

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 3 November 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Ross (ex officio)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Maureen Chalmers (Depute), Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Maureen Devlin, Councillor Isobel Dorman, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow (*substitute for Councillor Poppy Corbett*), Councillor Mark McGeever (*substitute for Councillor Robert Brown*), Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Eileen Logan, Councillor Joe Lowe, Councillor Katy Loudon, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor David Shearer, Councillor David Watson (*substitute for Councillor Jim Wardhaugh*), Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Poppy Corbett, Councillor Jim McGuigan, Councillor Jim Wardhaugh

Attending:

Chief Executive's Service

C Sneddon, Chief Executive

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director

Education Resources

C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education)

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; C Fergusson, Head of Finance (Transactions); R Leith, Community, Participation and Development Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; K McLeod, Administration Assistant; K McVeigh, Head of Personnel Services

Housing and Technical Resources

D Lowe, Executive Director

Health and Social Care/Social Work Resources

S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Chalmers	Review of Financial Advice and Support	Referred to her Register of Interests

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22 September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 6: 1 April 2021 to 10 September 2021

A report dated 21 September 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the overall financial position of the Council's General Fund Revenue Account and Housing Revenue Account for the period 1 April 2021 to 10 September 2021.

Since the previous update submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2021, further information had become available in relation to cost pressures which were attributable to COVID-19, as detailed in the report. The Council had also been notified of 4 new funding allocations for COVID and those were also detailed in the report. Total funding now amounted to £59.661 million, of which £27.402 million was specific, leaving £32.259 million to meet other COVID cost pressures. The updated cost position showed an estimated £18.649 million of spend to be met from the funding in 2021/2022. The revised funding and costs had been added to the Cost of Recovery position, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The total COVID net expenditure, before funding, at 10 September 2021 amounted to £14.016 million. This was an increase of £6.040 million on the previously reported figure. Those costs were partially offset by specific funding of £10.121 million, leaving costs of £3.895 million to be met from the non-specific funding. A full breakdown of the position to 10 September 2021 was provided in Appendix 3 to the report.

At 10 September 2021, the position on the General Fund Revenue Account was an overspend of £0.120 million, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Housing Revenue Account showed a breakeven position at 10 September 2021, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

There followed a full discussion on various aspects of the report during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions
- ◆ advised that a number of the issues raised would be addressed at the Members' Awareness Session to be held on 19 November 2021

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the net overspend of £0.120 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 10 September 2021, after COVID-19 spend and funding, as detailed in section 4.1 and Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the total net expenditure of £3.895 million, after specific funding in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 10 September 2021, as detailed in section 5.5 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the updated COVID position for 2021/2022, as detailed in section 5.4 of the report, be noted; and
- (4) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 10 September 2021, as detailed in section 6 and Appendix 4 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Programme 2021/2022 Update and Monitoring for Period 6 – 1 April 2021 to 10 September 2021

A report dated 13 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the General Fund Capital Programme and the Housing Capital Programme for the period 1 April 2021 to 10 September 2021.

At its meeting on 22 September 2021, the Committee had agreed a General Fund Capital Programme for 2021/2022 amounting to £83.304 million. A revised programme of £83.477 million was now anticipated. This reflected proposed adjustments to the programme totalling a net increase of £0.173, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. Those adjustments included funding for replacement of the audio visual equipment in the Council Chamber and Committee Room 1. The Executive Director advised that, due to issues in obtaining supplies, this project was not expected to be completed prior to the end of February 2022. Budget for the period amounted to £120.104 million and, at 10 September 2021, £20.181 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme, an overspend of £0.077 million. Actual funding received to 10 September 2021 totalled £57.300 million. The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period was detailed in appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

At its meeting on 22 September 2021, the Committee had agreed a revised Housing Capital Programme for 2021/2022 amounting to £79.640 million. Programmed funding for the year also amounted to £79.640 million. The funding sources were detailed in Appendix 4 to the report. Budget for the period amounted to £31.798 million and, at 10 September 2021, £31.657 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme, an underspend of £0.141 million.

Members having referred to the potential to hold “blended” Committee meetings where attendance could be virtual or in person prior to the end of February 2022, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) undertook to submit a report detailing options and costs to the meeting of the Standards and Procedures Advisory Forum to be held on 30 November 2021.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Period 6 position, as at 10 September 2021, of the General Fund Capital Programme, detailed in appendices 1 to 3 to the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund programme, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (3) that the revised programmes be monitored by the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

Councillor Lowe entered the meeting during this item of business

5 Additional Funding from Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 22 September 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional funding, totalling £4.267 million, which had been made available to the Council by the Scottish Government and other external sources.

The funding had been allocated as follows:-

Revenue Funding

Resource	2021/2022 (£m)
Finance and Corporate	3.391
Housing and Technical	0.462
Total	3.853

Capital Funding

Resource	2021/2022 (£m)
Community and Enterprise	0.414
Total	0.414
Overall Total	4.267

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 22 September 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Community Plan Quarter 4 Progress Report 2020/2021 and Annual Outcome Improvement Report

A report dated 6 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on progress against the outcomes within the Community Plan as at 31 March 2021.

The South Lanarkshire Community Plan, approved in October 2017, set out the priorities and outcomes for the Community Planning Partnership over a 10-year period from 2017 to 2027. The Quarter 4 progress report, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, summarised progress against the Plan to March 2021 and, in line with the target setting requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, set out performance at year 4.

The Annual Outcome Improvement Report, which detailed the progress of the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership during 2020/2021, was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The report provided a summary of progress against the outcomes of the Community Plan using a traffic light system of red/amber/green. A blue status had also been added which indicated that the action to achieve change had been completed. Of the 194 measures contained within the Plan, 3 had been completed, 102 were judged to be on course to achieve the targets set, 12 were judged to be considerably off target and 32 were judged to be slightly off target. There were 6 measures with contextual data and 39 measures for which no data was available except for the baseline set in the Community Plan. The Plan also reflected the updates on neighbourhood planning activity, the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, including a review of the language used, and the removal of the Thematic Partnership Improvement Plans. However, a final update on those was included in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Community Planning Progress Group had carried out a light touch peer review of the Community Plan in early 2021. The revised Community Plan had been approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board on 24 June 2021 and the new/revised indicators were outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

There followed a full discussion on various aspects of the report during which officers:-

- ◆ responded to members' questions
- ◆ undertook to:-
 - ◆ submit a report on the position regarding the East Kilbride rail line and associated matters to a future meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
 - ◆ provide an update to the Clydesdale members regarding the Clydesdale Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)
 - ◆ submit a report to a future meeting of the Education Resources Committee on ways to address the widening gap in school leaver destinations for young people residing in the most and least deprived datazones

In response to a member's request, the Community, Participation and Development Manager undertook to speak to Hillhouse Community Council on Participatory Budgeting.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress made to date against the outcomes within the Community Plan, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) that the content of the Annual Outcome Improvement Report, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

In terms of Standing Order No 13, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11.17am during consideration of this item of business. The meeting reconvened at 11.25am.

7 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 7 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on actions required in respect of land and property transactions.

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

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

8 Review of Financial Advice and Support

A report dated 17 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the review of financial advice and support services provided by the Council and key improvement actions which had been identified as a result of the review.

The review aimed to:-

- ◆ provide an overview of the range of financial support and advice services
- ◆ consider the measures used to assess performance levels
- ◆ explain the links and dependencies to other Council services and organisations
- ◆ identify improvements to the service delivery model for Council services

The core provider of financial advice and support in the Council was the Money Matters Advice Service (MMAS) while the Citizens' Advice Bureaux provided financial advice and support, operating across all 4 South Lanarkshire localities. The review had been progressed by 2 working groups which focussed respectively on the provision of Council services and improvements to the joint working arrangements with Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

The review had identified 16 improvement actions to be taken forward and those were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

It was considered that, by moving the MMAS from Social Work Resources to Finance Transactions within Finance and Corporate Resources, a range of benefits could be gained including:-

- ◆ contribution towards a higher profile of wellbeing services and improved joint working across management teams
- ◆ closer links with the Community Engagement Team within Finance and Corporate Resources and the remit over tackling poverty and provision of support to customers

- ◆ closer links with the Wellbeing Team within Finance and Corporate Resources and the provision of support to customers

It was proposed that the MMAS Manager would report directly to the Head of Finance (Transactions) and the Service would operate independently of the Benefits and Revenues Service. The Service would also work towards accreditation through the Scottish National Standards for debt advice administered by the Scottish Legal Aid Board over the next 2 years. The proposed new service structure was detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the summary of the review of financial advice and support be noted;
- (2) that the range of actions detailed in section 6 and Appendix 2 to the report specifying improvements to internal systems and processes, customer engagement, investment in staff and joint working with Citizens Advice Bureaux, be noted; and
- (3) that the transfer of Money Matters Advice Service from Social Work Resources to Finance and Corporate Resources be approved

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

9 South Lanarkshire Council Response to the Scottish Government's National Care Service Consultation

A report dated 30 September 2021 by the Chief Executive was submitted on the draft South Lanarkshire Council response to the Scottish Government's National Care Service consultation.

The findings of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care (IRASC), published in February 2021, included a recommendation that a National Care Service (NCS) be established on an equal footing with NHS Scotland, with both bodies reporting to the Scottish Ministers. Subsequently, in August 2021, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on the NCS which covered a wide range of the topics encompassed by the IRASC and went beyond that original remit.

The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) expressed concern that the proposals had been drafted without engagement with local government and had serious implications for local authorities, endangering the principles of localism and the ability of local people to be engaged in democratic decisions about how their local services were delivered. This view was endorsed by all political parties at the COSLA Leaders' meeting on 24 September 2021 where there was cross party support for local retention of responsibility and accountability for social care and consensus that the NCS, as proposed, would significantly undermine local democracy, accountability and choice across a wide range of services. The Council's draft response to the consultation, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, aligned with that consensus cross party view.

Details were given on the content and structure of the draft response which was presented in a narrative format, structured thematically, taking into account the sections and themes within the consultation paper. It was considered that this format allowed:-

- ◆ appropriate weight to be given to topics which were a crucial part of the debate but which were not the subject of specific questions
- ◆ detailed exploration of specific issues
- ◆ proper contextualisation of the issues

The format also avoided the limitations of the "tick box" questionnaire approach.

If approved, the response would be submitted to the Scottish Government as the Council's response to the NCS consultation.

The Committee decided: that the draft South Lanarkshire Council response to the National Care Service consultation, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and submitted to the Scottish Government.

Councillor Harrow left the meeting during this item of business

10 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies – Publication of Initial Proposals

A report dated 14 October 2021 by the Chief Executive was submitted providing an update on the Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies and the Publication of Initial Proposals.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland was responsible for reviewing Constituencies in Scotland for the UK Parliament. Full reviews of UK Parliamentary constituencies were undertaken every 5 years and the next review would take place in 2023. The Boundary Commission for Scotland published its Initial Proposals for a new map of UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland on 14 October 2021 which marked the start of an 8 week consultation period which would conclude on 8 December 2021.

The UK Parliament had retained 650 constituencies for the review in 2023 and, in Scotland, the 59 existing constituencies would be reduced to 57. The boundaries of 2 of those constituencies, Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland, were defined in legislation and would not be subject to review.

Details were given on:-

- ♦ the criteria for the remaining 55 constituencies
- ♦ the proposed constituencies covering the South Lanarkshire Council Area
- ♦ proposals with a particular impact on existing boundaries within the South Lanarkshire area

Appendix 1 of the report provided details of the relationship between current and proposed constituencies and South Lanarkshire electoral wards.

Details were given on where the maps of the Initial Proposals could be viewed and how comments on could be made. The Commission would publish all of the comments received during the initial consultation in early 2022 and invite further comments on those, in addition to holding public hearings. Final recommendations would be submitted by the Commission before 1 July 2023.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Boundary Commission for Scotland's Initial Proposals for the UK Parliament Constituencies, published on 14 October 2021, be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the Initial Proposals were displayed in Rutherglen, East Kilbride and Lanark libraries, at the Cambuslang Institute, at the main entrance to the Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton and were detailed on the Council's website;
- (3) that the statutory consultation period of 8 weeks until 8 December 2021, be noted; and

- (4) that it be noted that comments on the Initial Proposals could be made on the Boundary Commission's consultation portal at www.bcs2023review.com, by email to bcsc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk or by letter to Boundary Commission for Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.

11 Programme for Government 2021

A report dated 7 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on key aspects of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2021/2022 and progression of relevant elements in South Lanarkshire.

The Scottish Government published its Programme for Government (PfG) 2021/2022 on 11 September 2021. Entitled "A fairer, greener Scotland," it set out the Government's key legislative and policy priorities over the current administrative term to 2025/2026 and beyond to 2026/2027

The programme contained the following 5 themes:-

- ◆ establish a caring nation society, setting out a new vision for health and social care
- ◆ create a land of opportunity, supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society
- ◆ secure a net zero nation, ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, enhancing nature and climate resilience in a just and fair way
- ◆ create an economy which worked for all of Scotland's people and places, putting sustainability, wellbeing and fair work at the heart of economic transformation
- ◆ living better, supporting thriving resilient and diverse communities

The Programme had also highlighted a range of high level and more detailed initiatives under the 5 themes and a number of headline actions, identified as relating significantly to local government, were detailed in the report. It also asserted that leading Scotland out of the pandemic remained the foremost priority, together with building a more resilient health and care system, renewing the drive to eradicate child poverty and securing sustainable inclusive growth for everyone.

Appendix 1 to the report showed the following for each of the themes identified in the Programme for Government 2021/2022:-

- ◆ a summary of the relevant element in the Programme
- ◆ the focus from a Council perspective
- ◆ actions identified
- ◆ an indicative timeline and route for reporting to the relevant Committees

Executive Directors would report on relevant aspects of the Programme for Government in their regular Resource Plan monitoring reports to Committee.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that Executive Directors would report on relevant aspects of Programme for Government as part of their regular Resource Plan monitoring reports to Committees.

12 South Lanarkshire Local Housing Strategy Annual Review 2020/2021

A report dated 7 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources) was submitted on the progress achieved during 2020/2021 in delivering the agreed outcomes set out in the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2017 to 2022.

A summary of significant changes, which had taken place both nationally and locally since the last review of the LHS, was provided in the report.

The LHS was structured around 5 chapters and 9 priority outcomes and was monitored through 95 indicators, comprising 65 actions and 30 measures, which showed that:-

- ◆ 9 indicators had been completed in full
- ◆ 70 indicators were categorised as green and were on course to achieve with no issues anticipated
- ◆ 10 indicators were categorised as amber with some minor slippage against targets
- ◆ 1 indicator was categorised as red with below anticipated performance
- ◆ 5 indicators would be reported at a later date

Actions to address the red and amber indicators were detailed in the report together with highlights in areas where good progress had been identified. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the review had identified that the Council and its housing, health and homelessness partners had made good progress in 2020/2021 towards delivering on the current, agreed LHS priority outcomes.

The Council would continue to monitor, influence and, where possible, enact any national policy changes which related to the LHS, including the associated impact and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 9)]

13 Amendments to Memberships of Committees, Forums and Joint Boards/Outside Bodies

A report dated 14 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ proposed amendments to the membership of various Committees, Forums, Joint Boards and Outside Bodies following recent changes in the political composition of the Council
- ◆ a change in the membership of the Equal Opportunities Forum

As a result of recent changes in the membership of the Conservative and Independent Groups, it was proposed that the composition of Committees be amended. Details of the current and proposed committee memberships were provided in Appendix 1 to the report. It was also proposed that changes be made to memberships of certain Joint Boards and Partnership/Outside Bodies, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Following a request from the Labour Group Business Manager, it was proposed that Councillor Razzaq replace Councillor Lennon as a member of the Equal Opportunities Forum and that Councillor Lennon fill the resulting vacancy as a substitute member.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the changes in membership of the Conservative and Independent Groups, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be noted;
- (2) that, to reflect the current political composition of the Council:-
 - ♦ amendments to the committee memberships, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved
 - ♦ amendments to the memberships of certain Joint Boards/Outside Bodies, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (3) that Councillor Razzaq replace Councillor Lennon as a member of the Equal Opportunities Forum and that Councillor Lennon fill the resulting vacancy as a substitute member; and
- (4) that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the political/independent groups and independent members, to finalise memberships as a consequence of the changes outlined in Recommendation (2).

14 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.