterprise Resources
Contracts Awarded over £50,000 in value

Period: 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021

Contract	Awarded Contractors	Contract Value	Award Date	Period of Contract (plus extension period)
Food Waste Liners	The Compost Bag Company	£194,400.00	01/04/2021	01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022 (31/02/2023)
Supply and Delivery of Temporary Signs	P F Cusack (Tools Supplies Ltd)	£100,000	22/04/2021	01/05/2021 to 30/04/2024 (30/04/2026)
Eastfield Lifestyles 3G Pitch refurbishment	Ecosse Sports Ltd	£229,743.96	23/04/2021	01/05/2021 to 31/08/2021
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Light Vehicles	Parks Motor Group	£713,177.00	26/04/2021	01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	AM Philip Trucktech	£1,924,079.00	26/04/2021	01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Plant	Bryson Tractors	£738,642.00	26/04/2021	01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021
Installation of Electric Charge Points	Chargemaster	£245,458.00	26/04/2021	01/04/2021 to 31/10/2021
Salt for Winter Maintenance	Salt Sales Company	£3,700,000.00	01/05/2021	01/05/2022 to 30/06/2022 (30/06/2023)
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	AEBI Schmidt Ltd	£836,117.00	03/05/2021	01/05/2021 to 29/10/2021
Supply and Delivery of Recycle and Refuse Containers	SSI Schaefer	£172,000.00	03/05/2021	01/06/2021 to 2/11/2021
Direct Award Light vehicles up to 3.5T	Parks of Hamilton (Townhead Garage) Ltd	£1,005,989.00	07/05/2021	01/04/2021 to 30/09/2021

Contract	Awarded Contractors	Contract Value	Award Date	Period of Contract (plus extension period)
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	Imperial Commercials	£2,842,760.00	07/05/2021	01/04/2021 to 30/09/2021
Mobile Plant Equipment Purchase	Hamilton Brothers Engineering Ltd	£307,770.00	07/05/2021	01/04/2021 to 30/09/2021
Maintenance & Repair of Portable Gas Appliances	MAC Electrical and Welding Ltd	£50,000	12/05/2021	18/05/2021 to 17/05/2023 (17/05/2025)
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	Motus Commercials	£139,679.00	01/06/2021	01/07/2021 to 31/12/2021
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	Geesink Norba Ltd	£666,452.00	01/06/2021	01/06/2021 to 29/10/21
Scientific Testing Services	City of Edinburgh Council	£350,000.00	14/06/2021	01/07/2021 to 30/06/2025 (30/06/2026)
Christmas trees	Elveden Farms Ltd	£61,155.00	28/06/2021	01/11/2021 to 15/12/2021
Duke Street Pay on Foot Car Park Management System	Orbility Limited	£116,580.00	06/08/2021	06/08/2021 to 05/08/2026 (05/08/2028)
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	A M Philip Trucktech Ltd	£421,350.00	16/08/2021	03/08/2021 to 31/03/2022
Greenlees Area Cambuslang Drainage Improvement Works	Covanburn Contracts Ltd	£120,453.32	02/09/2021	02/09/2021 to 30/11/2021
The Provision of Vehicle Breakdown Recovery Services	Karen Yuill Recovery Ltd	£325,000.00	08/09/2021	08/09/2021 to 31/08/2024 (31/08/2026)
Direct Award for the supply and delivery of Heavy Vehicles	A M Philip Trucktech Ltd	£147,236.00	21/09/2021	01/09/2021 to 31/03/2022
Supply and Delivery of Coated Roadstone - Mini Tender (Hamilton Area)	Hillhouse Quarry Company	£74,420.00.00	29/09/2021	05/10/2021 to 22/20/2021

Contract	Awarded Contractors	Contract Value	Award Date	Period of Contract (plus extension period)
Extensions Progressed: 1 April 2021 – 30 September 2021				
The West of Scotland Local Authority Weather Forecasting Partnership	Met Office	£566,638.00	15/05/2021	15/05/2021 to 15/05/23

