

COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 16 February 2021

Chair:

Councillor John Anderson

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Bradley, Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Gerry Convery, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Peter Craig, Councillor Isobel Dorman (Depute), Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Allan Falconer (*substitute for Councillor Margaret B Walker*), Councillor Graeme Horne, Councillor Martin Grant Hose, Councillor Ann Le Blond, Councillor Hugh Macdonald, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Catherine McClymont, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Richard Nelson, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Collette Stevenson, Councillor David Watson, Councillor Josh Wilson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor John Ross (*ex officio*), Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

M McGlynn, Executive Director; S Clelland, Head of Fleet and Environmental Services; P Elliott, Head of Planning and Economic Development; G Mackay, Head of Roads and Transportation Services; A McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Ground Services

Finance and Corporate Resources

M M Cairns, Legal Services Manager; N Docherty, Administration Assistant; L Harvey, Finance Manager; P MacRae, Administration Adviser; E Maxwell, Human Resources Business Partner; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); S Terry, Web Journalist

1 Declaration of Interests

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
Dorman	Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications	Member of Friends of Stonehouse Park
McClymont	A Vision for Lanark	Member of Lanark Community Development Trust

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee held on 24 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Councillor Fagan referred to:-

- ♦ item 13 of the minutes and advised that he had asked Audit Scotland for comments and would share any information received
- ♦ the items relating to town centres and requested an update on progress in relation to the town centre bids and initiatives considered at the meeting

The Executive Director undertook to provide an update on town centre bids and initiatives to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

3 Community and Enterprise Resources - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2020/2021

A joint report dated 22 January 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 1 January 2021 against budgeted expenditure for 2020/2021 for Community and Enterprise Resources and providing a forecast for the year to 31 March 2021.

Following the probable outturn exercise, there was a reported overspend for the Resource of £8.722 million before transfers to reserves and £9.169 million after transfers to reserves of £0.447 million. This included the forecast cost of £9.199 million in respect of COVID-19.

At 1 January 2021, the position was an overspend of £5.875 million before transfers to reserves and £6.227 million after transfer to reserves. Details were also provided on proposed budget virements in respect of Community and Enterprise Resources to realign budgets.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the forecast to 31 March 2021 of an overspend of £8.722 million before transfers to reserves, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, and an overspend of £9.169 million after transfers to reserves be noted;
- (2) that an overspend of £5.875 million as at 1 January 2021, as detailed in Appendix A of the report, and of £6.227 million, after transfers to reserves, be noted; and
- (3) that the proposed budget virements, as detailed in appendices B to G of the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 November 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Community and Enterprise Resources - Capital Budget Monitoring 2020/2021

A joint report dated 20 January 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital programme 2020/2021 and summarising the expenditure position at 1 January 2021.

The revised capital programme for 2020/2021, as agreed at the 16 December 2020 Executive Committee, amounted to £37.622 million and, at 1 January 2021, expenditure was £17.349 million. The projected outturn for the current financial year was £35.200 million. This represented an underspend of £2.400 million and reflected anticipated timing of spend on a number of projects. In addition, £0.300 million related to savings achieved on works completed within the Roads Investment Programme this financial year which would be carried forward into 2021/2022 to allow additional works to be carried out.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resources' capital budget programme of £37.622 million, and expenditure to date of £17.349 million, be noted;
- (2) that the projected outturn of £35.200 million be noted; and

- (3) that it be noted that the saving of £0.300 million on the Roads Investment Programme would be carried forward and used to undertake additional projects in 2021/2022.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 November 2020 (Paragraph 4) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Community and Enterprise Resources - Workforce Monitoring – October to December 2020

A joint report dated 12 January 2021 by the Executive Directors (Community and Enterprise Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Community and Enterprise Resources for the period October to December 2020:-

- ◆ 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 14 September 2020

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 November 2020 (Paragraph 5)]

Councillor Stevenson joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business

6 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Trial

A report dated 21 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the progress of the PACE Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Trial project involving Transport Scotland, Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), North Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Council
- ◆ the preparation of legal agreements and necessary lease and licensing arrangements in relation to the project
- ◆ the cost pressures relating to energy and usage and the investigation of future tariffs for the use of public EV charging points

The Climate Change Bill and the Scottish Government's 2019 declaration of a climate emergency highlighted the need for a national transport plan. In order to meet the Scottish Government's ambition to phase out new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, the transition to electric powered vehicles was a key delivery component.

South Lanarkshire Council, together with North Lanarkshire Council, had been selected by Transport Scotland and SPEN to trial a new and innovative approach to the provision of clean energy for transport. The joint project was now known as Project PACE.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, SPEN and North Lanarkshire Council, proposals had been developed and were being implemented to provide an enhanced network of EV public charging infrastructure across Lanarkshire. It was estimated that approximately £2.5 million would be invested in South Lanarkshire, with a similar amount being invested in North Lanarkshire.

Work was scheduled to commence in late March 2020 and be completed by the end of 2020, but this was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised programme for South Lanarkshire would see all sites completed by spring 2021.

Progress had been made in relation to the preparation of legal agreements and the necessary lease and licence arrangements for access to and for the use of Council assets and land. The overall Collaboration Agreement, including template leases and licences, was signed in August 2020. Work continued for individual site leases and licences for 20 sites were completed in January 2021.

The project presented multiple benefits to the Council in relation to carbon reduction, tackling barriers to financial inclusion and connectivity within communities, and provided opportunities to build on the work already delivered in relation to the growing EV public charging infrastructure network. The completion of the PACE project would see the EV charging infrastructure network in South Lanarkshire increase by 145%. Additionally, a further 18 dual chargers at 7 locations would be installed as part of another EV funding stream provided by Transport Scotland.

Details of the selected charging hub locations, the overall status of the works and the anticipated programme were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

It had been intended that SPEN would be responsible for the charge points/hubs from implementation to the end of the trial, expected to be around 31 December 2021, however, the EU Clean Energy Package came into effect on 1 January 2021 and had been transferred into UK Law. This prevented SPEN, as licensee, from owning, developing, managing, or operating an EV recharging point. As a result, it was proposed to transfer ownership of the hubs to the Council sooner than set out in the original Collaboration Agreement on a site-by-site basis. The requirement of a Memorandum of Understanding with Transport Scotland and each Council would need to be confirmed.

There were increased pressures associated with the ongoing electricity costs which would fall to the Council in the short term. Costs for 2020/2021 were expected to be in the region of £0.045 million, although demand would be impacted upon due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Those additional costs would be managed as a short-term funding pressure pending the development of options for cost recovery.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the content of the report and progress on the project be noted;
- (2) that the Executive Director of Community and Enterprise Resources, in consultation with the Head of Administration and Legal Services, be authorised to commence the process of:-
 - ◆ transferring novating the maintenance contract
 - ◆ revising the Collaboration Agreement to allow ownership of the assets to be transferred to South Lanarkshire Council
 - ◆ entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Transport Scotland, if necessary
- (3) that the increased cost pressures relating to energy and the intention to explore the use of tariffs to potentially recover those costs be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 4 February 2020 (Paragraph 8)]

7 Renewable Energy Fund (REF) – Micro Grant Funds

A report dated 25 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the delivery of the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) micro grant funds.

At its meeting on 30 October 2018, the Committee approved a number of changes to the REF. One of the changes was the introduction of micro grant funds to Community Councils or other suitable local community organisations on a trial basis for 2 years. Community Councils, or organisations within an eligible 10km area of a contributing windfarm, could apply to REF for a maximum of £5,000 on an annual basis and each organisation would promote, administer and award micro grants of up to £500 within that Community Council area.

The micro grant fund was launched in February 2019 and all 34 Community Councils were invited to attend briefing sessions and apply to administer micro grant funds. Details were provided in Appendix 1 to the report on the 31 successful applications in 2019/2020 and the 21 successful applications to date in 2020/2021. The decrease in the number of organisations running the micro grants and the value awarded in 2020/2021 was attributed to:-

- ◆ difficulties in Community Councils meeting to make award decisions
- ◆ the reduced activity of local sports groups and social clubs due to COVID-19

Following the initial 2-year trial, and after consultation in November 2020 with Community Councils and organisations which delivered the micro grants, it was proposed that:-

- ◆ micro grants continue and become an annual fund within the REF thereby removing the need to seek Committee approval on an annual basis, although officers would review operations and impact on an ongoing basis
- ◆ there would be no change to the scale, or criteria of the micro grant fund

The Committee decided: that, following the initial 2-year trial, the REF micro grants be approved on an ongoing annual award programme within the REF, subject to review by officers.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 October 2018 (Paragraph 6)]

8 Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications

A report dated 25 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on 3 applications to the various Community Benefit Funds. The 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 applicants providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the projects had been secured, a grant be awarded of up to a maximum of:-

- ◆ £89,820.00 towards eligible costs associated with the management and maintenance of the network of routes throughout the Whitelee windfarm area to East Renfrewshire Council from the Whitelee windfarm Renewable Energy Fund
- ◆ £41,469.78 towards eligible costs associated with enhancement of the visitor experience and development of infrastructure to The Little Sparta Trust from the Muirhall windfarm Renewable Energy Fund
- ◆ £107,896.80 towards eligible costs associated with the construction and development of a community hub as a community asset to Friends of Stonehouse Park from Auchrobert windfarms Renewable Energy Fund

Officers responded to a member's question on the report.

The Committee decided:

that, subject to the applicants providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the projects had been secured, a grant be awarded of up to a maximum of:-

- ◆ £89,820.00 towards eligible costs associated with the management and maintenance of the network of routes throughout the Whitelee windfarm area to East Renfrewshire Council from the Whitelee windfarm Renewable Energy Fund
- ◆ £41,469.78 towards eligible costs associated with enhancement of the visitor experience and development of infrastructure to The Little Sparta Trust from the Muirhall windfarm Renewable Energy Fund
- ◆ £107,896.80 towards eligible costs associated with the construction and development of a community hub as a community asset to Friends of Stonehouse Park from Auchrobert windfarms Renewable Energy Fund

[Reference: Minutes of 15 September 2020 (Paragraph 11)]

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

9 Strathaven Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) – Grant Application

A report dated 25 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on 2 applications to the Strathaven Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS).

It was proposed that, subject to the applicants providing written confirmation that all other additional funding for the projects had been secured, the following grants be awarded:-

- ◆ up to £58,558.19 towards eligible costs associated with the external fabric improvements, including shop front, rendering and roofing works, at 1 Green Street, Strathaven to Mr Brendon Smith (trading as The Weavers Bar)
- ◆ up to £34,920.55 towards eligible costs associated with the external fabric improvements, including shop front, rendering and roofing works, at 29/31 Common Green, Strathaven to Mr Douglas P Bryden

Officers responded to a member's question on the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that £58,558.19 towards eligible costs associated with the external fabric improvements, including shop front, rendering and roofing works, at 1 Green Street, Strathaven be awarded to Mr Brendon Smith (trading as The Weavers Bar);
- (2) that £34,920.55 towards eligible costs associated with the external fabric improvements, including shop front, rendering and roofing works, at 29/31 Common Green, Strathaven be awarded to Mr Douglas P Bryden;

- (3) that the above grants be subject to match funding being secured and receipt of written confirmation of this by the Council; and
- (4) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Administration and Legal Services, be authorised to complete such agreements and supporting documentation as required to administer the grants.

[Reference: Minutes of 24 November 2020 (Paragraph 11)]

10 A Vision for Lanark

A report dated 26 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on:-

- ♦ an update on the activities of the Lanark Vision Group
- ♦ a proposal for an officer to attend and represent the Council at the Lanark Vision Partnership Board, and to sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Lanark Community Development Trust (LCDT), acting on behalf of a partnership consisting of the Trust, Discover Lanark, New Lanark Trust and Scottish Wildlife Trust (Falls of Clyde), had commissioned a Vision for Lanark 2020 to 2030 as a regeneration strategy for the Lanark, New Lanark and Falls of Clyde area. The strategy was designed to build on the establishment of Discover Lanark by LCDT to provide a basis for longer term development of the town.

Details were given on the 2 key themes and 4 initiatives contained in the strategy document, A Vision for Lanark 2020 to 2030. A 2 stage programme of public consultation had been completed in October 2020 which would inform the development of a Delivery Plan.

The Lanark Vision Partnership Steering Committee acknowledged that the Council was actively engaged in several initiatives which the consultation and report had identified. Consequently, the Council had been approached to become a formal partner in the Vision Group through attendance at the Lanark Vision Partnership Board. It was proposed that a senior officer be nominated to represent the Council in that capacity. Partners would sign up to a MOU setting out the scope of the Group and terms of engagement and this was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress made by the Lanark Vision Group in preparing the Vision for Lanark 2020 to 2030 be noted;
- (2) that an officer attend the Lanark Vision Partnership Board to represent the Council; and
- (3) that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) be authorised, in consultation with the Head of Administration and Legal Services, to agree to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on such terms as to enable the work of the Lanark Vision Group while reflecting the objectives and best interests of the Council.

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

11 Community and Enterprise Resource Plan 2020/2021 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

A joint report dated 22 January 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Community and Enterprise Resource Plan 2020/2021.

Details were provided on progress made at the end of Quarter 2, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2020, in implementing the actions and measures identified in the Resource Plan. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council had suspended or reduced a number of services that could not be continued due to Government advice. The Council had also redirected resources in order to deliver vital new services and support for individuals, communities and businesses. Consequently, performance had been impacted in some areas.

Measures in the quarterly progress report which were not red, amber or green could be assigned a status of 'report later' or 'contextual'. For the Quarter 4 2019/2020 results, 26 measures were identified in those categories and 24 of those were Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, for which the 2019/2020 results would not be published until February 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected progress on some measures and the updated status and explanatory narrative was provided at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the Community and Enterprise Resource Plan Quarter 2 Progress Report 2020/2021, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the key achievements made by the Resource to date be noted; and
- (3) that the additional scrutiny of reporting the updated status of those measures identified as 'report later' at Quarter 4 2019/2020, as detailed at Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 12 November 2019 (Paragraph 6) and minutes of 15 September 2020 (Paragraph 8)]

12 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.