

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 17 November 2021

Chair:

Councillor Mary Donnelly

Councillors Present:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor John Ross (ex officio), Councillor Bert Thomson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Peter Craig (Depute), Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Josh Wilson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Clark, Planning Team Leader

Education Resources

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

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Cochran, Administration Assistant; A Hopkins-Simpson, Development Officer; R Leith, Community, Participation and Development Manager; E A McGonigle, Administration Officer; A Norris, Administration Assistant

Also Attending:

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service

A Stewart, Station Commander

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 8 September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Detector Legislation

A Stewart, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service gave a presentation on the requirements of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (Tolerable Standard) (Extension of Criterion) Order 2019 which was due to be implemented in February 2022.

The legislation now included smoke and heat alarms and the presence, type and condition of smoke and heat alarms in a house would be considered when deciding if the house met the tolerable standard.

The presentation provided information in relation to the legislation including:-

- ◆ the tragic events at Grenfell Tower which led to a change in the legislation
- ◆ implementation of the legislation
- ◆ requirements of the legislation
- ◆ types of alarms to be fitted
- ◆ responsibility for installation of the detectors/alarms
- ◆ measures which the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would take to ensure that a home was not unprotected

Station Commander Stewart, having responded to members' questions, was thanked for his informative presentation. Details on how to arrange a Home Fire Safety Visit would be circulated to members for information.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

Councillors Nelson and Ross left the meeting during this item of business

4 Neighbourhood Planning Update

A report dated 1 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing an update on work undertaken in relation to neighbourhood planning in the Hamilton area.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a statutory duty on Community Planning Partnerships (CPP), of which the Council was a statutory partner, to identify areas within the local authority which experienced the poorest outcomes and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for those communities. The plans were required to set out clear priorities for improving local outcomes and tackling inequalities agreed by the CPP and community. In South Lanarkshire, the plans were referred to as neighbourhood plans.

At its meeting on 14 July 2017, the Community Planning Partnership Board considered the results of a statistical exercise which identified the areas which experienced the poorest outcomes in South Lanarkshire relative to the South Lanarkshire average position. This had resulted in areas within 9 of the Council's 20 wards being identified as potential neighbourhood planning areas.

The Community Planning Partnership Board, at its meeting held on 11 October 2017, agreed to pilot the use of neighbourhood planning activity in South Lanarkshire and recognised that this approach required a longer investment of time with engagement, involvement of people and the production of the neighbourhood plans. The first 3 neighbourhood plans, for the pilot areas of Hillhouse, Udston, and Burnbank, Whitlawburn and Springhall, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw were published in January 2019.

Learning points from the phase 1 areas included the recognition that each area was individual in its capacity and the priorities which it identified, and that the work carried out in neighbourhoods, as a result, required to be individualised. In September 2019, the Community Planning Partnership Board agreed that the neighbourhood planning process be rolled out in further areas.

The annual reports for Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, Fairhill, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw areas 2021/2022 were attached as appendices 1 to 3 of the report. Highlights of the work undertaken in relation to the neighbourhood plans in Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, Fairhill, and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw were outlined in the report and indicated that progress had been made on delivering actions against the top priorities of all areas, despite the impact of the pandemic on engagement activities.

Work had progressed in Blantyre in a different way due to the pandemic and subsequent reallocation of resources from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Work was underway to produce an action plan for the current year which would create deliverable steps for the community and partners to take to progress themes from the original plan. Reporting would be in 2021/2022.

A neighbourhood plan was under development within the Whitehill area. Work with stakeholders had commenced but had been slower than anticipated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in place. However, a local survey would remain open until 40% of all households in the area had participated. As restrictions had relaxed, some face-to-face engagement had resumed using safe systems of working. Work continued in the existing areas to make certain that priorities remained correct and that progress was being made towards achieving them.

As the number of neighbourhood plans increased, locality priorities would begin to be developed by identifying key shared priorities across localities and linking them to the Community Planning process in a more strategic manner.

On 27 January 2021, the Committee considered an update on work undertaken in relation to neighbourhood planning in the Hamilton area when it was suggested that it would be useful to invite representatives of some of the local community groups to attend a future meeting to provide an update on their activities. The Chair introduced M Gilfillan and D Mcainsh, (Strutherhill and Birkenshaw) and S Panton (Hillhouse, Udston Burnbank) who responded to members' questions.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress made in respect of neighbourhood planning be noted; and
- (2) that the content of the annual reports for Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, Fairhill and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw, attached as appendices 1 to 3 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 January 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

Councillors Horne and McLachlan left during this item of business. Councillor McGuigan left the meeting after this item of business

5 Participatory Budgeting – Education Resources – Pupil Equity Funding

A report dated 2 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to Pupil Equity Funding (PEF).

Schools within the Hamilton Area had allocated £255,013.94 of their £3,149,520 PEF allocation for PB. A breakdown of the allocation for each learning community was provided in Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 to the report summarised the percentage of PEF allocation that schools had allocated for PB. A further school-by-school breakdown was outlined in Appendix 3 to the report. Appendix 4 to the report detailed the distribution of votes by stakeholders across the Hamilton area.

Examples of the ways in which stakeholder views and ideas had been collected by schools were provided in the report and schools were now exploring ways to engage stakeholders in the voting processes. Electronic and paper-based voting, as well as more hands-on options, were being considered by establishments, based on their own knowledge in meeting the needs of their stakeholders.

To support the process, a Microsoft Teams group for school PB Leads was available to signpost schools to good practice. Practitioners had shared good practice within the Teams area and the central Equity Team were gathering specific school examples of good practice to be collated into case studies which would be shared at a future meeting of the Area Committee. The Equity Team also assisted schools in navigating any challenges they faced to ensure a full spend before the end of the financial year.

Education Resources would provide Area Committees with the following:-

- ◆ a summary report of each school's PB outcome and Local Authority and Area analysis report
- ◆ regular updates and reports at Area Committee meetings including case studies focused on impact/success
- ◆ Local Authority Financial Report on how PEF money allocated for PB had been spent

Education Resources would support schools with the implementation of PB and monitor and track the impact. Findings would inform any future PB activity within Education Resources.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Razzaq left the meeting during this item of business

6 Application P/21/0340 for Demolition of Timber Shed and Erection of Garage/Store

A report dated 3 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on planning application P/21/0340 by R Jackson for the demolition of a timber shed and erection of garage/store at Fairholm Orchard, Larkhall.

The Committee decided: that planning application P/21/03405 by R Jackson for the demolition of a timber shed and erection of garage/store at Fairholm Orchard, Larkhall be granted subject to the conditions specified in the Executive Director's report.

7 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 1 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grant.

Following discussion on the proposal to award Bothwell and Uddingston Men's Shed a community grant of £250, Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor McCreary, moved that the level of grant be increased to £1,500 which was unanimously agreed.

There followed discussion on the recommended grant awards to community groups which were presented to the Area Committee. The amount of grant proposed took account of the eligibility criteria for grants and, as a general rule, was based on a 'standard' level of grant dependent on the type of organisation/activity etc. This aimed to provide consistency across the 4 Area Committee areas.

It was proposed that, at the next meeting, consideration be given to the award of community grants based on the individual merits of an application and not, as was current practice, on the basis of a 'standard' level of grant.

The Committee decided:- that community grants be awarded as follows:-

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| (a) | Applicant: | SLC Radio, Hamilton (HA/7/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £500 |
| (b) | Applicant: | Bothwell and Uddingston Men's Shed (HA/9/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up - equipment and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £1,500 |
| (c) | Applicant: | Cadzow Community Corps, Hamilton (HA/11/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £400 |
| (d) | Applicant: | Hamilton Stitchers (HA/12/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £250 |
| (e) | Applicant: | Champion of Autism Spectrum Together (Coast), Hamilton (HA/14/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Start-up – equipment and materials |
| | Amount Awarded: | £250 |
| (f) | Applicant: | Dalsersf Village Garden Club, Larkhall (HA/15/21) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Environmental project |
| | Amount Awarded: | £350 |

[Reference: Minutes of 8 September 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor Devlin left the meeting during this item of business

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.