

**3 December 2020 at 2 pm.**

A Remote Meeting of the **POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Logue, Convener; Councillor Kelly, Vice-Convener; Councillor Roarty, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barclay, Burrows, Di Mascio, Duffy, Fannan, Gallacher, Goldie, Graham, Hume, T. Johnston, Lennon, Linden, Magowan, McNally, McPake, Morgan, Alan Valentine and Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT**

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Larson and Burgess substituted for Councillors D. Ashraf and Watson respectively.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Logue (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Executive; Executive Director (Enterprise and Communities); Executive Director (Education and Families); Chief Officer, Health and Social Care; Head of Strategic Communications; Head of Environmental Assets; Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions; Head of People and Organisational Development; Head of Financial Solutions; Head of Business Solutions; Head of Communities; Audit and Risk Manager; Insourcing Programme Manager (Culture and Leisure Services), and Democratic Services Manager.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

T. Currie, Chair – Site Recovery Group.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors D. Ashraf, Brannan-McVey and Watson.

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

1. Councillor Morgan, by virtue of a family member's employment at Culture and Leisure North Lanarkshire (CLNL) declared an interest in paragraph 8 and did not participate in consideration of that item.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL OF 23 SEPTEMBER AND 29 OCTOBER 2020**

2. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 23 September and 29 October 2020.

**Decided:** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 23 September and 29 October 2020 be approved.

**The Convener used his discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.**

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**ST. AMBROSE AND BUCHANAN HIGH SCHOOLS CAMPUS SITE RECOVERY GROUP - PROGRESS REPORT**

3. There was submitted a report by the Head of Strategic Communications reminding the Committee that, following recommendations made by the Independent Review into the St. Ambrose and Buchanan High Schools Campus, Coatbridge which had been published in 2019, the Council had established a Site Recovery Group which had appointed an independent chair, Terry Currie, with the group comprising representatives from parents, pupils, staff and other members of the school communities and attaching, as Appendix 1 to the report, the progress report from the Site Recovery Group.

**Decided:** that the report from the Site Recovery Group be noted.

**INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES - UPDATE**

4. There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental Assets (1) advising the Committee that a petition containing approximately 6,000 signatures had been received from the community in Kilsyth and had requested that the Council reverse its decision to introduce parking charges in Kilsyth; (2) proposing a delay in implementing car park charging across North Lanarkshire to support town centre recovery from the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic; (3) outlining the impact which Covid-19 has had upon town centres in 2020, and (4) outlining the financial implications should car park charging not proceed.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved as the motion that the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved.

Councillor Gallacher, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as the amendment first received:-

- (1) that the petition requesting that the Council reverse the decision to introduce car parking charges in Kilsyth be noted and the petitioners be advised accordingly;
- (2) that the Council agrees to reverse their decision to implement car park charging across North Lanarkshire, due to the impact of Covid-19 and the economic damage this has caused businesses and the wider local authority area;
- (3) subsequently, in line with the cancellation of parking charges, that there should be no requirement to progress with on-street parking permits relating to roll-out parking charges;
- (4) agrees that further proposals relating to parking charges will not be brought to Committee or included within future budget proposals due the life of this current administration, and
- (5) that the financial implications of the proposal be noted.

Councillor Linden, seconded by Councillor T. Johnston, moved as the amendment second received:-

- (1) that the petition requesting that the Council reverse the decision to introduce parking charges in Kilsyth be noted and the petitioners be advised accordingly, and that the views expressed to elected Members objecting to this proposal by many across North Lanarkshire's communities also be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the consultation underway by the Council in relation to the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders which give effect to these charges, has concluded and that in recognising the importance of the views expressed by our community agrees that the views of those respondents be shared with elected Members via a summary report from Council Officers as soon as practicable;

- (3) that the implementation of car park charging across North Lanarkshire be delayed until at least the end of the financial year 2020/21;
- (4) further agrees that the decision to implement car parking charges in North Lanarkshire this year was the wrong one and therefore, agrees that the introduction and implementation of car parking charges should be revisited to the forthcoming and subsequent Budget Setting Process within the Local Authority, and
- (5) that the financial implications of the proposal be noted.”

At 2.52 pm the Committee adjourned for 10 minutes to permit consideration of the amendments.

Upon return, Councillor Linden, seconded by Councillor Gallacher, moved as a composite amendment:-

- (1) that the petition requesting that the Council reverse the decision to introduce parking charges in Kilsyth be noted and the petitioners be advised accordingly, and that the views expressed to elected Members objecting to this proposal by many across North Lanarkshire's communities also be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that the consultation underway by the Council in relation to the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders which give effect to these charges, has concluded and that in recognising the importance of the views expressed by our community agrees that the views of those respondents be shared with elected Members via a summary report from Council Officers as soon as practicable;
- (3) that the implementation of car park charging across North Lanarkshire be delayed contrary to the decision of Committee in January 2020; particularly, due to the impact Covid-19 and the economic damage this has caused businesses and the wider local authority area;
- (4) subsequently, in light with the cancellation of parking charges, that there should be no requirement to progress with on-street parking permits relating to roll-out of parking charges;
- (5) agrees that further proposals relating to parking charges will not be brought to Committee or included within future budget proposals during the life of this current administration, and
- (6) that the financial implications of the proposal be noted.”

Thereon, in terms of Standing Order 39, the vote was taken by calling the roll:-

On the roll being called:-

9 Members voted for the motion, as follows:-

Councillors Burrows, Duffy, Graham, Kelly, Logue, McNally, McPake, Morgan and Roarty.

14 Members voted for the composite amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Barclay, Burgess, Di-Mascio, Fannan, Gallacher, Goldie, Hume, Larson, T. Johnston, Lennon, Linden, Magowan, Alan Valentine and Wilson.

9 Members having voted for the motion and 14 Members having voted for the composite amendment, the composite amendment was accordingly declared carried.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the petition requesting that the Council reverse the decision to introduce parking charges in Kilsyth be noted and that the petitioners be advised accordingly, and that the views

expressed to elected Members objecting to this proposal by many across North Lanarkshire's communities also be noted;

- (2) that it be noted that the consultation by the Council in relation to the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders which give effect to these charges has concluded and, that in recognising the importance of the views expressed by the community, agrees that the views of those respondents be shared with elected Members via a summary report from Council Officers as soon as practicable;
- (3) that the implementation of car park charging across North Lanarkshire be delayed contrary to the decision of the Committee in January 2020, particularly due to the impact of Covid-19 and the economic damage this has caused businesses and the wider local authority area;
- (4) that subsequently, in light with the cancellation of parking charges, there should be no requirement to progress with on-street parking permits relating to roll-out of parking charges;
- (5) agrees that further proposals relating to parking charges will not be brought to Committee or included within future budget proposals during the life of this current administration, and
- (6) that the financial implications of the proposal be noted.

#### **DELIVERING FOR COMMUNITIES**

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) explaining that the One Place/One Plan Programme of Work, approved in March 2020, which moved plans for integrated local investment in respect of Town Centre and Community Regeneration, Town and Community Hubs, Schools, New Build Programme and Parks Master Planning and associated Active Travel to the next phase of physical delivery and to further strengthen the focus on Communities; (2) advising that it was considered essential that the Council's structure for the Senior Management Team be revised to fully reflect the model established in North Lanarkshire's Communities and proposing workforce changes to strengthen the integrated Council, Partnership, and Community approach while offering opportunities for enhanced work in the Local Partnerships to champion North Lanarkshire's Towns, Villages and Communities, and (3) explaining that implementation of the proposed structure realignments outlined in the report were designed to drive forward the next stage review of the new Community Boards in partnership with Elected Members and Communities to ensure that expectations realise their full potential, and become the driving force for change.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Councillor Gallacher, seconded by Councillor Burgess, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) Note the contents of this report and accompanying appendices;
- (2) Note the progress made following approval of We Aspire in September 2018 to realign structures with the shared ambition and establish solid foundations for next stage delivery;
- (3) Note the savings of £208,603 plus £117,546 which will be realised through the low proposals;
- (4) Note the intent to strengthen the Integrated Council, Partnership and Community approach and deliver for Communities through the proposed future operating model outlined in his report (and depicted in Appendix 1);
- (5) Approve the next stage of workforce changes focusing on Delivering With the Communities with effect from 1 April 2022 (shown in Appendix 2) and the realigned responsibilities and associated savings within (summarised in paragraphs 2.65 and 2.65 and detailed in Appendix 3);

- (6) Agree the proposal to create a Head of Audit and Risk and appoint to this post as outlined in paragraph 2.49, and delete the post of Audit and Risk Manager;
- (7) Align new Head of Service salary to the current HOS tier framework as highlighted at Section 2.55 of the report;
- (8) Agree that the Heads of Service restructure will take place under the current salary scale framework, therefore, rejecting the salary proposals contained within the proposed workforce changes as outlined within Appendix 3;
- (9) Note the intent for a review of arrangements, due in 2021/22, to inform the future structure and operating model within the IJB in line with local and national requirements, and
- (10) Agrees that any salary framework restructure relating to Heads of Service will be brought before Committee, to ensure Elected Member approval.

Thereon, in terms of Standing Order 39, the vote was taken by calling the roll.

On the roll being called:-

18 Members voted for the motion, as follows:-

Councillors Barclay, Burrows, Di Mascio, Duffy, Goldie, Graham, Hume, Larson, T. Johnston, Kelly, Lennon, Linden, Logue, Magowan, McNally, McPake, Morgan and Roarty.

4 Members voted for the amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Burgess, Fannan, Gallacher and Wilson.

18 Members having voted for the motion and 4 Members having voted for the amendment, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

**Decided:**

- (1) That the contents of the report and accompanying Appendices be noted;
- (2) That the progress made following approval of We Aspire in September 2018 to realign the structures with the shared ambition and to establish solid foundations for next stage delivery be noted;
- (3) That savings of £208,603, which will be realised through the proposals contained within the report, be noted;
- (4) That the intent to strengthen the integrated Council, Partnership, and Community approach and deliver for Communities through the proposed future Operating Model outlined in the report (and depicted in Appendix 1 to the report) be noted;
- (5) That the next stage of workforce changes focused on Delivering for Communities with effect from 1 April 2022 (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report), and the realigned responsibilities and associated savings (as summarised in paragraphs 2.64 and 2.65 and detailed in Appendix 3 of the report), be approved;
- (6) That the level of comparable savings/staffing costs versus peer local authorities be noted;
- (7) That the proposal to create a Head of Audit and Risk, and appoint to this post as outlined in paragraph 2.49, and to delete the post of Audit and Risk Manager, be approved;

- (8) That the intent for a review of arrangements, during 2021/22, to inform the future structure and operating model within the Integrated Joint Board in line with local and national requirements be noted, and
- (9) That the intent for any future alignments below Chief Officer level to be undertaken under the Scheme of Delegation be noted.

**DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES - SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

6. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities (1) explaining that, under the terms of Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, community bodies have the right to request the transfer to them of land and buildings belonging to public authorities and (2) exploring the approach, firstly, that would be required to position a significant number of Council owned assets as sustainable opportunities to communities to operate services in line with the ambition articulated within The Plan for North Lanarkshire to develop the capacity of communities to help themselves and, secondly, the resource implications of supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to realise their potential to develop their service and resource base.

**Decided:**

- (1) That the key aspects of the Council's Community Asset Transfer process be noted, and
- (2) That the preparation of an appropriate resources and time lined project plan, to focus the Council's work with communities towards developing their capacity where and when the broader asset management process, linked to the delivery of The One Plan, offer opportunities, be approved.

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND - UPDATED SCENARIO PLAN**

7. There was submitted a report by the Head of Financial Solutions (1) reminding the Committee that in September 2018, the "We Aspire – Shared Ambition for North Lanarkshire" Report presented to the former Policy and Resources Committee had outlined proposals for the establishment of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) in order to meet an ambition to target the creation of additional resources of £500m over a 10 year period to support capital expenditure in communities; (2) providing an update in response to the economic uncertainties created by the Covid-19 Pandemic and (3) detailing two different scenarios for future CIF projections – an optimistic scenario of £634.500m and a pessimistic scenario of £540.194m being available over the 10 year period.

**Decided:**

- (1) That the economic uncertainties created by Covid-19 that will have an impact on Community Investment Fund projections be noted;
- (2) That the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios outlined in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.8, and highlighted in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, be noted, and
- (3) That the decision of the Strategic Capital Delivery Group to plan for funding at the pessimistic level for the upcoming five year Capital Programme, to ensure programme delivery can proceed while ensuring plans are robust, affordable and sustainable, be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Morgan had declared an interest by virtue of the employment of a family member by Culture and Leisure North Lanarkshire (CLNL) and did not participate in consideration of the item.

**INSOURCING THE DELIVERY OF CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES - PROGRAMME OF PROGRESS**

8. There was submitted a report by the Head of Communities providing an update on work undertaken to date to progress the decision taken by the Committee at its meeting on 31 January 2020 to insource the delivery of Culture, Sport and Leisure Services, currently provided by Culture and Leisure North Lanarkshire Limited (CLNL) and highlighting the plan for recovery, associated financial implications and key considerations linked to the workforce transfer strategy.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress as outlined in the report be noted, and
- (2) that, otherwise, the contents of the report be noted.