

Motherwell, 26 August 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, Gallacher, Goldsack, Gourlay, Jones, MacGregor, Magowan, McManus, McNally, H. McVey, Morgan, Quigley, and Weir.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Burgess and Logue attended as substitutes for Councillors Cameron and Feeney respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Campbell (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Head of Communities; Development Officer (Equalities); Community Partnership Managers; Financial Inclusion Manager; Development Officers (Information and Engagement), and Administrative Officer, North Lanarkshire Council; Chief Superintendent Alan Waddell, Superintendent Rob Hay and Local Authority Liaison Officer, Sergeant Erica Baillie, Police Scotland; Local Senior Officer Stephen Wright, and Local Authority Liaison Officer, Watch Manager, Paul Mathieson, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and Sarah Quinn, Chairperson, and Kayleigh Brady, Vice Chair, North Lanarkshire Youth Council.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cameron, Feeney, Linden, Shevlin and Stephen.

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

1. Councillors Jones and H. McVey, by virtue of their relationships to organisations listed within the report, declared an interest in paragraph 6, and took no part in the consideration thereof.

POLICE SCOTLAND - PERFORMANCE REPORT

2. 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 to 30 June 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.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PERFORMANCE REPORT

3. There was submitted a report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on service delivery performance for the period April to June 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 period.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

YOUTH WORK UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) presenting an update on recent youth work activities and developments; (2) providing a summary of recent key activities from the Youth Work Programme, and (3) setting out, in Appendix 1 to the report, an overview of the topics discussed at the Youth Summit held on 19 June 2019.

Thereon, (1) Sarah Quinn and Kayleigh Brady, NLYC, presented a summary of the key activities from the Youth Work Programme, including the North Lanarkshire Youth Council AGM held on 10 June, and (2) the Development Officers (Information and Engagement) presented an update covering recent youth work activities and developments, including an overview of the matters explored at the Youth Summit event held on 19 June 2019.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
(2) that a further report setting out the actions to be taken forward from the Youth Summit be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

5. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the key criteria for projects to be included in the Local Development Programme; (2) providing, in Appendix 1 to the report, an update on projects that had been agreed, in principle, at the seven Community Matters (Local Partnership) meetings held in May 2019, together with the projects recommended for approval, and (3) detailing the progress of the Participatory Budgeting Programme in Motherwell and Wishaw, including the development of an online voting and consultation platform through the newly launched Community Matters Portal.

Decided:

- (1) that the projects agreed in principle at the Community Matters meetings held in May 2019, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
(2) that it be noted that the progress of approved projects be reported to future meetings of the Committee, and
(3) that a report on Participatory Budgeting be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillors' Jones and H. McVey, prior to the consideration of the following item of business, having declared an interest by virtue of their relationship to organisations contained within the report, took no part in the consideration thereof.

GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME 2019/20 AND COMMUNITY GRANTS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

6. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 April 2019, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) advising that the Grant Awards Programme provided support to community and voluntary organisations' contribution towards achieving 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%; (3) detailing, in Appendices 1 to 7 of the report, awards made through the 2018/19 Community Grants Scheme, totalling £186,522, and (4) providing, in Appendix 8 to the report, details of organisations which had requested discretionary funding from the 2019/20 Grant Awards Programme, together with recommendations for grant awards.

Decided:

- (1) that the details of the awards made through the 2018/19 Community Grants Scheme, as listed in Appendices 1 to 7 of the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the additional funding recommendations for the 2019/20 Grant Awards Programme, as outlined in Appendix 8 of the report be approved.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORT 2018/19

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing details of the income maximisation work carried out by the Council's Financial Inclusion Service during 2018/19 which had generated £35,368,140 in additional benefit income for the residents of North Lanarkshire; (2) setting out statistical information in relation to (a) the success rate for Social Security Appeal Tribunals by the Financial Inclusion Team; (b) Money Advice (Debt), and (c) customer satisfaction; (3) highlighting the activity of external services commissioned by the Council which had generated £5,736,534 in additional benefit income for the residents of North Lanarkshire, and (4) setting out the challenges that the Council and partners would face over the following three to four years, in respect of the ongoing UK welfare reform changes, as well as the new Social Security powers which lie with the Scottish Government and came into effect in 2016.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Integration Joint Board and the Finance and Resources Committee for information.

EQUALITY STRATEGY 2019-2024

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the background to the Equality Strategy 2019-2024, which underscored the Council's commitment to equality and human rights and set out an approach that ensured that equality was embedded within the everyday work of the Council through five key underpinning objectives for success; (2) setting out, within Appendix 1 to the report, the North Lanarkshire Equality Strategy 2019-2024; (3) advising that, as with all Council

strategies, performance would be measured using the Strategic Self Evaluation Framework, thus supporting the Council to not only assess the success of the strategy on an ongoing basis, but also to facilitate improvement, and (4) recommending (a) that the Equality Strategy 2019-2024 be endorsed, and (b) that the Equality Strategy 2019-2024 be referred to the Policy and Strategy Committee for approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the Equality Strategy 2019-2024 be endorsed, and
- (2) that the Equality Strategy 2019-2024 be referred to the Policy and Strategy Committee for approval.

PROGRAMME OF WORK (PO58) DISABILITY CONFIDENT LEADER - EMPLOYER ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME

9. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) informing of the progress made by the Council as a Disability Confident Leader, and that reaccreditation would be applied for in March 2020; (2) intimating that in March 2017 the Council had been successful in achieving Disability Confident Leader status, one of only two Scottish Local Authorities to do so; (3) advising that the purpose of the Disability Confident Employer Accreditation Programme was to assist employers in recruiting, developing and retaining disabled people and those with long-term health conditions; (4) outlining the three levels contained within the Disability Confident Programme – Level 1: Committed; Level 2: Employer, and Level 3: Leader; (5) detailing the work to date in relation to the Council's commitments and ongoing work to ensure that the Council's status as a Disability Confident Leader was maintained.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

PROGRAMME OF WORK (PO57) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REVIEW AND FRAMEWORK

10. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the progress in reviewing and developing a more streamlined approach to community participation and empowerment; (2) providing, in Appendix 1 to the report, a draft Working with Communities Framework that had been developed to underpin and deliver a more co-ordinated approach to engaging communities and supporting the delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire with communities and community planning partners; (3) advising that the work reflected not only the strategic context for the Council and community planning partners but also the requirements of key national drivers for community empowerment, including the recently published Principles for Community Empowerment prepared by Audit Scotland, attached as Appendix 2 to the report; (4) intimating that, following endorsement of the key principles governing the draft Working with Communities Framework, the next step was to develop an associated implementation plan, linked to The Plan for North Lanarkshire Programme of Work, that would incorporate consultation with communities and community planning partners to inform the approach thus ensuring further development to reflect partnership priorities and support of the shared delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the draft Working with Communities Framework and approach outlined within the report be endorsed, and that the future development of an associated delivery plan linked to The Plan for North Lanarkshire Programme of Work be agreed;

- (2) that discussion with community planning partners to inform the approach to community participation and empowerment, ensuring further development to reflect partnership priorities and support the shared delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire be supported, and
- (3) that regular progress reports on the implementation of the Working with Communities Framework be received.

CAMPSIES CENTRE (CUMBERNAULD) LTD - DISSOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

11. With reference to paragraph 21 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Infrastructure Committee held on 2 May 2018, when *inter alia* the dissolution of the Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Ltd (CCCL) was approved, and it was agreed that the net assets at the time of transfer and the future income be earmarked for allocation to projects within the Cumbernauld boundaries, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the current status of the dissolution of CCCL; (2) detailing, in Appendix 1 to the report, a list of projects totalling £1,801,309, commended by the Company's Board of Directors for progression and financial assistance, post company dissolution; (3) advising that, subject to finalisation of the projects listed in Appendix 1, and after settlement of CCCL debts and liabilities, the remaining budget, summarised in Appendix 2 to the report, transfer to the Council for management and disbursement to projects, within the Cumbernauld boundaries, which make a contribution to The Plan for North Lanarkshire; (4) recommending (a) that the budget be held by the Head of Communities to enable projects/funding proposals to be considered within the context of the Council's wider funding programmes, participatory budgeting proposals and Local Development Programme activity within the Cumbernauld boundaries and (b) that future projects be subject to assessment in line with the arrangements currently in place for the Grant Awards Programme and the Capital Programme Project ranking and selection methodology to ensure compliance with Following the Public Pound requirements and consistency of approach across Council funding programmes, and (5) proposing that, following assessment, details of individual projects and recommendations, in relation to potential funding awards from the budget, be submitted to this Committee for consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the current status of the dissolution of Campsies Centre (Cumbernauld) Limited be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that, after the settlement of CCCL debts and liabilities, the remaining balance would transfer to the Council for management and disbursement to projects, within the Cumbernauld boundaries, which are making a contribution to The Plan for North Lanarkshire;
- (3) that it be agreed that the balance will sit within the Head of Communities' budget to enable funding considerations to be taken within the context of the Council's wider funding programmes, and that it be further agreed that any such projects are subject to assessment by Council Officers in accordance with existing procedures for grant award funding and the capital programme;
- (4) that the projects commended for funding by the Company's Board of Directors, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to full financial and governance scrutiny via the procedures outlined in the report, which the Council will fulfil in consideration of each project, and
- (5) that it be agreed that further potential funding allocations from this budget be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER AND PARTICIPATION REQUESTS - ASSESSMENT CRITERION

12. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) summarising the background to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which placed a statutory duty on local authorities and
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other public sector agencies to develop a clear process for supporting community participation and ownership; (2) providing an overview of progress made in the establishment of the North Lanarkshire Council Community Asset Transfer and Participation Request process; (3) setting out, within Section 2.3 and Appendix 1 of the report, proposed scoring and discount criteria and decision making mechanism for governing Community Asset Transfer requests; (4) highlighting priority improvement actions, including the active marketing of Council assets for transfer linked to the Asset Management Plan, that required to be implemented during the remainder of 2019/20 to ensure that the pace of the programme was in line with the expectations of the community and the ambitions set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and (5) advising that support was currently being provided to 42 community organisations following expressions of interest in Community Asset Transfer, with an overview of progress contained in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the establishment of the Community Asset Transfer and Participation Request process be noted;
- (2) that the decision making, scoring and discount criteria governing Community Asset Transfer, as set out in Section 2.3 and Appendix 1 of the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the improvement actions outlined in Section 3.1 of the report, including the active marketing of Council assets for transfer linked to the Asset Management Plan, be noted.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER AND PARTICIPATION REQUESTS ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

13. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) advising that section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 required every relevant authority to publish an annual report setting out the number of asset transfer requests received and their outcomes; (2) setting out, in Appendix 1 to the report, details of the Community Asset Transfer enquiries which had been received from groups and organisations as at 1 April 2019; (3) advising (a) that two organisations had successfully completed full transfer of ownership; (b) that discussions were currently taking place with 22 organisations regarding property leases; (c) that a number of groups and organisations were receiving support from the Service to develop their capacity, and (d) that five organisations had also registered Participation Requests; (4) intimating (a) that the Online Portal for Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests went live in August 2019, and (b) that an interactive list of Council properties had been published on the Council website, and (5) outlining, in Appendix 2 to the report, the Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests Improvement Plan, which set out priority approaches and actions to promote the use of asset transfer requests and support community asset transfer bodies to make requests.

Decided:

- (1) that the number of asset transfer requests, requests agreed, whether they resulted in transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights, requests refused, number of appeals, and number of decisions made by the Council that had been reviewed and the level of capacity building support being provided to groups and organisations engaged in the process be noted;
- (2) that the publication of the annual report be noted, and
- (3) that the priority approaches and actions, outlined in Appendix 2 of the report, to promote the use of asset transfer requests and support community asset transfer bodies to make requests be supported.

PROGRAMME OF WORK (PO55) COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

14. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) outlining the background to the Community Asset Mapping process that underpinned delivery of elements of The Plan for North Lanarkshire through assessing and building on existing community strengths; (2) setting out, within the report, the Community Asset Mapping methodology to achieve clear community empowerment in order to ensure that all communities understand their capacity to support decision making around key investment/disinvestment and alternative delivery models in line with The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and (3) recommending that the Community Asset Mapping Guidance, outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Decided:

- (1) that the Community Asset Mapping methodology, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the Community Asset Mapping Guidance, outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

ACCESS TO FREE SANITARY PROVISION - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

15. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 April 2019, there was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) providing an update on progress with the expansion of access to free sanitary products to public buildings and community outlets throughout North Lanarkshire; (2) advising that provision had initially been rolled out across 93 venues, with products being made available at all venues from the end of July 2019; (3) listing, in Appendix 1 to the report, the Community Access Points currently providing access to sanitary products; (4) intimating that significant work had been carried out across key Council Services and third sector agencies to (a) ensure availability to communities across North Lanarkshire, targeted at enabling access for those experiencing the highest levels of inequality, poverty and vulnerability, and (b) establish links with local community groups to plan and implement the delivery approach, and (5) informing that an evaluation of the geographical spread and uptake would be carried out to ensure that the scheme was appropriately targeted to reflect need and demand.

Decided:

- (1) that the significant work carried out to date across key Council Services and partner agencies to implement the delivery model be noted, and
- (2) that a report, analysing the success of the initial phase of the implementation plan, from a community perspective, be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.