

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 9 August 2022

Chair:

Councillor Robert Brown

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Walter Brogan, Councillor Andy Carmichael, Councillor Ross Clark (*substitute for Councillor Maureen Chalmers*), Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Andrea Cowan, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Maureen Devlin (Depute), Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Joe Fagan (*ex-officio*), Councillor Ross Gowland, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Martin Lennon, Councillor Richard Lockhart, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Helen Toner, Councillor David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gladys Ferguson-Miller, Councillor Graeme Horne

Councillor Also Attending:

Councillor Allan Falconer

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

D Booth, Executive Director; K Carr, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services; T Finn, Area Manager (HQ); K Lean, Economic Development Manager (Rural and Funding); K Meek, Project Manager; C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services; I Ross, Project Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; L Harvey, Finance Manager; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; E McPake, Human Resources Business Manager; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); S Somerville, Administration Manager; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Dewar and McLachlan	Hamilton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) Reballot	Board Members of Hamilton BID

2 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2021/2022

A joint report dated 4 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 31 March 2022 against budgeted expenditure for 2021/2022 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

The year end outturn position was an overspend of £4.507 million after approved transfers to reserves. The total cost of COVID-19 for the Resource was £5.022 million. Details of the additional costs incurred by the Resource in relation to COVID-19 were provided in Appendix G to the report. Removing the overspend in relation to COVID-19 left an underspend of £0.515 million in respect of the core revenue budget position.

Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resources' outturn position as at 31 March 2022 of an overspend of £4.507 million, after approved transfers to reserves, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to G of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

3 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2022/2023

A joint report dated 4 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 20 May 2022 against budgeted expenditure for 2022/2023 for Community and Enterprise Resources.

At 20 May 2022, there was an overspend of £0.001 million against the phased budget.

Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the overspend on the Community and Enterprise Resources' revenue budget of £0.001 million as at 20 May 2022, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to F of the report, be approved.

4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2021/2022

A joint report dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' Capital Programme 2021/2022 and summarising the expenditure position at 31 March 2022.

Following changes to the capital programme agreed by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 2 February 2022, the revised capital programme for 2021/2022 amounted to £41.903 million, a net decrease of £2.212 million. The final expenditure position at 31 March 2022 was £34.685 million. The underspend was mainly due to the timing of project spend on a number of projects detailed in the report. The underspend on those projects, along with the funding, would carry forward into 2022/2023 as required.

The Committee decided: that the Community and Enterprise Resources' Capital Programme of £41.903 million, and expenditure for the year of £34.685 million, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2022/2023

A joint report dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2022/2023 and summarising the expenditure position at 20 May 2022.

The Capital Programme for 2022/2023 amounted to £64.423 million and was based on the overall Capital Programme for 2022/2023 which was presented to the Executive Committee on 29 June 2022. The total Capital Programme was based on the original programme of projects that had been approved by Council on 23 February 2022 which had been updated to include budget carried forward from financial year 2021/2022 and additional funding received and used to fund expenditure incurred in 2021/2022. Expenditure at 20 May 2022 was £0.389 million.

The Committee decided: that the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme of £64.423 million, and expenditure to date of £0.389 million, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of South Lanarkshire Council (Special) of 23 February 2022 (Paragraph 4) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 29 June 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring – April and May 2022

A joint report dated 5 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period April and May 2022:-

- ♦ attendance statistics
- ♦ occupational health statistics
- ♦ accident/incident statistics
- ♦ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ♦ analysis of leavers and exit interviews
- ♦ staffing watch as at 12 March 2022

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

7 Planning and Building Standards Service – Additional Officers

A joint report dated 25 July 2022 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted:-

- ♦ providing an update on the staffing changes to increase capacity within the Planning and Building Standards Service establishment
- ♦ seeking approval to create 2.0 FTE permanent Planning posts and make 4.0 FTE existing fixed term Graduate Planner posts permanent, increasing the Planning establishment accordingly
- ♦ seeking approval to reconfigure existing fixed-term Building Standards posts to create 5.0 FTE permanent Building Standards Inspectors, increasing the Building Standards establishment accordingly

Following a review of the planning system by the Scottish Government, the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 had received Royal Assent in 2019. It placed the planning system in a central role in support of the Scottish Government's objective of creating a more successful country with opportunities for all to flourish through increased wellbeing and sustainable and inclusive economic growth. However, to achieve the new sustainable development goals, the new legislation had placed a number of statutory duties and burdens on local Planning Authorities.

Additionally, the number of planning applications received by the Council had increased and the profession was facing a nationwide skills shortage. The Service had been operating with a number of vacancies since 2020 and this had a negative impact on performance.

Planning application fees had increased from April 2022 and to establish what additional funding could be available to invest in the Service, an exercise had been carried out to apply the new fee regime to the more common types of application to the Council over the last 3 years. The outcome of that exercise was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. The changes to the fee regulations permitted Planning Authorities to introduce discretionary charges for non-material variation applications (NMV), the discharge of planning conditions and pre-application discussions. From October 2022, a surcharge of 25% could be added to retrospective applications. This had still to be considered and could yield more funding in the future.

To deliver on the objectives of the Planning Service and to create a future proofed structure, it was proposed that the following posts be added to the current Service, as detailed in section 7.1 of the report:-

- ◆ 4 fixed term posts of Graduate Planner on Grade 2, Level 4, SCP 55-57 (£29,837.12 to £30,749.57) be made permanent
- ◆ 1 additional post of Planning Assistant on Grade 2, Level 1 to 3, SCP 34-48 (£22,300 to £26,954)
- ◆ 1 post of Advanced Planning Officer on Grade 3, Level 8, SCP 79-80 (£42,191 to £42,830)

The Council's statutory role as Building Standards Authority for its area was undertaken by the Building Standards Service and, in the main, the issues with recruitment mirrored that experienced in the Planning Service. The Building Standards Service was responsible for:-

- ◆ ensuring development was carried out in accordance with Building Regulations and associated Technical Standards
- ◆ assessing energy performance and ventilation standards, linked to workmanship, fire safety and suitability of materials
- ◆ statutory enforcement involving the inspection of defective buildings and structures and seeking remedies for unauthorised or defective work
- ◆ a range of important, non-core business activities, all linked to public safety
- ◆ supporting the Council in delivering commitments outlined in the Resource Plan
- ◆ the current and future role in addressing effects of climate change by ensuring compliance with energy standards

In March 2017, the Council was re-appointed by Scottish Ministers as verifier for the Council area for the maximum period available of 6 years. The next verification appointment would begin from 1 May 2023 and the Building Standards Division (BSD) of the Scottish Government was currently assessing performance. This could result in a maximum of 6 year appointment for strong performers, 3 years for good performers and one year rolling appointment for poor performers.

A report to the Committee on 7 December 2021 explained the background to the upcoming Verification reappointment and explained the risks and reputational damage which the Council could face if appointed to a shorter period than previously. An increased workload and a loss of capacity, as set out at section 5 of the report, were cited as the main reasons for a drop in performance standards. Current performance in terms of the key performance objectives (KPOs) reported to the Scottish Government was detailed in Appendix 2. The Head of the Building Standards Division (BSD) and the Scottish Government had recently written to the Council to highlight that performance levels had failed to meet several national targets in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Consequently, the risk to verification re-appointment was now significant.

To deliver on the objectives of the Building Standards Service, it was proposed that the following posts be added to the current Service, as detailed in section 7.2 of the report:-

- ◆ 3 existing vacancies at Building Standards Surveyor level on Grade 3, Level 2-4, SCP 63-74 (£33,651 to £39,162) be redesignated into Building Inspector posts on Grade 2, Level 3, SCP 46-48 (£26,151 to £26,954) on permanent contracts
- ◆ 1 existing post of Building Standards Inspector on Grade 2, Level 3, SCP 46-48 (£26,151 to £26,954) be made permanent
- ◆ a Building Standards Inspector on Grade 2, Level 3, SCP 46-48 (£26,151 to £26,954) on a permanent contract

The establishment of the Planning and Building Standards posts would have an annual cost of £0.254 million and up to £0.177 million respectively. Funding had initially been available through Planning and Economic Development reserve balances and that would continue in the short term. The additional income fee referenced at sections 3.5 and 3.6 of the report would be used to cover the costs in the longer term.

The current and proposed Building Standards establishment was provided at appendices 3 and 4 of the report respectively. The current and proposed Planning establishment was provided at appendices 5 and 6 respectively.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the additional Planning and Building Standards posts and other changes to the establishment, as detailed in section 7 of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2021 (Paragraphs 9 and 10)]

8 Hamilton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) Reballot

A report dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted requesting Council support for the business proposal prepared by the Hamilton Business Improvement District (BID) for the period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2027.

Hamilton BID represented the businesses in a defined area of the town centre and delivered a series of initiatives as set out in its Business Plan. The BID was established through a ballot process and, if successful, would remain in place for a period of 5 years. The BID's second term was coming to an end and the BID would seek renewal through a ballot on 6 October 2022. The BID was funded by a levy from the businesses it represented which was collected on its behalf by the Council.

The Enterprise Resources Committee of 15 June 2011 and the Enterprise Services Committee of 19 June 2012 had approved the Council's support for the creation of a BID for Hamilton Town Centre. Funding to assist in the creation of the BID and the costs associated with taking the proposal to a ballot of local businesses was also authorised.

The BID was established on 12 October 2012 following a successful ballot and went on to deliver a variety of projects and initiatives in partnership with the Council. A successful rebalot in 2017 granted a second term until October 2022. During this period, the Council had carried out its statutory obligations to collect the BID levy from participating businesses. Along with the statutory legal guidance, an Operating Agreement was in place which dealt with the practicalities of the process.

Following a consultation exercise, a business proposal and business plan, as detailed in the appendix to the report, had been prepared and those would form the basis of the strategy of the BID for the next 5 years. It was proposed that the Council support the BID on the basis of the proposals detailed in section 4 of the report in order to provide financial and organisational stability to the BID.

The Economic Development Service would continue to be the principal point of contact with the BID within existing staff resources. Finance and Corporate Resources would continue to manage the collection and onward payment of the levy through the non-domestic rates system and manage and carry out the ballot process from within existing staff resources. Funding would be made available to the BID through existing Palace Grounds Service Charge resources totalling £44,000 per annum, as per the proposals at section 4 of the report. Non payment of the statutory levy would be dealt with under the existing procedures for managing debt in the Council. The IT collection system had a maintenance cost of £2,000 per annum which would be met from existing Resource budget.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Council continues to work with the BID to deliver the objectives of the business proposal prepared by the Hamilton BID for Hamilton Town Centre, as set out in the BID Business Plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (2) that the Council continues to actively support the BID through the range of measures set out at section 4 of the report.

[Reference: Minutes of Enterprise Services Committee of 19 June 2012 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillors Dewar and McLachlan, having declared an interest in the above item, withdrew from the meeting during its consideration

9 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Application

A report dated 19 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a grant application to the Community Benefit Fund. Community Benefit Funds had been established to provide funding to suitable projects providing community benefit in eligible areas.

It was proposed that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the project had been secured, a grant of up to £48,768.28 towards eligible costs associated with facilitating the Leadhills Golf Club ground maintenance machinery be awarded from the Andershaw Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund (REF).

The Committee decided:

that, subject to the applicant providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the project had been secured, a grant be awarded of up to a maximum of £48,768.28 towards eligible costs associated with facilitating the Leadhills Golf Club ground maintenance machinery from the Andershaw Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2021 (Paragraph 11)]

10 Community Benefit Funds – Annual Report

A report dated 19 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on grants awarded in 2021/2022 from the Community Benefit Funds administered by the Council's Planning and Economic Development Service.

The Community Benefit Funds had been established to provide funding to suitable projects providing community benefits in eligible areas. Details of the grants awarded in 2021/2022 were provided in appendices 1 to 4 to the report.

A publicity document for 2021/2022 would be prepared with the purpose of raising awareness of the Community Benefit Funds and their support of communities. This annual report would be circulated and publicised digitally, with 100 copies made available to councillors and groups.

Officers answered a member's question in relation to whether awards could be increased if the profits of the windfarms increased.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community Benefit Funds administered by the Council and the grants awarded under the Renewable Energy Fund (REF), Clyde Wind Farm Fund (CWFF) and Quarry Funds in 2021/2022 be noted; and
- (2) that the completion of a publicity report for Community Benefit Funds grants 2021/2022 be approved.

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

11 Lanarkshire LEADER Programme and Replacement

A report dated 19 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted:-

- ♦ providing a summary of the evaluation of the 2014 to 2020 Lanarkshire LEADER Programme
- ♦ seeking approval for the delivery of the new Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Programme replacing LEADER

The Council had delivered a rural Community Led Local Development via LEADER funding since 2002 through 3 iterations of the Programme. LEADER was EU funding and the Programme aimed to empower people to contribute to the future development of their rural areas by forming area based Local Action Group (LAG) partnerships between the public, private and civil sectors.

The Council had acted as the Lead Authority/Accountable Body for the 2014 to 2020 Programme and was responsible for the overall management of the Lanarkshire LEADER Programme in terms of compliance and financial responsibility, with a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Scottish Government. The Programme ran until December 2021 with a value of £4.04 million and additional funding of £60,000 for staff costs until the end of June 2022.

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) for Lanarkshire LEADER Programme was developed at the start of the Programme following community consultation and broad engagements, including rural conferences, and had been approved by the Scottish Government. The Programme set the following themes and objectives:-

- ◆ Theme 1 – Developing Communities
- ◆ Theme 2 – Growing Business
- ◆ Theme 3 – Heritage Culture and Environment

An evaluation of the LEADER Programme had been undertaken and was submitted to the Scottish Government in early 2022. The full evaluation and lessons learned were attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The evaluation had helped to assess the impact of the business plan and strategy of the Programme as well as inform the priorities for the new Programme which was announced by the Scottish Government in May 2022.

Guidance had been published on the new Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme in May 2022. Lanarkshire's allocation of funding had been confirmed as £282,826 to cover 9 months between June 2022 and March 2023. The primary purpose of the 2022/2023 funding was to develop capacity and structures of the LAG for delivery of funding in future years.

The Scottish Government had stated that projects must demonstrate that they advanced inclusion, equality and diversity. The overarching principles were set out at section 5.3 of the report. South Lanarkshire Council would administer the Programme as the Accountable Body and would be supported by the existing team in Economic Development. The CLLD funding had allowed for up to 15% of the total allocation or a maximum of £57,142 of the allocation to be used for staff costs and the reduced budget had impacted on the resources available to support delivery. This was detailed at section 5.5 of the report.

As part of the consultation and development of a rural vision, it had been proposed that a rural conference be delivered in October 2022 which would raise awareness of CLLD and other funding. The funding of the conference would be drawn from the CLLD Programme.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the outcomes of the evaluation of the LEADER 2014 to 2020 Programme, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the development and delivery of the Rural Community Led Local Development Programme, as set out at sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the delivery of a rural conference as part of the consultation and community process, as set out at section 5.7, be approved.

12 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

A report dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted advising of the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and outlining the proposed approach for the Council's input into the proposed Glasgow City Region Investment Plan.

The UKSPF was the UK Government's intended replacement for the EU Structural Funds. The concept was first outlined in 2017, however, little substantive information was made available until the "pre-launch guidance" was published on 2 February 2022. This was followed by the publication of the full prospectus on 13 April 2022 by the UK Government. The UKSPF formed part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Strategy which targeted areas most in need. The overall aim of the UKSPF was levelling up economic opportunity across the regions and to build "Pride of Place" through economic actions.

The UK Government had confirmed a 3 year UKSPF budget of £2.6 billion. There was a commitment to ensure that the sums received in the devolved nations matched those allocated under the previous EU Structural Fund Programmes. Within the budget, £559 million had been earmarked to fund the "Multiply" adult numeracy initiative and each area would need to invest a ring-fenced amount of the fund in local Multiply interventions. Of the £559 million, £129 million would be managed centrally by the UK Department of Education for a UK-wide digital platform for adult numeracy and a programme of evaluation.

Scotland had received 8.5% of the UK total, which was broadly equivalent to the EU Structural Funds received in the period 2014 to 2020. The prospectus provided an allocation by individual local authority and by regional economic partnership area. Glasgow City Region had received an allocation of £73.9 million and the allocation for South Lanarkshire was £12.2 million.

The UKSPF identified 3 investment themes as follows:-

- ◆ Communities and Place
- ◆ Supporting Local Business
- ◆ People and Skills

Following the publication of the prospectus, lead authorities were invited to submit Investment Plans to the UK Government and the timetable for the process was detailed at section 6 of the report.

The pre-launch guidance had encouraged, but did not mandate, the use of regional economic partnership, largely based on city/growth deals, as the spatial basis for preparing Investment Plans in Scotland. Accordingly, the Glasgow City Region Cabinet at its meeting on 15 February 2022 had agreed that:-

- ◆ in principle, a regional approach should be pursued to the management of the UKSPF and that the Director of Economic Growth should be authorised to notify the UK Government of the approach
- ◆ the Investment Plan should be developed in conjunction with all 8 member authorities with all necessary approvals at both regional and local level before the final submission in summer 2022

A Glasgow City Region Head of Prosperity Fund had since been appointed and a working group of the UKSPF officer leads in each local authority had been established which met on a regular basis. While the intention was to submit a single Investment Plan which covered the City Region, much of the delivery and project management would remain at local authority level.

The Council had flexibility in the interventions that could be supported in the authority area as part of the City Region Investment Plan. It was suggested that the Council should aim to develop interventions of broadly equal scale under the 3 investment objectives of the UKSPF. A full list of the Council's chosen objectives was included within Appendix 1 of the report.

Officers answered members' questions on various aspects of the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the publication of the UKSPF prospectus, including the associated financial allocations, be noted;
- (2) that the general approach to the development of the Glasgow City Regional Investment Plan, as outlined in sections 7 and 8 of the report, be approved;
- (3) that the priorities for South Lanarkshire as set out in Appendix 1, be approved; and
- (4) that it be noted that further reports would be submitted to the Committee on the detailed outcome of the Investment Plan and progress on delivery.

13 Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Proposal to Create a Rural Development Centre at Lanark Racecourse

A report dated 19 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted:-

- ♦ providing an update on revised proposals for delivery of a Rural Development Centre following the successful application for funding from the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF)
- ♦ seeking approval to progress with the project in line with the revised proposals
- ♦ outlining the wider work being implemented to support Lanark Racecourse

The Council had submitted a successful application to the Scottish Government's RCGF in October 2015 and had received £1 million to support the development of a Clydesdale Rural Development Centre in Lanark.

The project submitted had followed community consultation, market appraisal and a detailed feasibility plan which had been prepared together with Lanark Community Development Trust, Healthy Valleys and Lanark Lanimer Committee. The original proposal had been to purchase a derelict site (Alston's Yard) on Ladyacre Road. During 2016, negotiations had reached an impasse and it was clear that the project could not be delivered at this site. The Committee had considered a report in March 2018 with proposals to locate the facility at the stone rotunda at Braidfute Retail Park. Despite best efforts from officers and community partners, the project could not be delivered at this location due to a change of ownership in the property and a subsequent change in approach in the owners' management strategy.

Alternative options had been explored and, through working with colleagues in Estates, an opportunity had been identified at Lanark Racecourse on the site of a demolished building. The Scottish Government had confirmed its agreement to the revised proposal and for an extension to deliver a Lanimer Shed and Rural Business Centre. Discussions had also taken place with community representatives and potential occupiers who had all indicated their support of the project. The revised project plan would ensure that there was no capital or ongoing revenue costs to the Council.

The site was part of the Common Good and was detailed at the appendix to the report. Appropriate Common Good consultations, to fulfil the requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, would need to be carried out and an architect team appointed who would develop a scheme for tendering and implementation, subject to all statutory consents being in place.

Discussions had taken place around the development of the 2 facilities and had highlighted the significance of the Lanark Racecourse facility as a local asset which was greatly valued by all who would use it. An opportunity via the Place Based Investment Fund had become available to create a plan for future investment in the overall area. The Lanark Racecourse Masterplan and Priority project would commence soon. This would be an extensive piece of work, acknowledging the Common Good status of the land, and consultation events would be held to ensure close working with the community and users of the site. The outcome, following consultation, would be reported in 2023.

It was noted that the last bullet point at section 4.7 of the report referred to Lanark Community Development Trust (LCDT), however, this should have been the Lanimer Committee. Although the LCDT had played a key part of the project in earlier iterations, it did not currently have an active role in the delivery but confirmed its ongoing interest and support for the project at the racecourse.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes to the project to deliver a Clydesdale Rural Development Centre in Lanark be approved;
- (2) that the ongoing work of the Economic Development Service, in consultation with Legal and Property Services, to implement Common Good consultations, secure approvals and agreements with parties, including Lanark Lanimer Committee and Healthy Valleys, which would be subject to reports to the appropriate committees, be noted;
- (3) that the investment of the RCGF to create a Lanimer Shed and business space to form a Rural Development Centre on land at Lanark Racecourse be taken forward; and
- (4) that it be noted that consultancy work was being undertaken to consider the future use and management of the wider racecourse asset.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 March 2018 (Paragraph 12)]

14 Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme 2022/2023

A report dated 19 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted was submitted on:-

- ◆ the progress made during 2021/2022 in implementing the South Lanarkshire Delivery Plan for the Scottish Government financed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF)
- ◆ the proposed VDLF Programme for 2022/2023

The Scottish Government had allocated £697,000 to the Council for the VDLF in 2020/2021 and a Local Delivery Plan had been approved by the Committee on 31 March 2020 to implement the following key objectives:-

- ◆ tackle long-term vacant and derelict land
- ◆ stimulate economic growth and wealth creation
- ◆ develop a diverse sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening
- ◆ support communities to flourish and tackle inequalities

Details were provided on the progress achieved in 2021/2022.

The Scottish Government allocation to South Lanarkshire for the VDLF in 2022/2023 was £737,000. A Local Delivery Plan had been submitted to the Scottish Government. Details of the Delivery Plan were provided in the report and it was proposed that allocation of funding would be as follows:-

- ♦ Clyde Gateway URC, Cuningar Loop Phase 3 Greening - £500,000
- ♦ South Lanarkshire Council Food Growing Facility, Cuningar Loop Phase 3 - £237,000

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress achieved during 2021/2022 in delivering the agreed Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Programme in South Lanarkshire be noted; and
- (2) that the allocation of funds in the 2022/2023 Vacant and Derelict Land Fund Delivery Plan, as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 September 2021 (Paragraph 9)]

15 Renaming of Forth Recreation Ground to Jim Paton Recreation Ground

A report dated 20 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on renaming the recreation ground at Forth.

In recognition of the significant work of Jim Paton with youths in the village, Forth Development Trust had requested permission from the Council to change the name of Forth Recreation Ground to Jim Paton Recreation Ground. A sign, funded by Forth Development Trust, would be erected with the new name. Forth Primary School would also be dedicating an annual shield in memory of Jim, the “Jim Paton Football Shield”.

Forth Development Trust had obtained permission from the family at the outset which was followed by community consultation by inclusion in the Forth Grapevine Newsletter, a copy of which which was attached as an appendix to the report. The proposal had also been promoted at the Community Open Day on 14 May 2022 and no objections were raised.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the recreation ground behind Willie Waddell Sports Centre be renamed ‘Jim Paton Recreation Ground’; and
- (2) that a sign, funded by Forth Development Trust, be erected with the new name.

16 Realignment of Community and Enterprise Resources’ Senior Management Structure

A report dated 25 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted providing an update on the realignment of the senior management structure for Community and Enterprise Resources.

Over the last year, significant changes had occurred across all areas of the Community and Enterprise Resources’ senior management structure, with most Heads of Service retiring over the course of the year. The changes at senior management level provided an opportunity to review and modernise the management structure of the Resource. This included the remit of Heads of Service to meet the challenges of a dynamic operational environment and to better align with the emerging direction of the Council.

The current structure for Community and Enterprise Resources was provided in Appendix 1 to the report and the proposed revised structure was provided in Appendix 2 to the report. The proposed new senior management structure of the Resource maintained the same number of Heads of Service and, therefore, would be cost neutral.

The case for change was set out at section 5 of the report and the following areas of Service realignment had been developed:-

- ◆ Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services
- ◆ Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services
- ◆ Planning and Regulatory Services
- ◆ Enterprise and Sustainable Development

The Committee decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

17 Town Centre and Place Based Investment Programme Update and Funding Award 2022/2023

A report dated 25 July 2022 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted:-

- ◆ providing an update on the Place Based Investment Programme (PBIP) for 2021/2022
- ◆ providing an update on the year 2 allocation from the Scottish Government

In February 2021, the Scottish Government had announced, in its Programme for Government, that a PBIP would be implemented over the 5-year period of the next parliament. The funding was targeted at addressing some of the challenges faced by Scotland's places across the country. The Council had been awarded £2.003 million for the financial year 2021/2022 and this had been fully committed. A comprehensive update on the current status of projects funded in year one from the following funding streams was provided in Appendix 1 to the report:-

- ◆ Place Based Investment Programme
- ◆ Town Centre Capital Fund
- ◆ Regeneration Capital Grant Fund

The Council had now received the PBIP allocation totalling £1.74 million for the second year of the Programme, 2022/2023. Confirmation had also been received that £1.213 million of funding would be allocated in the remaining 3 years of the Programme. Total funding over the 5-year period would amount to approximately £7.382 million.

The objectives of the fund were linked to the improvement of places rather than being solely focused on town centres. Consequently, the allocation of the fund could cover all towns, villages and settlements in South Lanarkshire. This included neighbourhood centres which were not previously eligible and had allowed the appraisal process to recognise areas and assets beyond designated town centres. This might need to be revisited and widened in future years, but for year 2, the criteria would remain the same. Any changes made to the criteria would be reported to the Committee.

As agreed at the meeting of this Committee held on 29 June 2021, a process of direct allocation of funding projects had been used in the first year and it was proposed that a bidding process would be used for the allocation of funding in future years, commencing in the financial year 2022/2023. Due to the local government elections in May 2022, the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was given delegated authority to award funding in line with the previously accepted criteria.

The approved year 2 project list was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, had been notified of the decision and an offer of grant letter issued, where appropriate. Officers from the Economic Development Service would work with the successful applicants to ensure projects were completed in line with project plans and agreed timescales. This would include the initial baseline surveys requested by the Scottish Government to ensure the projects were accurately monitored and in line with the fund requirements.

The Committee would be updated with 6 monthly reviews, annual reports and project end reviews in line with the Scottish Government requirements.

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

A full discussion followed on the East Kilbride Civic Masterplan and the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) advised that work was ongoing and that an interim report would be presented at the next meeting of this Committee or the East Kilbride Area Committee, dependent on the progress made.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress in year one of project delivery of the PBIP be noted;
- (2) that the outcome of the year 2 application and assessment process to date be noted; and
- (3) that an update be provided on the East Kilbride Civic Masterplan at either the next meeting of this Committee or the East Kilbride Area Committee, dependent on the progress made.

[Reference: Minutes of 7 December 2021 (Paragraph 7)]

18 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.