

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 December 2020

Chair:

Councillor John Ross

Councillors Present:

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

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Colin McGavigan, Councillor Jim McGuigan

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; 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

Social Work Resources/Health and Social Care

V de Souza, Director

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 4 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Capital Programme 2020/2021 Monitoring for Period 8 – 1 April to 6 November 2020

A report dated 25 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the physical and financial progress at 6 November 2020 on the various capital programmes.

At its meeting on 4 November 2020, the Committee had approved a General Fund Capital Programme totalling £85.090 million and a Housing Capital Programme of £48.172 million. A revised programme for the General Fund Capital Programme, totalling £83.433 million, was now anticipated. This included adjustments representing a net decrease of £1.657 million, which were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. No new adjustments were proposed for the Housing Capital Programme

At 6 November 2020, £29.242 million had been spent on the General Fund Capital Programme and £19.797 million had been spent on the Housing Capital Programme.

The programme spend and funding for the General Fund for the period to 6 November 2020 was detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 to the report. Details of the position for the Housing Capital Programme at 6 November 2020 were provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

In response to a member's question regarding the potential to bring forward and fund the Clyde Bridge replacement project, the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) advised that, if the project was in a position to be brought forward, funding could be made available in the relevant financial year.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the period 8 position of the General Fund Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 to the report, and the Housing Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the adjustments to the General Fund Capital Programme, as 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 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Revenue Budget Monitoring for Period 8 – 1 April to 6 November 2020

A report dated 16 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted:-

- ♦ providing an update on the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget for the General Fund, taking account of the financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic
- ♦ detailing the expenditure and income for the Revenue Budget to 6 November 2020
- ♦ detailing the expenditure and income position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to 6 November 2020

The figures showed an underspend of £2.980 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 Appendix 1 to the report. Details were also provided on the Council's predicted COVID-19 net spend of £4.657 million for 2020/2021, taking account of additional grant funding and other savings.

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

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the net underspend of £2.980 million on the General Fund Revenue Account at 6 November 2020, after COVID-19 spend and funding, be noted;
- (2) that the breakeven position on the Housing Revenue Account at 6 November 2020 and the forecast to 31 March 2021 of a breakeven position be noted;
- (3) that the total net expenditure and lost income of £14.438 million in relation to COVID-19, offset by Government Grant included in the Council's position as at 6 November 2020, be noted;
- (4) that the pressures experienced in Children and Families Services and Adults and Older People Services be noted; and
- (5) that the Council's predicted COVID-19 spend of £4.657 million for 2020/2021 be noted.

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

5 Additional Funding from the Scottish Government and Other External Sources

A report dated 26 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on additional revenue funding, totalling £5.749 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	2020/2021 (£m)
Finance and Corporate	0.178
Various	1.244
Community and Enterprise	4.327
Total	5.749

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

6 Workforce Monitoring Information – April to September 2020

A report dated 9 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on workforce monitoring information relating to the Council for the period April to September 2020 as follows:-

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

Officers responded to members' questions in relation to absences attributable to the coronavirus pandemic and on various other aspects of the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 December 2019 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Land and Property Transfers and Disposals

A report dated 26 November 2020 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.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the land and property detailed Appendix A to the report be transferred between Resources; and
- (2) that the land, as detailed Appendix B to the report, be declared surplus to Council requirements.

8 Review of Current Parking Management Arrangements

A report dated 15 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted:-

- ♦ providing an update on the Member/Officer Working Group established to review current parking management arrangements
- ♦ requesting formal approval of the terms of reference for the Working Group

On 15 September 2020, the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee considered a report which provided feedback on the Parking Demand Management Review (PDMR) and a Parking Impact Assessment. The report also recommended reinstatement of all parking charges at previous tariff levels, following suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a full discussion, the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee had referred the report to a future meeting of the Executive Committee, however, it was also agreed that the report be referred to a future meeting of the Recovery Board prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee.

On 21 October 2020, the Recovery Board agreed that on street parking charges be reinstated, as soon as reasonably practicable, and that a Member/Officer Working Group be established to consider off street parking arrangements.

The purpose of the Member/Officer Working Group was to review current parking arrangements, including charging practices, in relation to:-

- ♦ whether current arrangements remained appropriate
- ♦ whether current arrangements required to be further developed and, if so, in which areas
- ♦ interim arrangements for the reinstatement of off street car parking charges, if considered appropriate

The inaugural meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group was held on 20 November 2020 and the Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, now required to be formally approved by the Executive Committee. The Working Group required to conclude its review in sufficient time to allow any consequences to be considered as part of the budgetary process.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Reference: Minutes of Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 15 September 2020 (Paragraph 12))

9 Recommendations Referred from Resource Committees

A report dated 25 November 2020 by the Chief Executive was submitted on a recommendation referred to this Committee by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee of 4 November 2020.

The recommendation of the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee was that the Council's Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 and action plan for year 1 be approved.

The Committee decided: that the recommendation referred by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee in relation to the Council's Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025 and action plan for year 1 be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of Climate Change and Sustainability Committee of 4 November 2020 (Paragraph 5)]

10 Local Child Poverty Action Report

A report dated 17 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced a new requirement for local authorities and each relevant Health Board to prepare Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR) as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each reporting year.

The report required to contain any measures taken in the area of the local authority during the reporting year and planned measures for the year ahead. Those would contribute to the 4 national income based child poverty reduction targets to be achieved by 2030 as follows:-

- ◆ less than 10% of children in relative poverty
- ◆ less than 5% of children in absolute poverty
- ◆ less than 5% of children in combined low income and material deprivation
- ◆ less than 5% of children in persistent poverty

The Poverty and Inequality Commission had been tasked by the Scottish Government to provide feedback on all the local action reports. Feedback on the South Lanarkshire LCPAR had been positive. In addition, the South Lanarkshire LCPAR had been used as an example of good practice for other local authorities and health boards.

Details were given on the:-

- ◆ scope of the LCPAR
- ◆ impact of COVID-19 on the publication of the LCPAR together with the increased challenges faced in reducing child poverty as a result of the pandemic

Actions against the following key improvement areas were presented within the LCPAR, which was attached as an appendix to the report:-

- ◆ increased income from benefits and entitlements
- ◆ reducing the costs of living
- ◆ increasing income from employment

An ongoing action for the year would be to continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic to mitigate an increase in child poverty.

The Committee decided: that the content of the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2020/2021 be noted.

11 Programme for Government 2020/2021

A report dated 30 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on key aspects of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2020/2021.

The Scottish Government published its Programme for Government 2020/2021 on 1 September 2020. A key aspect of the Programme was to keep COVID-19 suppressed, or, if possible, eliminated, with a key role to be played by the COVID-19 route map. Its focus was to deliver a fairer, more prosperous and greener Scotland.

The programme contained the following 3 themes:-

- ◆ a national mission to create new jobs, good jobs and green jobs
- ◆ promoting lifelong health and wellbeing
- ◆ promoting equality and helping young people fulfil their potential

The Scottish Fiscal Commission had highlighted the economic context within which the Programme for Government would operate as follows:-

- ◆ the potential rise in unemployment in Scotland to 267,000, or 9.6% by the end of 2020
- ◆ younger people's labour market prospects being more adversely affected
- ◆ significant increase in claimant count but rise in Universal Credit claimants faster due to impact on earnings increasing eligibility
- ◆ slower growth of Scottish productivity than was forecast pre-COVID-19
- ◆ GDP remaining below the level seen before the COVID-19 crisis began and potential to take until 2023 for GDP to recover to its pre-crisis level
- ◆ some permanent damage to the Scottish economy, with the effects still felt in the years ahead

In South Lanarkshire, between January and July 2020:-

- ◆ the claimant unemployment count had increased from 6,830 to 13,470 (an increase of 6,640 or 97%)
- ◆ the numbers in receipt of Universal Credit had increased from 16,370 to 29,811 (an increase of 13,441 or 82%)

Appendix 1 to the report showed, for each of the themes identified in the Programme for Government 2020/2021:-

- ◆ 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.

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 it be noted that Executive Directors would report on relevant aspects of the Programme for Government as part of their regular Resource Plan monitoring reports to Committees.

12 Local Governance Review Update

A report dated 27 November 2020 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the current status of the Local Governance Review.

The Review, which had been launched jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA in December 2017, would consider how powers, responsibilities and resources were shared across national and local spheres of government and with communities. The first phase of the Review had included 2 specific strands, the first strand comprised a programme of community engagement which invited people to join a conversation about community decision-making, called Democracy Matters. Strand 2 included a consultation with public sector bodies to which the Council had responded in December 2018.

The outcome of the first phase was that there was a clear desire for transformative change, based on a belief that democracy mattered and in the sovereignty of communities.

The second phase of the Review involved the development and testing of proposals and public sector leaders had been invited to submit proposals to be considered as formal pilots or test of change sites. Proposals required to take account of fiscal, functional and community empowerment and be developed in conjunction with public sector partners and local communities. The Local Governance Review Joint Programme Board had been due to consider proposals in April 2020 before making recommendations to the Joint Political Oversight Group for decision, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, progress halted between March and August 2020.

On 20 October 2020, COSLA advised that the next phase of the Review would be limited to considering in more detail the potential for a new tier of democratic governance at community level. This proposal suggested that it would lead to a move of power and responsibilities from councils to the enhanced Community Council tier, with no consideration of devolution of powers to Councils from other bodies, including the Scottish Government, nor of further integration and democratic control of public services. COSLA had expressed its disappointment to the Scottish Government in relation to the unilateral decision taken without consultation and noted that only community empowerment had progressed with no mention of

fiscal or functional empowerment. COSLA reiterated that the 3 empowerments, community, functional and fiscal, should be progressed at the same time to deliver real and lasting progress.

The Scottish Government responded to COSLA recommitting to the delivery of the Review's objectives in full and, jointly with COSLA, recommending an agreed programme of consolidation of proposals submitted from councils. The final proposals required to be submitted by 6 November 2020 to allow them to be considered by the Review's Joint Programme Board on 18 November 2020.

It was anticipated that the conclusions of the Review would be reflected in a Local Governance Bill to be promoted after the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May 2021.

The Committee decided: that the update on the Local Governance Review be noted.

13 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.