

HAMILTON AREA COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 31 August 2022

Chair:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Councillors Present:

Councillor Ross Clark, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Celine Handibode, Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Gavin Keatt, Councillor Lesley McDonald, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Mo Razzaq (Depute), Councillor Helen Toner

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Martin Hose, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Bert Thomson

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

G Newbigging, Roads Area Manager (Clydesdale and Hamilton); K Lean, Economic Development Manager (Rural and Funding); C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services

Finance and Corporate Resources

G Cochran, Administration Assistant; J McCafferty, Development Officer; E A McGonigle, Administration Officer; K McLeod, Administration Assistant

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Chief Inspector T Gallagher and Inspector P Doyle

1 Declaration of Interests

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
McDonald	Community Grant Applications:- ♦ Larkhall Burns Club (HA/10/22)	Member

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee held on 22 June 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Police Scotland

Chief Inspector Gallagher and Inspector Doyle provided information on the following key priorities:-

- ♦ reducing violence and disorder
- ♦ public protection and protecting people at risk of harm
- ♦ tackling housebreaking and acquisitive harm
- ♦ reducing the harm caused by substance misuse

Chief Inspector Gallagher and Inspector Doyle, having responded to members' questions, were thanked for their informative presentation.

The Committee decided: that the presentation be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 January 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

Councillor McGeever left the meeting during this item of business

4 Participatory Budgeting - Footways

A report dated 21 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of the outcome and level of engagement for the Participatory Budgeting (PB) consultation exercise to identify £2.500 million of footway projects and the next steps.

Following the PB investment in carriageway and footways which had completed in 2021/2022, a second phase of investment had been agreed which would focus on the improvement of footways, making towns and villages safer for pedestrians, supporting healthy lifestyles through physical activity, and improving the look and feel of the environment.

£2.500 million ring-fenced investment in the Roads Capital Programme would support footway improvements which were part of the adopted footway network. This investment would continue the Council's commitment to prioritise investment in roads and related infrastructure by directing additional funds to help improve the condition of footways. Details of the split between geographical and operational areas on the footway network length were provided in the report.

The public had been asked to vote on the following themes they wished to see delivered through this fund:-

- ◆ minor and residential footways
- ◆ main and distributor footways
- ◆ footways in business areas

The consultation process ran from 22 April to 5 June 2022 and was promoted via the Council's website, social media channels and third sector networks. As in previous financial years, rather than having only a single winning theme, the available funding was allocated across all themes. 60% of funding in an area was allocated to the top scoring theme, 25% to the second top theme and 15% to the third-place theme. Voting details were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

Appendices 3 to 6 set out the specific schemes and indicative sums allocated to each scheme. Those schemes had been identified using the scheme assessment criteria which had enabled a scoring system for potential footway schemes based on several factors, which collectively contributed towards an overall score which prioritised the Council's resources. This ensured that funds were targeted at those footways that were in greatest need of repair based on engineering judgement.

Details of the schemes in the Hamilton area were provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

The Roads Area Manager responded to members' questions.

The Committee decided: that the outcome and level of engagement for the PB consultation exercise to identify £2.500 million of footway projects, as set out in the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 September 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Participatory Budgeting - Renewable Energy Fund

A report dated 24 August 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on Participatory Budgeting (PB) in relation to the Renewable Energy Fund.

The Executive Committee, on 21 November 2018, agreed that a series of amendments be made to the Renewable Energy Fund. One amendment was the introduction of a micro grant fund in 2019/2020 of up to £5,000 per annum available to community councils or equivalent community organisations to award and administer small grants of up to £500 locally.

This was established for an initial 2 year period and the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, held on 16 February 2021, agreed to continue the micro grants after 2020/2021. In Quarter One 2022/2023, 4 Community Councils within the Hamilton Area had been awarded micro grants totalling £20,000 and those were detailed in the report.

The Economic Development Manager (Rural and Funding) responded to a member's question in relation to a community organisation's eligibility for funding.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 September 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

6 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 that 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.

The legislation had required that reports be produced on an annual basis in order that the progress in relation to the plans be identified. The guidance that accompanied the legislation stated that annual reports should be published in an accessible way which enabled communities to understand the direction and scale of progress.

Learning points from the phase one 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, including Fairhill, and recognised the work which had taken place to produce a plan for Blantyre.

The 2021/2022 annual reports for Hillhouse, Udston and Burnbank, Fairhill, Blantyre and Strutherhill and Birkenshaw areas were attached as appendices 1 to 4 of the report. Highlights of the work 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.

A plan had now been completed for Whitehill and this was included at Appendix 5 to the report. Work had begun with the communities in Hamilton South ward to identify how they would like to progress with identifying priorities and the production of the plan.

Work would continue within the existing areas to ensure that priorities remained correct in the current times and that progress was being made. 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. The opportunity for other communities to create their own plans remained in place and advice and tools would be made available on request.

The Development Officer responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and reaffirmed the Community Engagement Team's commitment to work closely with the Community Action Group and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) on seeking a sustainable solution to address rental costs.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress made in respect of neighbourhood planning be noted; and
- (2) that the content of the annual reports produced for the neighbourhood plans within the area, attached as appendices 1 to 5 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 November 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

7 Community Grant Applications

A report dated 15 August 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on applications for community grants.

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

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| (a) | Applicant: | Larkhall Heritage Group, Larkhall (HA/8/22) |
| | Purpose of Grant: | Equipment |
| | Amount Awarded: | £300 |

(b) Applicant: St Andrew's Church, Blantyre (HA/9/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300

(c) Applicant: Larkhall Burns Club (HA/10/22)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment
Amount Awarded: £508

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

(d) Applicant: MorphFit Gentle Movement Project Ltd, Hamilton (HA/11/22)
Purpose of Grant: Equipment, administration and publicity costs
Amount Awarded: £600

(e) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club, Ladies' Section (HA/13/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing and Entrance Fees
Amount Awarded: £350

(f) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club (HA/15/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300

(g) Applicant: Hamilton Bowling Club, Winter Section (HA/16/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £260

(h) Applicant: Hamilton South Guilds Together (HA/17/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300

(i) Applicant: Eddlewood Ladies' Section (HA/19/22)
Purpose of Grant: Outing
Amount Awarded: £300

[Reference: Minutes of 21 June 2022 (Paragraph 3)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.