

Motherwell, 29 April 2019 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the YOUTH, EQUALITIES AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Campbell, Convener; Councillor Woods, Vice-Convener; Councillors D. Ashraf, J. Ashraf, Carragher, Douglas, Fotheringham, Feeney, Gallacher, Goldsack, Jones, Linden, MacGregor, Magowan, McManus, McNally, H. McVey, Morgan, Quigley, Shevlin, Shields and Weir.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors Bonnar and Burgess attended as substitutes for Councillors Stephen and Cameron respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Campbell (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Communities; Development Officer (Equalities); Enterprise Manager; Community Partnership Managers; Development Officers (Information and Engagement), and Administrative Officer, North Lanarkshire Council; Chief Superintendent Alan Waddell, Superintendent Rob Hay and Constable Paul McWhinnie, Police Scotland, and Local Senior Officer Stephen Wright, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cameron, Carson and Stephen.

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

1. The Committee noted that there were no declarations of interest.

YOUTH WORK UPDATE

2. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing an update on the recent Youth Work activities and developments during the period February to March 2019, and (2) outlining notable achievements of young people, support workers and volunteers in terms of awards and accreditations.

Thereon, (1) the Development Officers (Information and Engagement) presented video clips of recent events that had taken place, including the Scottish Youth Parliament Awards 2019 and the National Youth Work Awards 2019; (2) Jamie McDairmid and Claire McVey, North Lanarkshire Youth Forum, presented a summary of the key Youth Work activities that had taken place during February and March 2019, and (3) Lucy Allan, Chloe Gorman, Lee Lynch, Katie McLean and Jodi Gemmell, Coatbridge Youth Action, presented video clips of Party in the Plug.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

YOUTH SUMMIT - YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE LEGACY

3. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2019, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) advising that, arising from the strong youth participation and engagement foundations established during the Year of Young People 2018, it was proposed that a Youth Summit be planned and organised jointly by young people, Council Officers and community planning partners to develop the legacy from the Year of Young People; (2) intimating that the proposed date of the event was 19 June 2019, with its focus and aim linked to Key One Plan priorities, not only to shape the way forward for young people and Elected Members, in order to further enhance young people's voices and give them a wider and deeper role in decision making across North Lanarkshire Council, but also to drive the delivery of change at pace; (3) setting out the maturing approach of the Council and its partners, where co-production of a Strategy for Working with Young People rather than consultation with young people, was an achievable key goal, and also in line with both the original Strategy for Working with Young People and the One Plan for North Lanarkshire, and (4) indicating that the outcomes from the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-18 would be assessed with a final report compiled, mapping out the next phase of the Strategy for Young People in Lanarkshire against the backdrop of the One Plan.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to organise a Youth Summit be approved;
- (2) that the intention to prepare a final report on the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-18 and map out the next phase of the Strategy be noted, and
- (3) that a report setting out the outcomes of the Strategy for Working with Young People 2014-18 and the next phase of the Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE REPORT

4. There was submitted a report by Police Scotland (1) outlining policing performance and activity in North Lanarkshire; (2) focusing on the priorities contained within the Local Policing Plan, and advising that the priorities had been identified through consultation with partners and communities, and (3) providing statistical information on the performance of various priorities and objectives for the period 1 April 2018 to 28 February 2019 compared with the corresponding period from the previous year.

Chief Superintendent Alan Waddell then outlined the key points of note from each of the policing priorities and provided further detail on various aspects of the operational performance of Police Scotland in North Lanarkshire.

Thereafter, Superintendent Rob Hay and Constable Paul McWhinnie provided a presentation on a recent peer review into the role of School Community Police Officers based within North Lanarkshire schools, together with feedback received from the review, and the future of the role.

Decided: that the contents of the report and the presentation be noted.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE REPORT

5. There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on service delivery performance for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 which provided statistical information on the various actions to be undertaken in terms of the SFRS Annual Operating Plan.

Local Senior Officer, Stephen Wright then outlined the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in North Lanarkshire, during which he highlighted the improvements made in relation to certain actions and emphasised the effectiveness of partnership working undertaken to tackle issues

that had impacted on performance during the reporting period. The Local Senior Officer concluded by providing information on the new format of the SFRS Performance Report to be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

Decided: that the contents of the report and verbal update be noted.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing, in Appendix 1 to the report, details of all projects delivered across all localities through the Local Development Programme 2018/19; (2) setting out, in Appendix 2 to the report, the Local Development Programme financial allocations for each of the localities based on population and deprivation statistics; (3) outlining the key criteria for projects to be included in the Programme, and (4) intimating that the delivery of the projects had been undertaken through collaborative working with a variety of Council Services, including the Road Design Projects Team, Land Management and Play Services, with optimum levels of involvement from local communities to ensure that effective consultation occurred and that projects were truly community led.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that a video had been produced to showcase the projects delivered by the Local Development Programme.

MAINSTREAMING EQUALITIES

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing details on how equality was mainstreamed into the core business and functions of North Lanarkshire Council, including its work as an Education Authority, and the North Lanarkshire Licensing Board; (2) advising that the Equality Act 2010 placed a duty on the Council to publish, every two years, details on how it was meeting the requirements set out by the Public Sector Equality Duty (Specific Duty) and highlighting within the report what the Council was required to report on; (3) setting out, in the Appendix to the report, the Council's Mainstreaming Equality Report for 2019, providing information on the ways in which the Council was paying due regard to the needs of people who were protected by the Equality Act; (4) indicating (a) that the Council, including its Education Authority function, and the Licensing Board published a set of equality outcomes as required by the specific duties, and (b) that all progress to date was outlined, in summary form, within the Mainstreaming Report; (5) highlighting in the report (a) the intention to review the Council's Equality Strategy, and (b) the next steps to be taken to continue to make progress in mainstreaming equalities, and (6) recommending that the Draft Mainstreaming Equality Report be approved for publication.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report and Appendix be noted;
- (2) that the publication of the Council's Mainstreaming Equality Report for 2019, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the intention to review the Council's Equality Strategy, and the next steps to be taken to continue to make progress in mainstreaming equalities, be noted.

WISHAWHILLWOOD PUMPTRACK - BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing details of an approach made by Red Bull, sponsor of the World BMX Championships, seeking permission to hold a BMX World Championship qualifier at the Wishawhillwood Pumptrack in Craigneuk; (2) detailing the background relative to the establishment of the BMX pumptrack facility; (3) advising that Red Bull had agreed to work in partnership with the Council and the local community to produce a memorable event that was scheduled to take place in mid August 2019, and (4) proposing that the Council support the event and grant permission to Red Bull to utilise the facility for a World Championship Qualifier.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to grant Red Bull permission to hold a BMX World Championship Qualifier at Wishawhillwood Pumptrack be approved, and
- (2) that it be agreed that preparations for the event be supported in the same way as for any other major sporting event taking place in North Lanarkshire.

GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME 2019/20

9. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee held on 21 March 2019, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) advising that the Grant Awards Programme provided support for community and voluntary organisations to achieve outcomes included in The Plan for North Lanarkshire; (2) intimating (a) that the former Learning and Leisure Services Committee, at its meeting on 20 August 2013, had approved the arrangements for the introduction of the Grant Awards Programme, together with an associated scoring system against which all applications were assessed, and (b) that the Council, at its meeting on 21 February 2019, had approved a package of budget reductions which included a reduction in the Grant Awards Programme budget of 20%, and (3) providing, in the Appendix to the report, details of the organisations which had requested discretionary funding from the 2019/20 Grant Awards Programme, together with recommendations for grant awards.

Following discussion, Committee agreed that the new application by Cool School Uniforms be continued to enable further consideration at a future meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding recommendations for the 2019/20 Grant Awards Programme, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved with the exception of the new application by Cool School Uniforms, and
- (2) that the new application by Cool School Uniforms be continued to permit further consideration at a future meeting.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE

10. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the background to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the Act"), which sought to deliver approaches to public services that contributed to improving outcomes for citizens and communities; (2) setting out, in Appendix 1 to the report, the Council's Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 - Implementation Plan, which detailed the 12 component elements of the Act, together with significant areas of progress in implementing the key requirements of the Act and ongoing improvement actions, and (3) intimating that, although good progress had been made in delivering key parts of the Act, in order to ensure effective community engagement and empowerment, a number of areas of focus and improvement had been identified.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in implementing current key requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report and Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the improvement areas, as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report, be acknowledged and endorsed, and
- (3) that reports providing an update on progress made in relation to this matter be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

FAIR TRADE AND THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR TRADE CHARTER

11. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) intimating that the Council, at its meeting on 4 April 2019, following a motion by Councillors' McLaren and Barclay, had agreed to research, develop and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion of foods with the Fair Trade Mark, actively support and promote Fair Trade, and contribute to achieving Fair Trade status for North Lanarkshire; (2) advising that an approach had been received from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum requesting the Council pledge support for the International Fair Trade Charter; (3) outlining, in Appendix 1 to the report, the terms of the Charter, and (4) highlighting the work already undertaken by the Council, with partners and communities, to support the establishment of a Fair Trade Zone in North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the progress to support the establishment of a Fair Trade Zone in North Lanarkshire be noted, and
- (2) that the Council pledge support for the International Fair Trade Charter.

PLAY AREA ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT

12. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) intimating that the Council, at its meeting on 20 December 2018, following a motion by Councillors Goldie and Magowan, had agreed to examine the disabled access to all existing play areas to ensure that no child was disadvantaged; (2) advising that, while accessibility of play areas was already a key component of planning for play facilities, work had begun on the development of an accessibility audit for all existing Council play areas; (3) illustrating, in Appendix 1 to the report, some of the features already incorporated in play areas across North Lanarkshire; (4) setting out, in Table 1 of the report, the timeline for the programme of work, and (5) informing that a report on the outcome of the audit would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the progress made by the Community Partnership Team towards development of an accessibility audit for all Council play areas be noted, and
- (2) that a report on the outcome of the audit be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

EXPANSION OF ACCESS TO FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS - 2018/19 AND 2019/20

13. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing the background to the expansion of access to free sanitary products beyond schools; (2) detailing, in Appendix 1 to the report, the breakdown of the associated funding allocated to North Lanarkshire Council over the two year period 2018/19 and 2019/20 in order to implement the initiative, and (3) advising that initial work had been undertaken, through the community planning arrangements, to explore potential venues and develop a delivery model that ensured access to free sanitary products, stigma free, to as many recipients as possible.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding allocation of £268,277 to North Lanarkshire Council, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, over the two year period 2018/19 and 2019/20, in order to implement the provision of access to free sanitary products be noted;
- (2) that the initial work to develop an approach to delivery of the initiative be acknowledged, and
- (3) that further update reports on progress be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

14. There was submitted a report by the Head of Asset and Procurement Solutions providing, within the Appendix to the report, details of contracts which had been awarded by him, under delegated authority, during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2019.

Decided: that the contents of the report and the Appendix be noted.

CONFERENCE - COMBATING GANGS, VIOLENCE AND WEAPON CRIME

15. There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions advising of an invitation received from Government Events in respect of Member attendance at a conference entitled "The National Combating Gangs, Violence and Weapon Crime Conference 2019" to be held in Central London on 3 December 2019.

Decided: that no attendance at the conference be authorised.