

# COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams and in the Banqueting Hall, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 28 June 2022

## **Chair:**

Councillor Joe Fagan

## **Present:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillors Alex Allison, Robert Brown, Maureen Chalmers (*substitute for Councillor Ross*), Margaret B Walker

C Sneddon, Chief Executive; P Manning, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources); S Sengupta, Director, Health and Social Care

### **Federation of Small Businesses**

A Aird, Group Chair

### **University of the West of Scotland**

T Adamson, Estate Environmental Manager

### **VASLan**

S Sweeney, Chief Executive Officer

## **Also Attending:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; S Keating, Property Development Manager; T Little, Head of Communications and Strategy; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; N Reid, Improvement and Community Planning Manager; S Somerville, Administration Manager

## **Apologies:**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Councillors Margaret Cooper, Kirsten Robb, John Ross

### **NHS Lanarkshire**

H Knox, Chief Executive

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## **Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Commission in the new Council term and stated that he hoped partners and councillors would work together to build on the approach previously adopted.

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Wealth Building Commission held on 7 February 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

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### 3 Context for Community Wealth Building: Data Digest

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A report dated 9 June 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted presenting data on the social and economic situation in South Lanarkshire as a context for Community Wealth Building.

A joint session of the North and South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnerships had been held in June 2021 on the topic of tackling inequalities. The Partnership Boards had considered a digest of demographic, social and economic indicators that related to North and South Lanarkshire.

The information had been presented to the inaugural meeting of the Commission in August 2021 and was now updated, where possible, and attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The data digest covered a range of topics including:-

- ◆ general population
- ◆ claimant unemployment and universal credit claimants
- ◆ child poverty
- ◆ welfare service statistics
- ◆ economic performance, including GVA, business start-ups and failures and businesses per population
- ◆ health
- ◆ impact of Covid on the labour market
- ◆ a range of public health indicators, including road accident casualties, crime statistics and hospital admissions data

C Sneddon advised that monitoring the data would enable decisions to be made in terms of addressing poverty, maximising employment opportunities and giving people choices.

In response to a member's question, T Little advised that the data gave a South Lanarkshire overview, however, the website had a tool to obtain information at ward level, therefore, he could respond to individual's queries.

Councillor Chalmers referred to the level of energy costs and the significant rise in those seeking assistance at Citizens Advice Bureaux. She advised that the Legal Services Agency had been awarded National Lottery funding and could also offer advice.

The Chair thanked officers for the information and highlighted it was important to consider the impact of increasing costs in terms of the real economy in South Lanarkshire and the general levelling up agenda for public health.

**The Commission decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 31 August 2021 (Paragraph 3)]*

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### 4 Community Wealth Building Action Plan Q4 Update

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A report dated 8 June 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted providing the Quarter 4 progress update on the Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy action plan.

There were 89 actions within the CWB action plan. Of those, 66 were 'Year 1' actions that were due to be started or progressed in 2021/2022. Progress to date against those 66 actions was shown in the CWB Quarter 4 Performance Report 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The report used a traffic light format, as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report, with the overall summary of progress to date as follows:-

<b>Status</b>	<b>Measures</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Blue	8	12
Green	49	74
Amber	4	6
Red	5	8
Report later	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100</b>

In response to a member's question, T Little advised that measures would be refined over time to make them real and time bound.

C Sneddon intimated that the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was meeting with S Sweeney to discuss the social enterprise strategy following the recent appointment of an officer.

**The Commission decided:** that the Quarter 4 progress update on the Community Wealth Building Strategy action plan be noted.

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## **5 Community Wealth Building Annual Report 2021/2022**

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A report dated 25 May 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted presenting a draft of the Community Wealth Building (CWB) annual report for 2021/2022.

On 10 March 2021, the Council approved a Community Wealth Building Strategy. Consequently, the Community Wealth Building Commission was set up to engage a wide range of partners and stakeholders in the CWB agenda.

In August 2021, the Commission approved an action plan for delivery of the CWB Strategy. The action plan contained a range of actions over a 3 to 5-year timeframe, setting out how the aspirations of the Strategy would be progressed for each of the 5 pillars of CWB.

The draft annual report, which allowed a more public-facing and accessible presentation of information using graphics, case studies and design elements, was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. If approved, branding developed for the CWB strategy would be applied to the final document and a communications plan developed to ensure its dissemination to appropriate audiences.

**The Commission decided:** that the draft annual report for 2021/2022, attached as Appendix 1, be approved.

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## **6 Support for Town Centres**

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A verbal update was provided by S Keating, Property Development Manager, in relation to support for town centres.

There would be a comprehensive report submitted to the September meeting on the Council's work in relation to supporting town centres and businesses.

A Aird referred to the 'inside out' App and suggested it might be helpful to have an analysis of BIDS.

**The Commission decided:** that the verbal update be noted.

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## **7 Meeting Timetable 2022/2023**

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A report dated 23 May 2022 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted proposing that future meetings of the Commission take place at 2.00pm on the following dates:-

- ◆ Tuesday 6 September 2022
- ◆ Tuesday 6 December 2022
- ◆ Tuesday 28 February 2022

All meetings would be held on a blended basis to allow attendance in person or remotely.

**The Commission decided:** that future meetings of the Commission be held on the dates detailed above.

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## **8 Any Other Competent Business**

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There were no other items of competent business.

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## **Chair's Closing Remarks**

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The Chair advised that a copy of the response sent to a member on matters relating to the work of the Commission would be circulated following the meeting.