

Motherwell, 13 March 2019 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Burrows, Convener; Councillor McNeil, Vice-Convener; Councillors D. Ashraf, Baird, Barclay, Beveridge, Cameron, Campbell, Castles, Cullen, Curran, Docherty, Duffy, Farooq, Fisher, Fotheringham, Gourlay, Graham, Hume, C. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Linden, Logue, MacGregor, McManus, Morgan, Stevenson, Stocks, Annette Valentine and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors Carragher, Douglas, Kerr and Quigley attended as substitutes for Councillors M. Coyle, Currie, Stubbs and Roarty respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Burrows (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions; Head of Financial Solutions; Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions; Head of People and Organisational Development; Group Manager (Estates), and Committee Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cochrane, M. Coyle, Currie, Di Mascio, McKendrick, Roarty and Stubbs.

CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener advised Members that it was Paul Hughes, Head of Financial Solutions last meeting of the Committee as he was retiring. The Convener personally thanked Paul for his support and also his contribution to the Council over the years and wished him well in his retirement. The Committee showed its appreciation in the usual manner.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. Councillor Douglas declared an interest in paragraphs 22 and 25 by virtue of his appointment as a Director of the Environmental Key Fund and as a Member of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP respectively and left the meeting prior to consideration of these matters.

Councillor McNeil declared an interest in paragraph 25 by virtue of his appointment as a Member of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP but further declared in accordance with paragraph 5.18 of the Councillors Code of Conduct that an exclusion permitted his participation in consideration of this matter.

MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF 11 DECEMBER 2018

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee for Local Government Employees held on 11 December 2018.

Decided: that the Minute be approved and noted.

MATERNITY POLICY - BREASTFEEDING

3. **C** With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Policy and Resources Committee held on 6 December 2018, when it was agreed that the options outlined within paragraph 2.3 of the report be explored, with a view to supporting increased levels of breastfeeding in the North Lanarkshire area and the provision of appropriate facilities, there was submitted a report by the Head of People and Organisational Development (1) highlighting that the current Maternity Policy made no reference to the support offered to breastfeeding mothers in the workplace; (2) intimating that the Council had made a commitment to update the Maternity Policy with the view to supporting and encouraging breastfeeding within North Lanarkshire; (3) advising that the Maternity Policy had been reviewed to encourage the support of breastfeeding mothers on their return to work; (4) detailing the proposed changes to the Maternity Policy, and (5) providing, within the Appendix to the report, a copy of the updated Maternity Policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes to the Maternity Policy, as outlined within the report and the Appendix, be approved, and
- (2) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

WORKFORCE CHANGE POLICY

4. **C** There was submitted a report by the Head of People and Organisational Development (1) advising that in June 2018 the Corporate Management Team had considered the first draft of the Workforce Change Policy and had approved the Policy being issued for stakeholder consultation; (2) detailing that a short life Working Group had undertaken a review of the existing policies on Recruitment, Redundancy and Redeployment; (3) intimating that, as a result of this review, it was proposed to consolidate the existing policies on Recruitment, Redeployment and Redundancy into the new Workforce Change Policy, as detailed within Appendix 1 to the report; (4) highlighting, in Appendix 2 to the report, a summary of the changes made to the management of Recruitment, Redundancy and Redeployment; (5) proposing the introduction of flexible retirement, which was strongly supported by the Trade Unions and had been given initial approval by the Corporate Management Team in February 2018, on the basis that cases would be approved on a cost neutral basis, other than in exceptional circumstances where there were sound business reasons to incur limited costs, and (6) confirming details of (a) the consultation process which had been undertaken across a range of stakeholders, and (b) the feedback and any points of concern received from stakeholders.

The Committee sought clarification in relation to whether a Sole Worker Policy was in place within the Council. The Head of People and Organisational Development advised that this would be included in an individual's contract of employment and that specific situations would be assessed where required. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Convener and the Head of People and Organisational Development consider the Council's current provision in relation to sole working and assess whether a Sole Worker Policy for the Council was required.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposed changes in relation to the consolidation of the existing Recruitment, Redeployment and Redundancy Policies into the new Workforce Change Policy be approved;
- (2) that the introduction of flexible retirement, as outlined within the Workforce Change Policy, be agreed;
- (3) that it be agreed that the Convener and the Head of People and Organisational Development discuss the current provision in relation to sole working and assess whether a specific policy was required, and
- (4) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

TEACHERS' PREMATURE RETIREMENT SCHEME

5. There was submitted a report by the Head of Education and Families (South) (1) advising that, under the Teachers' (Compensation for Premature Retirement and Redundancy) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1998, local authorities may grant early retirement to teachers and other professional staff covered by the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers conditions where the individual is over 55 years of age and could be released without affecting the statutory responsibilities of the local authority; (2) highlighting (a) the objectives of the premature retiral proposals, and (b) the issues that the Scheme was targeting to resolve; (3) indicating (a) that the number of actual teacher retirements as a result of the Scheme was relatively low each year, and (b) that a total of 10 employees had retired during the previous three financial years and it was anticipated that this trend would continue; (4) outlining the proposed Teachers' Premature Retirement Scheme for 2019/20, and (5) intimating (a) that there would be situations which justified consideration outwith the specific terms of the Scheme; (b) the requirements in order to justify special consideration, and (c) that special cases would be subject to referral to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the Teachers' Premature Retirement Scheme for 2019/20 which permitted the premature retirement of teachers, in accordance with the proposals outlined within the report, be approved, and
- (2) that it be agreed that appropriate individual cases be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee as special cases for exceptional consideration.

NEW ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY (INCLUDING TESTING PROCEDURE FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUGS)

6. **C** With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Enterprise and Housing Committee held on 10 May 2018, when it was agreed that consideration of the report be continued to a future meeting, there was submitted a report by the Head of People and Organisational Development (1) advising that following consideration by a Working Group, comprised of Council Officers and Trade Union representatives, the Extended Corporate Management Team had approved the outline terms of a proposed alcohol and drugs testing programme; (2) detailing that the outline terms of the originally proposed testing programme were established on the following terms:- (a) random testing of employees in safety critical roles; (b) random testing of employees where driving was part of their duties (this would include anyone who was covered by the Council's insurance to drive pool cars), and (c) "with cause" testing of all employees; (3) intimating that, prior to submission of a report to the former Enterprise and Housing Committee in May 2018, a full stakeholder consultation exercise had been undertaken, however, following further representation on behalf of the Trade Unions, it was agreed that an additional period of consultation would be undertaken and as a

result a consultation meeting involving the Trade Unions was held on 26 June 2018; (4) highlighting (a) that, despite additional discussions with the Trade Unions, there remained strong opposition from the Trade Unions to the introduction of random alcohol and drug testing, with the primary objection related to a perceived breach of human rights, and (b) within Appendix 1 to the report, a summary of the feedback received from the Trade Unions; (5) proposing that, in order to move forward, alcohol and drugs testing be introduced on a "with cause" basis only for all employees with clear parameters and procedures detailed within the Policy, and (6) setting out, within Appendix 2 to the report, the proposed Alcohol and Drugs Policy.

Councillor Hume moved, as an amendment, that the following recommendations be added:-

"Recommendation 3- the Policy will be subject to review, in the form of a report to Committee, after 12 months and every 12 months thereafter, to assess its operation, its effectiveness and identify any potential detriment to the workforce, and

Recommendation 4 – staff will be made aware of the Policies offering support to employees who are registered as having drug and alcohol issues. Any staff who are concerned about alcohol or drug issues will be offered advice and if appropriate encouraged to register, in order to be given the support that they require."

Prior to the declaration of a seconder to the amendment, the Convener agreed to accept the additional recommendations outlined within the amendment. Following discussion and the agreement of the proposer of the amendment, Councillor Burrows, seconded by Councillor Hume, moved as a composite motion (1) to note the outcomes from the additional consultation undertaken by stakeholders; (2) to approve the new Alcohol and Drugs Policy and the introduction of "with cause" testing; (3) that the Policy will be subject to a review, in the form of a report to Committee, after 12 months and every 12 months thereafter, to assess its operation and effectiveness and to identify any potential detriment to the workforce; (4) that staff will be made aware of the Policies offering support to employees who are registered as having drug and alcohol issues, and that any staff who are concerned about alcohol or drug issues will be offered advice and, if appropriate, encouraged to register in order to be given the support that they require, and (5) to note the content of the report.

Councillor Cullen, seconded by Councillor Douglas, moved, as a further amendment, that "in light of the duty of care that the Council has for the residents of the area and colleagues, the Council instructs officers to present to a future Committee a Policy on Drugs and Alcohol that recognises the risks associated with different employee groups. This Policy should involve random testing of those colleagues deemed to be employed in high risk areas, identified through risk assessment and to cover employees whose primary contract is to drive or operate machinery, especially in the public domain."

On a vote being taken, 4 members voted for the amendment and 31 members voted for the composite motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome from the additional consultation undertaken with stakeholders be noted;
- (2) that the new Alcohol and Drugs Policy, and the introduction of "with cause" testing, be approved;
- (3) that it be agreed that the Policy would be subject to review in the form of a report to Committee, after 12 months and every 12 months thereafter, to assess its operation and effectiveness and to identify any potential detriment to the workforce;
- (4) that it be agreed that staff would be made aware of the Policies offering support to employees who were registered as having drug and alcohol issues and that any staff who were concerned about alcohol or drug issues would be offered advice and, if appropriate, encouraged to register in order to be given the support that they require, and
- (5) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

REQUEST TO FLY THE FLAG OF THE SPANISH REPUBLIC

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions (1) advising that a request had been received from the No Pasaran Memorial Committee to fly the flag of the Spanish Republic for a period of time to include Sunday, 21 July 2019; (2) highlighting that the request sought recognition, by flying the flag, of the volunteers from the communities of North Lanarkshire who went to Spain to fight in defence of the elected Government of the Spanish Republic during the years 1936 to 1939; (3) intimating that, on 21 July 2019, the annual commemoration ceremony would take place at the memorial to the volunteers in the Duchess of Hamilton Park, Motherwell, and (4) seeking approval to fly the flag of the Spanish Republic at the Civic Centre from 19 to 22 July 2019.

The Convener confirmed that, in relation to paragraph 4.1 of the report, there would be a financial cost of £95 in order to procure the flag of the Spanish Republic.

Decided:

- (1) that the cost of £95 to procure the flag of the Spanish Republic be noted, and
- (2) that it be agreed to fly the flag of the Spanish Republic at the Civic Centre from 19 to 22 July 2019.

POTENTIAL REFUSAL TO GRANT PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCES ON OVER PROVISION GROUNDS

8. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 20 December 2018, when it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee providing an evaluation of over-provision of private hire car licences and whether it was a ground for refusal to grant a licence, there was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions (1) advising that, in terms of an amendment to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Local Authorities were now vested with the power to refuse applications for private hire car licences on over-provision grounds; (2) intimating that the legislation stated that it was for local authorities to determine the localities within their area for the purposes of assessing over-provision; (3) highlighting (a) that in relation to private hire cars there were three areas within North Lanarkshire, namely North, Central and South, with an operator only licensed for one of those areas; (b) that the restriction on the number of taxi licences in each area was based on the limit on numbers determined by the former District Council Authorities, and (c) that officers were satisfied that there was no significant unmet demand for taxis within these three areas; (4) outlining that the legislation provided that, in satisfying itself as to whether there was or would be an over-provision for the purpose of private hire car services within the local authority area, the local authority must have regard to (a) the number of private hire cars operating within the locality, and (b) the demand for private hire car services in the locality; (5) indicating that the Scottish Government had intimated that it intended to produce guidance as to how a Local Licensing Authority could make over-provision findings in relation to private hire car licences; (6) detailing (a) that the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions would write to the Scottish Government to request confirmation of the timescales in which guidance would be issued, and (b) that the absence of Scottish Government guidance would restrict, or even prohibit, the Council's ability to undertake an evaluation as there would not be a statutory framework available, and (7) seeking approval to defer the consideration on whether to refuse private hire operator licences on over-provision grounds until appropriate Scottish Government guidance had been issued.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that North Lanarkshire Council, as licensing authority, defer consideration of whether to refuse private hire operator licences on over-provision grounds until appropriate guidance from the Scottish Government had been received, and

- (2) that it be noted that the Scottish Government had indicated that it would be providing guidance as to the methodology that local licensing authorities should employ in making any over-provision determination/assessment.

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVERS - KNOWLEDGE TEST

9. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 20 December 2018, when it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee outlining new procedures and how these would be implemented for new private hire driver licences in relation to the discretion to require new applicants to sit and pass a knowledge test, there was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions (1) advising that, under the provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, North Lanarkshire Council currently required applicants for taxi driver licences to sit and pass a knowledge test before they were granted a licence; (2) intimating that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 had been amended by the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015, which enabled a local licensing authority, if it saw fit, to require an applicant for a private hire car driver licence to undertake a test of their knowledge in relation to the relevant area; (3) outlining, that in terms of the licensing legislation, there was a distinction between taxis and private hire cars, in that taxis could be flagged down in the street, whereas anyone conveying a passenger in a private hire car had to be satisfied that the hire had been pre-booked; (4) detailing that, in the last two years, there had been five complaints made to the Council regarding private hire drivers not having the requisite knowledge of their area when conveying passengers; (5) setting out three options in terms of the requirement to sit a knowledge test as follows:- (a) to stipulate that from a future date private hire drivers would be required to sit and pass a knowledge test as was currently required of taxi drivers; (b) that, due to the advances in in-car technology, the requirement for the knowledge test be removed for taxi drivers and not applied to private hire car drivers, and (c) to continue to only require taxi drivers to pass a knowledge test, having regard to the fact that they could be hailed down at any location and there was no requirement for any prospective fare to be pre-booked, and (6) seeking approval for Option C, as detailed within the report, which continued to only require taxi drivers to sit and pass a knowledge test.

Councillor Burrows, seconded by Councillor McNeil, moved that Option C, as outlined in the report, be adopted, which would continue the practice of only requiring taxi drivers to sit and pass a knowledge test.

Councillor Hume, seconded by Councillor Barclay, moved as an amendment, that Option A, as outlined in the report, be adopted, which stipulated that from a future date all taxi driver and private hire drivers be required to sit and pass a knowledge test.

On a vote being taken, 24 members voted for the amendment and 11 members voted for the motion, the amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that Option A, as outlined in the report, be adopted, which stipulated that from a future date all private hire drivers be required to sit and pass a knowledge test, as was currently required of taxi drivers.

REVIEW OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL'S BYELAW FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES

10. There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions (1) providing an update on the review carried out of the North Lanarkshire Council Byelaw which prohibited the consumption of alcohol in designated public places; (2) advising that, as part of the review, Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service (COPFS) were each written to in October 2018 with a request for their comments, and, as at the deadline set for responses of 20 November 2018, no response had been received from them, and (3) seeking approval for the existing Byelaw to remain unchanged.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed that the current Byelaw for the Prohibition of the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places remain unchanged, and
- (2) that it be noted that no further consultation on the terms of the existing Byelaw was required at this time.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS

11. There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions (1) advising that, in terms of the North Lanarkshire Scheme for Community Councils, Community Council members were required to stand down every four years, with the right to be nominated for a further term of office; (2) intimating that the Council's Returning Officer was required to make the necessary arrangements for the re-constitution of Community Councils and, where necessary, to make arrangements for elections in instances where the number of nominations received exceeded the number of vacancies available for members of the Community Council; (3) detailing that, in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, a date was required to be identified when members of the Community Council would stand down to enable the election process, if required, to be initiated, and (4) proposing that, for the purpose of any elections required in 2019, the date for Community Council members to stand down would be set as Monday, 7 October 2019 at 11.59 pm.

Decided: that it be agreed that Monday, 7 October 2019 at 11.59 pm be set as the date when Community Council members were required to stand down.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDING - FINANCIAL YEARS 2019/20 AND 2020/21

12. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Finance and Organisational Business Sub-Committee held on 2 August 2017, when it was agreed that for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 the sum of £350 per Community Council plus £9 per 100 of the electorate, rounded down to the nearest 100, be paid to each Community Council, there was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions proposing that the status quo prevail in relation to the funding for Community Councils in financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Decided: that it be agreed to retain the status quo in terms of the funding for Community Councils in financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2019/20 TO 2020/21

13. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) outlining, in Appendix 1 to the report, (a) the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 in accordance with The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and (b) the Treasury Management Indicators and Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities; (2) highlighting that the Treasury Management Strategy and the Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators provided assurance that the key objectives of the prudential framework (namely prudence and affordability) would be satisfied and the inherent risks of Treasury Management would be controlled effectively and efficiently and would provide value for money; (3) advising that, when taken together, the indicators illustrated that the proposed capital investment plans for 2019/20 onwards were prudent and affordable, and (4) intimating that healthy prudential margins for 2019/20 onwards justified the investment levels, the cost or affordability of which were contained within the existing financial strategies.

The Head of Financial Solutions provided an overview of the report and, following discussion, the Committee agreed that a training session for Elected Members in relation to Treasury Management be arranged.

Decided:

- (1) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20 be endorsed;
- (2) that the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and the policy of repayments of Loan Fund advances for 2019/20, as set out within Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted;
- (3) that the Treasury Management Strategy be remitted to the Council for approval, and
- (4) that it be agreed that a training session for Elected Members, in relation to Treasury Management, be arranged.

PAYMENT OF LOCAL TAXATION AND BENEFIT UPDATE

14. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) providing an update on the payment performance for Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates, and the administration of welfare benefits and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as at 31 December 2018; (2) advising (a) that the current year's collection of Council Tax at the end of December 2018 was 82%, which was down 0.2% as at the same point in the previous year; (b) that the Service was actively exploring opportunities to further improve on the Council Tax position, and (c) that the Non Domestic Rates collection for 2018/19 was 0.2% higher in comparison with the previous year; (3) intimating (a) that, in terms of performance, the time taken to process benefit applications and changes as at 31 December 2018 was longer due to the initial impact of Universal Credit; (b) that the time taken for processing applications for Universal Credit had subsequently returned to envisaged levels once the initial demand had receded, and (c) that the Department for Works and Pensions had recently announced a slowdown in the timetable for migration of legacy benefits to Universal Credit; (4) detailing that the level of expenditure in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was higher than envisaged, although this could be contained within the overall Council Tax product for 2018/19, and (5) providing an update on the Scottish Welfare Fund, which was within budget for 2018/19.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORTS

(1) REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - CHIEF EXECUTIVES AND OTHER CORPORATE SERVICES 1 APRIL 2018 - 1 FEBRUARY 2019

15. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) summarising the Chief Executive and other corporate services financial performance for the period 1 April 2018 to 1 February 2019; (2) illustrating the projected outturn as at 31 March 2019; (3) highlighting and explaining the major outturn variances, as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations; (4) intimating that the Council had approved its General Fund Revenue Budget on 23 February 2018, of which £30.292m represented the Gross Revenue Budget for the Chief Executive and other corporate services; (5) advising that the Service was currently projecting a surplus of £1.283m for the Financial Year, and (6) detailing (a) that the 2018/19 budget incorporated £0.413m of savings previously approved by the Council, and (b) that it was anticipated that £0.349m of savings would be delivered by the financial year end.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2018/19 Chief Executive and other corporate services Revenue Budget be noted.

(2) REVENUE MONITORING REPORT - COUNCIL SUMMARY - 1 APRIL 2018 - 1 FEBRUARY 2019

16. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) providing an update on the overall position of the General Fund Account and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year to 31 March 2019; (2) advising that the report consolidated the budget monitoring position of all Services; (3) highlighting and explaining major variances, as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations; (4) setting out (a) in Appendix 1 to the report, a financial summary by Service; (b) in Appendix 2 to the report, the anticipated commitments against earmarked funds, and (c) in Appendix 3 to the report, the availability of one-off funds from the Change Management Fund; (5) intimating (a) that the Council had approved its General Fund Revenue Budget of £756.720m on 23 February 2018, and (b) that due to revised assumptions, along with additional funding following the issue of the Local Government Finance Circulars 4/2018 and 8/2018 in March and December 2018, the reported budget was now £740.765m, against which the Council was currently reporting a surplus of £7.980m; (6) detailing that the 2018/19 budget incorporated £20.017m of savings of which it was anticipated that £15.810m would be delivered by the end of the financial year, with a further £3.035m in place at the beginning of 2019/20, and (7) outlining, within paragraph 2.5.2 of the report, the alternative measures in place for the delivery of the balance of savings.

The Head of Financial Solutions advised that, in relation to Appendix 3 of the report, an additional cost relating to Club 365 should be itemised within this.

Decided:

- (1) that the financial position of the 2018/19 Revenue Budget be noted;
- (2) that the verbal update from the Head of Financial Solutions in relation to the inclusion of Club 365 in Appendix 3 to the report be noted, and
- (3) that the content of the report be otherwise noted.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

17. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) advising on the Quarterly Treasury Management Activity for the period 1 October to 31 December 2018; (2) informing of debt restructuring, borrowing, investments and the interest rate movements during that period, and (3) providing, within the Appendices to the report (a) the details of the loans, long term liabilities and investments as at 31 December 2018, and (b) a summary of Treasury and Prudential Indicators as at the quarter ended 31 December 2018.

Decided: that the Treasury Management Activity for the quarter ended 31 December 2018, including the positive performance against the key treasury and prudential indicators, be noted.

COMPOSITE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 MONITORING REPORT - 1 APRIL 2018 - 1 FEBRUARY 2019 (PERIOD 11)

18. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) providing an update on resources and expenditure on the 2018/19 budgets for the Composite Capital Programme; (2) advising the projected year-end outturn position and the resultant variances, and (3) detailing, within the Appendices to the report (a) the revised Composite Capital Programme 2018/19 by Service, and (b) the Capital Programme Summary 2018/19.

Decided: that the financial position of the Composite Capital Programme as at 1 February 2019 be noted.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF A REVENUES AND BENEFIT SYSTEM

19. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) seeking approval to award to Civica UK Limited the contract for the supply and maintenance of a fully integrated Revenues and Benefit system for a period of five years from 26 March 2019 until 25 March 2024, with the option to extend for a further year until 25 March 2025, and (2) providing, within the Appendices to the report (a) the evaluation outcome, and (b) a summary of the procurement process undertaken.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report and the accompanying Appendices be noted, and
- (2) that it be agreed to award the contract for the supply and maintenance of a Revenues and Benefit system to Civica UK Limited for an initial period of five years from 26 March 2019 until 25 March 2024, with the option to extend for a further year until 25 March 2025.

CONTRACT FOR NOTING - CIVIC CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR (CIVIC SUITE) UPGRADE

20. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions (1) advising of the decision taken by the Executive Director (Enterprise and Communities) under delegated authority to award the Contract: Phase 4 Smarter Working Office Accommodation Projects - Refurbishment Works at Ground Floor and Basement of Civic Centre, Motherwell to Hub South West Scotland Limited for the sum of £1,096,982, which was inclusive of Hub Project Development fees, and (2) intimating that a Stages 1 and 2 procurement exercise was completed by Hub South West Limited, in which the costs received from the tier 1 contractor, GHI Contracts Limited were recommended for contract award and had been evaluated as being the most economically advantageous in terms of cost and quality for the Council.

Decided: that it be noted that, in accordance with the delegated authority given to the Executive Director (Enterprise and Communities), the contract had been awarded to Hub South West Limited.

LEASE EXTENSION

(1) ELECTRICAL LINK PILLAR LEASE AT ST. EDWARDS AND TOLLBRAE SHARED CAMPUS, SOUTH BIGGAR ROAD, AIRDRIE

21. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions seeking approval to grant a lease extension to Energetics Electricity Limited or its nominees for the existing electrical link pillar site and associated servitude right of access at St. Edwards and Tollbrae Shared Campus, Airdrie.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to grant a lease extension to Energetics Electricity Limited or its nominees for the existing electrical link pillar site and associated servitude right of pedestrian and vehicular access on land at the St. Edwards and Tollbrae Shared Campus, Airdrie, and
- (2) that the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions be authorised to adjust all other terms and conditions.

Councillor Douglas had declared an interest by virtue of his appointment as a Director of the Environmental Key Fund, although he had left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item.

(2) GLENBOIG VILLAGE PARK COMMUNITY PLAY AREA

22. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions seeking approval to extend the lease for Glenboig Village Park Community Play Area, which was currently assigned to Glenboig Development Trust, on the basis of the terms detailed within the report.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to extend the period of lease, as per the terms detailed within the report, and
- (2) that the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions be authorised to adjust all other terms and conditions.

(3) COATBRIDGE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

23. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions seeking approval to extend the lease, as per the terms detailed within the report, for the premises at Quarry Street, Coatbridge, which were currently occupied by Coatbridge Indoor Bowling Club.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to extend the period of lease, as per the terms detailed within the report, and
- (2) that the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions be authorised to adjust all other terms and conditions.

(4) THE FIGHTING SCOTS BOXING CLUB, FORMER MOSSEND BOWLING CLUB

24. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions seeking approval to extend the lease, as per the terms detailed within the report, for the premises of the former Mossend Bowling Club, which were currently tenanted by The Fighting Scots Boxing Club.

Decided:

- (1) that it be agreed to extend the period of lease, as per the terms detailed within the report, and
- (2) that the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions be authorised to adjust all other terms and conditions.

Councillor Douglas had declared an interest by virtue of his appointment as a member of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP, although he had left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item.

Councillor McNeil, prior to consideration of the following item of business, declared an interest by virtue of his appointment as a Member of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP but had further declared that, in accordance with paragraph 5.18 of the Council's Code of Conduct, an exclusion permitted his participation in the consideration of the matter.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE PROPERTIES LLP - CONSENT FOR SALE OF PROPERTIES AT 22-24 EARN AVENUE, BELLSHILL AND 9-15 NAPIER PLACE, CUMBERNAULD

25. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions (1) advising that Clause 14.1.17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Agreement between NL Property Investments Limited, North Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Properties Limited Liability Partnership

(NLP LLP) provided that NLP LLP was not permitted to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any asset, with a value in excess of £50,000, without the prior consent of the Council; (2) intimating that NLP LLP's Management Committee had approved the sale of the properties at Earn Avenue, Bellshill and Napier Place, Cumbernauld at its meeting on 6 September 2018, and a copy of the report approved by them was attached as Appendix 1; (3) highlighting that, following a marketing exercise, four bids had been received for Earn Avenue and two for Napier Place, and (4) seeking consent for NLP LLP to dispose of the properties at 22-24 Earn Avenue, Bellshill and 9-15 Napier Place, Cumbernauld.

Decided: that consent be granted to North Lanarkshire Properties LLP to dispose of the properties at 22-24 Earn Avenue, Bellshill and 9-15 Napier Place, Cumbernauld, as required under the terms of the Limited Liability Partnership Agreement.

LAND AT LISMORE DRIVE, COATBRIDGE - TRANSFER TO HRA

26. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions seeking approval for the transfer of land at the site of the former St. James Primary School at Lismore Drive, Coatbridge, held by Education, Skills and Youth Employment, to Enterprise and Housing Resources for inclusion in the New Build Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the transfer of land at the site of the former St. James' Primary School at Lismore Drive, Coatbridge from Education, Skills and Youth Employment to Enterprise and Housing Resources be approved, and
- (2) that the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions be authorised to adjust all other terms and conditions.

REMIT FROM COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 13 FEBRUARY 2019 - FORMER TENANT ARREARS WRITE-OFF TO 31 MARCH 2017

27. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of the Communities and Housing Committee held on 13 February 2019, there was submitted a report by the Head of Housing Solutions (1) presenting a summary of outstanding Housing Rent debts, which were deemed uncollectable following all attempts at recovery by the Housing Rents and Court Teams or where continued attempts at recovery were not considered to be economically viable, and (2) seeking approval to write-off debt totalling £1,518,109.21 for 2018/2019, which equated to 1.36% of the total rent income of £112m, and related to former tenancies where the tenancy end date was prior to 31 March 2017.

Decided:

- (1) that the decision of the Head of Housing Solutions and the Head of Financial Solutions, under delegated authority, to write-off £212,989.25 for debts under £500 be noted;
- (2) that the write-off of £1,305,119.96, which included individual debts greater than £500, be approved, and
- (3) that the write-off of credit balances totalling £80,125.84, which had arisen in some former tenancy rent accounts, be approved.