

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 28 February 2018

Chair:

Provost Ian McAllan

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Walter Brogan, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Graeme Campbell, Andy Carmichael, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cooper, Poppy Corbett, Margaret Cowie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Lynsey Hamilton, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Martin Lennon, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Kenny McCreary, Hugh Macdonald, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Jim McGuigan, Davie McLachlan, Julia Marrs, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Carol Nugent, Mo Razzaq, John Ross, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson (Depute), Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh, Jared Wark, David Watson, Josh Wilson

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

L Freeland, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; G Bow, Administration Manager; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

L Purdie, Head of Children and Justice Services

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the South Lanarkshire Council held on 6 December 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Recommendations Referred by Executive Committee - Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2018/2019; Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation 2018/2019; Prudential Indicators 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/2019

A report dated 28 February 2018 by the Chief Executive was tabled on recommendations referred to the Council by the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018. The recommendations were as follows:-

◆ Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2018/2019

- ◆ that the Revenue Estimate proposals for the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/2019, as detailed in the report, be approved subject to the removal of the following items from the Housing Revenue Account savings proposals for 2018/2019 in relation to the rationalisation of services in tower blocks:-
 - ◆ removal of Greenhill Court night shift cover £0.087 million
 - ◆ reduction in communal cleaning £0.021 million
 - ◆ rationalisation of the laundry service £0.010 million
- ◆ that the weekly rent increase of 3.95% for Council houses be approved;
- ◆ that the 3.95% increase also be applied to the rent of lockups, garage sites and travelling persons' sites;
- ◆ that the Council's factoring fee be increased from £28.08 to £28.78 per quarter;
- ◆ that the next stage of rent harmonisation be progressed as detailed in the report;
- ◆ that, based on the proposed rent increase of 3.95%, the 2018/2019 Housing Capital Programme of £44.935 million, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- ◆ that an indicative rent increase baseline of 3.95% for Council houses for financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 (Paragraph 6)]

◆ Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation 2018/2019

- ◆ that the Revenue Budget for 2018/2019 be approved;
- ◆ that the budget allocations for each Resource, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved;
- ◆ that the band D Council Tax for 2018/2019 be set at a figure of £1,134;
- ◆ that the actions required to finalise the Council's detailed Revenue Budget for 2018/2019 be approved; and
- ◆ that governance arrangements, incorporating the Performance and Review Scrutiny Forum, the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum and the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum, be continued.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 (Paragraph 8)]

◆ Prudential Indicators 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/2019

- ◆ that the Prudential Indicators for the period 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/2019 and the Annual Investment Strategy 2018/2019 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 (Paragraph 11)]

In response to a proposal by Councillors Convery and Brogan to provide an additional £3 million funding for roads and pavements and £0.100 million for the Ashley Grant Older People's Day Care Centre, East Kilbride, the Head of Administration and Legal Services advised that, as the proposal related to a change to the full savings package which had been approved at today's Executive Committee, the proposal was not competent. She explained that the setting of the overall revenue budget comprised of various elements, the level of Council Tax and rent levels

for Council houses being within the powers and responsibilities of the Council, while the Executive Committee had the power to approve the savings package. She further advised that it had been open for any member of the Executive Committee at the earlier meeting today to propose that the savings package be referred to the Council for approval.

In response to concerns raised that not all members had had sight of the previous amendments considered at the Executive Committee, it was confirmed that both amendments had been emailed to all members in advance.

Councillor Ross:-

- ◆ made a statement highlighting that the Council's financial settlement from the Scottish Government, which had been higher than anticipated, had allowed the proposed budget to be progressive and its aim was to improve the lives of all South Lanarkshire's citizens
- ◆ referred to the introduction of a number of new initiatives, such as the introduction of breakfast clubs and holiday activity lunch clubs as well as a 50% increase in the clothing and footwear allowance for those pupils entitled to it, which would mitigate the difficulties caused by austerity
- ◆ highlighted the proposal to fund new teaching posts and trainees within the early years and elderly care sector
- ◆ acknowledged the contribution made by the Third Sector within communities and highlighted that the budget included an increase in grant support to Third Sector organisations
- ◆ referred to the fact that, as a minority Administration, consensus was sought with the other political leaders and, while not fully achieved, wished to thank, in particular, the Independent Group and the Liberal Democrat member
- ◆ thanked officers for their assistance with the budget process

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved that the recommendations within the report, including a 3% Council Tax rise, be approved. Councillor Holford, seconded by Councillor McCreary, moved as an amendment that the Council Tax rise be reduced from 3% to 1%, with the gap to be funded from reserves. For the avoidance of doubt, the Chief Executive clarified the recommendations and amendment which were being put before the Council for its consideration prior to moving to the vote.

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

Motion – that the recommendations within the report, including a 3% Council Tax rise, be approved

John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, Janine Calikes, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Peter Craig, Mary Donnelly, Isobel Dorman, Alistair Fulton, Geri Gray, George Greenshields, Graeme Horne, Mark Horsham, Katy Loudon, Joe Lowe, Ian McAllan, Hugh Macdonald, Jim McGuigan, Julia Marrs, Gladys Miller, Carol Nugent, John Ross, David Shearer, Collette Stevenson, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson, Josh Wilson

Amendment – that the Council Tax rise be reduced from 3% to 1%, with the gap to be funded from reserves

Alex Allison, Graeme Campbell, Poppy Corbett, Ian Harrow, Eric Holford, Martin Grant Hose, Ann Le Blond, Richard Lockhart, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Mark McGeever, Lynne Nailon, Richard Nelson, Jared Wark

Abstained

Walter Brogan, Andy Carmichael, Gerry Convery, Margaret Cowie, Maureen Devlin, Fiona Dryburgh, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Martin Lennon, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Catherine McClymont, Davie McLachlan, Mo Razzaq, Graham Scott, Bert Thomson, Margaret B Walker

14 members voted for the amendment and 32 for the motion which was declared carried.

Councillor Brown intimated that, while overall he considered this to be a good budget, he had reservations in relation to the gap in capital and revenue funding for early years, as well as in relation to teacher recruitment. He also highlighted the democratic role of the Council and considered it would be useful to adopt the practice of subject Resource Committees considering the effects of changes to funding support as part of the budget process.

Councillor Brogan considered that councils required £545 million of funding and, while the settlement from the Scottish Government had been slightly better than anticipated, savings were still required. He welcomed the removal of some savings from the overall package, however, he considered that the 2 contained within his earlier amendment to the Executive Committee should also have been removed.

Councillor Allison intimated that the grant settlement from the Scottish Government was a cut in actual terms. He further considered that the 3% Council Tax rise, together with the increase in income tax, would adversely impact on low income families.

Councillor Dryburgh, while welcoming the free breakfast initiative, raised concerns it would not be for every school. She further raised concerns that there was no funding awarded for anti-bullying initiatives or to tackle period poverty.

The Council decided: that the recommendations of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 in relation to the following issues be approved:-

- ◆ Housing Revenue and Capital Account Budget 2018/2019
- ◆ Revenue Budget and Level of Local Taxation 2018/2019
- ◆ Prudential Indicators 2018/2019 to 2020/2021, Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2018/2019

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 (Paragraphs 6, 8 and 11)]

4 Sale and Use of Single-use Plastic Items - Notice of Motion

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

“This motion calls on South Lanarkshire Council to end the sale and use of single-use plastic items such as cups, cutlery and plastic drinking straws across Council facilities within a year. The motion also calls on South Lanarkshire to promote South Lanarkshire Leisure and Cultural Resources to follow the Council’s initiative.”

Councillor McClymont moved the motion and this was seconded by Councillor Dryburgh. Councillor S Wardhaugh suggested that the words ‘within a year’ be replaced by ‘as soon as is practicable’. This was accepted and the motion before the meeting was duly amended and unanimously agreed.

The Council decided:

that the terms of the motion as amended be supported to end the sale and use of single-use plastic items such as cups, cutlery and plastic drinking straws across Council facilities as soon as was practicable and to encourage South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture to follow the Council's initiative.

5 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.