

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 24 June 2020

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Jackie Burns, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Maureen Chalmers (Depute), Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham (*substitute for Councillor David Shearer*), Councillor Richard Lockhart (*substitute for Councillor Richard Nelson*), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor David Shearer

Councillors Also Attending:

Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor David Watson

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; J Burke, Administration Assistant; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services; S Somerville, Administration Manager

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

V de Souza, Director

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
McClymont	Land and Property Transfers and Disposals	Personal
Craig	Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funds - COVID-19 Update and Review	Member of Raploch Bowling Club
Horsham	Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funds - COVID-19 Update and Review	Member of Hollandbush Golf Club

McGavigan	Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funds - COVID-19 Update and Review	Member of Hollandbush Golf Club, Leadhills Reading Society, Leadhills Golf Club and Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust
Hamilton	Family Leave for Elected Members - Councillor Hamilton	Personal

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Committee decided: that the delegated decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, in relation to the previous agenda of 13 May 2020, be noted as a correct record.

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring Final Outturn and Annual Report and Accounts – 2019/2020

Prior to consideration of this item, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) advised that there was a typographical error in Recommendation (5) of the report and the word 'Uncommitted' should be excluded.

A report dated 3 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the:-

- ◆ 2019/2020 year-end position on the General Fund and Housing Revenue Accounts
- ◆ revenue budget performance of each Resource in 2019/2020
- ◆ outturn position of the Annual Accounts (Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statement), including a reconciliation with the revenue budget performance for 2019/2020
- ◆ Council's unaudited Annual and Charitable Accounts 2019/2020
- ◆ publication arrangements for the unaudited Annual Accounts

Details were provided on the following key areas:-

- ◆ an executive summary of the 2019/2020 outturn position
- ◆ a summary of the Council's position in relation to COVID-19 expenditure in 2019/2020
- ◆ the General Services' year-end probable outturn position for 2019/2020
- ◆ the General Services' year-end monitoring position for 2019/2020
- ◆ a summary of the year-end Reserves position
- ◆ the year-end position on the Housing Revenue Account
- ◆ an update on the Annual Accounts, including details of publication arrangements for the unaudited Accounts
- ◆ the reconciliation of the year-end monitoring position for 2019/2020
- ◆ details of those Charitable Accounts which the Council administered

The final outturn position in 2019/2020 for the General Services Revenue Account, after all transfers to Reserves, was an underspend of £3.021 million.

As part of the year end position, it was proposed that a further transfer to Reserves of £2.161 million be made. The transfer included transfers from Resources and other corporate items.

The Housing Revenue Account showed a surplus for the year of £0.240 million which had been transferred to the Housing Revenue Account Reserve. Following the transfer, the position on the Housing Revenue Account was breakeven. There remained an overall surplus of £9.713 million to be carried forward to 2020/2021 to meet commitments in future years' Business Plans.

In line with previous years, the full unaudited Accounts would be available for public inspection from 1 July 2020 on the Council's website, until the audited Accounts were published. Elected members would be provided with a copy of both the Council's unaudited Accounts and the unaudited Charitable Accounts for 2019/2020 prior to the meeting. Due to the guidance around COVID-19, the Accounts would not be available in Council offices for inspection.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend position of £3.021 million on the General Fund, after transfers to Reserves, be noted;
- (2) that the increase of £0.745 million on the transfers previously approved at probable outturn, to reflect the final outturn position on those items, be approved;
- (3) that the proposed additional transfers to reserves by Resources and Corporate Items, totalling £2.161 million, be approved;
- (4) that the additional allocation of £0.365 million of funding to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Limited, to cover their in-year loss of income due to COVID-19, be approved;
- (5) that the final outturn position of an underspend of £3.021 million be noted and the transfer of this underspend to the General Fund be approved;
- (6) that the position of the Housing Revenue Account, including transfers to Reserves of £0.702 million, be noted;
- (7) that the publication details for the unaudited Annual Accounts for 2019/2020 be noted; and
- (8) that the provision of South Lanarkshire Council Accounts 2019/2020 and the Charitable Accounts 2019/2020 to members for their consideration be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 May 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor Cooper joined the meeting during this item of business

4 Capital Budget Monitoring Final Outturn – 2019/2020

A report dated 3 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the outturn of the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Expenditure and funding for the General Fund Capital Programme for 2019/2020 were detailed. The difference between the revised programme, totalling £76.804 million, and the actual spend of £61.533 million, was £15.271 million. This reflected timing of spend in relation to the programme of works on a number of projects, which were detailed in the report.

At its meeting on 27 February 2019, the Council had agreed an additional £0.720 million for investment in Roads which was to be funded from a contribution from Reserves. As a result of COVID-19, the level of spend on Roads had reduced in year and this additional contribution had not been required in 2019/2020. It had been proposed that this funding remain in Reserves, however, following discussion, it was agreed that the £0.720 million would be utilised for investment in Roads in 2021/2022 and, as a consequence, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) would require to make adjustments at Item 12, in respect of Reserves, to take account of this.

A number of accounting adjustments were required, however, those adjustments had no physical impact on the projects as it was an accounting entry only.

Following the 2019/2020 year-end, a carry forward exercise had been undertaken and £51.235 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme against a budget of £61.835 million, representing spend of £10.600 million lower than budget due to timing of spend on a number of projects. Housing and Technical Resources had also received additional funding of £3.231 million and new borrowing of £1.433 million, which would be available to contribute to future years' Housing Capital Programmes.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outturn position on the 2019/2020 General Services Programme of £61.533 million be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the additional contribution of £0.720 million from Reserves for Roads Investment Fund had not been required in 2019/2020 due to COVID-19, however, would be utilised for Roads Investment in 2021/2022;
- (3) that the carry forward of 2019/2020 funding into the 2020/2021 General Services Capital Programme, totalling £14.821 million, be approved;
- (4) that the outturn on the 2019/2020 Housing Capital Programme of £51.235 million be noted;
- (5) that the carry forward of 2019/2020 projects, totalling £15.264 million, to future years' Housing Capital Programmes be approved; and
- (5) that it be noted that the level of overall spend anticipated in 2020/2021, for both General Services and Housing Programmes, would be subject to a separate report to a future meeting of this Committee.

[Reference: Note of 13 May 2020 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 2 – 1 April to 22 May 2020

A report dated 1 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure for the period ending 22 May 2020.

The figures included an underspend of £0.044 million on the General Fund Revenue Account, after COVID-19 spend and funding, and a breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account. The forecast to 31 March 2021 on the Housing Revenue Account was a breakeven position.

Details of the COVID-19 pressures across Resources were included in appendices 1 and 3 to the report. This position did not take account of the pressures of lost income in relation to South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Trust. The COVID-19 spend included in the services devolved to the Integration Joint Board were being included in the Mobilisation Plan which the Scottish Government was using to allocate funds to the Health and Social Care Partnership. To date, all COVID-19 spend had been funded either from unspent budgets or the relevant Fund, as detailed in the report, with the balance being met from the Hardship Fund.

Details were also provided on the Council's predicted COVID-19 spend of £27.800 million to September 2020 and potential shortfall in funding of £21.300 million.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the net underspend of £0.044 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 22 May 2020, after COVID-19 spend and funding, be noted;
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 22 May 2020 and the forecast to 31 March 2021 of breakeven be noted;
- (3) that the total net expenditure and lost income of £3.456 million in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 22 May 2020, be noted; and
- (4) that the Council's predicted COVID-19 spend of £27.800 million to September 2020 and potential shortfall in funding of £21.300 million be noted.

6 Capital Programme 2020/2021 Update

A report dated 5 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the physical and financial progress at 22 May 2020 on the various capital programmes.

The General Fund Capital Programme totalled £91.192 million and the Housing Capital Programme £97.303 million.

The delivery of both the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes had been affected by lockdown due to COVID-19. The ongoing implications of this, including the closure of construction sites in advance of the financial year end, had an impact on the level of capital spend achieved in 2019/2020 and would continue to impact on the 2020/2021 Capital Programmes.

The 2019/2020 final outturn position in relation to the General Services Capital Programme, as detailed at Item 4, showed that a carry forward total of £14.821 million would be available in financial year 2020/2021. A review of the General Services Capital Programme was underway, with a view to providing a realistic estimate of anticipated spend levels for 2020/2021, and a report would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

In relation to the Housing Capital Programme, the 2019/2020 final outturn position, as detailed at Item 4, showed that a carry forward total of £15.264 million would be available and, due to the impacts of COVID-19, would be added to the 2021/2022 Programme. A review of the overall Programme would be undertaken and presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the position of the various capital programmes for 2020/2021, as detailed in the report, be noted; and

- (2) that it be noted that, following the review of both the General Services and Housing Capital Programmes, an update would be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

7 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 29 May 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional revenue funding, totalling £1.174 million, for Newly Self-Employed Hardship Grants during COVID-19, and additional capital funding of £0.112 million, for the refurbishment of the Gaelic learning facilities at Calderglen High School, East Kilbride.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

8 Employee Workforce Monitoring Information April 2019 to March 2020 Yearly Summary

A report dated 25 May 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on workforce monitoring information relating to the Council for the period April 2019 to March 2020 as follows:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health statistics
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances, Dignity at Work and mediation cases
- ♦ employee development
- ♦ labour turnover/analysis of leavers and exit interviews
- ♦ recruitment monitoring
- ♦ staffing watch as at 14 March 2020

The Head of Personnel Services:-

- ♦ outlined the impact of COVID-19 and actions taken to assist employees
- ♦ advised that, while impacted by COVID-19, plans would be reworked to resume the exercise to address concerns in relation to the recruitment of applicants from a black/ethnic minority background and the outcome would be reported to committee at a later date

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 August 2019 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Outcome of Mid-Term Review of Connect

A report dated 21 February 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on proposed updates to the Council Plan, Connect, following a mid-term review.

Connect 2017 to 2022 had been approved in December 2017 and set out the Council's key actions to be delivered over its term. As the Plan approached the mid-point, a review had been undertaken to monitor progress and consider priorities in view of the changing internal and external pressures impacting on the Council.

It was noted that this work had been completed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that had been taken to minimise its spread. The long term impact of those measures on the Council and its services would not be fully understood for some time.

Taking account of the Council's Best Value Assurance Report, published by Audit Scotland in March 2019, and an online survey, open to all residents, an updated Council Plan had been produced, which:-

- ◆ updated the horizon scanning element of Connect, "the South Lanarkshire Context"
- ◆ clarified what was important by highlighting the 4 priorities which were previously described as "ambitions"
- ◆ made Connect simpler and shorter by moving the 11 objectives into an appendix
- ◆ established stronger links between the Council Plan and the Community Plan
- ◆ incorporated refreshed next steps to help guide performance reporting in the next 2 years

The final draft update of Connect, following the mid-term review, was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Head of Communications and Strategy responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the updated Council Plan, Connect, attached as an appendix to the report, be approved.

Councillor Ross briefly lost connection during this item of business and Councillor Chalmers took the chair in his absence

10 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

Prior to consideration of this item, the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) advised that there was a typographical error in the appendix to the report in that the address should have read as 23, and not 24, Couthally Terrace, Carnwath.

A report dated 4 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on recommendations to declare certain areas of land surplus to operational requirements.

The recommendations had been made in terms of agreed procedures for dealing with surplus land and property.

The Committee decided: that the land, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be declared surplus to Council requirements.

Councillor McClymont, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

11 Recommendations Referred from Resource Committees

A report dated 7 April 2020 by the Chief Executive was submitted on recommendations referred to this Committee, following decisions taken under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders, in respect of business submitted to the:-

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 31 March 2020

- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources Committee of 1 April 2020

The recommendations of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee were as follows:-

- ◆ that the Fleet Strategy 2020 to 2025 be approved
- ◆ that, following approval by the Executive Committee, the Strategy be launched in 2020 and implemented in 2020/2021
- ◆ that the policy recommendations, in terms of the Residents' Parking Permit Zones Policy, be approved

The recommendations of the Housing and Technical Resources Committee were as follows:-

- ◆ that the South Lanarkshire Council Housing Rent Management Policy be approved
- ◆ that the Policy be implemented with effect from 1 September 2020

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the recommendations referred by the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee in relation to the Fleet Strategy 2020 to 2025 and the Review of Residents' Parking Permit Zones be approved; and
- (2) that the recommendations referred by the Housing and Technical Resources Committee in relation to the South Lanarkshire Council Housing Rent Management Policy be approved, subject to the date for the implementation of the Policy being amended from 1 September 2020 to the earliest point practicable within the current financial year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Reference Note of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 31 March 2020 (Paragraphs 6 and 8) and Note of Housing and Technical Resources Committee of 1 April 2020 (Paragraph 9)]

12 2021/2022 Revenue Budget Strategy and Savings Requirement

A report dated 8 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Budget Strategy and savings requirement for 2021/2022.

The report included detailed estimates and information on the following:-

- ◆ government grant estimates
- ◆ other budget movements
- ◆ summary of budget gap
- ◆ corporate solutions
- ◆ use of reserves/loan fund review
- ◆ summary and next steps
- ◆ reinstatement

Based on various estimates and assumptions, an initial budget gap of £52.741 million had been identified. In order to address that gap, a number of corporate solutions had been identified for consideration, totalling £12.948 million. Those solutions would leave a core savings requirement of £39.793 million.

It was proposed that an allocation from Reserves and utilisation of the Loans Fund Review could further reduce the savings requirement. Following the final outturn position for 2019/2020, and taking into account agreement reached earlier in the meeting at Agenda Item 6 that £0.720 million would not be included in Reserves and remain earmarked for Roads investment in 2021/2022, the level of Reserves was at £15.880 million. A review had been undertaken on debt reprofiling which identified that an alternative approach to how the Council accounted for the Loans Funds repayments could be adopted. Under the current approach, the debt was repaid over an average of around 40 years. The review had identified that repayments could be made over a period reflecting the expected asset life of 50 years. In addition, rather than using different interest rates for every debt advance, a standard rate of interest of 5% for the calculation of loans fund repayments could be adopted. It was proposed that the Council adopt this new approach and limit the benefits to £68 million, thereby keeping additional interest costs lower.

Taking account of the Corporate Solutions and the use of Reserves and Loans Fund Reserves, the budget gap for 2021/2022 was estimated to be £20.000 million. It was proposed that officers commence work on a package of savings to this value for the coming year.

As well as the use of Reserves and Loans Fund Review Reserves, the 2021/2022 budget included a number of solutions which were temporary in nature and would require to be reinstated in future years and those were detailed in Table 5 of the report.

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved in terms of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved as an amendment that the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Committee to allow further information to be gathered in terms of the developing economic situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Motion

Alex Allison, John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Margaret Cooper, Peter Craig, Isobel Dorman, Mark Horsham, Richard Lockhart, Katy Loudon, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, Lynne Nailon, John Ross, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Jackie Burns, Gerry Convery, Maureen Devlin, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Eileen Logan, Joe Lowe, Monique McAdams

9 members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2021/2022, as detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the report, with a Budget Gap of £52.741 million, be approved;
- (2) that the corporate solutions for 2021/2022, before any increase in Council Tax, totalling £12.948 million, be approved;
- (3) that the £15.880 million use of Reserves in 2021/2022 be approved;
- (4) that the findings of the Loans Fund Review, as detailed at paragraph 8.19 of the report, be implemented;

- (5) that the next steps, as detailed in Section 9 of the report, including the identification of £20.000 million of savings, be agreed; and
- (6) that the reinstatement, as detailed in Table 5 of the report, be noted.

In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.50am and reconvened at 11.55am

13 COVID-19 Recovery Planning

A report dated 11 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the Council's COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

On 23 March 2020, the UK and Scottish Governments had introduced strict measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. People had been asked to stay at home, only leaving for certain, limited reasons, and only to travel if their journey was “essential”.

In response, there had been a need to cease, reduce and amend certain services so that physical distancing measures could be adhered to and account taken of higher than usual levels of absence. Specific details of service changes had been notified to elected members in a comprehensive series of COVID-19 briefings and reflected on the Council's web page and social media to ensure that communities were kept informed.

In anticipation of the easing of lockdown restrictions, all Council Resources had been making plans for short and long-term recovery. To assist with this, a forward planning Recovery Working Group, consisting of senior managers from all Council Resources, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture and the Health and Social Care Partnership, had been established and was considering the following key work streams:-

- ◆ organisational recovery
- ◆ support for business recovery
- ◆ Health and Social Care Partnership – learning, influence on service wide redesign
- ◆ community and voluntary organisations – how to retain the contribution from those groups

This had led to the development of a Council Recovery Plan, which was attached as Appendix A to the report, based on what was known at the time of its development. It was noted that, as the situation was subject to change, the Plan would remain under constant review and be amended as a result of any changes in guidance, as well as other factors such as competing Council priorities.

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

The Executive Director (Education Resources) provided an update on activity and the risk assessment undertaken for pupils' return following the summer break, whether on a blended or full-time basis.

Following a full and frank discussion, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers, moved in terms of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved as an amendment that recommendation 2 be altered as follows:-

“That the Council Recovery Plan, attached as Appendix A, is approved subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that decision-making and scrutiny processes by elected members be restored as soon as safely possible;
- (b) that the Equalities Impact Assessment be published as soon as possible;
- (c) that instances where full service recovery is not practical or no longer recommended be reported to the Recovery Board as soon as possible;
- (d) that the Council otherwise operate a presumption in favour of full service recovery; and
- (e) that the Recovery Plan be amended to refer to the five key principles of Community Wealth Building as defined by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies – *plural ownership of the economy, making financial power work for local places, fair employment and just labour markets, progressive procurement of goods and services and socially productive use of land and property.*”

Councillor Ross, with the agreement of Councillor Chalmers, indicated that he was willing to accept this and no further amendments were proposed.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the current and planned activity in relation to the work streams above be noted;
- (2) that the Council Recovery Plan, attached as Appendix A, be approved subject to the following conditions:-
 - ◆ that decision-making and scrutiny processes by elected members be restored as soon as safely possible
 - ◆ that the Equalities Impact Assessment be published as soon as possible
 - ◆ that instances where full service recovery was not practical or no longer recommended to be reported to the Recovery Board as soon as possible
 - ◆ that the Council otherwise operate a presumption in favour of full service recovery
 - ◆ that the Recovery Plan be amended to refer to the 5 key principles of Community Wealth Building as defined by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies – plural ownership of the economy, making financial power work for local places, fair employment and just labour markets, progressive procurement of goods and services and socially productive use of land and property
- (3) that the establishment of the Recovery Board be approved; and
- (4) that it be noted that Group Leaders to confirm their representation on the Recovery Board to the Chief Executive.

In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2.02pm and reconvened at 2.16pm

14 Participatory Budgeting

A report dated 29 May 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on participatory budgeting.

In May 2019, an awareness session had been held to provide elected members with proposals on where participatory budgeting could be rolled out across some Council services. A further session was held on 21 February 2020 and an elected members' briefing video made available on 27 May 2020 to provide further information.

A summary of the proposed areas for participatory budgeting, identified in those sessions, as well as details on the Council's plans for community engagement in relation to those proposals, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

If approved, practical consideration would be required from Council services in terms of:-

- ◆ arriving at options for consideration by the community
- ◆ awareness raising for communities on participatory budgeting
- ◆ planning and delivering consultation exercises
- ◆ consolidation of results
- ◆ practical planning for delivery of outcomes

A Participatory Budgeting Charter had been published by Participatory Budgeting Scotland, a Scottish Government funded network recognised as the lead body for community development in Scotland. The Charter laid out the features of what a participatory budgeting process should be.

Further guidance had been produced by the Improvement Service which covered the role of elected members in participatory budgeting and a revised briefing had been drafted and shared with the Council through COSLA's Community Wellbeing Board in January 2020. Final publication of that guidance was still awaited.

The briefing detailed the following roles and responsibilities of elected members in relation to participatory budgeting:-

- ◆ to ensure the aims of the process were clearly understood by all participants
- ◆ to make sure the relevant resources to run an effective participatory budgeting process were in place
- ◆ to ensure the process was inclusive and promoted the participation of communities in all stages of design
- ◆ to engage with local people to raise awareness of local participatory budgeting activity
- ◆ to encourage and support the local community to participate in the process
- ◆ to support decisions made by local people

Following a full and frank discussion, Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Chalmers moved in terms of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Fagan, seconded by Councillor Convery, moved that consideration of this item be deferred to a later date.

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

Motion

John Anderson, John Bradley, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Peter Craig, Isobel Dorman, Mark Horsham, Katy Loudon, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, John Ross, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Gerry Convery, Maureen Devlin, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Richard Lockhart, Eileen Logan, Monique McAdams, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Lynne Nailon

13 members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

The Committee decided: that consideration of this item be deferred to a later date.

15 Renewable Energy and Community Benefit Funds – COVID-19 Update and Review

A report dated 3 February 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a proposal to increase the funding to groups, in response to COVID-19, through the Community Benefit Funds: Renewable Energy Fund (REF) and Clyde Windfarm Fund (CWF).

Changes approved to the REF and CWF had established the following 2 new funding priorities:-

- ◆ Priority 1 - Immediate Support Fund which would provide between £500 and £5,000 to groups and organisations, including Community Councils, to deliver immediate assistance and relief due to COVID-19
- ◆ Priority 2 - Third Sector Resilience Fund which would provide between £500 and £10,000 to constituted community groups, community based sports and cultural clubs and charitable organisations to relieve pressure from loss of income as a result of COVID-19

An initial £600,000 had been set aside for those funds, with £200,000 from the Clyde Development Fund. It had been intended to review the fund at 31 July 2020, however, the level of interest in the fund had been such that it was considered appropriate to bring forward the review.

In terms of interest, 96 applications for funding had been received as follows:-

- ◆ 42 for the Immediate Support Fund
- ◆ 54 for the Third Sector Resilience Fund

The total grant value, if all were approved, would be £592,254, which would be close to the spending cap of £600,000. 35 of the applications were allocated to the Clyde Development Fund and those had a total grant value of £218,000 against an initial cap of £200,000.

Given this initial level of demand, and in view of the fact that interest had eased since the initial volume of applications, it was proposed that an additional funding allocation of £200,000 be made, with £100,000 from the Clyde Development Fund, which would be sufficient to meet demand for the following 2 months. It was further proposed that priority measures should close to new applications once the total of £800,000 grant funding applications had been reached, divided between the £500,000 limit for the REF and the £300,000 limit from the Clyde Development Fund.

The Committee decided: that the additional funding allocation of £200,000 to support community organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic and discontinuation of those priority measures to new application from the Renewable Energy Fund and Clyde Windfarm Fund be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 13 May 2020 (Paragraph 11)]

Councillors Craig, Horsham and McGavigan, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

16 Family Leave for Elected Members – Councillor Hamilton

A report dated 11 June 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on arrangements in terms of family leave for Councillor Hamilton.

The Council had approved the Elected Members' Family Leave Guidance from COSLA at its meeting on 26 February 2020.

Subsequently, Councillor Hamilton had advised the Council that she intended to take maternity leave from 13 August 2020 until 11 February 2021. Arrangements would be made to temporarily fill the place she held on various Council Committees, Forums, Joint Boards and Working Groups.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that it be noted that Councillor Hamilton would commence maternity leave on 13 August 2020;
- (2) that, on a temporary basis until her return on 11 February 2021, Councillor Hamilton's place on the various committees, outside bodies etc, as detailed in the report, be filled by a member of the Labour Group; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Business Manager of the Labour Group, to finalise those temporary memberships.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council of 26 February 2020 (Paragraph 7)]

Councillor Hamilton, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

17 Council Plan Connect 2017 to 2022 – Quarter 4 Progress Report 2019/2020

A report dated 29 May 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the progress of 'Connect', the Council Plan 2017 to 2022, at the Quarter 4 stage of 2019/2020.

'Connect' detailed the Council's vision, values, ambitions and objectives to be delivered in the 5 year period of the Plan. Progress made on key objectives was summarised in the report. Of the 140 key measures:-

- ◆ 106 had met their timescale or target as per expectations
- ◆ 7 had minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target
- ◆ 5 had major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target
- ◆ 22 were contextual or would be reported on at a later stage

The 'Connect' Performance Report for Quarter 4 2019/2020, covering the period to the end of March 2020, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

To aid scrutiny, a further analysis had been introduced, with any measures that had changed status between Quarters 2 and 4 being highlighted and an explanation provided for the change of status. Of the 140 measures, 24 (17%) had changed status between Quarters 2 and 4. A summary of those measures was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

18 Item of Urgent Business – Merging of Foreign and Commonwealth Office with Department of International Development

The Chair decided, in view of a recent announcement by the UK Government and in terms of Standing Order No 4(c), to present the following statement, a copy of which had previously been circulated:-

“That South Lanarkshire Council:

- ♦ is concerned that the UK Government’s decision to merge the Department for International Development (DfID) with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office threatens to compromise the development and humanitarian work currently carried out by DfID in an independent manner
- ♦ recognises that Scotland contributes proportionately to the global development and humanitarian work carried out by DfID and that Abercrombie House in East Kilbride is a principal location for the Department with 600 employees
- ♦ notes the considerable job losses in East Kilbride and wider South Lanarkshire experienced over the last decade, including the recent decisions to relocate the HMRC Centre One Tax Office from East Kilbride and the Rolls Royce job losses at the Inchinnan site
- ♦ would expect that the expertise in international development, built up over many years, is maintained and calls on the UK Government to give a firm commitment that the 600 jobs in Abercrombie House, East Kilbride will remain”

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Fagan, moved that the contents of the statement be sent to the appropriate Government office.

Councillor Allison, seconded by Councillor McGavigan, moved as an amendment that, prior to any further action, clarification be sought in respect of the retention of the 600 jobs in East Kilbride.

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

Motion

John Anderson, John Bradley, Robert Brown, Stephanie Callaghan, Maureen Chalmers, Gerry Convery, Maureen Devlin, Isobel Dorman, Joe Fagan, Allan Falconer, Lynsey Hamilton, Mark Horsham, Eileen Logan, Katy Loudon, Monique McAdams, Jim McGuigan, Gladys Miller, John Ross, Josh Wilson

Amendment

Alex Allison, Richard Lockhart, Kenny McCreary, Colin McGavigan, Lynne Nailon

5 members voted for the amendment and 19 for the motion which was declared carried.

The Committee decided:

that the contents of the statement in relation to the merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with the Department for International Development, as detailed above, be sent to the appropriate Government office.