

CLYDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 November 2021

Chair:

Councillor Richard Lockhart

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor George Greenshields, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Eric Holford, Councillor Mark Horsham (Depute), Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor David Shearer

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Ian McAllan

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

K McGuire, Waste Services Manager, A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services,

Education Resources

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

Finance and Corporate Resources

S Somerville, Administration Manager; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

G Kirkcaldy, Station Commander

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Lockhart, Marrs and McClymont	Community Grant Applications:-	
	♦ Lanark Community Development Trust (CL/10/21)	Member/Trustee/Member respectively
McGavigan	♦ Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust (CL/11/21)	Member
Marrs	♦ Braehead Village Trust (CL/15/21)	Member

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Clydesdale Area Committee held on 7 September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Presentation – Lanarkshire Prevention and Protection Department

G Kirkcaldy, 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 left unprotected

Station Commander Kirkcaldy, having responded to members' questions, was thanked for his informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

4 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.

Each school within the Clydesdale Area had undertaken a rigorous consultation process, led by their PB Stakeholder Group and examples of the ways in which stakeholder views and ideas had been collected by schools were provided in the report. Schools had allocated £94,416.76 of their £1,201,608 PEF allocation for PB. A breakdown of the allocation for each learning community was detailed 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 breakdown, on a school by school basis, was outlined in Appendix 3 to the report. Appendix 4 to the report outlined the distribution of votes by stakeholders across the Clydesdale area.

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

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

5 Household Waste and Waste Recycling Centre Booking System - Carluke Pilot

A report dated 4 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a proposal to implement an online booking system, on a pilot basis, at Carluke Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

The Council currently operated 6 household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs), 5 of which were managed by Biffa on behalf of the Council and the 6th site, located in Carluke, was managed by the Council.

During peak times, for example, summer months, weekends and public holidays, the demand for HWRC sites could be significant and, on occasion, lead to queues on access roads which could impact on local businesses and often cause frustration amongst members of the public.

After the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, several local authorities had introduced booking systems to coincide with the re-opening of HWRC sites and those had been recognised as a cost-effective way of managing queues during a period of exceptional demand. 17 local authorities in Scotland, listed in the appendix to the report, operated a booking system for HWRC sites.

For a variety of reasons outlined in the report, a booking system had not been introduced when the Carluke site re-opened, however, it was now proposed that a booking system be implemented, on a 6 month trial basis, effective from Monday 7 February 2022. Proposed arrangements for the booking system were provided in the report. The system would be promoted, in conjunction with Corporate Communications, from Monday 10 January 2022 to allow the system to be fully embedded before the longer summer opening hours started on 1 April 2022.

To aid the smooth transition to the new system during the initial 4-week period of the pilot, residents who visited the site without a valid booking would be allowed access, on a one-off basis, where this could be safely facilitated.

To assess the success of the 6-month pilot, customer satisfaction surveys would be issued to site visitors during that period. Thereafter, a report would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee to review the pilot booking system and to consider if it should be continued on a permanent basis.

The cost of implementing the pilot on-line booking system amounted to £5,000 and would be delivered as Phase 2 of the on-line booking system for bulky waste collections and met from the existing Waste revenue budget.

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

The Committee decided: that, following an evaluation of the pilot 6-month on-line booking system, an update report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

6 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 3 November 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grant.

Following discussion in relation to the level of funds which remained uncommitted in the community grants budget for 20221/2022, it was proposed that consideration be given to awarding more than the recommended amounts of grant as detailed in the report.

In response to members' questions, the Administration Manager highlighted that:-

- ◆ the Council had made use of its social media to publicise the availability of community grants
- ◆ on occasion, applications received for community grant included items which did not meet the eligibility criteria for grants
- ◆ the grant awards recommended in the report were based on general guidance used to allocate funds dependent upon type of organisation and purpose of grant, the purpose of which aimed to provide a level of consistency across the 4 Area Committee areas
- ◆ it was ultimately for members to decide on the level of grant to be awarded to community groups

Following a full discussion, and, in view of the remaining balance of funds in the community grants budget for 2021/2022, it was proposed that, on this occasion, those community groups detailed in the report be awarded 100% of the funds requested, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria for grants. This was agreed by those present, with the exception of Councillor Logan who outlined her reasons for not supporting the proposal.

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

- (a) Applicant: Lanark Community Development Trust (CL/10/21)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £1,000

Councillors Lockhart, Marrs and McClymont, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Councillor Horsham took the Chair for this item only.

- (b) Applicant: Crawfordjohn Heritage Venture Trust, Biggar (CL/11/21)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £430

Councillor McGavigan, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

- (c) Applicant: Coulter WRI (CL/12/21)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £250

- (d) Applicant: The Lanark Choral, Lanark (CL/13/21)
Purpose of Grant: Materials, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £650

- (e) Applicant: Biggar and District Men's Shed, Biggar (CL/14/21)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £1,000

- (f) Applicant: Braehead Village Trust (CL/15/21)
 Purpose of Grant: Materials, outing and entrance fees, administration and publicity costs
 Amount Awarded: £500

Councillors Marrs, having declared an interest in the above application, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

Councillor Logan, as the mover of an amendment which failed to find a seconder, asked that her dissent be recorded

7 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.