

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2015 AT 9.30 AM

BERRYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CRAIGNEUK, WISHAW

AGENDA ITEM No. 4.

PRESENT

Councillor Harmon	North Lanarkshire Council
Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
Shirley Linton	North Lanarkshire Council
Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
Stephen John Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
John Campbell	North Lanarkshire Council
Susan Cloke	North Lanarkshire Council
Carrie Nicol	North Lanarkshire Council
Mark Hamill	North Lanarkshire Council
Michele Battersby	North Lanarkshire Council
Jonathan Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
Christine McGeechan	Action for Craigneuk
May Rattray	Berryhill Parent Council
Nanette Keenan	North Lanarkshire Council
Kenny MacDonald	Police Scotland
Alistair Anderson	Police Scotland
Kenny MacRobert	Police Scotland
Brian Hughes	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Iain McCusker	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Valerie Tallon	Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Dot McLaughlin	Improvement Service
Danny Logue	Skills Development Scotland
Helen Tomison	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire
Carol Chamberlain	NHS Lanarkshire
Nick Wright	Planning Aid Scotland
June Vallance	VANL
Allan Comrie	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Robert McMillan	New College Lanarkshire

APOLOGIES

Councillor McCabe	North Lanarkshire Council
Councillor Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
Councillor Welsh	North Lanarkshire Council
Janice Hewitt	North Lanarkshire Council
Linda Johnstone	North Lanarkshire Council
Francis Fallon	Voluntary Sector
Martin McGuire	New College Lanarkshire
Calum Campbell	NHS Lanarkshire
Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
Ross McGuffie	NHS Lanarkshire
Joe Hamilton	SCRA
Lesley Jackson	Scottish Enterprise
Alan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
John Beresford	Scottish Police Authority

CHAIR

Councillor Harmon presided.

WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Head Teacher from Berryhill Primary School for her hospitality and agreeing to host the meeting.

The apologies were noted.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting two pupils from the school welcomed everyone to Berryhill Primary School and provided an overview of the ethos of the school.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting – 17 June 2015

The Minute of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 17 June 2015 was agreed as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Craigneuk, Wishaw - Update

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Regeneration (1) updating the Partnership on the progress with the Craigneuk Project; (2) indicating that it had been agreed with the community representatives that, following the publication of the outcome of the infrastructure survey, the Council would take time over the summer months to consider the options for delivery of the proposals highlighted by the survey results, the outcome of which would be discussed at an appropriate meeting of Action for Craigneuk Group with a view to agreeing the next steps in the development of the proposals; (3) informing that today's NLP Board meeting was held at Berryhill Primary School to showcase the progress made in the Craigneuk area and the commitment and dedication shown by the members of the community in working with partners to develop a brighter future for Craigneuk, and (4) advising that Action for Craigneuk Group were seeking the opportunity to highlight the progress which had been made in the development of trust and co-operation between the community and the agencies representing those who were responsible for delivering services in the area.

Thereon, Christine McGeechan, Action for Craigneuk provided an overview of the work undertaken by all groups within the Craigneuk area, which suffered from high levels of crime, unemployment, poor health and inequality. Christine highlighted the significant progress that had been made between the community groups and the partner organisations.

Action: that the position be noted.

4. Motherwell Charrette Plus – Presentation

Nick Wright, Planning Aid Scotland provided a presentation on the Motherwell Charrette Pilot Project which was being undertaken to support the Town Centre First principle which was being funded by the Scottish Government.

Thereon Nick Wright advised that:-

- a series of workshops had been undertaken to explore the themes raised by the community:-
 - A Town Centre that attracted all Ages
 - Town Centre Living
 - Town Centre Activity, Business and Enterprise
 - Getting to and around the Town Centre

- the responses would be developed to support the revision of the Draft Motherwell Town Centre Action Plan;
- a number of areas for improvement had been suggested, and
- a public presentation would be held on Thursday, 20 August 2015 providing details of the initial findings.

Thereon, Nick Wright responded to questions from members of the Board and advised that all ideas/suggestions had come from the local community and would be developed in more detail and would then be subject to proper engagement.

Action: that the position be noted.

5. **Strathclyde Partnership for Transport: North Lanarkshire Transport Outcomes Report 2015/16**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Policy and Planning, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) (1) outlining the background to the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Transport Outcome Report 2015/16; (2) highlighting the connection between SPT activities and local outcomes from the Single Outcome Agreement, and (3) providing details of the focus given in the Transport Outcomes Report to the services and benefits that SPT had delivered in 2014/15 together with details of the SPT North Lanarkshire Joint Workstreams for 2015/16.

Thereon, Allan Comrie, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport provided details of the content of the North Lanarkshire Transport Outcomes Report for 2015/16, joint workstreams and local outcomes for North Lanarkshire, and responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the contents of the North Lanarkshire Transport Outcomes Report 2015/16 be noted.

6. **Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy and Delivery Plan**

There was submitted a report by Dr. Valerie Tallon, Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (1) highlighting the contribution of Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership to the strategic planning arrangements in North Lanarkshire for those individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and drug problems, and (2) enclosing the North Lanarkshire Delivery Plan 2015-18 and the Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2015-18.

Thereon, Valerie Tallon was heard in further explanation of the report and advised that the three aims of the strategy was to:-

- promote the development of a recovery orientated system of care within communities;
- safeguard and promote the interests of children and young people affected by substance misuse, and
- support individuals including parents, prisoners and older people with alcohol and/or drug related problems.

Thereafter Valerie Tallon responded to questions from members of the Board and proposed that regular update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Board to ensure that the strategy, delivery plan and performance reports were co-terminus with the Board's strategic priorities for individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and drugs.

Action: that further update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Board.

7. **City Deal Working Matters Update**

There was submitted a report dated August 2015 from the Department of Work and Pensions providing an update on the City Deal Working Matters (1) outlining the background to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal which would support an overall increase in the economy of around 29,000

jobs in the city region, work with 19,000 unemployed residents and support over 5,500 back into sustained employment, and (2) advising that working matters in the Local Authority led pilot in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, East Dumbarton and West of Scotland districts would:-

- help troubled families turn their lives around;
- improve mental health;
- help reduce child poverty;
- make work pay and help people to find sustained employment;
- help people recover and become more independent, and
- work with the voluntary sector, public and private sectors to deal more effectively with complex problems.

Thereon, Helen Tomison was heard in further explanation of the report and advised that the Department of Work and Pensions would refer 4,000 employment support allowance claimants to Working Matters over a three year period, of which 462 would be located in North Lanarkshire with an anticipated 69 job outcomes. She advised that the Service would go live in all Local Authorities between 24 August and 7 September 2015.

Thereafter, Helen Tomison responded to questions from Members of the Board.

Action: that the contents of the report be noted.

8. **Partnership Performance Reports – Year End Update – 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015**

Susan Cloke, North Lanarkshire Council provided an update on the progress of the Themed Partnership Working Groups for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 as hereinafter noted:-

(a) **Community Safety Partnership**

The report provided an update on the work of the Group, including the progress on the three local outcomes and some key achievements to date, including improved road safety, improved fire safety, reduction of serious and organised crime and effective neighbourhood management.

(b) **Developing the Partnership Group**

The report provided an update on the work of the Group, including the progress on the five local outcomes and some key achievements to date, including the Partnership Agreement, Strategic Joint Resourcing, Community Engagement and a Framework for Third Sector Connectivity Community Planning North Lanarkshire, reducing inequalities and performance monitoring and measurement.

(c) **Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group**

The report provided an update on the work being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group and the progress being made on the nine local outcomes and a number of key achievements to date including the Building for Future Programme, Reshaping Care for Older People, Self Directed Support, the Council's Social Work Services Health Psychology Project Team and reduced alcohol consumption in school pupils.

(d) **Regeneration Group**

The report provided an update on the overall progress being made by the Regeneration Partnership Group in respect of the seven local outcomes and a brief synopsis of the achievements to date, including the Youth Investment Programme, Business Support, Lanarkshire Business Week 2015, Ravenscraig, Housing in North Lanarkshire and Town Centres.

(e) **Lifelong Learning Partnership Group**

The report provided an update on the progress being made by the Lifelong Learning Partnership Group, the progress on the four local outcomes and specific details of some of the key achievements to date.

Action: that the progress of the Partnership Performance Reports for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 be noted.

9. **Joseph Rowantree Foundation – Redistribution of Social and Societal Risks**

There was submitted a report dated August 2015 by the Head of Planning and Regeneration, North Lanarkshire Council (1) providing an update on the research carried out by Glasgow Caledonian University on behalf of the Joseph Rowantree Foundation on the redistribution of social and societal risk; (2) advising that the case study which formed part of the research had been carried out in Craigneuk, Wishaw; (3) outlining the background to the research which had been based on the premise that austerity measures impacted adversely and more acutely on individuals, communities and groups, who were already the most disadvantaged; (4) advising that Glasgow Caledonian University had worked with a number of local based community groups and that the study focussed particularly on older people, lone parents and people experiencing poverty in work; (5) intimating that the case study found that although not all risks were acknowledged, the local community in Craigneuk was adapting, with varying degrees of success, to the risk transfers they were experiencing and that ongoing work with Action for Craigneuk was seen to be an attempt to mitigate the effects of risk transfer, and (6) enclosing in Appendix 1 to the report, a copy of the Executive Summary report.

Thereon, Jonathan Smith was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: to note the report.

10. **Third Sector Update**

There was submitted a report dated August 2015 from Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) on behalf of the North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (1) providing an update on the work of the Voluntary Sector in North Lanarkshire, and (2) outlining a series of thematic updates from the Third Sector in North Lanarkshire.

June Vallance advised that Felix Mulholland and David Summers had both recently passed away and would be a huge loss to the Voluntary Sector in North Lanarkshire.

Thereon, June Vallance was heard in further explanation of the report and provided an update in respect of:-

- focussed Third Sector Local Activity Programme for Early Years Collaborative;
- Voluntary Sector Locality Networks and Community Planning Networks;
- Third Sector locality profiles, and
- Newmains Community Hub.

Thereafter, June Vallance responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the report be noted.

11. **Enabling Collaborative Leadership**

There was submitted a report from Carol Chamberlain, NHS Lanarkshire providing details of the opportunity for NLP Board to access national support as it worked to address the inequalities and contribute to the evidence base of what enabled collaborative leadership.

Thereon, Caroline Chamberlain, NHS Lanarkshire and Dot McLaughlin, Improvement Service were heard in further explanation of the report and provided further details in respect of:-

- the current position and context within Lanarkshire;
- what was Enabling Collaborative Leadership;
- the type of support on offer;
- the approach being taken;
- the commitment required by Workforce Scotland, and
- the commitment sought from the NLP Board.

Following discussion, North Lanarkshire Partnership Board welcomed the opportunity in respect of enabling collaborative leadership and gave the commitment to undertake work in this respect.

Action:

- (1) that the Board become a pioneer test site for national research into what enabled collaborative leadership, and
- (2) that the Board undertake a separate piece of work in respect of Enabling Collaborative Leadership.

12. **Economic Update**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Information and Research Team, Chief Executive's Office, North Lanarkshire Council providing the latest available economic and labour market performance information, both at local and national levels, as hereinafter noted:-

JSA Claimant Counts

The Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) Claimant count stood at 5,951 in North Lanarkshire in July 2015, representing a drop of 29% over the previous 12 months.

Claimant Count Age and Duration

The position with regard to JSA claimants in the 18-24 years age bracket had improved over the year, dropping by around 47% to a new three year low of 1,300 claimants.

Similarly, the position for long term JSA claimants over 12 months had dropped by 28% over the last year to a current figure of 1,655, representing a three year low.

Claimant Rates at a Local Level

At Council Ward level, JSA unemployment rates varied from a low of 1.1% in Cumbernauld North to a high of 4.4% in Motherwell South East and Ravensraig. Whilst JSA numbers remained the same or had dropped in most cases over the last month, there had been a marginal increase in claimant numbers in Airdrie Central and Kilsyth, fuller details of which were attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Inflation

In the wider economic context, the 12 month headline rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 0% in June 2015 and was consistent with the pattern in the recent months.

Labour Market

The annual population survey for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 showed that the economic activity rate in North Lanarkshire sat below the Scottish average at 76.8% and the employment rate for North Lanarkshire was also below the Scottish rate at 70.9% compared to 72.9%.

Of the 51,100 adults who were deemed to be economically inactive, the biggest group were long term sick, followed by students and those looking after a home or family, details of which were attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Account Managed Companies

The latest figures from the Scottish Enterprise list of managed companies showed that there were currently 121 active companies falling into this category in North Lanarkshire. A more detailed narrative covering the key sectors in business infrastructure was currently being prepared by the Scottish Enterprise, and an update would be provided to the next meeting of the Board.

School Leaver Destination

Figures from the Skill Development Scotland Community Planning Partnership report from June 2015 indicated that there were 3,817 school leavers in North Lanarkshire from mainstream secondary schools.

Economic Outlook

The Office of the Chief Economic Adviser in his state of the economy report for June 2015 highlighted encouraging trends, particularly in domestic inward investment.

Thereon, Stephen Fraser was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the report be noted.

13. Financial Outlook

Gavin Whitefield, North Lanarkshire Council advised that the provisional savings package was currently being worked on to meet the funding gap of approximately £80m, and that it was anticipated that this would be presented to the Council for consideration in January/February 2016.

Action: that the position be noted.

14. Welfare Reform

There was submitted a report by the Service Manager, Financial Inclusion, North Lanarkshire Council (1) providing an update on the action taken to mitigate the impact of welfare reform within North Lanarkshire; (2) detailing areas of activity including universal credit welfare reforms, under occupancy Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP), the Scottish Welfare Fund, health and food poverty; (3) advising that there were currently 765 people in North Lanarkshire in receipt of universal credit, 176 Council tenants in receipt of universal credit and that the Council were working with these tenants to ensure that they had the appropriate skills and knowledge to manage universal credit payments, including housing costs; (4) indicating that there were 41 cases affected by the benefit cap in North Lanarkshire; (5) advising that the Government had committed to spending £800m on DHP allocations for the next five financial years; (6) advising that during the first quarter of 2015, the Scottish Welfare Fund received 4,199 crisis applications and 1,289 Community Care grant applications, and (7) informing that the new food crisis referral pathway which set out how residents could access emergency food supplies was implemented from 1 April 2015, and that an initial analysis of the referral pathway would be carried out in August 2015.

Thereon, John Campbell was heard in further explanation of the report and advised that the Council was working with the DWP to address a number of issues of frustration for the Council, including notifications, data sharing and payment arrangements, and thereafter responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the report be noted.

15. **Budget Statement**

It was noted that at the end of period 4 on 24 July 2015 there was an unallocated resource of £15,805.

Action: that the position be noted.

16. **AOCB**

Legacy 2014 Physical Activity Fund

Susan Cloke, North Lanarkshire Council (1) advised that the Scottish Government had announced the launch of the Legacy 2014 Physical Activity Fund which was designed to encourage physical activity among Scotland's least active people as part of the legacy of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games; (2) intimated that from a fund of £800,000, grants of up to a maximum of £70,000 were available, and (3) indicated that, following consideration, NLP Health and Wellbeing Group had recommended that the Community Planning Partnership endorse an application from the "Get Lanarkshire Walking" project, the aim of which was to improve the health and wellbeing of Lanarkshire residents by getting more people walking more often.

Thereon, Susan Cloke sought the endorsement of the Board in respect of the application.

Action: that North Lanarkshire Partnership Board endorse the application from "Get Lanarkshire Walking" for funding from the Legacy 2014 Physical Activity Fund.

17. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of North Lanarkshire Partnership Board would be held on Wednesday, 21 October 2015 within the Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Motherwell.

MINUTE OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2015 AT 9.30 AM IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, MOTHERWELL

PRESENT

Councillor James McCabe (Leader)	North Lanarkshire Council
Councillor James Smith (Depute Leader)	North Lanarkshire Council
John Campbell	North Lanarkshire Council
Susan Cloke	North Lanarkshire Council
Stephen John Fraser	North Lanarkshire Council
Alison Gordon	North Lanarkshire Council
Duncan MacKay	North Lanarkshire Council
Pauline Nicholas	North Lanarkshire Council
Leanne Pollock	North Lanarkshire Council
Jonathan Smith	North Lanarkshire Council
Gavin Whitefield	North Lanarkshire Council
Helen Tomison	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Neena Mahal	NHS Lanarkshire
Martin McGuire	New College Lanarkshire
Kenny MacDonald	Police Scotland
Lesley Jackson	Scottish Enterprise
Iain McCusker	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Jim Kerr	Scottish Prison Service
Danny Logue	Skills Development Scotland
Francis Fallan	Voluntary Sector
June Vallance	Voluntary Sector

APOLOGIES

Calum Campbell	NHS Lanarkshire
Stephen Kerr	NHS Lanarkshire
Ross McGuffie	NHS Lanarkshire
Linda Johnstone	North Lanarkshire Council
Janice Hewitt	North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Joe Hamilton	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Allan McQuade	Scottish Enterprise
Paul Devlin	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Brian Hughes	Scottish Fire and Rescue
Andrew Scott	Scottish Government
Allan Comrie	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
Bruce Kiloh	Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

CHAIR

Councillor McCabe presided.

WELCOME AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Lesley Jackson was in attendance on behalf of Allan McQuade.

Apologies were noted.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting – 19 August 2015

Item 12 Economic Update should read as "North Lanarkshire sat below the Scottish average at 76.8% and the "employment" rate"; thereafter the Minute of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 19 August 2015 was agreed as an accurate record.

2. **Matters Arising**

Reference having been made to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 19 August 2015, as noted in the preceding paragraph, the Chair advised that, at that time, it had been agreed that the Partnership Board undertake a separate piece of work in respect of Enabling Collaborative Leadership, confirmed that mechanisms had commenced and proposed that at the next meeting of the Partnership Board, scheduled for 9 December 2015, a workshop for Board Members on this topic be held.

Action: that a workshop on Enabling Collaborative Leadership be undertaken at the next meeting of the Partnership Board scheduled for 9 December 2015.

3. **Corporate Parenting Strategy**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Social Work Services (1) advising of the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy in line with the requirements contained within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) outlining North Lanarkshire's development of the Strategy and overarching plan, following a consultation process, as contained within the Appendix to the report.

Thereon, Duncan Mackay and Alison Gordon were heard in further explanation of the Strategy and responded to Members' questions.

Action: that the Corporate Parenting Strategy is endorsed.

4. **Children's Services Partnership – Update**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services/Chief Social Work Officer (1) providing an overview on the work being progressed by North Lanarkshire Children's Services Partnership (CSP); (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) outlining, in the Appendix to the report, local outcomes and milestones, as contained within the Single Outcome Agreement; (4) indicating (a) that the joint inspection of children's services by the Care Inspectorate, took place during October and November 2014, and (b) that the evaluation of that inspection was positive with six indicators being rated very good and the remaining two indicators rated good, and (5) advising of the introduction of the Children and Young Persons' Act, the implications thereof and the implementation arrangements.

Thereon, Duncan MacKay was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that further reports be submitted to the Partnership Board on a six monthly basis.

5. **Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme**

There was submitted a report dated 17 September 2015 by the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services and Chief Social Work Officer (1) advising of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Relocation (VPR) Scheme for the resettlement of some of the most vulnerable refugees who had fled the ongoing conflict in Syria; (2) providing details therein of the main features of the VPR Scheme which ran in parallel with the Gateway Protection Programme, the UK Government's existing refugee resettlement programme, and attaching, as an Appendix to the report, additional background information from COSLA; (3) setting out a brief summary of the experience which had been gained in the Council's participation of the Gateway Protection Programme in 2007 when 80 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo had been resettled in Motherwell; (4) stating (a) that the UK Government had recently announced that it would support 20,000 Syrian refugees through the resettlement programme, and (b) that the Scottish Government had recently announced a commitment to support the resettlement of 2,000 Syrian refugees in Scotland; (5) intimating that,

following consultation with the Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee, a decision had been taken that the Council provide support for the resettlement programme, as far as possible, and that COSLA had been advised accordingly; (6) indicating that it was anticipated that 120 individuals would be resettled in North Lanarkshire; (7) informing that the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services had been designated to lead the Council's response in relation to the Scheme, and (8) advising (a) that steps would be taken to liaise with COSLA to co-ordinate an approach to the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Scotland, and (b) that reports on the progress of the Scheme and other refugee resettlement programmes would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Thereon, Jonathan Smith (1) orally advised that arising out of discussion, it was agreed (a) that a Member/Officer Working Group had been established, to oversee matters in relation to the Council's participation in the VPR Scheme, and (b) that the Working Group be chaired by Councillor P. O'Rourke and comprise of five Elected Members, together with Officers, and (2) responded to Members' questions.

Action: agreed that the Board support the proposal to participate fully in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme and that the position be noted.

6. Community Planning Induction

There was submitted a report by the Head of Planning and Regeneration (1) providing an update on the development of the North Lanarkshire Partnership Community Planning Induction; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) providing an update thereon, and (4) indicating (a) that having taken into consideration some of the changes required to be made to the Partnership Agreement, and, the imminent enabling collaborative leadership work with the Partnership Board, proposed that the Community Planning Induction proceeds as planned, with regular reviews to ensure that any changes are reflected, and (b) that further development work takes place with the Partnership Agreement document over the coming months and in line with the enabling collaborative leadership programme, with a final document being presented to the Board early 2016.

Thereon, Leanne Pollock was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action:

- (1) that the Community Planning Induction process proceed as planned and that partners encourage attendance on 10 or 11 November 2015;
- (2) that the signing of the Partnership Agreement be postponed until early 2016, and
- (3) that the development and effective delivery of a comprehensive North Lanarkshire Partnership Agreement continue to be supported.

7. Third Sector Update

There was submitted a report by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (1) advising of projects and initiatives undertaken by the Third Sector as at October 2015; (2) providing details of (a) Voluntary Sector Locality Network Events; (b) Voluntary Sector Children and Families Network; (c) Voluntary Services Dementia Network; (d) Integrated Health and Social Care; (e) Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015; (f) CSV Make a Difference Day/International Volunteers Day; (g) VANL Training Programme – August to December 2015; (h) British Transplant Games – August 2017; (i) Supporting Those in Need, and (j) North Lanarkshire Third Sector Employability Network's response to the Scottish Government's discussion paper on Scotland's Future Employability Support Service.

Thereon, June Vallance was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action: that the report be noted.

8. Welfare Reform Update

There was submitted a report by the Service Manager, Financial Inclusion, North Lanarkshire Council (1) providing an update on the action taken to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform within North Lanarkshire; (2) detailing progress on areas of activity including universal credit/welfare reforms, under occupancy rules, Scottish Welfare Fund, digital inclusion, health and food poverty; (3) advising that there were currently 1,567 people in North Lanarkshire in receipt of universal credit, 282 Council tenants in receipt of universal credit and that the Council was working with these tenants to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to manage universal credit payments, including housing costs; (4) indicating (a) that there were still significant issues with a number of matters in relation to the Delivery Partnership Agreement such as notifications, data sharing (housing costs and discretionary housing payments), alternative payment arrangements, referrals for budgeting support, local discretion at the Universal Credit Service Centre and whilst these issues were being raised with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) via the operational and strategic groups, they remain unsolved; (b) that the Council had responded to a call for evidence by the Scottish Parliament Welfare Reform Committee on the Smith Agreement and how the Council could use the proposed devolved powers to better deliver benefits in Scotland.

Thereon, John Campbell was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the report be noted.

9. North Lanarkshire Economic Update

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Information and Research Team, Chief Executive's Office, North Lanarkshire Council providing the latest available economic and labour market performance information both at local and national levels, as hereinafter noted:-

JSA Claimant Counts

The Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA) Claimant count stood at 5,733 in North Lanarkshire in July 2015, representing a drop of 30% over the previous 12 months.

Claimant Count Age and Duration

The position with regard to the JSA claimants in the 18-24 year age bracket had improved over the year, dropping by around 44% to a new three year low of 1,220 claimants.

Similarly, the position for long term JSA claimants over 12 months had dropped by 29% over the last year to a current figure of 1,650, representing a three year low.

Claimant Rates at a Local Level

At Council Ward level, JSA unemployment rates varied from a low of 1.1% in Cumbernauld North to a high of 4.2% in Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig. 19 of the 20 Wards showed a decrease in claimant numbers over the month to August, with one staying the same. The most notable percentage decreases were in Strathkelvin (12.9%), Abrohill and Kildrum and The Village (10%) and Motherwell North (8.5%).

Inflation

In the wider economic context, the 12 month headline rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 0% in June 2015 and was consistent with the pattern in the recent months.

Economic Outlook

The Chief Economic Adviser's monthly economic brief for September 2015 pointed to continued growth in private sector output in Scotland. The report concluded that the conditions in Scotland were expected to continue to strengthen as the year progresses with growth in 2015 expected to be in line with expert forecasts of around 2.3%. The average independent forecast for Scottish growth in 2016 currently stood at 2.3%.

Local Business News

The Scottish Government announced at the beginning of September that Bio City Scotland based in Newhouse had been granted Scottish Enterprise area status, offering companies at the location business rates relief, streamlined processes to deal with planning applications, bespoke skills support and assistance in accessing international markets.

Other positive news in relation to local businesses included the recent opening by Viridor of a £25m recycling plant at Newhouse. One of only three such facilities worldwide and would be recycling glass from 17 local authorities and creating up to 30 jobs.

Devro Food Skin Casing Manufacturers, who recently reduced their workforce at Bellshill and Moodiesburn plants from 530 to 400, had announced an investment of around £1m at its Bellshill plant. This would involve the upgrading of existing lines to increase capacity and efficiency there.

Thereon, Stephen Fraser orally updated the Board with the current position regarding TATA Steel, was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to questions from members of the Board.

Action: that the report be noted.

10. Annual Policing Plan – Strategic Local Engagement

There was submitted a report by Kenny MacDonald, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland (1) seeking views of North Lanarkshire Partnership Board on the policing priorities in relation to the Annual Policing Plan 2016/17; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) setting out the national themes; (4) indicating (a) that the strategic themes were an emerging focus for the future direction of the service and drawn from the Government's Programme for Scotland 2014/15 (One Scotland), informed by the Christie Commission Report, and reflective of national Scottish Government outcomes, SPA strategic policing objectives, the benefits of police reform and findings from the output of public consultation, and (b) that local engagement in the development of police priorities was key and afforded an opportunity for the Partnership Board to influence the national priorities for Police Scotland in 2016/17, and (5) seeking approval of the Community Safety Partnership's recommendation that an additional local priority be drugs and the threat that emerges from manufacturing and supplying.

Thereon, Kenny MacDonald was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action: the Board agreed to include the additional local priority of drugs and the threat that comes from drugs manufacturing and supply. Furthermore that the contents of the report be approved.

11. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

There was submitted a report by the Strategic Adviser, North Lanarkshire Council (1) providing the Board Members with an update on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, including (a) an outline of how early implementation arrangements for the Act are likely to be developed, and (b) a suggestion as to how a future operating framework for consideration and submission of consultation responses, relating to the Act, could operate, and (2) highlighting a forthcoming seminar on the Act being organised by the Scottish Government in partnership with Grow Your Own Scotland; (3) detailing the background relative thereto; (4) outlining, in the Appendix to the report, the 12 sections of the Act together with a summary of the new duties imposed by the Act; (5) indicating that the timescale for the implementation of the Act had not been set and it was anticipated that varying commencement dates would apply to the different sections of the Act, and (6) setting out proposals for future consultation requests in relation to the Act.

Thereon, Susan Cloke was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action: Agreed that the Board delegate powers to the Chair to approve any draft consultation responses for reasons of timescale or other circumstances, where it is not possible for the North Lanarkshire Partnership Board to approve the response in advance of its submission to the relevant body. Also agreed to note the contents of the report.

12. **Redesigning the Community Justice System – Update**

There was submitted a report by Alison Gordon, Head of Social Work Services (1) providing an update to the Partnership Board on progress in the development and delivery of a redesigned Community Justice System in a North Lanarkshire context; (2) detailing the background relative thereto, and (3) indicating (a) that over the last six months discussions had been ongoing amongst the key Community Justice and Community Planning partners to determine the most suitable approach to the delivery of the new Community Justice model; (b) that it had been agreed that a separate Community Justice partnership would be established, reporting directly to North Lanarkshire Partnership Board, on a minimum of a six monthly basis, in line with other group reporting requirements, and (c) that the new Community Justice Partnership will have an interim year to establish itself during 2016/17, and, in order to ensure that work progresses in the meantime, a Community Justice Steering Group, which includes representations from all the key partners identified in the Bill, had been established.

Thereon, Susan Cloke was heard in further explanation of the report and responded to Members' questions.

Action: that the contents of the report be approved and noted.

13. **Budget Statement**

It was noted that at the end of period 6, on 18 September 2015, there was an unallocated resource of £15,805.

Action: that the position be noted.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of North Lanarkshire Partnership Board will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2015 within the Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Motherwell.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Partnership Board expressed gratitude to Gavin Whitefield upon his retirement from the Council as Chief Executive and wished him well for his future.