

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

***Minutes of Meetings of the North Lanarkshire Council,
Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels
To Be Submitted to the Meeting of
The North Lanarkshire Council
to be held on***

THURSDAY, 28 MARCH 2024

The Symbol “C” appearing against any item of business indicates that that particular item is subject to consideration and disposal by the Council. All other items have been delegated in terms of the approved Scheme of Administration and are therefore submitted for information only.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

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21 December 2023 at 4 pm.

A Meeting of the NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Duffy, Provost; Councillor Burgess, Depute Provost; Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Brennan, Bustard, Cairns, Campbell, Carragher, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Crichton, Currie, Di Mascio, Docherty, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Larson, Leckie, Lennon, Logue, Loughran, MacGregor, Masterton, McBride, McCluskey, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McManus, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Williams, Wilson and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Duffy (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer, Health and Social Care; Acting Chief Officer (Finance); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Democratic Services Manager, and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Keltie, McLaren and L. Stubbs.

The Provost exercised his discretion to vary the order of business, as hereinafter minuted.

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

1. Councillor Duffy, by virtue of being the Elected Member referred to in the report, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 13 "Outcome of Hearing by the Standards Commission – Councillor Duffy" and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Fotheringham, Lennon, D. Johnston, McManus, Shields, A. Stubbs and Williams, by virtue of being members of Scottish CND, declared a connection in respect of paragraph 3 – "Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies", and further declared that they considered the interest so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in that item.

Councillors Currie, Smith and McPake, by virtue of being a member of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 11 – "Notice of Motion by Councillor Williams and Councillor McKendrick" and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Councillor Goldie, by virtue of being a member of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 11 – "Notice of Motion by Councillor Williams and Councillor McKendrick" and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS - CYCLE 4 2023

2. There was submitted the Volume of Minutes for meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels for Cycle 4, 2023 for approval in terms of Standing Order 21.

The Provost proposed, in respect of paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee held on 13 November 2023, that the dates of 6 May, 27 May and 15 July be added to the list of local public holidays for 2024.

Decided: that the Minutes of meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels for Cycle 4, 2023 be approved, subject to the Finance and Resources Minute of 13 November 2023 being amended to reflect the updated list of local public holidays for 2024.

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Fotheringham, D. Johnston, Lennon, McManus, Shields, A. Stubbs and Williams, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection by virtue of being members of CND, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the matter.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, PANELS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) setting out recommendations for appointment to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies.

The Provost intimated that the appointment of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies had been separated into Part A, Part B and Part C and proposed that each part be dealt with separately, which was agreed.

In respect of Part A, Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Roarty, moved the changes to the appointment of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Panels as set out in Part A of the document.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved as an Amendment that Councillor Barclay be appointed as Chair of North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board.

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

On the roll being called 30 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Brennan Cairns, Carragher, Crichton, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Larson, Lennon, Masterton, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Williams.

42 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

Councillor Shields abstained.

30 Members having voted for the Amendment, 42 Members having voted for the Motion and 1 Member having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

In respect of Part B, Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Roarty, moved the changes to the Outside Bodies as set out in the Labour Group proposals.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved as an Amendment that consideration of the appointment of Elected Members to outside bodies be continued to a future meeting of the Council.

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

On the roll being called 33 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Beveridge, Brennan, Cairns, Carragher, Crichton, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Larson, Lennon, Masterton, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Shields, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Williams.

40 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

33 Members having voted for the Amendment and 40 Members having voted for the Motion, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

In respect of Part C, Councillor Di Mascio, seconded by Councillor McManus, moved the changes to the appointment of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies as set out in the Progressive Change North Lanarkshire Group proposals.

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved as an Amendment that there be no change to the membership of the Policy and Strategy Committee and the membership of COSLA Convention, as it was for individual groups to recommend who their members are on Committees and Outside Bodies.

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

On the roll being called 63 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Campbell, Carragher, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Larson, Leckie, Logue, Loughran, Masterton, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

10 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Brennan, Crichton, Di Mascio, Hume, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus and Williams.

63 Members having voted for the Amendment and 10 Members having voted for the Motion, the Amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the appointment/membership of Members to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies, as attached at Appendix 1 to this Minute, be implemented.

OUTCOME OF BY-ELECTION HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2023 IN WARD 19 MOTHERWELL SOUTH EAST AND RAVENS CRAIG

4. There was submitted notification by the Returning Officer, giving details of the result of the By-Election held on 16 November 2023 for Ward 19 Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig, as undernoted:-

Candidate	No of first preference votes
Billy Acheson	96
Oyebola Ajala	296
Kaye Harmon	1,368
Robert Stewart McGeorge	68
Mark Shields	66
Derek Watson	255
Neil Wilson	24
Rosa Zambonini	934
Total Ballot Papers received	3,155
Invalid votes	48
Total valid votes	3,107
Electoral quota	1,390
Percentage poll	20%

At stage 7, Kaye Harmon was elected to serve on North Lanarkshire Council.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) - REVENUE ESTIMATES 2024/2025

5. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 8 November 2023, when (1) the Housing Revenue Account cost pressures set out in Appendix 1 to the report were noted; (2) the base budget savings outlined in Appendix 2 to the report were noted; (3) the allocation of the HRA surplus balances as detailed in the report were noted, and (4) it was agreed that the financial assumptions contained within the report be reviewed at the Council meeting on 21 December 2023 to allow approval of the HRA Revenue Estimates and rent levels for 2024/25, there was submitted the said report.

Councillor McPake, seconded by Councillor Logue, moved:-

- "1. In setting the 2024/25 budget for the Housing Revenue Account, Council notes the continuing progress made in delivering the ambitious programme for housing, supported by previous budget decisions, including:
- An increase in the target for new supply housing from 2,150 by 2027 to 5,000 by 2035. The Council recently welcomed its 1,000th tenant since the new build scheme commenced;
 - Continued progress on identifying and delivering new build sites across North Lanarkshire;
 - The approval, development and ongoing delivery of plans for investment and re-provisioning of the Council's tower and walk-up flat properties;
 - Approval of a 5 year mainstream capital programme from 2021/22 to 2025/26 that aims to deliver £306m of investment in the Council's housing stock; a 20% increase from the previous 5 year planning period. This includes £138m of funding aimed at improving energy and carbon efficiency across the estate;
 - An expansion of Council buy back schemes which will allow for around 130 properties to be brought back into use each year, dependent on prevailing market conditions.

2. Note the cost pressures and base budget savings outlined in Section 2 of the 'Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates 2024/25' report.
3. Note the proposal to reduce Capital Financed from Current Revenue (CFCR) by £9.084m in 2024/25, as outlined in section 2 of the 'Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates 2024/25' report.
4. Propose a rental increase of 7% for 2024/25 to generate £10.592m allowing the continuation of high quality and valued service provision by the Housing service along with plans for record capital investment to ensure that the Council continues to meet home quality standards, build new homes, buy back properties and re-provision towers and walk-up flats.
5. Propose £1m is used to create a recurring Rent Assistance Fund in order to continue to provide support to existing tenants facing financial difficulty during the cost of living crisis.
6. Propose that £2.026m is allocated to accelerate new supply work through further house building and buy backs. This would equate to approximately £35.200m of capital expenditure.
7. Note the requirement to utilise one off resources of £3.702m from reserves to support the one off anticipated increase in loan charges for 2024/25.
8. Propose all other charges are also increased by 7%.
9. Agree to maintain a core contingency reserve representing 1% of the Housing Revenue Account annual budget (c. £1.7 million based on above proposals)."

The Provost proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 20 minutes, which was agreed.

The meeting reconvened at 4.55 pm.

Councillor Carragher, seconded by Councillor Larson, moved as an Amendment that the setting of the Housing Revenue Account and the rent levels for 2024/2025 be continued to the Council budget meeting in February 2024 or a Special Meeting of the Council.

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

On the roll being called 33 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Brennan, Cairns, Carragher, Crichton, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Larson, Leckie, Lennon, MacGregor, Masterton, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Williams.

40 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

33 Members having voted for the Amendment, 40 Members having voted for the Motion, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2024/2025 be implemented;

- (2) that in setting the 2024/25 budget for the Housing Revenue Account, Council notes the continuing progress made in delivering the ambitious programme for housing, supported by previous budget decisions, including:
 - (a) an increase in the target for new supply housing from 2,150 by 2027 to 5,000 by 2035 with the Council recently welcoming its 1,000th tenant since the new build scheme commenced;
 - (b) continued progress on identifying and delivering new build sites across North Lanarkshire;
 - (c) the approval, development and ongoing delivery of plans for investment and re-provisioning of the Council's tower and walk-up flat properties;
 - (d) approval of a 5 year mainstream capital programme from 2021/22 to 2025/26 that aims to deliver £306m of investment in the Council's housing stock; a 20% increase from the previous 5 year planning period which includes £138m of funding aimed at improving energy and carbon efficiency across the housing estate;
 - (e) an expansion of Council buy back schemes which will allow for around 130 properties to be brought back into use each year, dependent on prevailing market conditions.
- (3) that the cost pressures and base budget savings outlined in Section 2 of the 'Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates 2024/25' report be noted.
- (4) that the proposal to reduce Capital Financed from Current Revenue (CFCR) by £9.084m in 2024/25, as outlined in section 2 of the 'Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Estimates 2024/25' report be noted.
- (5) that a rental increase of 7% for 2024/25 be approved to generate £10.592m allowing the continuation of high quality and valued service provision by the Housing service along with plans for record capital investment to ensure that the Council continues to meet home quality standards, build new homes, buy back properties and re-provision towers and walk-up flats.
- (6) that £1m is used to create a recurring Rent Assistance Fund in order to continue to provide support to existing tenants facing financial difficulty during the cost of living crisis.
- (7) that £2.026m is allocated to accelerate new supply work through further house building and buy backs which would equate to approximately £35.200m of capital expenditure.
- (8) that the requirement to utilise one off resources of £3.702m from reserves to support the one off anticipated increase in loan charges for 2024/25 be noted.
- (9) that all other charges are also increased by 7%.
- (10) that the core contingency reserve representing 1% of the Housing Revenue Account annual budget (c. £1.7 million based on above proposals) be maintained.

REMIT FROM THE POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE OF 7 DECEMBER 2023 – SELF-EVALUATION OF THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL – OUTCOME REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 6. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee held on 7 December 2023, when the recommendations contained within the report were agreed and approval to remove substitute attendance at the Audit and Scrutiny Panel, as per Improvement Action 2.4 set out in Appendix 2 to the report, was remitted to the Council meeting on 21 December 2023.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) intimated that the report issued with the Agenda was the report agreed by the Audit and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 4 September 2023 and subsequently the Policy and Strategy Committee at its meeting on 7 December 2023 agreed that consideration of the removal of substitute attendance at the Audit and Scrutiny Panel, as detailed in Improvement Action 2.4, be remitted to the Council meeting on 21 December 2023.

Decided: that substitute elected member attendance at the Audit and Scrutiny Panel be removed.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SMITH AND COUNCILLOR ROBINSON

7. There was submitted the following Motion in the names of Councillor Smith and Councillor Robinson, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“Council recognises the need for business conducted at committee meetings to be properly documented and captured, with actions recorded and followed up by officers as and when requested during meetings. This is vital to ensure the continued open and transparent nature of council proceedings, and to avoid duplication and repeated requests being revisited and resubmitted at subsequent meetings.

Council agrees for all future Committee and full Council meetings to capture within the minutes any specific questions submitted to council officers where a response or additional actions are promised outside of that meeting.

This will be implemented from the first relevant meeting of cycle one of 2024”.

Thereon, Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved the terms of the Motion.

Decided:

- (1) that Council recognises the need for business conducted at Committee meetings to be properly documented and captured, with action recorded and followed up by Officers as and when requested during meetings, and
- (2) that all future Committee and Council meetings capture within the Minute/Action Note any specific questions submitted to Council Officers where a response or additional actions are promised outside of that meeting, with effect from Committee Cycle 1 of 2024.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR KHAN AND COUNCILLOR McKAY

8. There was submitted the following Motion in the names of Councillor Khan and Councillor McKay, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“North Lanarkshire Council recognises the high level of care currently provided at University Hospital Wishaw’s award winning Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and extends a sincere thanks to the staff working there.

Council notes with concern the proposal by the Scottish Government to downgrade Wishaw’s Neonatal Unit and acknowledges that a petition opposing the proposal has gathered more than 17,000 signatures.

Council notes that a decision to downgrade this unit would result in some babies that require a high level of care being treated in Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen instead of Wishaw, as they are currently.

Council is further concerned that the clinical advice which this proposal is predicated on is now five years out of date.

As such, council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Government Health Minister objecting to this proposal and highlighting the negative impact it is likely to have on parents here in North Lanarkshire”.

Thereon, Councillor Khan, seconded by Councillor McDade, moved the terms of the Motion.

Decided:

- (1) that the high level of care currently provided at University Hospital Wishaw’s award winning neonatal intensive care unit be recognised and the Council extends its sincere thanks to all staff working there;
- (2) that Council notes with concern the proposal by the Scottish Government to downgrade Wishaw’s neonatal unit and acknowledges that a petition opposing the proposal has gathered more than 17,000 signatures;
- (3) that it be noted that a decision to downgrade the neonatal unit at University Hospital Wishaw would result in some babies that require a high level of care being treated in Glasgow, Edinburgh or Aberdeen;
- (4) that Council is further concerned that the clinical advice on which the proposal is predicated is five years out of date, and
- (5) that the Chief Executive write to the Scottish Government Health Minister, objecting to the proposal to downgrade services at University Hospital Wishaw’s neonatal unit and highlighting the negative impact that it would have on parents in North Lanarkshire.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR COSTELLO AND COUNCILLOR BUSTARD

9. There was submitted the following Motion in the names of Councillor Costello and Councillor Bustard, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“Council commends the excellent work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in keeping our communities safe.

Council notes with concern Scottish Government cuts to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service budgets which it understands equate to £64 million over the last ten years in real terms.

Council understands that such significant cuts to a key public service have led to job losses and a deterioration of the condition of many stations across Scotland.

Council recognises reports that the loss of key appliances in neighbouring stations will see large communities outside of North Lanarkshire become partly reliant on North Lanarkshire Fire Stations to provide support.

Council believes that it is the public and community safety that will feel the true impacts of these cuts.

Council, therefore, urges the Scottish Government to reverse this year’s funding cut to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service budget to give this key public service the relief it desperately needs and agrees to write to the Scottish Government Community Safety Minister stating this position”.

Thereon, Councillor Costello, seconded by Councillor Bustard, moved the terms of the Motion.

Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved as an Amendment:-

Add to the end of the motion.

“However, in recognition that the Scottish Government is facing a budget deficit of over £1bn as a result of cuts to funding from the UK Government, Council further agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the impact these budget cuts are having on local communities”.

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

On the roll being called 22 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Cairns, Carragher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Larson, MacGregor, Masterton, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas and Toner.

41 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

10 Members abstained as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Brennan, Crichton, Di Mascio, Hume, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus and Williams.

22 Members having voted for the Amendment, 41 Members having voted for the Motion and 10 Members having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that Council commends the excellent work of the Scottish Fire and Rescue service in keeping the communities of North Lanarkshire safe;
- (2) that Council notes with concern the Scottish Government cuts to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service budget which it understands equates to £64m over the last 10 years in real terms;
- (3) that Council understands that such significant cuts to a key public service had led to job losses and a deterioration of the condition of many stations across Scotland;
- (4) that it be recognised that the loss of key appliances in neighbouring fire stations will see large communities outside of North Lanarkshire become partly reliant on North Lanarkshire fire stations to provide support;
- (5) that Council believes that public and community safety will feel the true impact of the cuts, and
- (6) that Council urges the Scottish Government to reverse this year's funding cut to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service budget to give this key public service the relief it desperately needs and a letter be sent to the Scottish Government Community Safety Minister stating the Council's position.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR LOGUE AND COUNCILLOR FISHER

10. There was submitted the following Motion in the names of Councillor Logue and Councillor Fisher, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“Council agrees that Standing Order 6 be amended, as undernoted: - The notice of the time of, and the arrangements for, the intended meeting, shall be published at the Civic Centre, Motherwell and on the Council’s website and sent to Members by email to their Council email addresses by way of a hyperlink to the meeting papers. If they so choose, Members may request to receive a printed copy of the meeting papers which may be collected from Member Services, Civic Centre, Motherwell. Where a Special Meeting is called by Members, the notice shall be signed by, and record the names of, the Members calling the meeting and the notice shall specify the business proposed to be transacted at the intended meeting.

Council agrees that Standing Order 64(A) be amended to read that "Where a member who has been appointed to a committee is unable to attend a meeting of that body, they shall be permitted to appoint a substitute member to attend in their place. The use of substitute members shall be limited to use only by political groups and shall be further limited to three per political group per meeting. Upon attendance in a role of substitute member, that Member shall so indicate to the meeting prior to the commencement of business that they are in attendance as a substitute Member and further indicate the name of the absent Member for whom they are substituting, and this shall be recorded in the Minute of the meeting. It is not permissible for a substitute Member to assume the Chair.

Council agrees that all Planning, quasi-judicial & regulatory committees and sub-committees are held in person”.

Thereon, Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Fisher, moved the terms of the Motion.

Councillor Carragher, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an Amendment:-

“Council agrees that any future changes to Standing Orders will be required to be considered by a cross party working group with full equality impact assessments being carried out prior to consideration by Full Council”.

In terms of Standing Order 23, Councillor Logue added, in respect of the proposed change to Standing Order 6, additional text as undernoted:-

“That exemptions be assessed in line with the Equality Act 2010 on a case by case basis”.

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

On the roll being called 22 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Cairns, Carragher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, Larson, MacGregor, Masterton, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Williams.

50 Members voted for the amended Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Brennan, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Crichton, Currie, Di Mascio, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Hume, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Lennon, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCluskey, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McManus, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

22 Members having voted for the Amendment and 50 Members having voted for the amended Motion, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that printed copies of Committee papers no longer be posted out to Elected Members’ home address, subject to exemptions being assessed in line with the Equality Act 2010 on a case by case basis;

- (2) that where a Member who has been appointed to a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of that body, they shall be permitted to appoint a substitute Member to attend in their place and the use of substitute Members shall be limited to use only by political groups and shall be further limited to three per political group per meeting, and
- (3) that all Planning, Quasi-Judicial, Regulatory Committees and Sub-Committee meetings be held in person.

Councillors Currie, Smith and McPake, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection by virtue of being members of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Goldie, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection by virtue of being a member of Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee left the meeting during consideration of the item.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR WILLIAMS AND COUNCILLOR McKENDRICK

11. There was submitted the following Motion in the names of Councillor Williams and Councillor McKendrick, notice of which appeared on the agenda, viz:-

“This Council notes:-

- The ‘[Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy and Delivery Plan: Case for Change](#)’ report presented to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport’s Board on 29 September 2023.
- That this evidence-based report has found that bus use is in ‘sustained, long-term decline’ in Strathclyde, with bus patronage, the size of bus networks, bus service frequency and network coverage all falling.
- That despite decline in bus networks, bus fares continue to rise in Strathclyde at a higher rate than inflation and at a higher rate than the cost of travelling by other modes of transport.
- That the current model of bus service has failed to deliver integrated ticketing or an integrated approach to public transport planning.
- That in 2021/22 public sector support represented 56 per cent of bus operator revenues in Scotland.
- That publicly funded revenue has been boosted by free bus travel for under 22s resulting in 84 million journeys to education, work and leisure, where services are available to use.
- The announcement in the 22/23 Programme for Government that the Scottish Government will work with third sector and local authorities to provide free bus travel to asylum seekers and refugees including displaced people from Ukraine.

This Council believes:-

- The current deregulated model of bus provision is inadequate and that there is now a compelling case for changing the model of bus provision across Strathclyde.
- A new model of bus provision will enable bus services and public transport across Strathclyde to contribute more towards a healthier environment, inclusive economic growth and an improved quality of life for the people and communities of Strathclyde.

- A new model of bus provision will enable bus routes, timetables, ticketing, fares and integration with other modes to be designed by identifying and addressing communities' needs in urban and in suburban and rural areas where there is little or no current service.

This Council agrees to write to SPT and the Scottish Government to communicate its view that:-

- As part of ongoing work developing the [Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy](#), SPT must develop a new model of bus provision for Strathclyde (on behalf of its 12 constituent local authorities) that is fully-integrated with other transport modes, affordable, reliable, easy to use, and democratically accountable.
- SPT can deliver this most effectively by taking forward the franchising and municipal ownership powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 (and not through 'Bus Service Improvement Partnerships', which are not suitable for delivering transformational change)
- This new model of bus provision will help achieve the Regional Transport Strategy objectives and policies set out by SPT by ensuring that bus provision is designed through identifying and addressing communities' needs.
- The Scottish Government must support SPT (and Scotland's other Regional Transport Partnerships) seeking to replace deregulated bus models with models of regulation or common ownership, with fair funding and regulation that respects the autonomy and democratic wishes of Scotland's communities and regions. A democratically accountable Strathclyde-wide bus franchising system should be progressed to improve bus services across the region and realise the ambitions of the Regional Transport Strategy.
- The Scottish Government must support SPT in reforming transport governance, over a 10 year period, as set out in the recent [Centre for Cities report](#)".

In addition:

Officers should continue to collaborate with other local authorities and SPT to progress the use of the franchising and municipal ownership powers, in line with this motion".

Thereon, Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor McKendrick, moved the terms of the Motion.

Councillor Loughran, seconded by Councillor Logue, moved as an Amendment:-

"That this Council recognises that the existing bus services in North Lanarkshire and across the wider region is not delivering for passengers or wider society within Strathclyde.

Council notes recent case for change report by SPT indicating some key issues being;

Above inflation increases to bus fares.

Sustained patronage decline

Shrinking network coverage.

Congestion induced delays

With the absence of a National Bus Strategy, North Lanarkshire Council welcomes Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) initiative to develop a Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) and SPTs Case for Change for the West of Scotland covering over 42% of Scotland's population, and 70% of all public transport journeys in Scotland.

Council also note and welcomes that Phase 2 of the SRBS will consider all options to address such issues, including the provisions set out in the 2019 Transport (Scotland) Act, with the intention to present a preferred way(s) forward in March 2024 – including the proposed indicative operational and

funding model, and timescales for delivery. Thereafter work to develop a full Business Case for the preferred option(s) will be developed and Council welcomes this.

North Lanarkshire Council encourages all interested Community Groups and Stakeholders to engage in SPTs consultation process when it commences to work towards developing and delivering the SRBS and to ensure the bus network better serves the people and communities of North Lanarkshire and the West of Scotland".

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

On the roll being called, 38 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Beveridge, Boyd, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

13 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Brannan-McVey, Brennan, Crichton, Di Mascio, Hume, Leckie, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Sullivan and Williams.

19 Members abstained as follows:-

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Cairns, Carragher, Fotheringham, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Larson, MacGregor, Masterton, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, A. Stubbs, Thomas and Toner.

38 Members having voted for the Amendment, 13 Members having voted for the Motion and 19 Members having abstained, the Amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that Council recognises that the existing bus services in North Lanarkshire and across the wider region are not delivering for passengers or the wider society within the former Strathclyde area;
- (2) that Council notes the recent Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy: Case for Change report by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport highlighted the undernoted key issues;
 - An above inflation increase to bus fares.
 - A sustained patronage decline.
 - A shrinking network coverage.
 - An increase in congestion induced delays.
- (3) that, in the absence of a National Bus Strategy, the Council welcomes Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) initiative to develop a Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy (SRBS) and SPT's Case for Change for the West of Scotland covering over 42% of Scotland's population, and 70% of all public transport journeys in Scotland.
- (4) that Council also notes and welcomes Phase 2 of the SRBS which will consider all options to address such issues, including the provisions set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, with the intention to present a preferred way forward in March 2024, including the proposed indicative operational and funding model and timescales for delivery, and, thereafter, work to develop a full Business Case for the preferred option(s) will be developed, and

- (5) that Council encourages all interested Community Groups and Stakeholders to engage in SPT's consultation process when it commences to work towards developing and delivering the SRBS and to ensure that the bus network better serves the people and communities of North Lanarkshire and the West of Scotland.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 51

12. It was noted that, in terms of Standing Order 51, three written questions had been submitted:-

Question by Councillor Robinson

"What is the cost of posting requested Committee papers to members per cycle compared to the projected fuel cost of each of those members to travel to and from the Civic to collect papers".

Written answer by Councillor Fisher

"The cost of posting Committee Agendas is approximately £900 per cycle.

I am unable to provide projected full costs as I don't have sufficient information".

Question by Councillor Carragher

"Is there any reason the Planning Committee should not take place in the Chamber".

Written answer by Councillor Shevlin

"There are no webcasting facilities in the Committee rooms. There is not sufficient space within the Committee rooms for members of the public who wish to attend".

Question by Councillor Carragher

"Can North Lanarkshire Council expect future policy announcements relating to the business of this Council to be made by the Leader of the Council or the Leader of the Labour Party in Scotland".

Written answer by Councillor Logue

"Rather than focus on other political groups, the SNP would do well to ensure that there are no current group members ready to join 10 of their former colleagues who have defected from the SNP since the elections in May 2022".

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Duffy, having declared a connection by virtue of being the Elected Member referred to in the report left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Thereon, Councillor Duffy (Provost) demitted the Chair and Councillor Burgess (Depute Provost) assumed the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

OUTCOME OF HEARING BY THE STANDARDS COMMISSION – COUNCILLOR DUFFY

13. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) (1) advising that a hearing was held by the Standards Commission for Scotland in relation to Councillor Duffy on 29 September 2023 to investigate a complaint that Councillor Duffy had contravened the Councillors' Code of Conduct and, in particular, that he was not compliant with the protocol for relations between Elected Members and Officers; (2) intimating that the decision was to censure Councillor Duffy in terms of Section 19(1)(a) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000, and (3) indicating that

Section 18 of the 2000 Act requires that the Standards Commission, following a hearing, must provide a copy of its findings to the Council and that the Council must consider those findings within three months of receiving them.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

Amendments to Memberships of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Other Bodies

Meeting of North Lanarkshire Council – 21 December 2023

Council is recommended to approve the appointments as detailed below.

<u>Committees/Sub-Committees/Panels</u>	<u>Proposed Amendment</u>
Appointments Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Robinson to replace Cllr Masterton as a substitute
Audit and Scrutiny Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McLaren to replace Cllr Duffy-Lawson
Communities Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Harmon to replace Cllr McNally
Education, Children and Families Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Reddin to replace Cllr Hughes
Education Employee Appeals Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Brennan to replace Cllr Cairns
Employee Appeals Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Baudo to replace Cllr Barclay
Enterprise and Fair Work Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mitchell to replace Cllr Larson • Cllr Cairns to replace Cllr Mitchell as a substitute • Cllr Duffy-Lawson to replace Cllr Logue
Environment and Climate Change Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Harmon to replace Cllr McDade
Finance and Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Woods to replace Cllr Fotheringham • Cllr Larson to replace Cllr Mitchell
Housing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Harmon to replace Cllr Robinson • Cllr Harmon to replace Cllr Reddin as Vice Convener
Petitions Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McManus to replace Cllr Thomas
Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McManus to replace Cllr Crichton
Policy and Strategy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fotheringham to replace Cllr Hughes as a substitute
Regulatory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC by PCNL Group to replace Cllr Barclay
<u>Outside Bodies</u>	<u>Proposed Appointment</u>
Fusion Assets (paragraph 8 of the minute of the meeting of the Enterprise and Fair Work Committee of 17 November 2023 refers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint, as Alternate Directors, Councillors Fisher and Robinson. • Appoint, as Alternate Directors, (a) a Senior Manager from within the Place Service and (b) a Business Finance Manager from within the Finance Service.
Integrated Joint Board (IJB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McBride to replace Cllr M McCulloch • Cllr McBride to be appointed Chair

Appointments to Outside Bodies

Council is recommended to agree that membership of, and appointment to, the following outside bodies are removed as listed.

<u>Leave Membership</u>
APSE
Clyde and Loch Lomond Local District Joint Committee
Environmental Protection Scotland
Ethic Minorities Law Centre
Glasgow Airport Consultative Group
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
Industrial Communities Alliance
Lanarkshire Business Gateway Steering Group
National Association of Councillors
North Lanarkshire Access Forum
North Lanarkshire Area Support Team
North Lanarkshire Municipal Bank
Nuclear Free Local Authorities
Road Safety West of Scotland
Scottish Councils on Radioactive Substances
West of Scotland European Forum
Woodland Trust Scotland

15 February 2024 at 2 pm.

A Special Meeting of the NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

PRESENT

Councillor Duffy, Provost; Councillor Burgess, Depute Provost; Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Brennan, Bustard, Cairns, Campbell, Carragher, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Crichton, Currie, Di Mascio, Docherty, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Keltie, Khan, Larson, Leckie, Lennon, Logue, Loughran, MacGregor, Masterton, McBride, McCluskey, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McLaren, McManus, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Williams, Wilson and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Duffy (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer, Health and Social Care; Chief Officer (Education - North); Chief Officer (Finance); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Chief Officer (People Resources); Chief Officer (Strategic Communication and Engagement); Democratic Services Manager, and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGY

Councillor Ashraf.

The Provost varied the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

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

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

REVIEW OF GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME (GAP)

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communication and Engagement) (1) providing details of the findings of the review of the Grant Awards Programme, as part of the exercise to further scope out opportunities to resourcing the Community and Voluntary Sector; (2) intimating that the review resulted in a number of recommendations which generated a range of improvements for modernising, simplifying and making the funding stream more transparent to Community and Voluntary Sector applicants and it was anticipated that the improvements and recommendations would also ensure a sustainable model for the future and drive similar improvements within other community focussed grants available to support Community and Voluntary Sector organisations delivering important outcomes for North Lanarkshire communities; (3) providing an overview of the review process, the findings from the various engagement activities and how the information has been triangulated to ensure a robust approach to identifying the proposed improvements, together with an outline of associated actions for implementation; (4) detailing the implementation timeline to deliver the new approach for the Grant Awards Programme for the 2025/2026 funding round; (5) setting out in Section 2.11 of the report the budget projections and the funding model which would

allocate the budget proportionally to each area based on population size and levels of deprivation, and (6) attaching in the Appendices to the report, the approaches taken by other Local Authorities, national grant giving bodies, engagement with Elected Members, equalities groups/seldom-heard voices, Community and Voluntary Sector and Community Board members and applicants to the Grant Award Programme in the last 5 years.

Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Khan, moved the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor Carragher, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved as an Amendment:-

“The creation of a Member/Officer Working Group as set out in paragraph 2.14 of the report.”

Councillor Lennon, seconded by Councillor Williams, moved as a further Amendment that “Council agrees that monies sitting within the Community Investment Fund be used to cover any shortfall in fiscal year 2024/2025.”

The Chief Officer (Finance) intimated that there were no surplus monies within the Community Investment Fund for 2024/2025 and, in her opinion, for the amendment second received to be competent, there would need to be an identification of capital projects to be removed from the 2024/2025 programme.

The Provost intimated that the amendment second received was not competent.

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

On the roll being called 32 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Brennan, Cairns, Carragher, Crichton, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Keltie, Leckie, Lennon, MacGregor, Masterton, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Shields, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas and Williams.

41 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

Councillor Burgess abstained.

32 Members having voted for the Amendment, 41 Members having voted for the Motion and 1 Member having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the feedback received from the Grant Awards Programme consultation with stakeholders be acknowledged, particularly the improvement suggestions from the Community and Voluntary Sector organisations and advocacy organisations supporting seldom-heard voices;
- (2) that the triangulation analysis used to determine the improvement actions be endorsed;
- (3) that the implementation of the improvement actions contained in Sections 2.8 and 2.9 of the report be approved;

- (4) that the timeline implementation to deliver the new approach to the Grant Awards Programme for 2025/2026 funding round be approved;
- (5) that the budget projections and funding model be approved;
- (6) that the Grant Awards Programme budget be proportionally allocated to each area based on population size and levels of deprivation, and
- (7) that a Member/Officer Working Group be created to examine all emerging issues and gather evidence with a view to making further recommendations to Council in due course.

REVENUE BUDGET 2024/2025 TO 2026/2027 AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/2025

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing information to enable the Council to set its Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2024/2025 and providing a forecast revenue budget position in terms of financial years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027; (2) intimating that the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, approved by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 8 June 2023, identified an envisaged three year budget gap of £64.560m with an estimated shortfall of £30.930m in 2024/2025, and after incorporating the agreed advanced action of £5.182m this reduced the three year gap to £59.378m and the 2024/2025 gap to £25.958m and that this forecast had been subsequently updated to reflect the Local Government Finance Settlement Circular (8/2023) and some other changes to planning assumptions which resulted in a net reduction in the three year budget gap of £9.412m to £49.966m and a £3.312m reduction in the 2024/2025 budget gap resulting in a revised gap in 2024/2025 of £22.646m with the gaps in 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 being revised to £14.460m and £12.860m respectively; (3) highlighting that employer contributions to the Strathclyde Pension Fund were reducing by 6.5% for two years only with a long term contribution rate of 17.5% from 2026/2027 which generates a recurring saving of £3.800m from 2026/2027 and a one-off cost reduction of £27.400m per annum in financial years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026; (4) advising that the budget strategy recognises the opportunity to reduce service and corporate budgets by £7m to reflect historic in-year underspend trends and recognises the impact of assumed Council Tax rises of 5% in both 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 and, combined, these measures reduce the anticipated three year budget gap to £28.863m: £15.646m in 2024/2025 and £7.580m and £5.637m in 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 respectively; (5) recommending that the use of the non-recurring pension cost reductions be limited to reduce the three year gap to £9.621m per year to support the planned implementation of savings over the three year period, supported by the responsible use of one-off pension reductions with the remaining pension fund cost reductions being utilised to support one-off investment or to add to the Council's unallocated reserve balances to support future budget strategies in accordance with the approved the Reserves Policy; (6) attaching, in Appendix 1 to the report, the updated revenue budget position for 2024/2025 with Appendix 2 summarising the position across the next three budget years; (7) attaching, in Appendix 3 to the report, details of the base budget adjustments; (8) setting out, in Appendix 4 to the report, the financial projections for the Change Management Fund, and (9) proposing (a) that the general reserve fund of £8m, as set out by the Chief Officer (Finance), be agreed, and (b) the continuation of the treatment of volume discount.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Fisher, moved the following budget motion:-

1. "Whilst noting the budget report provided by the Chief Officer (Finance) and the update in respect of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2024/25, we reluctantly accept the wholly inadequate level of funding provided. We endorse COSLA's budgeting campaign; 'A budget of Missed Opportunities' to give authorities enough resources to invest in services and continue to call on the Scottish Government to provide adequate funding to deliver vital public services.
2. We note that after accounting for ring fenced monies, funding for new commitments and other directed expenditure, North Lanarkshire Council received £2.295 million less core grant funding than was anticipated. This is despite the Resource Spending Review published in May 2022

setting out the anticipated future Scottish Budget spend on Local Government indicating broadly flat cash in the medium term, a real terms cut.

3. Yet again, the Scottish Government has provided a one-year financial settlement, and we continue to call for multi-year settlements, which is a necessity to properly plan and deliver local services, while ensuring the Council remains financially sustainable.
4. Further, we call on the Scottish Government to honour the Verity House Agreement and remove ring-fencing and direction of funding for policy initiatives, allowing Local Authorities to make their own decisions and prioritise resources based on local need, including decisions on setting Council Tax levels.
5. This Administration remains fully committed to the key principle of the Revenue Resources Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three year period.
6. Therefore, we note that following approved advanced action of £5.182 million as referenced in the budget report, this Council faces a budget gap of £22.646 million in 2024/25 and further gaps in 2025/26 and 2026/27 of £14.460 million and £12.860 million, respectively, a total of £49.966 million across the three-year planning period.
7. Confirm that Council Tax rates will remain at the 2023/24 levels, keeping the Band D charge at £1,320.78. This reflects an acceptance of the Scottish Government funding estimated at £7.128 million in return for a Council Tax freeze. However, it should be noted that this reduces the income base in perpetuity, and we call again on the Scottish Government to leave decisions around Council Tax to Local Authorities.
8. Reiterate our previous commitment to Community Investment by continuing to set aside the amount equivalent to a 1% Council Tax increase from 2024/25 to support Community Investment.
9. We note the Section 95 Officer has presented a budget strategy that recognises a three year budget gap of £49.966 million. The Administration accepts the recommended budget strategy assumes increased Council Tax in 2025/26 and 2026/27 (est. 5% £14.103 million). The Administration also accepts the recommendation to reduce Council budgets by £7.000 million per annum to reflect previous trends of year-on-year underspends. These assumed measures will reduce the recurring budget gap to £15.646 million in 2024/25, and £7.580 million and £5.637 million in financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27, respectively.
10. This reduces the three year budget gap to £28.863 million but is heavily weighted towards financial year 2024/25. Therefore, we agree the Section 95 Officer's recommendation to smooth the gap evenly over the three year planning period, resulting in an annual savings requirement of £9.621 million. We also agree to the limited use of the resources available as a result of the one-off cost reductions associated with reduced Strathclyde Pension Fund contributions of £6.025 million in 2024/25 and £3.984 million in 2025/26.
11. Taking this strategic approach, we therefore agree savings of £9.621 million in 2024/25, which are detailed in Appendix 1. As indicated, this will deliver savings totalling £6.120 million in 2024/25, £2.283 million in 2025/26 and £1.218 million in 2026/27.
12. Due to the phasing and the time required to implement the savings it is acknowledged that additional one-off use of balances is required of £3.501 million in 2024/25 and £1.218 million in 2025/26. See Appendix 2.
13. We also acknowledge the update from Chief Officer (Finance) in relation to the two year reduction in pension fund costs of £27.400 million and note that after use of £6.025 million in 2024/25 and £3.984 million in 2025/26, to manage to smooth the budget gap, this leaves a reduced benefit from the cost reduction to £21.375 million in 2024/25 and £23.416 million in 2025/26.

14. In recognition of feedback from our communities, we agree to use the remaining one-off resources to make one-off capital investments contributions of £21.375 million and £23.400 million in financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively to augment the Council's delivery of a key strategic priority in the development of Community Hubs to provide a lasting benefit to North Lanarkshire's communities from the one-off pension contribution cost reductions. We also acknowledge that pension fund costs will increase to 17.5% from 2026/27, thus requiring the budget to be restored for that purpose.
15. Note that this Administration has continued to take a strategic approach to managing the challenging financial position in order to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable. However, given the scale of challenges that continue to lie ahead it is recognised that further action will need to be identified to address significant forecast budget gaps in 2025/26 and 2026/27. To address this we request that the Chief Executive instructs a series of service reviews which should include identifying savings options or income generation opportunities:
 - a) Review of the Council's approach to facilitate Community Asset Transfers
 - b) In line with the approved Discretionary Fees and Charges Policy acceleration of the move to full cost recovery where possible
 - c) Review of the provision of First Stop Shops, non-school catering functions, Land & Waste, Revenues & Benefits and Business & Digital, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and represent Best Value for the Council.
 - d) Review of the functions and strategic direction of the Council's remaining ALEOs (Routes to Work, Fusion Assets and North Lanarkshire Properties) to ensure that they continue to contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities.
16. This Administration deprecates the decision by the Scottish Government, despite previous commitments, not to provide specific revenue funding for holiday programmes.
17. Recognise that this Council has the second lowest level of Council Tax across all Scottish mainland local authorities. Reflecting on the forecast challenging financial environment in which the Council operates, we request that the Chief Officer (Finance) undertakes an analysis of options in relation to a future Council Tax Strategy for North Lanarkshire.
18. Note that this Administration puts jobs first and has therefore acted to ensure jobs are protected for as long as possible ensuring we uphold our established commitment to no compulsory redundancies.
19. After providing for the cost of investment a balanced budget 2024/25 is proposed as summarised in Appendix 2.
20. Approve a Revenue Budget for 2024/25 which recognises available resources of £1,016.750 million after accounting for use of balances of £3.501 million. Reflecting the action already taken by this Council, the cost of investment and savings outlined, the total expenditure budget is also estimated at £1,016.750 million, resulting in a balanced budget.
21. Agree the level of General Fund contingency reserve at £8.000 million as advised by the Chief Officer (Finance).
22. Agree that in the event additional undirected recurring funding is made available for 2024/25, it will be ringfenced to address identified resource gaps.

SPECIAL NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Appendix 1

Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
<u>Operational Decisions:</u>							
01CEX	Chief Exec's Support Services Review	Review of Support Services (second year impact)	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.0
03CEX	Chief Exec's Operational Budgets	Reduction in Operational Budgets - 10%	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.0
25CEX - a	Chief Exec's - review of empty property relief policy	Following the delegation of Empty Property Relief to local government, the budget allocated from Scottish Government exceeds the value of empty property relief awarded in each of the last three years. Therefore, the surplus budget can be reduced without impacting on the level of reliefs awarded.	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.0
13CEXD	Business & Digital - Finalisation of Support Services Review	A full review of the Support Services function was implemented on 01/04/23. This saving represents the full year impact.	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.0
16ECF	Education - Removal of Early Years Absence Funding (unutilised in previous years)	Early Years Absence funding has been under utilised due to wider use of existing staff to meet absence cover requirements	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.0
30ECF	Education HQ - Contracts and Provisions - under-utilised budget lines	Removal, reallocation or further reduction of underused budget lines	0.045	0.000	0.029	0.074	0.0
35ECF	Education HQ - reduced recharges	Reduce HQ recharge budget	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.200	0.0
42ECF	Children's Services Social Work - under-utilised corporate parenting discretionary budget	Reduction to under-utilised discretionary spend on training and hospitalities	0.021	0.000	0.000	0.021	0.0
43ECF	Children's Services Social Work - removing budget for service redesign and efficiencies through transition to SDS	Budget historically used for respite care. Through Self-Directed Support, practice has evolved to enable families to create a package of care within the home and community.	0.024	0.000	0.037	0.061	0.0
44ECF	Children's Services Social Work - reduced discretionary spend in training	Operational savings found within training and capacity for development initiatives	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.0
66ECF	Children's Services HQ - under-utilised budgets	Vacancy management, post deletion and cost reduction in areas such as catering and absence referrals	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.5
86ECF	Education - Wellbeing Strategy - efficiencies in the reduction in use of external facilities	Maximise the use of facilities already in the Council's ownership to deliver curriculum	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.0
24ECS	Assets & Procurement - Office Accommodation rationalisation	APS continue to deliver the office rationalisation programme agreed by Council in 2019 and further reviewed in 2021/22. Recognition of the expiry of property lease in 2025.	0.000	0.000	0.266	0.266	0.0
25ECS	Assets & Procurement - Support review	Savings across a number of operational budgets to reflect prior year underspends	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.0
36ECS	Assets & Procurement - Reduce Supplies & services cost budgets	Further reduction to Supplies & Services budget	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.0
42ECS	Place - City Deal - increasing proportion of staff time charged to capital	Savings from increasing proportion of staff costs charged to capital	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.0
43ECSA	Place - Growth Team - reduction to revenue leverage funding	10% budget reduction to revenue costs associated with the delivery of the ERDP through reducing Revenue Leverage Fund	0.019	0.000	0.000	0.019	0.0
46ECSA	Place - Enterprise Development - under-utilised budget for payments to external providers	Reduction in controllable revenue expenditure	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.0
53ESC	Housing Property Services - HEEPS match funding no longer required	Removal of under utilised budget	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.0
54ECS	Housing Property Services - former Customer Contract Centre budget no longer required	Removal of under utilised budget	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.0
55ECS	Housing Property Services - Stair and Close Lighting	Review General Fund charges linked to changing mix of properties following buy back and twoer / flat reprovisioning programme. Thereafter consider the potential for spend to save initiatives that would reduce General Fund and HRA costs	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.0

SPECIAL NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
69ECS	Housing Management - Business Development - review and prioritise workload	Review and prioritisation of workload	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	1.0
Sub-total Operational Decisions			2.113	0.100	0.484	2.697	1.5
<u>Income Generation:</u>							
13ECSA	Parking enforcement	Increase income from parking enforcement by increasing capacity of team and increase fines in line with neighbouring authorities	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.212	(6.0)
72ECSC	Charging for Recycling Bins	Introducing a charge of c.£30 for replacing recycling bins will recover the costs incurred for purchase and supplying. Currently there is an increased price levied for residual waste bins and it is proposed that that remains in place.	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.210	0.0
78ECSA	MOTs	Provision of external MOTs will be possible upon completion of the new Bellshill depot. This will generate approximately £380k income which would be offset by operating costs of £180k payable to VOSA.	0.000	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.0
78ECSB	Tachograph testing	It is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange tachograph testing in the current market. The Service have the facilities available to provide this service which should generate income.	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.0
83ECB	Landlord registration	Increased landlord registration fees	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.0
84ECB	Building standards income	Increase in building standards fees	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.0
Sub-total Income Generation			0.480	0.306	0.000	0.786	(6.0)
<u>Budget Decisions:</u>							
04CEX	Finance - Financial Solutions (5%)	Review of staffing structures across the Finance service	0.048	0.071	0.137	0.255	5.0
07CEX	Legal & Democratic - Central Services (10%)	Review of staffing structures delivering central services functions	0.014	0.000	0.075	0.089	3.5
08CEX	Registrars	Review of staffing structures delivering the Registrars function	0.000	0.057	0.000	0.057	1.0
10CEX	Business & Digital - Digital / Field Services - Technical Support to Education & Families	Review of staffing structures and contracts mainly within Education, Children & Families	0.092	0.000	0.303	0.395	9.0
11CEXD	Business & Digital - DigitalNL (MS Licences)	Removal of annual Microsoft Unified Support contract	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.0
12CEX	Business & Digital - Technology Solutions - restructure and review of contracts	Restructuring of Technology Solutions and review of contracts	0.110	0.290	0.000	0.400	1.5
13CEX	Business & Digital - Business Strategy	This saving would be formed from restructuring across all teams within Business Strategy including - Business Partnerships, Data Intelligence, Delivery Management and Business Change. Focus is on retaining the staff to meet the requirements of statutory functions including Community Planning, Best Value and Performance Reporting and Complaints Handling as per legislative requirements	0.154	0.035	0.013	0.202	6.4
15CEX	People Resources	Review of staffing structures	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.207	4.5

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Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
19CEX	Strategic Communications & Engagement - Corporate Communications	Review of existing staff vacancies and operational budgets	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	2.6
20CEX	Strategic Communications & Engagement - Communities	Reduce all grant programmes	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.0
26CEX - a	Council Tax on Second Homes	Implement policy change to remove the existing discount for second homes and instead charge the additional 100% levy in line with the allowable limit within revised Scottish Government legislation	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.0
27CEX - a	Chief Officer Review	Next stage of Chief Officer review due to be considered at Policy and Strategy Committee Cycle 4 in 2024 with a view to reducing the number of Chief Officers in the Chief Executive's Service	0.000	0.140	0.000	0.140	1.0
26ECF	Developing the Young Workforce (20%)	Review staffing structures	0.000	0.080	0.000	0.080	2.0
28ECF	Network Support - HQ (cessation)	Removal of unutilised budget	0.213	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.0
62ECF	Children & Families and Adult Social Care Shared Services	Budget no longer required as services purchased on an individual and bespoke basis via Self Directed Support	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.0
65ECF	Children & Families and Adult Social Care Shared Services	Service redesign and rationalisation towards a business support model fit for integrated service needs	0.000	0.280	0.000	0.280	9.5
78ECF/ 79ECF/ 80ECF	Review of Employability	Review of service delivery across Youth Employability Hubs	0.670	0.000	0.000	0.670	10.0
81ECF	Community Learning & Development	Review of CLD service delivery, including the provision of youth diversionary activities	0.163	0.883	0.000	1.046	18.0
87ECF	Music Service	Reduction in staffing	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	3.0
88ECF	Club 365	Removal of extra curricular activity delivered by existing staff	1.090	0.000	0.000	1.090	0.0
44ECSB	Planning & Place - Local Development Plan 2	Review costs associated with the delivery of the next Local Development Plan	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.014	0.0
47ECS	Enterprise - Business Gateway	Review of costs associated with the delivery of Business Gateway functions	0.000	0.041	0.000	0.041	0.0
70ECSA	Housing Business Engagement	Review and prioritisation of workload	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.0
72ECSA	Waste - removal of food waste bags	Removal of the free issue of food waste bags. The saving recognises the potential for increased residual waste tonnage and marginal reductions in food waste captured for recycling.	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.0
Sub-total Budget Decisions			3.527	1.877	0.734	6.138	77.0
Total Savings			6.120	2.283	1.218	9.621	72.5

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Appendix 2

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	22.646	14.460	12.860	49.966
Recommended Strategy Decisions:				
Recurring Underspends	(7.000)			(7.000)
Council Tax Increased by 5% (with 1% for CIF)		(6.880)	(7.223)	(14.103)
Net Recurring Shortfall / (Excess Resource)	15.646	7.580	5.637	28.863
Managed by:				
Agreed One-off Use of resources supported by SPF cost reduction	(6.025)	(3.984)	0.000	(10.009)
24/25 Revenue Savings Agreed	(6.120)	(2.283)	(1.218)	(9.621)
Potential Future Savings Target		(9.621)	(9.621)	(19.242)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Estimated/ Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd		6.025	3.984	10.009
One-off Use of balances to support timing of delivery of 24/25 savings	(3.501)	2.283	1.218	0.000
Recurring Surplus/ (Shortfall)	(0.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
 One-off Cost Reduction; reduction in SPF employers contributions	 (27.400)		27.400	0.000
One-off use to manage budget gap smoothing strategy	6.025	(2.041)	(3.984)	0.000
New Investment; Community Hubs CFCR	21.375	2.041	(23.416)	0.000
Net One-off Budget Implications	(0.000)	0.000	(0.000)	0.000

Summary Budget for 2024/25

	£m	£m
Expenditure Budget 2024/25 per Budget Report		1,035.895
Budget Strategy; recurring historical underspends		(7.000)
2024/25 Savings Agreed		(6.120)
One-off Reduction in pension contributions		(27.400)
2024/25 New One-off capital Investment - Community Hub CFCR		21.375
Revised Net Expenditure 2024/25		1,016.750

Available Resources:

Resources Budget 2024/25 per Budget Report	1,013.249	
One-off Use of balances to smooth 24/25 budget gap	3.501	
	<hr/>	
2024/25 Available Resources		1,016.750

Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess) 0.000

Councillor D. Johnston, seconded by Councillor Carragher, moved the following budget proposal:-

“The SNP Group accept the figures in the latest financial outlook provided by the Finance Team, which covers the figures from the Medium-Term Financial Plan and subsequent updates. In keeping with advice received, we have provided a one year balanced budget that identified future years savings which will be temporarily met by reserves, totalling £5.081M (£2.623M in 24/25, £1.974M in 25/26 and £0.484M in 26/27).

Our primary goals in choosing our Budget Options were to ensure:

- No NLC colleagues faced compulsory redundancy in 24/25
- Minimal impact on frontline services
- Our young people continue to travel to and from school in safe manner.

To that end:

1. The Council accepts the Base Budget Adjustment Savings proposals totalling £1.888 million which are documented in Appendix 1 of this motion.
2. This Council agrees to accept the recommendation outlined the review of historic underspends which create a saving of £7.000 million.
3. That the Council takes a balanced approach towards meeting the budget gap would be in the best interests of the communities that we represent. It is proposed therefore that we use a mix of income maximisation worth £2.003 million, savings of £3.078 million and the utilisation of

temporary cost reductions in 24/25 and 25/26 associated with reduced pension contributions of £16.165 million to produce a balanced budget.

4. The Council welcomes the financial flexibilities made available by the Scottish Government, which has allowed alterations to accounting for school PPP contracts providing scope for expenditure over the last two years.
5. This Council agrees to the Scottish Governments conditions and funding of £7.128M for the Council Tax freeze and welcome the financial relief that this will give households during a cost-of-living crisis.
6. The Council confirms its commitment to utilise the equivalent of 1% of the income in lieu of the Council Tax rise to support the Community Investment Fund.
7. Council agrees that the remaining balance of £11.235 million of temporary cost reduction in 2024/25 and any residual available in 2025/26 associated with reduced pension contributions be designated for capital spending associated with the Council's Town and Community Hub Strategy.
8. Following feedback from our communities this Council agrees a recurring investment of £3.600 million to reverse previous savings linked to moving the distance thresholds of school transport to statutory limits. This will see the distance thresholds remain at 1 mile for Primary Schools and 2 miles for Secondary schools.
9. In addition to the above investment this Council agrees to the following one-off investment totalling £2.000 million in the following areas:

Road Improvement

- £1.000 million for a 'Pothole Fund' to provide targeted investment for defections on roads, footpaths and cycle lanes.

Community Benefit

- A £0.100 million fund to provide Town Centres with Christmas trees and festive lighting for 2024.

Waste Services

- £0.900 million to provide one free special uplift per household for 2024/25.
10. Council accepts that these proposals diverge from the section 95 Officer's recommended budget strategy detailed in the budget report. In doing so Council agrees that a further portion of the recurring gap over and above that detailed in the budget report is referred to 2025/26 creating an increased recurring gap for that year. In making this alternative proposal Council fully respects the guidance provided by the relevant Council Officers and understands that outwith those recommendations, this motion has been confirmed as fully competent. Council agrees that the job of elected representatives is to represent the interests of our communities, and this includes making the final decision on budget options.
 11. Council recognises that due to the timing of savings delivery in 2025/26 and 2026/27, that £2.942 million of one-off resources will be required (£2.458 million in 2024/25 and £0.484 million in 2025/26). In addition, we also recognise that the reversal of previous savings linked to moving the distance thresholds of school transport will reduce the required use of one-off resources by £2.400 million in 2024/25.

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Base Budget Adjustment Options that have been accepted

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	FTE
		£m	£m	£m	£m	
01CEX	Support Services Review	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	
03CEX	Operational Budgets	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.004	
13CEXD	Support Services Review	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	
16ECF	Removal of Absence Fund	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	
28ECF	Removal of Budget	0.213	0.000	0.000	0.213	
30ECF	Further reduction in budget	0.045	0.000	0.029	0.074	
35ECF	Reduce HQ recharge budget	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.200	
42ECF	Reduce discretionary spend	0.021	0.000	0.000	0.021	
43ECF	Recategorized Budget	0.024	0.000	0.037	0.061	
44ECF	Reduce discretionary spend	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	
66ECF	Review of service provision	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.5
86ECF	Reduction in costs	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	
24ECS	Balance of Scott House	0.000	0.000	0.266	0.266	
25ECS	Reduction in budget	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	
42ECS	Costs charged to capital	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	
46ECSA	Reduction in expenditure	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	
53ECS	HEEPS	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.007	
54ECS	CCS transfer to Hub	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.009	
55ECS	Stair Close Lighting PV panels	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	
69ECS	Business Dev. Review	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	1.0
Total Savings		1.304	0.100	0.484	1.888	1.5

Savings Options

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	FTE
		£m	£m	£m	£m	
25CEX	NDR Surplus budget	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	
26CEX	CT increase for 2nd Homes	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	
27CEX	Chief Officer Review	0.000	0.140	0.000	0.140	1.0
Total Savings		1.050	0.140	0.000	1.190	1.0

Income Maximisation Options

						FTE
13ECSA	Increase parking team	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.212	(6.0)
72ECSB	Waste Collection (opt 2)	0.000	1.428	0.000	1.428	(2.0)
78ECSA	Provision of MOT's	0.000	0.200	0.000	0.200	
78ECSB	Tachograph Testing	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	
83ECSB	Landlord Registration Fees	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	
84ECSB	Building Standards Fees	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	
Total Savings		0.269	1.734	0.000	2.003	(8.0)

	£M
Recurring Revised Shortfall 24/25	27.058

Solutions

Review of historic underspends	(7.000)
Income in lieu of Council Tax	(7.128)
Change in Council Tax Reduction assumption	(1.299)
1% Contribution for Community Investment	1.720
SG Settlement adjustment	2.295

Adjusted Recurring Shortfall	15.646
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C/fwd recurring unresolved gap	(6.025)
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Cumulative unresolved gap	9.621
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Base Budget Adjustments accepted by SNP Group	(1.888)
Revenue Savings	(1.190)
Income Maximisation	(2.003)
Reversal of distance threshold changes to school transport	3.600
One-off investment in Road Infrastructure	1.000
One-off investment for Community benefit	0.100
One-off investment for special uplift	0.900
Utilisation of temporary cost reductions	(10.14)

Budget/ Savings options gap	0.000"
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Councillor Hume, seconded by Councillor Lennon, moved the following budget motion:-

"The PCNL Group accept the figures in the latest financial outlook provided by the Finance Team, which covers the figures from the Medium Term Financial Plan and subsequent updates. In keeping with the advice received, we have provided a one year balanced budget.

We can confirm that where the savings options chosen have future year savings, we will not amend any of these and Officers can progress the relevant Service amendments with certainty.

We acknowledge the key movements in Financial Planning assumptions shown in the Revenue Budget Report and their impact on the MTFP and acknowledge these could not have been planned for.

We acknowledge all the figures shown in the Report in relation to Budget figures over the 3 years.

We acknowledge the Strategy recommended by the Chief Officer(Finance) and have followed these recommendations in our Budget proposals.

We agree that the Council Tax will be frozen at 23/24 levels and accept the Scottish Government funding linked to this, as assumed in the Budget Report.

We agree to maintain Contingency Fund Reserves of £8m.

Our primary goals in choosing our Budget Options were to ensure:

- No NLC colleagues face compulsory redundancy in 24/25. We have sought assurances from Chief Officers that this position can be achieved from the savings options proposed.
- minimise any impact on frontline services

- offer proposals that acknowledge increasing poverty levels in North Lanarkshire and mitigate substantial Cost of Living increases
- Because of previously mentioned uncertainty and risks and the specific uncertainty about future Westminster and Holyrood Governments position on Local Authority spending, we have not included any Revenue spending options in our proposals

To that end:

- From the savings options provided by all the Services, we have accepted Savings proposals which realise £6.195m in 24/25, £2.747m in 25/26 and £0.666m in 26/27. This gives a total of £9.608m over the 3 years. We acknowledge the Finance Strategy of balancing the totals savings over 3 years but created a plan for a 1 year balanced Budget:
 - Totals saving required for 24/25 - £15.646m
 - Value of Options chosen 24/25, 25/26 and 26/27 - £9.608m
 - This requires an additional one-off contribution from SPF cost reductions of £0.013m in 2024/25. We understand the extra challenges this will create in producing a balanced Budget in future years. More details on the overall Financial position are shown in Appendix 1. The savings options we have chosen are shown in Appendix 2.
- We felt it was more beneficial to our local Communities not to take all the available savings options for this year. This would have generated more Savings by value but would have resulted in significant job losses. We could also have chosen to utilise more SPF Reserves to balance the Gap but this would have reduced the opportunity to use Reserves to deliver long term benefits for our Communities
- We would like to confirm our commitment to utilise 1% of Council Tax increases to support the Community Investment Fund
- We agree that £12.138m will be allocated to the Integrated Joint Board to support Adult Health and Social Care plans
- Utilise £30million of the remaining cost reductions associated with reduced employer pension contributions to invest in the Council's housing stock, specifically to bring home insulation up to the highest possible EPC standard. In accordance with provisions in the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Instruct the Chief Officer (Finance) and Chief Officer (Housing Management) to seek the consent of Scottish Ministers to transfer the funding from the SPF surplus to the Housing Revenue Account and that it be utilised for this specific purpose
- In light of previously stated financial uncertainties and risks, we would anticipate that progress on delivering the Chosen Savings options will be reported regularly to Members. In particular, to provide information on any unplanned impact on Services and Staff.

MTFP Figures – PCNL Budget Proposals

	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m
Original Budget shortfall	30.930	14.870	18.760
After previously identified Savings/ costs	27.058	14.460	12.860
Planned savings			
5% Council Tax increase	(7.128)		
Council Tax Reduction	(1.299)		
1% Community Investment	1.720		
SG Settlement Net Position	2.295		
Updated Budget Gap	22.646	14.660	12.860

LATEST POSITION

Historic Underspends (7.000)

Unresolved Gap 15.646 14.460 12.860

5% Council Tax increase (not including 1% for CIF) (6.880) (7.223)

Recurring Shortfall 15.646 7.580 5.637

Budget Proposal

Recommended 24/25 SPF contribution	6.025		
2024/25 Savings required	9.621		
Proposed Savings (£9.608m)	6.195	2.747	0.666
Additional Contribution from SPF	0.013		
Balance	<u>0</u>		

Use of one-off resources to manage savings delivery of £4.092m (£3.426m in 2024/25 and £0.666m in 2025/26)

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Savings Options

Service	Saving Reference	Savings Description	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	fte
Chief Executives	01CEX	Support Services Review	56			56	
Chief Executives	03CEX	Reduction in Operational Budgets - 10%	4			4	
Chief Executives	11CEXD	Removal of annual Microsoft Unified Support contract	200			200	
Chief Executives	13CEXD	implement review of support service function	43			43	
Chief Executives	19CEX	Review of existing staff vacancies and operational budgets. 10% reduction	149			149	2.6
Chief Executives	20CEX	Reduce all grant programmes. 10% reduction			157	157	
Chief Executives	23CEX	Review of all non-statutory budgets. 10% reduction			62	62	
Chief Executives	25CEX - a	surplus budget for non domestic rates - empty property relief	1000			1000	
Chief Executives	26CEX - a	change in policy for Council tax for 2nd homes	50			50	
Chief Executives	27CEX - a	chief officer review		140		140	1.0
Education Children & Families	02ECF	A significant reduction or complete removal of controllable budget lines only such as office supplies, postage, in service courses, early intervention and school board payments.	75			75	
Education Children & Families	16ECF	Early Years Absence funding has been under utilised due to wider use of existing supernumerary staff to meet absence cover requirements.	294			294	
Education Children & Families	28ECF	Deletion of budget for network support	213			213	
Education Children & Families	30ECF	Removal, reallocation or further reduction of underused budget lines.	45		29	74	
Education Children & Families	32ECF	Based on recent trends the clothing and footwear grant budget could be reduced to reflect emerging demand levels	50			50	
Education Children & Families	35ECF	Reduce HQ recharge budget		100	100	200	
Education Children & Families	42ECF	Reduction to discretionary spend on training and hospitalities. 20% reduction	21			21	

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Service	Saving Reference	Savings Description	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	fte
Education Children & Families	44ECF	Savings found within training and capacity for development initiatives.20% reduction	54			54	
Education Children & Families	51ECF	Reduction in budget for allowances and fees to carers to support family placement for children experiencing care away from home,	350			350	
Education Children & Families	62ECF	Budget no longer required as services purchased on an individual and bespoke basis via Self Directed Support	42			42	
Education Children & Families	66ECF	vacancy management, post deletions and wide scale service redesign and rationalisation. Reduction 10% - Childrens and Social Work	125			125	0.5
Education Children & Families	86ECF	Reduction in costs associated with using off site facilities from an external partner.			52	52	
Education Children & Families	88ECF	Reduction in out of hours activity offering. 10% reduction to Club 365 focusing on reducing out of hours activity	109			109	
Enterprise & Communities	03ECS	Reduction in winter maintenance service 10% reduction	741			741	
Enterprise & Communities	04ECS	Reduction in maintenance of street lighting. 10% reduction	388	162		5502	
Enterprise & Communities	06ECS	Review staffing resources within estates team	60			60	2
Enterprise & Communities	13ECSA	increase income from parking enforcement by increasing capacity of team and increase fines in line with neighbouring authorities. Charges moving from £60 and £30 to £100 and £50	106	106		212	-6.0
Enterprise & Communities	21ECS	Reduce seasonal activities and restructure	109			109	2
Enterprise & Communities	24ECS	Non Staffing reduction in the Asset Management budget.10% reduction			266	266	
Enterprise & <u>Communities</u>	35ECS	reduction to supplies and services budget	2			2	
Enterprise & Communities	42ECS	Reduction in City Deal budgets. 10% reduction	190			190	
Enterprise & Communities	43ECS	Removal of the Growth budget linked to ERDP programme	189			189	1.0

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Service	Saving Reference	Savings Description	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	fte
Enterprise & Communities	44ECSB	Reduce budget for the preparation of the Local Development Plan 2. 20% reduction	14			14	
Enterprise & Communities	45ECS	Reduction in Planning staffing resources. 10% reduction	111			111	2.0
Enterprise & Communities	46ECSA	Reduction in controllable revenue expenditure – Enterprise Team	37			37	
Enterprise & Communities	47ECS	Reduce the budget available for Business Gateway services in North Lanarkshire. 10% reduction		41		41	
Enterprise & Communities	53ECS	HEEPS (Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland). Funded by specific Scottish Gov grant with small NLC funded element	7			7	
Enterprise & Communities	54ECS	Customer contact centre transferred to Hub	9			9	
Enterprise & Communities	55ECS	Stair Close Lighting 10% saving	71			71	
Enterprise & Communities	57ECS	Anti Social Behaviour. 20% reduction hours	41			41	
Enterprise & Communities	69ECS	Strategic Resourcing / Business Intelligence/ Business Development staff review	49			49	1.0
Enterprise & Communities	70ECSB	Cessation of Business Development Non-HRA	173			173	
Enterprise & Communities	72ECSA	Waste Collection - Household (excluding Special Uplifts) 4 options . First option - removal of food waste bags	145			145	
Enterprise & Communities	72ECSB	Waste Collection - Household (excluding Special Uplifts) 4 options- 2nd option - charging for combined food and waste		1428		1428	-2.0
Enterprise & Communities	72ECSC	Waste Collection - Household (excluding Special Uplifts) 4 options - third option - charging for recycle bins	210			210	
Enterprise & Communities	77ECS	Waste Disposal services to private companies.		70		70	
Enterprise & Communities	78ECSA	Provision of additional MOT's e.g. HGVs		200		200	

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Service	Saving Reference	Savings Description	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	fte
Enterprise & Communities	78ECSB	Tachograph Testing	50			50	
Enterprise & Communities	83ECSB	Private Sector; Landlord registration fees. 20% increase	43			43	
Enterprise & Communities	84ECSB	Building Standards fees. 20% increase	70			70	
waste & land	88ECS - a	review of service provision within waste & land services	500	500		1000	29.0
		Annual savings totals	6195	2747	666	9608	33.1

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Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Nolan, moved the following budget motion:-

1. "Proposed options for all in scope areas

Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	FTE
Chief Executive Office	04CEX	Review of staffing in Financial Solutions.	48	70	137	255	5
	07CEX	Reduction in staff in Legal and Democratic.	14	0	75	89	3.5
	08CEX	Registrars' reduction.	0	57	0	57	1
	10CEX	Digital Business.	92	303	0	395	9
	11CEXD	Introduction of digital NL programme.	200	0	0	200	0
	12CEX	Front-line IT provision, Employees and contracts.	258	145	0	403	1.5
	13CEX	Strategic development and implementation.	154	35	13	202	6.4
	15CEX	Reduce delivery of training	0	0	207	207	4.5
	19CEX	Employee and operational budgets to support campaigns/digital content / media relations.	149	0	0	149	2.6
	20CEX	Reduction of Community Grants.	0	0	157	157	0
Education Children & Families	25ECF	Reduce employee costs.	69	69	0	138	2
	26ECF	Reduce employee costs.	0	80	0	80	2
	62ECF	Cessation- this line should be removed as part of the 23/24 budget.	42	0	0	42	0
	65ECF	Reduction in Service provision for Clerical and Admin posts.	0	287	0	287	9.5
	78ECFA	Termination of employability hubs.	391	0	0	391	7.3
	79ECF	Removal of senior administrative post linked to youth employability hub.	605	0	0	605	10
	80ECF	Deletion of Administrative post.	43	0	0	43	1
	81ECF	Reduction in employee costs/Cessation of Saturday night programme for young people.	85	450	0	535	9
	84ECF	Reduction in Active School provision.	57	0	0	57	1
	85ECFA	Reduction in outdoor support available to schools.	32	0	0	32	1
	88ECFB	Cessation of Club 365	0	1,090	0	1,090	0
Enterprise & Communities	36ECS	Reduction to supplies and services budget.	2	0	0	2	0

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Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	FTE
	44ECSA	Reduce budget available preparation of LDP2.	7	0	0	7	0
	47ECS	Reduction in Budget available for Business Gateway.	0	41	0	41	0
	50ECSA	Reduction in budget of Enterprise Development.	92	0	0	92	0
	70ECSA	Housing Business engagement.	35	0	0	35	0
	87ECS	Remove Strathclyde Park fireworks display.	50	0	0	50	0
Total			2,425	2,627	589	5,641	76.2

2. Base budget adjustments taken

Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	FTE
Chief Executive Office	01CEX	Employee Budgets.	56	0	0	56	0
	03CEX	Operational Budgets.	4	0	0	4	0
	13CEX D	Support Service Review.	43	0	0	43	0
	23CEX	Review operational budgets.	0	0	62	62	0
Education Children & Families	16ECF	Removal of Early Years Absence funding.	294	0	0	294	0
	28ECF	Removal of Budget.	213	0	0	213	0
	30ECF	Further reduction to identified budget lines.	45	0	29	74	0
	35ECF	Reduction HQ recharge budget.	0	100	100	200	0
	42ECF	Re-categorised as Enhanced Statutory. Reduction to discretionary spend within budget.	21	0	0	21	0
	43ECF	Budget transferred from HSPC.	24	0	37	61	0
	44ECF	Reduction to discretionary spend.	54	0	0	54	0
	66ECF	Reduction in service provision. Reduction in clerical and admin posts.	125	0	0	125	0.5
	86ECF	Reduction in costs associated with using off-site facilities from external partners.	0	0	52	52	0
Enterprise & Communities	15ECS	Reduced Rangers service and income target to reflect reduction in staffing.	0	20	0	20	1
	24ECS	Non staffing reduction in the asset management budget.	0	0	266	266	0

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Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	FTE
	25ECS	Reduction in Budgets of APS Procurement and Management support.	62	0	0	62	0
	37ECS	Review of management and support service within FFC.	0	0	165	165	4
	42ECS	Reduction to City Deal Budget.	190	0	0	190	0
	43ECSA	10% controllable budget.	19	0	0	19	0
	45ECS	Reduction in Planning staffing resource.	111	0	0	111	2
	46ECSA	Reduction in Controllable revenue expenditure.	37	0	0	37	0
	53ECS	HEEPS.	7	0	0	7	0
	54ECS	Cessation of Customer service Centre.	9	0	0	9	0
	55ECS	Stair close lighting 10% reduction.	71	0	0	71	0
	69ECS	Strategic Resourcing / Business Intelligence / Business Development staff review.	49	0	0	49	1
Total			1,434	120	711	2,265	8.5

3. Base budget adjustments not taken

Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000
Enterprise & Communities	06ECS	Review of staffing resource within the Estates Team.	60	0	0	60
Total						60

4. Income generation

Service	Saving ref. No	Summary Savings Proposal	24/25 £000	25/26 £000	26/27 £000	Total £000	FTE
Enterprise & Communities	13ECSA	Increase income from parking enforcement.	106	106	0	212	+6
	78ECSA	Provisional addition of MOT's.	0	200	0	200	0
	78ESCB	Tachograph testing.	50	0	0	50	0
	83ECSB	Private sector Landlord registration fees at 20%.	43	0	0	43	0
	84ECSB	20 Building Standards fees increase at 20%.	70	0	0	70	0
Total			269	306	0	575	+6

5. Summary

Narrative	Summary 24/25 (000)
Deficit	9621
Identified savings	5641
Base budget adjustments	2265
Income generation	575
Non-domestic rates	1000

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Chief Officer reduction	140
FTE impact	-84.7
Additional FTE	+6
Total	9621
Balance	0

6. Assumption

- a. The £1m saving on non-domestic rates has been included.
- b. Acceptance of Scottish Government funding for the Council Tax freeze.
- c. Confirmation of allocation of equivalent of 1% Council Tax rise to support the Community Investment Fund.
- d. £140k Review of Chief Officer structure (1 FTE reduction).
- e. Note the Conservative Group accepts the Section 95 Officer's recommended budget strategy that smooths the three-year budget gap by utilising £6.025m and £3.984m of the Strathclyde Pension Fund in 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively.
- f. Note the Section 95 Officer's recommended budget strategy releases £21.375m of one-off resources to support investment priorities in 2024/25 with a further £23.416m in 2025/26. The Conservative Group proposes utilisation of cost reductions associated with reduced Strathclyde Pension Fund contributions in the following ways:-
 - Roads investment of £1.000m in each of the two years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 which would concentrate on road resurfacing.
 - Investment in Clean-Ups in Communities in each of the two years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 in the amount of £1.000m per year. This would operate on an area-by-area basis to achieve a deep clean by completion of various tasks, such as removal of rubbish and fly tipping, roads and pavements being swept, bushes cut back, basic arbor being undertaken, and grass panels cut.
 - The balance of £19.375m in 2024/25 and £21.416m in 2025/26 should be allocated to the Council's strategic capital investment programme to ensure remediation of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete in Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre. Once the cost estimates are confirmed the remaining balance is proposed to be allocated towards the development of a Community Hub.
- g. With savings to be delivered in 2025/26 and 2026/27 in support of the 2024/25 budget gap, there will be a requirement to utilise one-off resources of £5.653m (£4.353m in 2024/25 and £1.300m in 2025/26)."

Councillor Lennon, seconded by Councillor Di Mascio, moved that the meeting be adjourned for 30 minutes.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor Carragher, moved as an Amendment that the meeting be not adjourned.

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

On the roll being called 65 Members voted the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Campbell, Carragher, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Keltie, Khan, Logue, Loughran, MacGregor, Masterton, McBride, McCroy, B. McCulloch,

M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Wilson and Woods.

9 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Brennan, Crichton, Di Mascio, Hume, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus and Williams.

Councillor Leckie abstained.

65 Members having voted for the Amendment, 9 Members having voted for the Motion and 1 Member having abstained, the Amendment was accordingly declared carried and the meeting was not adjourned.

Thereon, in terms of Standing Order 39, the vote was taken by calling the roll, in the first instance between the Motion (Labour Group Budget Proposal) and the Amendment first received (SNP Group Budget Proposal):-

On the roll being called 22 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Cairns, Carragher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Keltie, Larson, MacGregor, Masterton, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan and Thomas.

37 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Patton, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Stevenson and Woods.

15 Members abstained as follows:-

Councillors Brennan, Burgess, Crichton, Currie, Di Mascio, Hume, Leckie, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Nolan, Watson, Williams and Wilson.

22 Members having voted for the Amendment, 37 Members having voted for the Motion and 15 Members having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

On the roll being called between the Motion (Labour Group Budget Proposal) and the Amendment second received (Progressive Change North Lanarkshire Group Budget Proposal):-

9 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Brennan, Crichton, Di Mascio, Hume, Lennon, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus and Williams.

36 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Patton, Reddin, Shevlin, Stevenson and Woods.

28 Members abstained as follows:-

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Burgess, Cairns, Carragher, Currie, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Keltie, Larson, Leckie, MacGregor, Masterton, Mitchell, Nolan, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Watson and Wilson.

9 Members having voted for the Amendment, 36 Members having voted for the Motion and 28 Members having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

On the roll being called between the Motion (Labour Group Budget Proposal) and the Amendment third received (Conservative Group Budget Proposal):-

6 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:-

Councillors Burgess, Currie, Leckie, Nolan, Watson and Wilson.

36 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:-

Councillors Baudo, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy, Duffy Lawson, Dunbar, Fisher, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McNally, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Patton, Reddin, Shevlin, Stevenson and Woods.

31 Members abstained as follows:-

Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Brennan, Cairns, Carragher, Crichton, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Keltie, Larson, Lennon, MacGregor, Masterton, McCluskey, McKendrick, McManus, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas and Williams.

6 Members having voted for the Amendment, 36 Members having voted for the Motion and 31 Members having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the Council

- (1) whilst noting the budget report provided by the Chief Officer (Finance) and the update in respect of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2024/25, the Council reluctantly accepts the wholly inadequate level of funding provided and endorses COSLA's budgeting campaign; 'A Budget of Missed Opportunities' to give Local Authorities enough resources to invest in services and continue to call on the Scottish Government to provide adequate funding to deliver vital public services.
- (2) notes that after accounting for ring fenced monies, funding for new commitments and other directed expenditure, the Council received £2.295 million less core grant funding than was anticipated, despite the Resource Spending Review published in May 2022 setting out the anticipated future Scottish Budget spend on Local Government indicating broadly flat cash in the medium term, a real terms cut.
- (3) notes that yet again, the Scottish Government has provided a one-year financial settlement, and the Council continues to call for multi-year settlements, which is a necessity to properly plan and deliver local services, while ensuring the Council remains financially sustainable.
- (4) calls on the Scottish Government to honour the Verity House Agreement and remove ring-fencing and direction of funding for policy initiatives, allowing Local Authorities to make their own decisions and prioritise resources based on local need, including decisions on setting Council Tax levels.
- (5) remains fully committed to the key principle of the Revenue Resources Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three year period.

- (6) notes that following approved advanced action of £5.182 million as referenced in the budget report, this Council faces a budget gap of £22.646 million in 2024/25 and further gaps in 2025/26 and 2026/27 of £14.460 million and £12.860 million, respectively, a total of £49.966 million across the three-year planning period.
- (7) confirms that Council Tax rates will remain at the 2023/24 levels, keeping the Band D charge at £1,320.78 which reflects an acceptance of the Scottish Government funding estimated at £7.128 million in return for a Council Tax freeze, which reduces the income base in perpetuity, and the Council calls again on the Scottish Government to leave decisions around Council Tax to Local Authorities.
- (8) reiterates the previous commitment to Community Investment by continuing to set aside the amount equivalent to a 1% Council Tax increase from 2024/25 to support Community Investment.
- (9) notes that the Section 95 Officer has presented a budget strategy that recognises a three year budget gap of £49.966 million and the Council accepts the recommended budget strategy assumes increased Council Tax in 2025/26 and 2026/27 (est. 5% £14.103 million) and the recommendation to reduce Council budgets by £7.000 million per annum to reflect previous trends of year-on-year underspends will reduce the recurring budget gap to £15.646 million in 2024/25, and £7.580 million and £5.637 million in financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27, respectively.
- (10) notes that this reduces the three year budget gap to £28.863 million but is heavily weighted towards financial year 2024/25 and agrees with the Section 95 Officer's recommendation to smooth the gap evenly over the three year planning period, resulting in an annual savings requirement of £9.621 million and to the limited use of the resources available as a result of the one-off cost reductions associated with reduced Strathclyde Pension Fund contributions of £6.025 million in 2024/25 and £3.984 million in 2025/26.
- (11) agrees savings of £9.621 million in 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report which will deliver savings totalling £6.120 million in 2024/25, £2.283 million in 2025/26 and £1.218 million in 2026/27.
- (12) acknowledges that additional one-off use of balances of £3.501 million in 2024/25 and £1.218 million in 2025/26 was required, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- (13) acknowledges the update from the Chief Officer (Finance) in relation to the two year reduction in pension fund costs of £27.400 million and notes that after use of £6.025 million in 2024/25 and £3.984 million in 2025/26, to manage to smooth the budget gap that this leaves a reduced benefit from the cost reduction to £21.375 million in 2024/25 and £23.416 million in 2025/26.
- (14) agrees to use the remaining one-off resources to make one-off capital investments contributions of £21.375 million and £23.400 million in financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively to augment the Council's delivery of a key strategic priority in the development of Community Hubs to provide a lasting benefit to North Lanarkshire's communities from the one-off pension contribution cost reductions, and acknowledges that pension fund costs will increase to 17.5% from 2026/27, thus requiring the budget to be restored for that purpose.
- (15) notes that a strategic approach to managing the challenging financial position in order to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable, had been taken and given the scale of challenges that continue to lie ahead it is recognised that further action will need to be identified to address significant forecast budget gaps in 2025/26 and 2026/27 and to address the Chief Executive instructs a series of service reviews which should include identifying savings options or income generation opportunities, as undernoted:
 - (a) Review the Council's approach to facilitate Community Asset Transfers

- (b) In line with the approved Discretionary Fees and Charges Policy acceleration of the move to full cost recovery where possible
 - (c) Review the provision of First Stop Shops, non-school catering functions, Land & Waste, Revenues & Benefits and Business & Digital, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and represent Best Value for the Council.
 - (d) Review the functions and strategic direction of the Council's remaining ALEOs (Routes to Work, Fusion Assets and North Lanarkshire Properties) to ensure that they continue to contribute to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities.
- (16) deprecates the decision by the Scottish Government, despite previous commitments, not to provide specific revenue funding for holiday programmes.
- (17) recognises that this Council has the second lowest level of Council Tax across all Scottish mainland Local Authorities and reflecting on the forecast challenging financial environment in which the Council operates, the Chief Officer (Finance) undertakes an analysis of options in relation to a future Council Tax Strategy for North Lanarkshire.
- (18) notes that the Council puts jobs first and has therefore acted to ensure jobs are protected for as long as possible ensuring the established commitment to no compulsory redundancies is upheld.
- (19) notes that after providing for the cost of investment, a balanced budget 2024/25 was summarised in Appendix 2 to the report.
- (20) approves a Revenue Budget for 2024/25 which recognises available resources of £1,016.750 million after accounting for use of balances of £3.501 million, which reflects the action already taken by the Council, the cost of investment and savings outlined, the total expenditure budget is also estimated at £1,016.750 million, resulting in a balanced budget.
- (21) agrees the level of General Fund contingency reserve at £8.000 million as advised by the Chief Officer (Finance).
- (22) agrees that in the event that additional undirected recurring funding is made available for 2024/25, it be ringfenced to address identified resource gaps.

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Appendix 1

Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
<u>Operational Decisions:</u>							
01CEX	Chief Exec's Support Services Review	Review of Support Services (second year impact)	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.0
03CEX	Chief Exec's Operational Budgets	Reduction in Operational Budgets - 10%	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.0
25CEX - a	Chief Exec's - review of empty property relief policy	Following the delegation of Empty Property Relief to local government, the budget allocated from Scottish Government exceeds the value of empty property relief awarded in each of the last three years. Therefore, the surplus budget can be reduced without impacting on the level of reliefs awarded.	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.0
13CEXD	Business & Digital - Finalisation of Support Services Review	A full review of the Support Services function was implemented on 01/04/23. This saving represents the full year impact.	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.0
16ECF	Education - Removal of Early Years Absence Funding (unutilised in previous years)	Early Years Absence funding has been under utilised due to wider use of existing staff to meet absence cover requirements	0.294	0.000	0.000	0.294	0.0
30ECF	Education HQ - Contracts and Provisions - under-utilised budget lines	Removal, reallocation or further reduction of underused budget lines	0.045	0.000	0.029	0.074	0.0
35ECF	Education HQ - reduced recharges	Reduce HQ recharge budget	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.200	0.0
42ECF	Children's Services Social Work - under-utilised corporate parenting discretionary budget	Reduction to under-utilised discretionary spend on training and hospitalities	0.021	0.000	0.000	0.021	0.0
43ECF	Children's Services Social Work - removing budget for service redesign and efficiencies through transition to SDS	Budget historically used for respite care. Through Self-Directed Support, practice has evolved to enable families to create a package of care within the home and community.	0.024	0.000	0.037	0.061	0.0
44ECF	Children's Services Social Work - reduced discretionary spend in training	Operational savings found within training and capacity for development initiatives	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.0
66ECF	Children's Services HQ - under-utilised budgets	Vacancy management, post deletion and cost reduction in areas such as catering and absence referrals	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.5
86ECF	Education - Wellbeing Strategy - efficiencies in the reduction in use of external facilities	Maximise the use of facilities already in the Council's ownership to deliver curriculum	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.0
24ECS	Assets & Procurement - Office Accommodation rationalisation	APS continue to deliver the office rationalisation programme agreed by Council in 2019 and further reviewed in 2021/22. Recognition of the expiry of property lease in 2025.	0.000	0.000	0.266	0.266	0.0
25ECS	Assets & Procurement - Support review	Savings across a number of operational budgets to reflect prior year underspends	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.0
36ECS	Assets & Procurement - Reduce Supplies & services cost budgets	Further reduction to Supplies & Services budget	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.0
42ECS	Place - City Deal - increasing proportion of staff time charged to capital	Savings from increasing proportion of staff costs charged to capital	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.0
43ECSA	Place - Growth Team - reduction to revenue leverage funding	10% budget reduction to revenue costs associated with the delivery of the ERDP through reducing Revenue Leverage Fund	0.019	0.000	0.000	0.019	0.0
46ECSA	Place - Enterprise Development - under-utilised budget for payments to external providers	Reduction in controllable revenue expenditure	0.037	0.000	0.000	0.037	0.0
53ESC	Housing Property Services - HEEPS match funding no longer required	Removal of under utilised budget	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.0
54ECS	Housing Property Services - former Customer Contract Centre budget no longer required	Removal of under utilised budget	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.009	0.0
55ECS	Housing Property Services - Stair and Close Lighting	Review General Fund charges linked to changing mix of properties following buy back and twoer / flat reprovisioning programme. Thereafter consider the potential for spend to save initiatives that would reduce General Fund and HRA costs	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.0

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Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
69ECS	Housing Management - Business Development - review and prioritise workload	Review and prioritisation of workload	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	1.0
Sub-total Operational Decisions			2.113	0.100	0.484	2.697	1.5
<u>Income Generation:</u>							
13ECSA	Parking enforcement	Increase income from parking enforcement by increasing capacity of team and increase fines in line with neighbouring authorities	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.212	(6.0)
72ECSC	Charging for Recycling Bins	Introducing a charge of c.£30 for replacing recycling bins will recover the costs incurred for purchase and supplying. Currently there is an increased price levied for residual waste bins and it is proposed that that remains in place.	0.210	0.000	0.000	0.210	0.0
78ECSA	MOTs	Provision of external MOTs will be possible upon completion of the new Bellshill depot. This will generate approximately £380k income which would be offset by operating costs of £180k payable to VOSA.	0.000	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.0
78ECSB	Tachograph testing	It is becoming increasingly difficult to arrange tachograph testing in the current market. The Service have the facilities available to provide this service which should generate income.	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.0
83ECB	Landlord registration	Increased landlord registration fees	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.0
84ECB	Building standards income	Increase in building standards fees	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.0
Sub-total Income Generation			0.480	0.306	0.000	0.786	(6.0)
<u>Budget Decisions:</u>							
04CEX	Finance - Financial Solutions (5%)	Review of staffing structures across the Finance service	0.048	0.071	0.137	0.255	5.0
07CEX	Legal & Democratic - Central Services (10%)	Review of staffing structures delivering central services functions	0.014	0.000	0.075	0.089	3.5
08CEX	Registrars	Review of staffing structures delivering the Registrars function	0.000	0.057	0.000	0.057	1.0
10CEX	Business & Digital - Digital / Field Services - Technical Support to Education & Families	Review of staffing structures and contracts mainly within Education, Children & Families	0.092	0.000	0.303	0.395	9.0
11CEXD	Business & Digital - DigitalNL (MS Licences)	Removal of annual Microsoft Unified Support contract	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.0
12CEX	Business & Digital - Technology Solutions - restructure and review of contracts	Restructuring of Technology Solutions and review of contracts	0.110	0.290	0.000	0.400	1.5
13CEX	Business & Digital - Business Strategy	This saving would be formed from restructuring across all teams within Business Strategy including - Business Partnerships, Data Intelligence, Delivery Management and Business Change. Focus is on retaining the staff to meet the requirements of statutory functions including Community Planning, Best Value and Performance Reporting and Complaints Handling as per legislative requirements	0.154	0.035	0.013	0.202	6.4
15CEX	People Resources	Review of staffing structures	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.207	4.5

SPECIAL NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Reference	Summary Saving	Description	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m	FTE
19CEX	Strategic Communications & Engagement - Corporate Communications	Review of existing staff vacancies and operational budgets	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	2.6
20CEX	Strategic Communications & Engagement - Communities	Reduce all grant programmes	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.0
26CEX - a	Council Tax on Second Homes	Implement policy change to remove the existing discount for second homes and instead charge the additional 100% levy in line with the allowable limit within revised Scottish Government legislation	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.0
27CEX - a	Chief Officer Review	Next stage of Chief Officer review due to be considered at Policy and Strategy Committee Cycle 4 in 2024 with a view to reducing the number of Chief Officers in the Chief Executive's Service	0.000	0.140	0.000	0.140	1.0
26ECF	Developing the Young Workforce (20%)	Review staffing structures	0.000	0.080	0.000	0.080	2.0
28ECF	Network Support - HQ (cessation)	Removal of unutilised budget	0.213	0.000	0.000	0.213	0.0
62ECF	Children & Families and Adult Social Care Shared Services	Budget no longer required as services purchased on an individual and bespoke basis via Self Directed Support	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.0
65ECF	Children & Families and Adult Social Care Shared Services	Service redesign and rationalisation towards a business support model fit for integrated service needs	0.000	0.280	0.000	0.280	9.5
78ECF/ 79ECF/ 80ECF	Review of Employability	Review of service delivery across Youth Employability Hubs	0.670	0.000	0.000	0.670	10.0
81ECF	Community Learning & Development	Review of CLD service delivery, including the provision of youth diversionary activities	0.163	0.883	0.000	1.046	18.0
87ECF	Music Service	Reduction in staffing	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	3.0
88ECF	Club 365	Removal of extra curricular activity delivered by existing staff	1.090	0.000	0.000	1.090	0.0
44ECSB	Planning & Place - Local Development Plan 2	Review costs associated with the delivery of the next Local Development Plan	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.014	0.0
47ECS	Enterprise - Business Gateway	Review of costs associated with the delivery of Business Gateway functions	0.000	0.041	0.000	0.041	0.0
70ECSA	Housing Business Engagement	Review and prioritisation of workload	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.035	0.0
72ECSA	Waste - removal of food waste bags	Removal of the free issue of food waste bags. The saving recognises the potential for increased residual waste tonnage and marginal reductions in food waste captured for recycling.	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.0
Sub-total Budget Decisions			3.527	1.877	0.734	6.138	77.0
Total Savings			6.120	2.283	1.218	9.621	72.5

SPECIAL NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Appendix 2

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	22.646	14.460	12.860	49.966
Recommended Strategy Decisions:				
Recurring Underspends	(7.000)			(7.000)
Council Tax Increased by 5% (with 1% for CIF)		(6.880)	(7.223)	(14.103)
Net Recurring Shortfall / (Excess Resource)	15.646	7.580	5.637	28.863
Managed by:				
Agreed One-off Use of resources supported by SPF cost reduction	(6.025)	(3.984)	0.000	(10.009)
24/25 Revenue Savings Agreed	(6.120)	(2.283)	(1.218)	(9.621)
Potential Future Savings Target		(9.621)	(9.621)	(19.242)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Estimated/ Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd		6.025	3.984	10.009
One-off Use of balances to support timing of delivery of 24/25 savings	(3.501)	2.283	1.218	0.000
Recurring Surplus/ (Shortfall)	(0.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
 One-off Cost Reduction; reduction in SPF employers contributions	 (27.400)		27.400	0.000
One-off use to manage budget gap smoothing strategy	6.025	(2.041)	(3.984)	0.000
New Investment; Community Hubs CFCR	21.375	2.041	(23.416)	0.000
Net One-off Budget Implications	(0.000)	0.000	(0.000)	0.000

Appendix 3

Summary Budget for 2024/25

	£m	£m
Expenditure Budget 2024/25 per Budget Report		1,035.895
Budget Strategy; recurring historical underspends		(7.000)
2024/25 Savings Agreed		(6.120)
One-off Reduction in pension contributions		(27.400)
2024/25 New One-off capital Investment - Community Hub CFCR		21.375
Revised Net Expenditure 2024/25		1,016.750
Available Resources:		
Resources Budget 2024/25 per Budget Report	1,013.249	
One-off Use of balances to smooth 24/25 budget gap	3.501	
	<hr/>	
2024/25 Available Resources		1,016.750
Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess)		0.000

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL - 20 NOVEMBER 2023

20 November 2023 at 1 pm.

A Meeting of the AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

PRESENT

Councillor Watson, Convener; Councillors Brannan-McVey, Fisher, Hughes, Hume, D. Johnston, Leckie, B. McCulloch and Robinson.

CHAIR

Councillor Watson (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Audit and Risk); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Business Strategy Manager; Strategy and Performance Manager; Principal Auditor and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Dunbar, Vice-Convener; Councillor Duffy-Lawson, and P. Murray and J. Boyd, Audit Scotland.

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

SELF EVALUATION OF THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL - OUTCOME REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) (1) reminding the Panel of its terms of reference as contained in the Council's Scheme of Administration; (2) explaining that the Council's governance arrangements are reviewed on an annual basis through the Strategic Governance Framework throughout the year as part of the Internal Audit programme of audit work; (3) reporting that an Internal Audit review in 2021 had considered that there was a risk that "the Council may not be able to adequately demonstrate that it has effective Audit Committee arrangements and/or arrangements to ensure Elected Members have the skills, knowledge and, where appropriate or required, access to relevant training and resources to effectively undertake their role"; (4) advising that, to this end, Internal Audit recommended that the Panel should, in line with good practice, periodically undertake a self-evaluation of how effectively it is discharging its role; (5) reminding the Panel that in September 2023 it had received an overview of the evaluation framework, the process, and the timetable and, at that meeting, the Panel had agreed that self-evaluation should also be undertaken by former members who had been on the Panel since May 2022; (6) reporting the outcomes and findings from the questionnaire, and (7) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) a synopsis of the self-evaluation of the Panel; (b) 25 good practice questions, and (c) the Improvement Plan.

Thereon, A. Aitken highlighted that a report would be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2023 proposing that the use of substitute members for the Audit and Scrutiny Panel be removed so as to ensure consistency of membership and greater understanding of the issues being considered by the Panel.

Decided:

- (1) that it be recognised that the outcome from the self-evaluation demonstrates the extent to which the Panel is effective in discharging its Audit and Scrutiny roles and, as such, fulfils the recommendations made by Internal Audit;
- (2) that the implementation of the Improvement Plan, attached at Appendix 3 to the report, which further strengthens the Panel's working practices and identifies any further developments required in this respect, be approved, and
- (3) that the next steps as detailed in the report be endorsed.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK'S ANNUAL POSITION STATEMENT

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) reiterating to the Panel the inter-related strategic frameworks that focus on ensuring a corporate "one Council" approach in respect of policy, governance, performance, self-evaluation, project management and demonstrating improved outcomes for communities; (2) explaining that these frameworks are key to assessing the success of The Plan for North Lanarkshire and ensuring its delivery through the Programme of Work as appropriately aligned, planned, guided, implemented and governed; (3) advising that, to ensure that these frameworks remain aligned to The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and to support delivery of the Programme of Work, each is on a schedule to undergo regular review and refresh; (4) reminding the Panel that, since 2020, an annual position statement has been presented to it to support its role in providing an independent review of the Council's governance, risk management, performance and control frameworks, and (5) reiterating that various reports in respect of these frameworks had been considered by the Panel during the previous year and that this composite annual position statement report aimed to provide a high level summary and up to date position by setting out the background, current position, and next steps for each framework.

Decided:

- (1) that the annual position statement for each framework, and the next steps to ensure each remains aligned to The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and that delivery towards achieving the overall vision is appropriately aligned, planned, guided, implemented, governed and monitored, be acknowledged, and
- (2) that it be noted that a corresponding Review Programme supports each framework which ensures that all relevant matters are kept under review, updated as required, and reported to the relevant Committee for Elected Member oversight and scrutiny.

**STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - PERFORMANCE REPORTING SCHEDULE
QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE REVIEW**

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) reminding the Panel that it had received reports at its meetings held in February and May 2023 detailing the performance assurance reviews that had been undertaken of performance reports and which had been submitted to Council Committees during that previous Committee cycle; (2) explaining that, in bringing together a summary of the Council's performance reports into one composite assurance overview, this approach supports the Panel in maintaining strategic oversight and awareness of the Council's performance reporting arrangements in line with its remit; (3) providing the outcome from the latest performance assurance review that has been undertaken of performance reports submitted to Council Committees during cycle 3 of 2023, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) Chief Officers' individual six monthly performance reviews at Service Committees in line with the Strategic Performance Framework, and (b) Chief Officer Service specific performance reporting which takes place each year to meet business and/or statutory obligations.

Decided:

- (1) that the composite overview of performance reporting provided in the Appendices to the report to maintain an awareness of each report within the performance reporting schedule for 2023/2024 be noted, and
- (2) that there are no areas of significant issues arising from the overview as presented in the Appendices attached to the report which the Panel considered required additional scrutiny or an additional report to be submitted from the respective Chief Officer to a future meeting of the Panel.

AUDIT AND RISK RELATED ITEMS ACTION LOG

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) enabling the Panel to track implementation of requests and recommendations made by it in respect of Audit and Risk related items in the previous 18 months, with the action log, attached as an Appendix to the report, recording those requests and recommendations made by the Panel, when these had been addressed and/or were expected to be addressed.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) (1) providing an overview of Internal Audit activity; (2) reporting the results of the Internal Audit outputs finalised since the last update to the Panel in August 2023; (3) highlighting the most significant issues arising from the completed audit work; (4) updating the Panel on other aspects of the work of Internal Audit, and (5) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, a brief summary of the scope and key findings of each substantive planned audit, together with a summary pack containing copies of those reports.

During consideration of this matter, concerns were expressed by the Panel on the issues highlighted in the report regarding school excursions and trips and a request was made by the Panel that the Chief Officer (Education) attend a future meeting of the Panel to explain the issues relating to school trips and excursions identified by Internal Audit and the actions to be taken by the Service to resolve these issues. The Panel also requested, given the number of critical audit reports that had been received by the Panel, that the Chief Officer (Education) attend and outline actions being taken by the Service to address the audit findings in relation to weaknesses at establishments in the management of school funds.

In addition, in relation to climate change, the Panel recommended that the findings of the relevant Internal Audit report be highlighted to the Policy and Strategy Committee, as in the view of the Panel, there needed to be awareness across the organisation that current ambitions in relation to climate change were unlikely to be achieved in the timescales which had been previously agreed by the Council and there needed to be greater clarity as to how the Council would achieve any future targets agreed by the Council and/or statutory targets set by the Scottish and UK Governments.

Decided:

- (1) that the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the completed Internal Audit reports, together with the associated management responses, be noted;
- (2) that Internal Audit provide a report to future meetings of the Panel reporting progress made by management in implementing agreed management actions in relation to all audit recommendations categorised as "high" or "medium";

- (3) that the Chief Officer (Education) attend a future meeting of the Panel to report (1) on the issue of school trips and excursions, in particular in relation to the issues raised in the Internal Audit report, the actions to be taken to resolve and mitigate these issues and risks, and (2) on how the Service will seek to secure improvements in the management of school funds, financial controls to be put in place, all prior to April 2024 when it was anticipated that the new excursions policy would be implemented, and
- (4) that it be recommended to the Policy and Strategy Committee that it note the concerns of the Panel that there needs to be an awareness across the organisation that previously agreed targets in relation to climate change are unlikely to be achieved within the previously agreed timescales and that there needs to be greater clarity as to how the Council would achieve any future targets agreed by the Council and/or statutory targets set by the Scottish or UK Governments.

INTERNAL AUDIT: FOLLOW-UP OF ACTIONS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) (1) detailing the extent to which management had implemented actions previously committed to in response to recommendations in Internal Audit reports, where those actions were due to be completed by the end of September 2023; (2) advising that Internal Audit had concluded that, of the 29 outstanding Internal Audit recommendations, 10 had been completed and 19 had been partially implemented; (4) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, commentary from management and details of proposed management actions, together with revised target dates for completion of those outstanding audit recommendations where Internal Audit had assessed the residual risk as high or medium, and (5) attaching, as Appendices to the report (a) Internal Audit recommendations: management actions assessed as “not yet complete” in this cycle; (b) residual risk rating definition, and (c) outstanding audit recommendations at November Committee Cycle where the original implementation date is due.

During consideration of this matter, the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) informed the Panel that the Chief Executive had recently written to all Chief Officers reminding them of the need to ensure that all of the deadline dates should be complied with by Services.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that the recommendations made by Internal Audit, attached as an Appendix to the report, be noted;
- (3) that it be noted that, due to sickness absence within Audit and Risk, some audit assignments may not be completed to the reported timescales due to the reduced capacity within that team, and
- (4) that it be noted that the Chief Executive had recently written to all Chief Officers reminding them of the requirement to ensure that planned actions are progressed in a timely manner and regularly monitored to ensure that all deadline dates were complied with by Services.

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) (1) providing an update on developments and changes in relation to the Corporate Risk Register, and other risk management developments since the last update to the Panel in September 2023, with a particular focus on changes to corporate risk scores and new or emerging issues; (2) reminding the Panel that the Corporate Risk Register is formally reviewed annually to ensure completeness and continued alignment to the

Council's strategic objectives; (3) noting that all corporate risks identified and agreed as meriting inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register were subject to regular monitoring and review by relevant senior management and periodic review and that consideration of individual risks for both the Corporate Management Team and the Panel, in line with their respective governance roles, takes place; (4) advising that there had been no additions to the Corporate Risk Register since the last update, although active consideration is being given to including the issues of re-enforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in the Council's property estate; (5) reporting two changes to residual risk scores since the last updates of the Panel, and (6) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the 2023-24 Corporate Risk Register.

Decided:

- (1) that the current scoring for risks on the Corporate Risk Register for 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the information contained within the report in respect of risk management arrangements in relation to corporate risks and risks within Services be noted.

APPOINTMENTS SUB - 19 FEBRUARY 2024

19 February 2024 at 2.00 pm.

A Meeting of the **APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Logue, Convener; Councillor Roarty, Vice-Convener; Councillors Carragher, Fisher, Smith and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Hume and Robinson attended as substitutes for Councillors Lennon and Thomas respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Logue (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer (People Resources), and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Lennon, Thomas and Williams.

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

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

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

POST OF CHIEF OFFICER (EDUCATION – NORTH) – RECRUITMENT PACK

2. There was submitted a recruitment pack which had been provided to applicants and made available via the myjobscotland recruitment portal.

Thereon, the Chief Officer (People Resources) provided an overview of the skills, experience and knowledge demonstrated in each application forms.

There was submitted application forms received in respect of the post of Chief Officer (Education – North).

Decided: that applicants 6, 8, 9, 12, 15 and 17 proceed to interview.

ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERVIEWS

3. The Sub-Committee considered the appropriate arrangements for the interview of candidates.

Decided:

- (1) that a pre-meeting take place on Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 2 pm, and
- (2) that interviews take place on Friday, 8 March 2024.

APPOINTMENTS SUB - 8 MARCH 2024

8 March 2024 at 9.15 am.

A Meeting of the **APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Logue, Convener; Councillor Roarty, Vice-Convener; Councillors Carragher, Fisher, Smith and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Hume and Robinson attended as substitutes for Councillors Lennon and Thomas respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Logue (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Depute Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Lennon, Thomas and Williams

POST OF CHIEF OFFICER (EDUCATION - SOUTH)

1. There were submitted the recruitment pack and application forms for each candidate to be interviewed in relation to the post of Chief Officer (Education – South).

Decided: that candidate 12 be offered the post of Chief Officer (Education – South).

21 December 2023 at 2 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Shevlin, Convener; Councillor Currie, Vice-Convener; Councillors Brennan, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Carragher, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Hughes, Jarvie, T. Johnston, Logue, Loughran, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Reddin, Robb, Robinson, Smith and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Shevlin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Chief Officer (Place), Planning and Place Manager, Planning Manager (North), Communications Officer and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Campbell and Crichton.

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Fisher attended as a substitute for Councillor Campbell.

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

1. Councillor Brennan, by virtue of being a former employee and a current member of Trust Housing Association, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of planning application 22/00661/FUL and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Brennan, having declared a connection in respect of planning application 22/00661/FUL, by virtue of being a former employee of and a current member of Trust Housing Association, left the meeting during consideration of the application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS INDEX

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) detailing applications for planning consent.

The Convener advised that a request for a hearing had been submitted which met the criteria set out in the protocol for non statutory hearings in the report agreed by the former Planning Sub-Committee on 22 February 2018.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) clarified that the request for a hearing met the criteria set out in the protocol.

Thereon, the Convener proposed that a hearing be held to determine the application, which was agreed.

Decided: that the applications be dealt with in accordance with the Annex to this Minute.

ANNEX

Application No: 20/00661/FUL

Applicant: Wilson Developments (Scotland) Ltd

Development/Locus: Residential Development of 48 Units (Terraced Houses, Semi-Detached Houses and Cottage Flats) - Site at Reema Road Industrial Estate, Reema Road, Bellshill

Decision: Hearing

Motherwell, 9 January 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Docherty, Dunbar, Fisher, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Thomas and Watson.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Principal Solicitor and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sergeant Brown, Police Scotland.

APOLOGY

Councillor McCrory.

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

1. Councillor Watson, by virtue of the applicant being known to him, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 5 – Taxi Driver's Licence and Private Hire Car Licence – New Applications – Muneef Saeed Altaani, and left the meeting during consideration of that matter.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARINGS

(1) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - MUHAMMAD AMIR RASOOL

2. There was submitted (1) an application by Muhammad Amir Rasool for a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Brown outline the Chief Constable's objection to the application and Muhammad Amir Rasool speak in support of the application.

Thereafter, Muhammad Amir Rasool and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Muhammad Amir Rasool and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Muhammad Amir Rasool for a Taxi Driver's Licence be granted.

(2) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - RENEWAL - TARIQ ALI

3. There was submitted (1) an application by Tariq Ali for the renewal of his Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard (1) Sergeant Brown advise that, for the reasons narrated, the Chief Constable's objection had been withdrawn, and (2) the Principal Solicitor advise that the application by Tariq Ali for the renewal of his Taxi Driver's Licence would subsequently be dealt with under delegated powers.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the objection received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland had been withdrawn, and
- (2) that the application by Tariq Ali for the renewal of his Taxi Driver's Licence be dealt with under delegated powers.

(3) TAXI OPERATOR'S LICENCE - COMPLAINT - TARIQ ALI

4. With reference to the preceding paragraph, Sergeant Brown advised that, for the reasons previously narrated, the Chief Constable's complaint, relative to Tariq Ali, in respect of his Taxi Operator's Licence, had been withdrawn.

Decided: that it be noted that the complaint received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Tariq Ali, in respect of his Taxi Operator's Licence, had been withdrawn.

Prior to the consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Watson, having declared a connection by virtue of the applicant being known to him, left the meeting during consideration of this matter.

(4) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE - NEW APPLICATIONS - MUNEF SAEED ALTAANI

5. There was submitted (1) applications by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Taxi Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Licence, and (2) an objection to the applications received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Brown outline the Chief Constable's objection to the applications and Munef Saeed Altaani speak in support of the applications.

Thereafter, Munef Saeed Altaani and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Munef Saeed Altaani and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor Beveridge, seconded by Councillor Ballinger, moved that the application by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Taxi Driver's Licence be refused.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Dunbar, moved, as an amendment, that the application by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Taxi Driver's Licence be granted for a period of one year.

On a vote being taken, 5 Members voted for the amendment, and 6 Members voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The Committee then determined that the application by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Private Hire Car Licence be granted.

Decided:

- (1) that the application by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Taxi Driver's Licence be refused, and
- (2) that the application by Munef Saeed Altaani for a Private Hire Car Licence be granted.

(5) STREET TRADER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATIONS

(a) DIMITRIJS SALASZ

6. There was submitted (1) an application by Dimitrijs Salasz for a Street Trader's Licence to enable him to trade from a static snack van at a location to be confirmed, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Dimitrijs Salasz was not in attendance.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Brown advise that, given the circumstances, she had no objection to consideration of the application being continued.

Decided: that consideration of the application by Dimitrijs Salasz for a Street Trader's Licence be continued to allow the applicant a further opportunity to appear before the Committee to speak in respect of the application.

(b) GEORGIAN MARIAN IOSIB

7. There was submitted an application by Georgian Marian Iosib for a Street Trader's Licence to enable him to trade from a static snack van located at 180-184 Dalriada Crescent, Motherwell.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Georgian Marian Iosib was not in attendance/

Thereafter, the Committee resumed consideration of the matter in Georgian Marian Iosib's absence.

The Principal Solicitor then outlined the background to the matter.

Decided: that the application by Georgian Marian Iosib for a Street Trader's Licence be refused.

(c) MICHAEL KERR

8. There was submitted an application by Michael Kerr for a Street Trader's Licence to enable him to trade from a mobile ice cream van.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Michael Kerr was not in attendance.

Thereafter, the Committee resumed consideration of the matter in Michael Kerr's absence.

The Principal Solicitor then outlined the background to the matter.

Decided: that the application by Michael Kerr for a Street Trader's Licence be refused.

Motherwell, 23 January 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor McCrory, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Docherty, Dunbar, Fisher (paragraphs 1-4 only), Hughes, Robb and Thomas.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Solicitor and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Constable Doria, Police Scotland.

In respect of paragraph 2 – Civic Licensing Standards Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beveridge, McVey and Watson.

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

1. No declarations were made.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARINGS

(1) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE - COMPLAINT - MAHARY ALAMATA

2. In terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, there was submitted (1) a report by the Civic Licensing Standards Officer providing the background to and an overview of the matter; (2) a complaint received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Mahary Alamata who currently held a Taxi Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Licence, and (3) character references for Mahary Alamata.

The Committee then heard Constable Doria outline the Chief Constable's complaint and Mahary Alamata's agent, Jean-Paul Kasusla, Kas & Co., Solicitors, speak in respect of the complaint.

Thereafter, Mahary Alamata, Jean-Paul Kasusla, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Mahary Alamata, Jean-Paul Kasusla, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

The Committee, having determined that the complaint received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Mahary Alamata in respect of his Taxi Driver's Licence and Private Hire Car Licence be upheld, then heard Jean-Paul Kasusla in mitigation.

Thereafter, Mahary Alamata, Jean-Paul Kasusla, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Mahary Alamata, Jean-Paul Kasusla, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that, in terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Mahary Alamata, in respect of his Taxi Driver's Licence and Private Hire Car Licence firstly be upheld, and secondly that Mahary Alamata be issued with a formal written warning.

(2) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - COMPLAINT - SEAN GRANT

3. In terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, there was submitted (1) a complaint received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Sean Grant, who currently held a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) correspondence received from Sean Grant's agent, Michael Thompson, Thompson Family Law, Solicitors, attaching a copy of an expert report on the matter that had been instructed and obtained on behalf of Sean Grant.

The Committee then heard Constable Doria outline the Chief Constable's complaint and Sean Grant speak in respect of the complaint.

Thereafter, Sean Grant and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Sean Grant and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to meeting.

Decided: that, in terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Sean Grant, in respect of his Taxi Driver's Licence be not upheld.

(3) STREET TRADER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - DIMITRIJS SALASZ

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 January 2024, there was submitted (1) an application by Dimitrijs Salasz for a Street Trader's Licence to enable him to trade from a static snack van at a location to be confirmed, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Constable Doria outline the Chief Constable's objection to the application and Dimitrijs Salasz speak in support of the application.

Thereafter, Dimitrijs Salasz and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Dimitrijs Salasz and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Dimitrijs Salasz for a Street Trader's Licence be refused.

(4) TAXI OPERATOR'S LICENCE - RENEWAL - WILLIAM DORIS

5. There was submitted an application by William Doris for the renewal of his Taxi Operator's Licence.

The Principal Solicitor then advised the Committee that William Doris did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

The Committee then heard William Doris speak in respect of the application for the renewal of his Taxi Operator's Licence.

Thereafter, William Doris and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

William Doris and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by William Doris for the renewal of his Taxi Operator's Licence be granted for a period of 24 months, effective from April 2024.

1 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Shevlin, Convener; Councillor Currie, Vice-Convener; Councillors Brennan, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Carragher, Docherty, Hughes, Jarvie, Logue, Loughran, McManus, McPake, McVey, Reddin, Robb, Robinson and Smith.

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Costello attended as a substitute for Councillor Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In respect of agenda item 5 – Councillor McCrory.

CHAIR

Councillor Shevlin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Place), Planning and Place Manager, Planning Manager (North), Senior Planning Officer and Principal Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

In respect of paragraph 5

Representing the Applicant – Jackie McIntosh, Trust Housing Association, Steven Wilson, Wilson Developments and Terry Porter.

Representing the Objectors – Peter Ferguson, Harper MacLeod, Lloyd Samuel, Andrew Stirling, PD Stirling, Graham Taylor, G. Taylor Associates and James Watt.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Campbell, M. Coyle, S. Coyle and Woods.

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

1. Councillor Carragher, by virtue of previously expressing a view in respect of planning application 23/01/054/AMD, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Brennan, by virtue of being a former employee of, and a current member of, Trust Housing Association, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of planning application 22/00661/FUL and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Robinson, by virtue of the applicant being known to him, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of planning application 22/00661/FUL and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Carragher, having declared a connection in respect of planning application 23/01054/AMD, by virtue of previously expressing a view on the application, left the meeting during consideration of the application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS INDEX

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) detailing applications for planning consent.

Decided: that the application be dealt with in accordance with the Annex to this Minute.

PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEALS LODGED

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) advising of two planning and enforcement notice appeals which had been lodged with Scottish Ministers.

Decided: that the report be noted.

NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL DECISIONS

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) advising of one recent decision in respect of a planning and enforcement notice appeal.

Decided: that the report be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Brennan, having declared a connection in respect of planning application 22/00661/FUL by virtue of being a former employee of, and a current member of, Trust Housing Association, left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor Robinson, having declared a connection in respect of planning 22/00661/FUL, by virtue of the applicant being known to him, left the meeting during consideration of the application.

HEARING

PLANNING APPLICATION 20/00661/FUL – RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 48 UNITS (TERRACED HOUSES, SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES AND COTTAGE FLATS) – SITE AT REEMA ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, REEMA ROAD, BELLSHILL

5. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the Special Meeting of this Committee held on 21 December 2023, the Committee considered a report by the Chief Officer (Place) and thereafter proceeded to hold a hearing at which consideration was given to oral representations by Jackie McIntosh, Terry Porter and Steven Wilson on behalf of the Applicant and Peter Ferguson, Andrew Stirling, Graham Taylor and James Watt on behalf of the Objectors who were in attendance for the item.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor McPake, moved that the application be granted.

Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Cairns, moved that consideration of the application be continued pending a site visit being undertaken.

On a vote being taken 5 Members having voted for the Amendment and 12 Members having voted for the Motion, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: Grant subject to planning permission not being issued until the satisfactory conclusion of a Section 69 legal agreement for off-site play provision enhancements within the locale.

ANNEX

Application No: 23/01054/AMD

Applicant: Wemyss Properties Limited

Development/Locus: Erection of 1 No. Industrial Unit Including Access Road, Path, Fence, Yard, Parking and Infrastructure (Amendment to Planning Permission 22/00362/FUL) - Land South of Hagmill Road, Shawhead, Coatbridge

Decision: Grant

2 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **WELLBEING AND TACKLING POVERTY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Woods, Convener; Councillor Costello, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barclay, Brannan-McVey, Cairns, Currie, Fotheringham, Goldie, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Loughran, McCluskey, McCrory, McPhilemy, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Robinson and Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor McDade attended as a substitute for Councillor McNally.

CHAIR

Councillor Woods (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (People Resources); Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice); Business Finance Manager (Strategy); Business Manager (Social Inclusion and Wealth), and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Ashraf, Baudo and McNally.

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

CASH FIRST PROJECT (APPROACH)

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) informing the Committee that, in June 2023, the Scottish Government published a Plan to help improve the response to financial hardship, "Cash First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland", committing to collaborative measures to improve the crisis support available and help reduce the need for emergency food parcels; (2) explaining that the Plan is supported by a "buy-in" programme fund of £1.8m for which both funding and practical assistance will be provided for up to eight area-based Partnerships to improve urgent access to cash in a crisis alongside wider holistic support; (3) reporting that the Council's Tackling Food Poverty and Insecurity Working Group, in partnership with the Tackling Poverty Officers Action Group, submitted a successful bid to this fund to enhance the Council's current "Cash First Approach"; (4) providing detail of the funding allocated and outlining how the Cash First Project would operate in North Lanarkshire; (5) proposing that the Cash First Approach be extended to include access to Fuel Crisis payments for residents experiencing Fuel Poverty Crisis using the criteria process for Food Crisis which will require the Council to provide funding from earmarked Tackling Poverty monies to the amount of £100,000 over the lifetime of the project, and (6) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the bid application.

WELLBEING AND TACKLING POVERTY - 2 FEBRUARY 2024

During discussion on this report the following questions were asked by Elected Members to which a response would be provided by Officers outwith the meeting:-

- (1) is the PayPoint facility widely available to residents in rural areas? (Councillor Brannan-McVey)
- (2) how many referrals from the Cumbernauld area have been received in relation to access to venues providing services which are not currently provided through the Post Office? (Councillor Goldie)

Decided:

- (1) that the Cash First Project application, and success of the bid on behalf of the Council and the Tackling Poverty Officers Action Group, be acknowledged;
- (2) that the extension of the Cash First Approach, to include access for emergency Fuel Crisis, be approved, and
- (3) that £100,000 over the lifetime of the Cash First Project for Fuel Crisis payments to residents, to be drawn from the reserve from LACER fund earmarked for tackling poverty initiatives agreed by the Committee on 5 May 2023, be approved.

CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK 2023

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) informing that the Council took part in Challenge Poverty Week, which took place from 2 to 8 October 2023; (2) explaining that the week is co-ordinated by the Poverty Alliance, and is an opportunity to highlight what is being done to address poverty and to commit to more action in the future; (3) highlighting the background and the themes underpinning Challenge Poverty Week, together with the activities and messaging undertaken by the Council and its partners during the week, and its links to the Council's wider Tackling Poverty Strategy and actions, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) the Challenge Poverty Week 2023 Programme; (b) the Challenge Poverty Week 2023 analysis, and (c) the Challenge Poverty Week 2023 themes of the week (Poverty Alliance).

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report, and the intention to incorporate analysis and feedback into ongoing tackling poverty actions, be noted, and
- (2) that the Council's future participation in Challenge Poverty Week be endorsed.

TOWARDS A FAIRER NORTH LANARKSHIRE - TACKLING POVERTY STRATEGY 2023-2026 UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) providing an update on the Tackling Poverty Strategy 2023-2026, the Local Child Poverty Action Report, and associated action plans, with a particular focus on the driver "Income from Employment"; (2) reminding the Committee that the Policy and Strategy Committee had approved the refreshed "Towards a Fairer North Lanarkshire" Tackling Poverty Strategy for 2023-2026 and the Local Child Poverty Action Plan 2023 at its meeting held on 28 September 2023; (3) advising the Committee that the Tackling Poverty Officer Action Group had agreed that in the next review an update to the Income from Employment Driver actions 6 and 7 would be merged into one named action and that new actions would be added to capture the work around self-employment and activity, and the work being done with those who are currently economically inactive, of which there is a large number in North Lanarkshire; (4) indicating that the new and refreshed Strategy is closely aligned with the

Resilient People strand of the Council's Programme of Work and encompasses an integrated multi-service approach, alongside an increased focus of working externally with all community planning partners, communities, and people with lived experience of poverty, which is co-ordinated through the Tackling Poverty Officers Action Group, and (5) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the updated Action Plan "Income from Employment" – April to December 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the update of the Action Plan "Income from Employment" be approved, and
- (2) that it be acknowledged that reports on the remaining Tackling Poverty drivers will be submitted to the Committee over the course of 2024 and 2025.

5 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Stevenson, Convener; Councillors Barclay, Beveridge, Burgess, Campbell, Fotheringham, Harmon, Hughes, Jones, Khan, McBride, B. McCulloch, McLaren, Mitchell, Nolan, Robb, Shevlin, Smith, Toner and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Costello and Duffy attended as substitutes for Councillors Patton and Woods respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Stevenson (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Community Operations); Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement); Area Community Partnership Managers; Active and Creative Communities Manager; Technology Strategy Manager; Engagement and Communication Lead; Business Partnership Manager, and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Ashraf, Crichton, Patton and Woods.

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

1. Councillor Fotheringham, by virtue of being an employee of a group listed in the report, declared an interest by virtue of a connection in respect of paragraph 6 – Recover NL (Environmental and Resilience Fund) Update Report and further declared that she considered the interest so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude her participation in that item.

Councillor Williams, by virtue of being involved with a community group receiving funding as listed in the reports, declared an interest by virtue of a connection in respect of paragraph 6 – Recover NL (Environmental and Resilience Funding) Update Report – and paragraph 9 – Community Board Local Development Programme – and left the meeting during consideration of those two items of business.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL OVERSIGHT AND OUTCOMES REPORT 2022/23

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) informing the Committee that the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 aims to strengthen community engagement and empowerment for a range of statutory duties on public bodies and other organisations; (2) detailing the range of duties placed upon the organisations by the Act; (3) indicating that the Act requires all public sector bodies to work together and to engage with local communities on the issues that matter most to them with a shared aim of improving outcomes in these priorities, with a particular emphasis on addressing inequalities, poverty and socio-economic disadvantage in local areas; (4) advising that community planning partners must also report publicly on their progress, including where outcomes have been improved through joint planning, collaboration and effective partnership working, and (5)

attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the North Lanarkshire Partnership Strategic Leadership Board – Annual Oversight and Outcomes Report 2022/23 which highlights where community planning in North Lanarkshire is making a positive impact in strengthening partnership working and improving outcomes in line with The Plan for North Lanarkshire's Shared Ambitions.

Thereon, the Business Partnership Manager indicated a typographical error in the recommendation contained in the report and that it should refer to 2022/23 and not 2021/22 as written.

Decided: that the North Lanarkshire Partnership Strategic Leadership Board's Annual Oversight and Outcomes Report 2022/23, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.

CONNECTIVITY: COMMSWORLD - ADDITIONAL VALUE AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) informing the Committee that, following the award for connectivity services to Commsworld in February 2022, a Board was set up to monitor and review the added value and community benefits associated with the contract; (2) highlighting that the contract itself had the intention to use the requirement of the delivery of Council services as a lever to improving connectivity across the authority to its residents and local businesses; (3) outlining that this anchor tenant model was intended, in particular, to speed up the installation of fibre infrastructure that can be used to drive innovation and improve availability; (4) providing an update on the delivery of the added value and community benefits experienced so far, concluding that Commsworld had been a willing and successful partner in bringing community benefits, but that the added value sought by fibre availability had been impacted by the delay in delivering the main fibre infrastructure, and (5) attaching, as Appendices to the report, details of added value received and the community benefits to be delivered over the first three years of the Framework.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked to which officers committed to providing information outwith the meeting namely:-

What other services within the Council were moving towards a Digital First approach? (Councillor Duffy)

Decided:

- (1) that the contract monitoring and reporting structure of the Commsworld connectivity contract be acknowledged;
- (2) that the deliverables update be acknowledged and the assessment of these be approved, and
- (3) that the Council's requirements and expectations placed upon the supplier for the coming year, and the associated management and reporting arrangements to ensure contractual compliance, best value and improved connectivity outcomes across North Lanarkshire, be endorsed.

DRIVING DIGITAL LOCALLY

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) reminding the Committee that, through The Plan for North Lanarkshire and the approved Digital and IT Strategy, the Council had created a Driving Digital Locally Sub-Group as an enabling pathway to enable local communities to participate in designing and deploying modern digital Council services, taking cognisance of the scale of change anticipated within the Council but fully embracing the need to deliver secure and accessible online solutions for communities to use; (2) providing an update on progress up until December 2023 on the development of the Driving Digital Locally Framework amongst key stakeholders, communities and Elected Members, and the deployment thereafter of digital services

and initiatives; (3) highlighting progress on several activities including the progress of the Driving Digital Locally Digital Sub-Group, results from community benefits realised through the Commsworld connectivity contract and the success and progress of the Intergenerational Project in retirement complexes, in conjunction with local primary schools, and (4) further highlighting new online services launched as part of the Council's digital journey and next steps to be progressed early in 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted, and
- (2) that the next steps detailed in the report be endorsed.

VOLUNTARY ACTION NORTH LANARKSHIRE (VANL) SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2023/24

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement) (1) reminding the Committee that VANL is the third sector interface organisation operating within North Lanarkshire and operates as an umbrella organisation providing information, advice and support to the community and voluntary sector; (2) detailing the strategic aims for VANL, together with information on what those strategic objectives were focussed on; (3) explaining that VANL has had successive Service Level Agreements with the Council for the provision of services and initiatives which directly support The Plan for North Lanarkshire and the aims and objectives of the Council and its strategic partners and, as such, delivery of the agreed services is critical to the delivery of that Plan and the Council's priorities; (4) recommending that the annual level of funding for VANL for the period March 2024 to March 2027 be £172,379.25 which, as detailed in the report, represented a 10% decrease from the current Service Level Agreement, and (5) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the VANL Service Level Agreement 2023/24.

Decided:

- (1) that the Service Level Agreement with VANL for a three year period to March 2027, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the range of measures contained within the Service Level Agreement to monitor performance be acknowledged, and
- (3) that an annual funding allocation of £172,379.25 to VANL for the duration of the three year Service Level Agreement until March 2027, subject to satisfactory performance and availability of resource, be approved.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Fotheringham, by virtue of being an employee of a group listed in the report, had declared an interest by virtue of a connection and had further declared that she considered the interest so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude her participation in consideration of the item.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Williams, by virtue of being involved with a community group receiving funding as detailed in the report, declared an interest by virtue of a connection and left the meeting during its consideration.

RECOVER NL (ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESILIENCE FUNDING) UPDATE REPORT

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement) (1) providing an update on the Recover NL (Environmental and Resilience Fund) which had been approved by the former Environment and Transportation Committee in May 2021; (2) detailing the number of applications received and the total value of awards made by the end of the 2023/24 financial year; (3) explaining that the 2023/24 funding round is the last round of the Recover NL Environmental

Funding Programme and that, taking this into account, the report and the case studies detailed within it would provide examples of key highlights and successes which demonstrate the positive outcomes achieved for the communities of North Lanarkshire, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report, details of funding awards for the three year period 2021/2022 to 2023/2024, examples of equipment and resources funded, a copy of the funding application form and case studies.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the Appendices attached to the report be noted;
- (2) that the budgetary position and the funding stream, and the plans to further promote the funding before it closes, be noted;
- (3) that the case studies outlined in the Appendix to the report, and the positive outcomes secured for local residents and communities as a result of the Recover NL funding, be noted, and
- (4) that the significant contribution of local community and voluntary sector organisations to improve the environment of communities, open spaces, parks and green spaces be recognised and acknowledged.

LOIP PERFORMANCE REPORT 1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement) (1) providing a snapshot of progress linked to key priorities for each of the nine Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2023; (2) providing an overview of progress with implementation of the management and monitoring framework, and work to develop the role of the local partnership teams; (3) acknowledging progress with LOIP priorities and implementation of the supporting partnership delivery approaches, and (4) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, an update on progress with delivery of LOIPs for the period April to September 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress to date with delivery of key LOIP priorities be acknowledged and that individual outcome reports, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the ongoing work to continue to develop, strengthen and embed the supporting partnership delivery approaches be endorsed, and
- (3) that the efforts and ongoing dialogue to ensure accountability mechanisms across the Council, and within individual partner organisations, to drive local action and delivery responsibility, be supported.

COMMUNITY BOARDS AND PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement) (1) providing an update on key progress linked to supporting the development of the Community Boards model, including updates on the 13th cycle of Community Boards meetings which took place throughout November and December 2023; (2) indicating that, as previously agreed by the Committee, reports on the work of the nine Community Boards are provided to each Committee cycle and progress is also reported to the North Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership Strategic Leadership Board to reflect the statutory nature of the Board in community planning terms and provide a local governance for Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs); (3) advising that the process and focus of reporting on the work of the Community Boards will continue to be reviewed, and elements included within the LOIP Monitoring and Management Framework, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report (a) an

example of the Cycle 13 Community Board agenda, and (b) LOIP priority – targeted action case studies.

Decided: that the work to continue to develop and improve the integrated approach to supporting the local Community Board model be recognised.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Williams, by virtue of being involved with a community group receiving funding as detailed in the report, declared an interest by virtue of a connection and left the meeting during its consideration.

COMMUNITY BOARD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement) (1) providing an update on progress with the Community Board Local Development Programme (LDP) projects which had previously been approved by the Committee; (2) seeking in principle approval for new potential projects as proposed by local community groups; (3) outlining a number of challenges which have faced the LDP during the current financial year due to a range of external factors such as cost inflation, labour shortages, and market capacity and demand, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report (a) Community Board Local Development Programme 2022/23 onwards; (b) budget information, and (c) play area development list 2023/24.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress with the remaining 2022/23 programme and 2023/24 onwards be recognised and that projects which have potential for delivery in future financial years, dependent on availability of budget and community support, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) that the capital budget allocation to the LDP for each Community Board area in the current Capital Programme, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be recognised;
- (3) that the amendments to existing projects and further project proposal and project criteria be approved, and
- (4) that the current challenges faced in achieving delivery of the LDP be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR A CORPORATE BOOKING SYSTEM

10. There was submitted a report by the Active and Creative Communities Manager seeking approval for the award of a contract for a corporate booking system to Gladstone MRM Limited for an initial period of 60 months, anticipated to commence on 1 March 2024, with the Council reserving the right to extend the agreement for additional periods up to a maximum of a further 24 months, with the maximum value of the agreement being £3m exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the agreement to Gladstone MRM Limited, at the maximum agreement value of £3m, exclusive of VAT, be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR GYM AND STUDIO EQUIPMENT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

11. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive informing the Committee that, in accordance with Condition 21.3.2 of the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, he had approved the award of a Framework Agreement for gym and studio equipment for an initial period of 60 months, commencing on 1 April 2023, with the Council reserving the right to extend the Framework Agreement

for an additional period up to a maximum of a further 24 months with the maximum value of the agreement to not exceed £2,600,000 exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the Framework Agreement to Indigo Fitness Limited across three Lots, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, to the maximum value of £2,600,000, exclusive of VAT, be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR CARDIO AND FIXED STRENGTH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

12. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive informing the Committee that, in accordance with Condition 21.3.2 of the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, he had approved the award of a Framework Agreement for cardio and fixed strength for an initial period of 60 months, anticipated to commence on 1 November 2023 with the Council reserving the right to extend the Framework Agreement for an additional period up to a maximum of a further 24 months with the value of the Framework Agreement to not exceed £1,100,000, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the approval of the award of the agreement to Pulse Fitness Limited to the maximum value of £1,100,000, exclusive of VAT, be acknowledged.

Motherwell, 6 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor McCrory, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Docherty, Dunbar, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Thomas and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Duffy attended as a substitute for Councillor Fisher.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Principal Solicitor and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sergeant Baillie, Police Scotland.

In respect of paragraph 2 – Civic Licensing Standards Officer.

APOLOGY

Councillor Fisher.

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

1. Councillor Beveridge, by virtue of the licence holder being known to him, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 2 – Taxi Driver's Licence – Complaint – Gerard Gallagher, and left the meeting during consideration of that matter.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARINGS

The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the Order of Business as hereinafter minuted.

Prior to the consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Beveridge, having declared a connection by virtue of the licence holder being known to him, left the meeting during consideration of this matter.

(1) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - COMPLAINT - GERARD GALLAGHER

2. In terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, there was submitted a complaint received from Vanessa Dowling, relative to Gerard Gallagher, who currently held a Taxi Driver's Licence.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Vanessa Dowling was not in attendance.

Thereafter, the Committee resumed consideration of the matter in Vanessa Dowling's absence.

The Committee then (1) listened to an audio recording received from Vanessa Dowling pertaining to the complaint, and (2) heard Gerard Gallagher speak in respect of the complaint.

Thereafter, Gerard Gallagher, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Gerard Gallagher, the Civic Licensing Standards Officer and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that, in terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by Vanessa Dowling, relative to Gerard Gallagher, in respect of his Taxi Driver's Licence, be not upheld.

(2) PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE - RENEWALS

(a) GIGI GEORGE

3. There was submitted an application by Gigi George for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

The Principal Solicitor then advised the Committee that Gigi George did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

The Committee then heard Gigi George speak in respect of the application for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Gigi George and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Gigi George and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Beveridge, moved that the application by Gigi George for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be refused.

Councillor Dunbar, seconded by Councillor Ballinger, moved, as an amendment, that the application by Gigi George for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be granted for a period of 12 months, effective from 31 December 2023.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 2 Members voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application by Gigi George for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be granted for a period of 12 months, effective from 31 December 2023.

(b) TANVEER ANJUM

4. There was submitted an application by Tanveer Anjum for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

The Principal Solicitor then advised the Committee that Tanveer Anjum did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

The Committee then heard Tanveer Anjum speak in respect of the application for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Tanveer Anjum and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Tanveer Anjum and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Robb, moved that the application by Tanveer Anjum for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be refused.

Councillor Beveridge, seconded by Councillor Dunbar, moved, as an amendment, that the application by Tanveer Anjum for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be granted for a period of 12 months, effective from 31 December 2023.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 3 Members voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application by Tanveer Anjum for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be granted for a period of 12 months, effective from 31 December 2023.

(3) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - MUSA SAHO SAHO

5. There was submitted (1) an application by Musa Saho Saho for a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Musa Saho Saho was not in attendance.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Baillie advise that, given the circumstances, she had no objection to consideration of the application being continued.

Decided: that consideration of the application by Musa Saho Saho for a Taxi Driver's Licence be continued to allow the applicant a further opportunity to appear before the Committee to speak in respect of the application.

(4) STREET TRADER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - ALLAN BROWN

6. There was submitted an application by Allan Brown for a Street Trader's Licence to enable him to trade from a static snack van located in the car parking area of the Muirhead-Inn, 140 Cumbernauld Road, Muirhead.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Allan Brown was not in attendance.

Thereafter, the Committee resumed consideration of the matter in Allan Brown's absence.

The Principal Solicitor then outlined the background to the matter.

Decided: that the application by Allan Brown for a Street Trader's Licence be refused.

7 February 2024 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Loughran, Convener; Councillor McPhilemy, Vice-Convener; Councillors Carragher, Di Mascio, Duffy, Fotheringham, Harmon, Leckie, Masterton, McBride, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McKay, McManus, Mitchell, Nolan, Reddin, Roarty, Smith, A. Stubbs, Thomas, Williams, Wilson and Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Robinson attended as a substitute for Councillor Goldie.

CHAIR

Councillor Loughran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Community Operations); Chief Officer (Place); Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement); Infrastructure and Transportation Manager; Greenspace and Country Parks Manager; Climate Change Co-ordinator, and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Goldie.

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener welcomed Lyall Rennie to his first meeting of the Committee since his appointment as Chief Officer (Community Operations).

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

1. There were no declarations of interest.

UPDATE ON PARKING ENFORCEMENT

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) seeking approval to progress with enforcement in respect of pavement parking, double parking and parking at dropped kerbs (1) informing Committee that Part 6 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a statutory framework for a national ban on pavement parking, double parking and parking at dropped kerbs to assist local authorities in ensuring pavements and roads are safer and more accessible; (2) highlighting that the Parking Prohibitions (Enforcement and Accounts) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 were enacted on 11 December 2023 and provide local authorities with the power to enforce the new parking prohibitions, with a penalty charge level set at £100, reducing to £50 if paid within 14 days; (3) outlining that a number of exemptions apply to the new parking enforcement, and that these are only valid if specific criteria are met and there is no other reasonable parking available, with local authorities having the powers to exempt certain areas of pavement, should they feel it necessary; (4) advising that local authorities can consider an exemption where one of two main criteria are met, with the report detailing those criteria and that, where an exemption is put in place, the area covered must be clearly signed and marked so that members of the public understand that they are allowed to park there, and (5) detailing the resources available through the Enforcement Team and indicating that a review of

these was currently underway, although it would be necessary to focus these where there is a more significant road safety risk to pedestrians or other road users as a result of pavement/double parking.

Thereon, the Convener indicated that she wished to include a second recommendation to the report, namely that an operational report, by way of an update, be brought back to the Committee at Cycle 3.

Decided:

- (1) that the enforcement of pavement parking, double parking and parking at dropped kerbs be approved, and
- (2) that an operational report, by way of an update, be brought back to the Committee in Cycle 3.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - PUBLIC SECTOR DUTIES CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT 2022/23

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) (1) providing a summary of the content of the report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties, which had been submitted on behalf of the Council in November 2023 for the year 2022/23; (2) providing an update on progress in respect of the Council's carbon budgets set within the Climate Plan ACT2030, together with its energy targets; (3) explaining that, for the reporting year (2022/23), the Council's carbon footprint was reported as 61,909 carbon tonnes equivalent, which is a decrease of 1.4% from the previous year's reporting and an overall reduction of 47.1% from the baseline year; (4) welcoming the decrease in emissions but noting that there are various contributory sources that have increased during this period, and (5) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) organisational targets, and (b) a breakdown of emissions (2022/23).

Decided:

- (1) that the Performance Overview presented within the report, and the accompanying Appendices, be noted, and
- (2) that it be acknowledged that the Sustainable Futures Working Board will take forward the recommendations set out within the report.

COMPLIANCE WITH BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORTING

4. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) reminding the Committee that the Council had become a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration on 22 June 2021 to show support and commitment for a post 2020 global agreement to reflect the key role of local government in the delivery, implementation and mainstreaming of diversity; (2) explaining that the declaration sets out the aspirations and commitments of the Scottish Government, Edinburgh Process partners, and the wider sub-national constituency of the Convention of Biological Diversity in delivering for nature over the coming decade; (3) explaining that, in terms of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires public bodies in Scotland to report every three years on the actions they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty; (4) indicating that the last biodiversity duty report for 2018 to 2020 was approved by the former Environment and Transportation Committee on 10 February 2021, and (5) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the draft biodiversity duty report for 2021 to 2023.

Decided:

- (1) that the report on Council delivery of the biodiversity duty between 2021 and 2023 be approved, and
- (2) that the publication of the draft report on the Council's website on 1 January 2024, in line with its statutory duty, be noted and that its updating to a final report, following approval by the Committee, be approved.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

5. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive reporting on the proposed approach to increasing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the proposed strategy (1) advising that the Scottish Climate Change Plan sets out ambitious targets for the country to be net zero by 2045, with an interim position to reduce its emissions by 75% from a 1990 baseline by 2030; (2) explaining that transport emissions are Scotland's single largest source of greenhouse gases, accounted for 36% of the total in 2018, and have only reduced by 0.5% since 1990; (3) reporting that Scotland's Mission Zero for Transport Strategy sets out a target to reduce transport carbon emissions by 56% by 2030 and to de-carbonise completely by 2045 and, to deliver on this reduction in emissions, there must be a wholesale shift away from the current petrol and diesel engines to lower emission alternatives, and (4) providing an update on how the Council proposes to significantly increase the level of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the area in order to facilitate and support the move towards lower emission vehicles.

Decided: that the current approach towards increasing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure across North Lanarkshire and the Glasgow City Region be supported.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR WISHAW REPLACEMENT CEMETERY

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations) providing the outcome of the tender process for a replacement cemetery at Pather Farm (1) reminding the Committee that the former Environment and Transportation Committee had approved the development in principle in May 2019 and that the site has planning permission and can offer in the region of 20 years of burial capacity delivered in two phases; (2) recalling that the report in May 2019 had noted that the highest total cost estimated for Phase 1, including design costs, was £5,000,060, and (3) indicating that the tender price was £3,746,762.97 to Tilbury Douglas.

Decided: that the awarding of a contract, at a cost of £3,746,762.97, to Tilbury Douglas for the construction of a replacement cemetery at Pather Farm, Wishaw be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIFTEEN 26 TONS RCVs

7. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive seeking approval for the award of a contract for the purchase of Fifteen 26 Tons Refuse Collection Vehicles to Faun Zoeller UK for a one-off purchase price of £3,208,845, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the contract to Faun Zoeller UK Limited, at a cost of £3,208,845, exclusive of VAT, be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR RECYCLING AND TREATMENT OF KERBSIDE COLLECTED PAPER AND CARD

8. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) advising the Committee of a decision taken, in accordance with Condition 21.3.2 of the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, where, there was no scheduled meeting of the Committee, the contract for the recycling and treatment of kerbside collected paper and card had been awarded on 21 August 2023 to Smurfit Kappa UK Limited; (2) detailing that the contract had been formally awarded on 7 September 2023, for an initial period of 24 months commencing on 1 October 2023 with the Council reserving the right to extend the agreement for additional periods up to a maximum of a further 12 months, and (3) advising that the agreement is estimated to generate income to the Council of approximately £1,572,600 exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the agreement to Smurfit Kappa UK Limited, potentially generating income to the Council of approximately £1,572,600, exclusive of VAT, over the entire proposed three-year period of the contract be acknowledged.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) presenting a summary of contracts awarded since the last Committee which did not meet the threshold requiring Committee approval.

Decided: that the contracts awarded since the last Committee reporting cycle be acknowledged.

14 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McPake, Convener; Councillor Harmon, Vice-Convener; Councillors Baudo, Brannan-McVey, Brennan, Burgess, Cairns, Carragher, M. Coyle, Di Mascio, Dunbar, Fotheringham, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, Jones, Larson, Leckie, MacGregor, McBride, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McNally, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Reddin, Shevlin, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Toner, Watson and Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Fisher and McCluskey attended as substitutes for Councillors Logue and McManus respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor McPake (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Housing Management); Chief Officer (Housing Property Services); Chief Officer (Place); Business Finance Manager (Resource Solutions); Communications Officer, and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Logue and McManus.

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

1. Councillor M. Coyle, by virtue of being a Board Member of Mears LLP, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 2 – Mears LLP: Operational and Financial Performance Monitoring Report to 30 November 2023, and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor M. Coyle, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection by virtue of being a Board Member of Mears LLP, left the meeting during consideration of this item.

MEARS LLP: OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2023

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of this Committee held on 30 August 2023, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Property Services) (1) outlining Mears LLP's (a) operational and financial performance against its business objectives, Council priorities and the Housing and Corporate Repairs and Maintenance Service Delivery contracts; (b) performance for the financial years 2023/2024 for both housing repairs and corporate repairs for the period up to 30 November 2023, and (c) financial performance as at 30 September 2023, along with assurance by Finance of its financial standing; (2) highlighting, within the report and the attached Appendices, details of the Performance Indicators for Housing Property and Projects, and Corporate Property Projects and

Performance, together with a comparison of figures from the previous financial year; (3) advising that the customer satisfaction level was 94.04% year-to-date, with the 2022/23 Scottish average being 88.0%, and (4) intimating that performance against targets was submitted to the Audit and Scrutiny Panel on a six monthly basis.

Is there a theme to the type of complaint submitted and can a list of the top ten reasons for making a complaint be issued to Committee Members? (Councillor Carragher)

Is the assets and liabilities ratio up-to-date and can the current ratio be provided directly to Councillor Watson? (Councillor Watson)

Enquiry on behalf of a constituent regarding an incomplete repair job. It was agreed that the appropriate Chief Officer would respond to Councillor McKendrick. (Councillor McKendrick)

Decided:

- (1) that the operational performance of Mears LLP for 2023/2024 for both Housing Repairs and Corporate Repairs for the period from 1 April to 30 November 2023 be noted;
- (2) that Mears LLP's financial performance and financial standing for 2023/24 be noted, and
- (3) that it be noted that a report in respect of the Governance and Risk Management arrangements is submitted to the Audit and Scrutiny Panel on a six monthly basis.

SALTIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 30 NOVEMBER 2023

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 August 2023, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Property Services) (1) setting out the performance of the Housing Property Central Heating Repairs and Maintenance service delivery contracts for 2023/24; (2) advising (a) of the performance against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for 2023/24 in relation to the Heating Repairs and Maintenance, as set out within Appendix 1 to the report, with Appendix 2 to the report containing the full KPI's set for 2022/23 for comparative purposes, and (b) that Appendix 3 to the report contained the full breakdown of emergency and non-emergency repairs carried out; (3) highlighting the Housing Property and Projects performance and developments in Section 2 of the report, and (4) providing details of the Stage 1 and 2 complaints received in 2023/24, together with the number of complaints received in 2022/23 for comparative purposes.

Decided: that the report be noted.

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

4. With reference to (1) paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the former Housing and Regeneration Committee held on 24 November 2021, when, inter alia, the Local Housing Strategy for North Lanarkshire 2021-2026 was approved, and (2) paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 15 February 2023 when, inter alia, the progress made to date in delivering the actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026 were noted, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Manager) (a) advising of progress made in delivering the strategic priorities and actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026, and (b) intimating that this was the second annual progress review, a copy of which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Can information on the licensing process for short term lets be issued to all Members of the Committee? (Councillor Carragher)

Are the properties at Craigend Crescent and Viewfield Avenue, Bellshill, included within the 2024/25 Capital Programme for Improvements? (Councillor Reddin)

Decided: that the progress made to date in delivering the actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026 be acknowledged.

TRANSFORMING PLACES: NEW SUPPLY PROGRAMME - OPEN MARKET PURCHASE SCHEME

5. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 August 2023 when, *inter alia*, it was agreed that a six monthly update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) advising that the Open Market Purchase Scheme (OMPS) had been very popular, and 3,063 enquiries/applications had been received; (2) indicating that, as at 12 January 2024, 109 properties had been purchased, with a further 23 at conveyancing stage; (3) detailing, within the report, the locations of the properties purchased, together with the apartment size and area, and (4) intimating that, within the first phase of the reprovisioning programme, five owners had sold their properties to the Council, and discussions were ongoing with one remaining owner.

Decided:

- (1) that the continued success of the Open Market Purchase Scheme, which helps to increase housing supply and improve stock conditions, be noted;
- (2) that a six monthly update report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

TRANSFORMING PLACES: NEW SUPPLY PROGRAMME – FUTURE NEW BUILD SITES

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 30 August 2023, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) reminding the Committee that the New Supply Programme aimed to deliver 5,000 new homes by 2023; (2) informing that, to date, 1,263 new build houses had been completed, with a further 348 homes under construction, as at 19 December 2023; (3) proposing (a) that the site of the former Muirpark Care Home, Laburnum Road, Viewpark for approximately 25 units, and the site of Coats House, Gartlea Road, Airdrie for approximately 28 units, be included in the New Build Programme; (b) that an “off-the-shelf” purchase be progressed at Calder Gardens, Coatbridge from Barratt Homes plc for up to 26 new three-bedroom terraced houses, and a report regarding the acquisition price for each site would be submitted to a future meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee; (c) that the following sites be removed from the programme:- MacArthur Avenue, Glenmavis – approximately 21 units, as Scottish Water had rejected proposals to allow a drainage connection into the combined infrastructure, with all other drainage and options either technically unfeasible or economically unviable; Calderigg Place, Airdrie – approximately 42 units, as the ground conditions were unfavourable due to mine workings, and the cost of remediation in excess of £2.5m, which would be significantly above benchmark levels, and Mabel Street, Motherwell – approximately 20 units as Scottish Water had rejected proposals to allow a drainage connection into the combined infrastructure, with all other drainage options either technically unfeasible or economically unviable, and (d) that should the Scottish Water Surface Water Connections Policy change in the future, the sites as detailed within the report for removal from the New Supply Programme, be revisited and reconsidered for inclusion in the programme.

Can an update on the individual involved in the accident at the Orrs Building site, Airdrie, be provided, in addition when will works re-commence at the site? (Councillor Di Mascio)

Can I discuss the problems of leaking sewage in the McArthur Street, Glenmavis area with a Chief Officer? (Councillor Di Mascio)

Decided:

- (1) that the sites as set out in Sections 2.1 and 2.2, and Appendix 2 of the report, be included within the New Build Programme;
- (2) that the sites as set out in Section 2.3, of the report be removed from the New Supply Programme, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

TRANSFORMING PLACES: NEW SUPPLY PROGRAMME – PROCUREMENT UPDATE

7. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 and 27 November 2023, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) providing an update on the current procurement activity in respect of the New Build Programme, and (2) proposing (a) that, in line with the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) New Build Housing Construction H2 (Scotland) Framework Agreement, a “Direct Award” call-off procedure be used for the construction of new build housing at Coshneuk, Millerston, up to 16 units, and up to the value of £4.20m, including contingency allowance, and that the contract be awarded to JR Construction (Scotland) Limited; (b) that a “Mini Competition” call-off procedure be used to procure a new build housing project via the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) New Build Housing Construction H2 (Scotland) Framework Agreement for the construction of new housing at the former Motherwell Old Town Hall, Motherwell, up to 20 units, and up to the value of the contract of £5.90m, including contingency allowance, and (c) that, in line with the SPA New Build Housing Construction H2 (Scotland) Framework Agreement that the Council utilise a “Direct Award” call-off procedure (A) for the construction of new build housing at Dalzell Drive, Motherwell, up to 24 units, and up to the value of the contract of £5.640m, including contingency allowance, and (B) for the construction of new build housing at Bank Street, Coatbridge, up to 16 units - 6 flats and 10 supported accommodation places, and up to the value of the contract of £3.760m, including contingency allowance.

Decided:

- (1) that the award of a “Direct Award” call-off contract in line with the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) H2 Framework Agreement to JR Construction (Scotland) for the construction of new build housing at Coshneuk, Millerston, up to 16 units, and up to the value of the contract of £4.20m, including contingency, be approved;
- (2) that a “Mini-Competition” call-off contract in line with the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) H2 Framework Agreement be utilised, for the construction of new build housing at the former Motherwell Old Town Hall, Motherwell, up to 20 units, and up to the value of the contract of £5.90m, including contingency allowance;
- (3) that the use of a “Direct Award” call-off contract in line with the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) H2 Framework Agreement for the construction of new build housing at Dalzell Drive, Motherwell, up to 24 units, and up to the value of the contract of £5.640m, including contingency allowance, be approved, and
- (4) that the use of a “Direct Award” call-off contract in line with the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) H2 Framework Agreement for the construction of new build housing at Bank Street, Coatbridge, up to 16 units - 6 flats and 10 supported accommodation places, and up to the value of the contract of £3.760m, including contingency allowance, be approved.

HOUSING OUTLINE HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25

8. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 10 May 2023 when, *inter alia*, approval had been given to the HRA Capital Programme for 2023/24, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Property Services) (1) seeking approval to implement the mainstream HRA Capital Programme (excluding new build) for 2024/25, as detailed within the report and the Appendix to the report, and (2) summarising the up-to-date position regarding (a) the Capital Resources – HRA Programme, and (b) the HRA Capital Programme, with specific reference to Heating; Windows/Door Replacements; Roofing and Rendering; Lead Pipe Replacement; Controlled Door Entries; Electrical Work; Kitchens and Bathrooms; the Tower Strategy; The Ambition Programme, and Community Care.

Decided:

- (1) that the HRA Capital Programme for 2024/25, as detailed within the report and Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS WRITE-OFF TO 31 MARCH 2022

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Management) (1) proposing that the sum of £2,553,973.58, being the current balance outstanding in respect of former tenant rent arrears prior to 31 March 2022 considered to be irrecoverable, be written-off; (2) intimating (a) that, in accordance with financial guidelines, a provision for expected credit losses had previously been established for the outstanding accounts, and (b) that the debt written-off related to former tenancies where the tenancy end date was prior to 31 March 2022, and (3) advising that efforts would continue to secure payment of outstanding rent balances from former tenants.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given for the write-off of former tenants' arrears totalling £2,553,973.58 for the period up to 31 March 2022;
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORTS

(1) HRA REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

10. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) providing a summary of the Housing Revenue Account financial performance for the period 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Period 10); (2) illustrating the projected outturn as at 31 March 2024, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained in accordance with the Council's approved Financial Regulations, and (3) advising (a) that the Service was currently projecting an overspend of £3.805m for the financial year which was due to anticipated increased loan charge costs, reflecting the impact of higher interest rates, and (b) that approved savings of £0.070m which had been included within the budget would be fully delivered by the financial year-end.

Decided: that the financial position of the HRA Revenue Budget 2023/24 be acknowledged.

(2) ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITIES – REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

11. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) highlighting the financial performance of the Enterprise and Communities Service for the period from 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Period 10), with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations; (2) advising (a) that the Service was currently forecasting a year-end underspend of £2.335m, and (b) that the underspend was mainly attributable to employee vacancy savings across the Service, and (3) indicating that the Service continued to review inflationary pressures and to also work with Business and Digital to progress plans for delivery of digital savings, temporarily offset this financial year through grant, which had been received in advance of need and an earmarked reserve.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2023/24 Enterprise and Communities Revenue Budget be acknowledged.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORTS

(1) HRA CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT – 1 APRIL 2023 TO 5 JANUARY 2024

12. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) reviewing progress towards agreed spending plans within the 2023/2024 HRA Capital Programmes; (2) advising that at this stage in the year the Mainstream Programme was projected to fully spend, and (3) intimating (a) that the New Build Programme was projected to overspend by £1.884m, mainly due to an acceleration in the Programme for the site at Lorne Place, Coatbridge, with completion of Phase 1 of the Programme being revised to November 2023 from the original 2024/25 target, and Scottish Government Grant funding was anticipated to be under-recovered by £1.797m due to some projects being delayed, which resulted in an increase in borrowing of £3.681m, and (b) that the Buy Back Programme was projected to overspend by £3.742m, which was mainly due to the average price of properties purchased and repairs being higher than anticipated, and a revised acquisition target from 100 to 130 properties.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2023/2024 HRA Capital Programmes be acknowledged.

(2) ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITIES – CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

13. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee held on 18 March 2021, when, inter alia, the five year Strategic Capital Investment Programme had been approved, there was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) highlighting the financial performance of the 2023/2024 Enterprise and Communities Capital Programme for the period from 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Period 10); (2) advising that the Service had a total Capital Budget of £132.056m, and that at this stage in the financial year the Service anticipated expenditure to be £1.314m lower than the current programme, and (3) providing further explanation of project variances and management action taken by the Service, as set out in the report, and the attached Appendices.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2023/2024 Enterprise and Communities Capital Programme be acknowledged.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

14. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) intimating that the contract highlighted within Appendix 1 to the report had been awarded by him in accordance with the General Contract Standing Orders since the last Committee reporting cycle.

Decided: that the contract awarded since the last Committee reporting cycle be acknowledged.

16 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **ENTERPRISE AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McVey, Convener; Councillor McKay, Vice-Convener; Councillors Crichton, Di Mascio, Docherty, Dunbar, Goldie, Jarvie, Khan, Leckie, MacGregor, Mitchell, McCrory, Nolan, Roarty, Robinson, Sullivan, Toner, Watson and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Cairns, Fisher, Jones, McDade and Woods attended as substitutes for Councillors Masterton, Duffy, McPake, Bustard and Duffy-Lawson respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor McVey (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Place); Enterprise Manager; City Deal Manager and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Bustard, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Masterton and McPake.

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

1. There were no declarations.

TRANSFORMING PLACES – ECONOMIC REGENERATION DELIVERY PLAN ACTION PLAN 2024/25

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) reminding the Committee that the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan (ERDP) had previously been approved by this Committee in February 2023, covering the period 2023-2028; (2) informing of the development of an annual ERDP Action Plan to detail key milestones and targets for the Council and its partners during the financial year; (3) enclosing, within the Appendix to the report, the ERDP Action Plan for 2024/25, and (4) intimating that an Annual Performance Report detailing progress against the 2023/24 Action Plan and wider ERDP Performance Framework, used to monitor the wider ERDP Performance, would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

During discussion on this matter, questions were asked to which Officers committed to responding outwith the meeting namely:-

- Can the Active Travel Routes be provided for (a) South Biggar Road by Councillor Watson, and (b) Woodside Street? (Councillor Robinson), and
- How much has the Council spent on the Buyback Scheme to date? (Councillor Sullivan)

Decided:

- (1) that the EDRP Action Plan 2024/25, as attached within the Appendix to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that it be recognised that an Annual Performance Report, detailing progress against the 2023/24 Action Plan and wider ERDP Performance Framework, will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

INSOURCING OF THE LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS GATEWAY SERVICE AND REVIEW OF BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) providing an update on progress with insourcing the Lanarkshire Business Gateway Service from 1 March 2024; (2) intimating that the insourcing of the Service Contract would give rise to a relevant transfer under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE); (3) outlining that there are a number of employees of Enterprise North East Trust Limited (Elevator) in scope to transfer to North Lanarkshire Council on 1 March 2024 upon termination of the existing contract; (4) advising of the proposed future operating model for the Business Gateway Service, and (5) highlighting that a wider review of the Council's own business support service be undertaken to ensure effective co-ordination and alignment of business support services to make best use of available resources.

Decided:

- (1) that the position in relation to the insourcing and transfer of employees from Enterprise North East Trust Limited (Elevator) be noted, and
- (2) that the proposals for a review of wider business support services be noted.

NET ZERO BUSINESS CHALLENGE FUND

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) proposing to establish a Net Zero Business Challenge Fund to support local small to medium size businesses within North Lanarkshire to help reduce their environmental impact and improve sustainability of their operations; (2) highlighting that recent research had shown that finance is one of the key barriers to small to medium size businesses achieving Net Zero, and (3) intimating that utilising the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to establish a Net Zero Business Challenge Fund would enable the Council to support various local businesses to reduce emissions.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked to which Officers committed to responding outwith the meeting namely:-

- What percentage does agriculture contribute to economic activity in North Lanarkshire and is there any data that indicates what contribution agriculture makes in North Lanarkshire? (Councillor Jarvie)

Decided: that the proposed use of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding to support businesses within North Lanarkshire to reduce their environmental impact and enhance the sustainability of their operations by establishing a Net Zero Business Challenge Fund be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR EAST AIRDRIE LINK ROAD STAGE 3 (PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND PLANNING)

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) seeking approval to award a contract for professional services for Stage 3 (Preliminary Design and Planning) for the East Airdrie Link Road Project to AtkinRéalís UK Limited; (2) informing that the successful tenderer had been evaluated as providing the most economically advantageous tender in terms of cost and quality for the Council following a procurement exercise, and (3) advising that the value of the contract is £2,894,871, exclusive of VAT, for a period of 16 months, anticipated to commence on 18 March 2024.

Decided: that the award of the East Airdrie Link Road Stage 3 (Preliminary Design and Planning) Professional Contract to AtkinRéalís UK Limited in the sum of £2,894,871, exclusive of VAT, be noted.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) presenting details of a contract awarded since the last meeting of the Committee, which had been below the threshold requiring Committee approval.

Decided: that the contract award made since the last Committee reporting cycle, with a threshold below that required for Committee approval, be noted.

Motherwell, 20 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor McCrory, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Dunbar, Fisher, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Thomas and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Duffy attended as a substitute for Councillor Docherty.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Solicitor and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Constable Doria, Police Scotland.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Beveridge and Docherty,

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

1. No declarations were made.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARINGS

The Convener exercised his discretion to vary the Order of Business as hereinafter minuted.

(1) PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE - RENEWAL - MICHAEL KAVANAGH

2. There was submitted an application by Michael Kavanagh for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

The Principal Solicitor then advised the Committee that Michael Kavanagh did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

The Committee then heard Michael Kavanagh speak in respect of the application for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Michael Kavanagh and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Michael Kavanagh and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Michael Kavanagh for the renewal of his Private Hire Car Licence be granted for a period of 24 months, effective from 30 November 2023.

(2) PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - NAQEEB-UR REHMAN

3. There was submitted (1) an application by Naqeeb-Ur Rehman for a Private Hire Driver's Licence, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Constable Doria outline the Chief Constable's objection to the application and Naqeeb-Ur Rehman speak in support of the application.

Thereafter Naqeeb-Ur Rehman and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Naqeeb-Ur Rehman and the representative of Police Scotland were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Hughes, moved that the application by Naqeeb-Ur Rehman for a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted subject to the condition that he is only permitted to drive an automatic vehicle.

Councillor McLaren, seconded by Councillor Thomas, moved, as an amendment, that the application by Naqeeb-Ur Rehman for a Private Hire Driver's Licence be refused.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment, and 6 Members voted for the motion. The vote being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the amendment, which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application by Naqeeb-Ur Rehman for a Private Hire Driver's Licence be refused.

(3) PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE - NEW APPLICATION - PERFECT TAN SCOTTS LIMITED

4. There was submitted (1) an application by Perfect Tan Scotts Limited for a Public Entertainment Licence to operate a tanning salon from premises at 88B Woodside Street, Coatbridge, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Business Regulation Service.

The Principal Solicitor then intimated that, for the reasons narrated, the Business Regulation Service objection had been withdrawn, and that the application by Perfect Tan Scotts Limited for a Public Entertainment Licence would subsequently be dealt with under delegated powers.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the objection received from the Business Regulation Service had been withdrawn, and
- (2) that the application by Perfect Tan Scotts Limited for a Public Entertainment Licence be dealt with under delegated powers.

(4) PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR OPERATOR'S LICENCE - COMPLAINT - MARK ARMSTRONG

5. In terms of paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, there was submitted a complaint received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, relative to Mark Armstrong, who currently held a Private Hire Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Operator's Licence.

The Administrative Officer then indicated that Mark Armstrong was not in attendance.

The Committee then heard Constable Doria advise that, given the circumstances, he had no objection to consideration of the application being continued.

Decided: that consideration of the complaint by the Chief Constable, relative to Mark Armstrong, be continue to allow the licence holder a further opportunity to appear before the Committee to speak in respect of the complaint.

20 February 2024 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **ADULT CARE AND SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor M. McCulloch, Convener; Councillor Boyd, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ashraf; Barclay, Baudo, Brennan, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Carragher, Goldie, Jarvie, Jones, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, McKendrick, McVey, Shevlin, Sullivan, Toner and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor M. McCulloch (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice); Chief Officer (Health and Social Care); Chief Officer (Planning Performance and Quality Assurance); Acting Chief Officer (Adult Social Work); Business Finance Manager, Senior Manager Integration; Service Manager, and Democratic Services Manager.

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

1. Councillor McBride, by virtue of being Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 8 and further declared that he believed the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in the consideration of that item.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

2. There was submitted a report by the Acting Chief Officer (Adult Social Work) (1) providing an update on the new Assistive Technology Team within the Health and Social Care Partnership; (2) summarising the impact that the Team has had since its creation; (3) setting out the current progress and aims in delivering new digital solutions to support national priorities in accordance with “care in the digital age”, and (4) highlighting the uptake in technology and increased engagement following promotion of the digital services, and (5) outlining future plans and actions for the Team.

Following the report, a presentation was delivered highlighting the progress and benefits of the Team and the ongoing work.

The Convener thanked the officers for their informative presentation.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress of the new Assistive Technology Team be noted;
- (2) that the progress on promotion of digital services by the Team be noted, and
- (3) that the uptake in technology and the increase in engagement be noted.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING DELIVERY PLAN

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) (1) providing an update on the delivery of "Getting It Right For Every Person, a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lanarkshire 2019-2024"; (2) informing of plans to develop a Delivery Plan to implement the new National Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy in Lanarkshire, and (3) highlighting the key achievements over the span of the current strategy.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked to which Officers committed to responding outwith the meeting:-

- As outlined in paragraph 2.9 of the report, how many of the 800 mental health workers across the key settings have been appointed to North Lanarkshire and how many of these professionals are now in position? (Councillor Wilson)

Decided: that the report be noted.

WHOLE SYSTEM WINTER PLANNING 2023/24

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) (1) providing an update on planning arrangements to ensure Health and Social Care Services are prepared for the winter months; (2) giving particular recognition to the uncertainties and potential impact that remain relating to the inclement weather, Covid-19, influenza, financial pressures, cost of living issues and other concurrent risks against the backdrop of major pre-existing system wide pressures; (3) highlighting that the plan aims to identify and mitigate any issues accordingly, and (4) advising that the Winter Plan, also presented to the NHS Lanarkshire Board, would be reviewed and flexed to meet any emergency issues that may arise.

Decided: that the report be noted.

WINTER RESILIENCE

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) (1) detailing the success of a Fire Break, undertaken in February and March 2023, which was, however, unsustainable in the longer term, leading to the development of Operation Flow 2; (2) outlining the development of a whole system winter plan for Lanarkshire, focussing on Operation Flow 2 actions in line with the national Delayed Discharge and Hospital Occupancy Plan, and the NHS Scotland Winter Preparedness Plan, and (3) highlighting that, whilst the system as a whole has remained pressured throughout the festive period and into January, this has remained more stable than the previous year.

Decided: that the report be noted.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Performance Planning and Quality Assurance) (1) providing an update to the Committee on the performance of key areas of activity within Adult Health and Social Care for the period from 1 July to 30 September 2023 (Quarter 2), and (2) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) the Adult Social Care Dashboard, and (b) areas for improvement for the period.

Decided: that the report be noted.

**REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT: ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERIOD 10:
1 APRIL 2023 TO 5 JANUARY 2024**

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Planning Performance and Quality Assurance) providing a summary of the revenue financial performance of the Health and Social Care Partnership, North Lanarkshire (Adult Social Care and Housing) and the capital financial performance of the Social Work Programme (1) incorporating the period 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Accounting Period 10), and (2) including the projected outturn forecast for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

Decided:

- (1) that the revenue financial outturn position be noted, and
- (2) that the capital financial outturn position be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor McBride, by virtue of being Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), had declared an interest by virtue of a connection and had further declared that he considered the interest sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in the consideration of the item.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR DISTRESSED BRIEF INTERVENTION SERVICE (DBI)

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) (1) seeking approval of the award of a contract for a pan-Lanarkshire Distressed Brief Intervention Service (DBI) to Lifelink for an initial period of 24 months, with the option to extend for up to a maximum of a further 12 months, and with an anticipated start date of 1 April 2024, and the value of the agreement to be £1,917,013, exclusive of VAT.

The Chief Officer (Planning Performance and Quality Assurance) provided a verbal update highlighting to Committee that the figure within the recommendation should be £1,917,013 and not £1,918,262 as stated.

During discussion on the matter, a question was asked to which Officers committed to responding outwith the meeting namely:-

- Can a breakdown of the submissions, setting out weighting for quality and price for both tenderers be provided? (Councillor B. McCulloch)

Decided: that the contract award for a pan-Lanarkshire Distressed Brief Intervention Service (DBI) to Lifelink in the value of £1,917,013 be approved.

27 February 2024 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the **EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Campbell, Convener; Councillor McBride, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Carragher, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Di Mascio, Fotheringham, Goldie, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Larson, Lennon, Loughran, Masterton, B. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McManus, McPake, McVey, Mitchell, Patton, Reddin, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, Toner, Wilson and Woods; Mr. G. McCormack, Mr. G. Paterson, Ms. M. McCrossan and Mr. I. Scott.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Brennan attended as substitute for Councillor McCluskey.

CHAIR

Councillor Campbell (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Education – North); Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice); Senior Education and Families Manager (Social Work Justice); Senior Education and Families Manager (Social Work); Education and Families Manager (Restorative Justice); Education and Families Manager (Social Work Intensive Services), and Democratic Services Manager.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Craig Devine and Caitlin Law representing Care Experienced Young People.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Dunbar and McCluskey.

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

1. There were no declarations.

GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education – North) (1) providing an update on the progress of the implementation and development of the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) process across the Education and Families Service; (2) informing of the development of the road map to recovery, mental health and wellbeing plan for children in North Lanarkshire along with evidence of its implementation across the clusters; (3) setting out intended service plans for the implementation of LGBT Inclusive Education Curriculum across all schools, and (4) highlighting the positive indicators from across a number of measures including the strengths and difficulties questionnaire and Outcomes Star.

During discussion on this matter, questions were asked to which officers committed to responding outwith the meeting:-

- Can figures be provided to outline the overall staffing shortfall in Additional Support Needs establishments? (Councillor Lennon)
- Can the waiting time for a young person being referred to CAHMS be provided? (Councillor Currie)

Decided: that the report be noted.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) informing of the Annual Community Payback Report for the fiscal year 2022/23; (2) providing an overview of service delivery, key issues and outcomes relating to the delivery of community payback for the timeframe; (3) advising of the impact in respect of individuals, subject to Community Payback Orders and the local community, and (4) setting out significant strategic developments that have had implications for local authorities in delivering statutory objectives.

Following the report, a presentation and short video was delivered highlighting the ongoing work of community payback and restorative justice.

Arising from discussion, it was proposed that a further report providing more in-depth attendance figures over the whole year in comparison to previous years be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Decided: that a further update providing a more in-depth breakdown of attendance figures, over the whole year with comparison to previous years, be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) providing an update on the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2023/26; (2) detailing that The Promise and Me Partnership: Corporate Parenting in North Lanarkshire had led on the development of the strategy; (3) advising that the governance for the group comes under the remit of the Children Services Partnership (CSP), as a sub-group of the Improving Children Services Group (ICSG); (4) informing of a significant overlap and alignment between the new strategy and the current CSP 2023-2026, previously endorsed by the Council, and (5) seeking approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2023/26 as detailed within the Appendix to the report.

Thereafter a presentation and short video was delivered.

Decided: that the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Improvement Plan 2023-2026 be approved.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – PERIOD 10

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education – North) providing a summary of the financial performance of the Education, Children and Families Service (1) incorporating the period 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Accounting Period 10), and (2) including the projected outturn forecast for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

During discussion on this matter, a question had been asked to which officers committed to responding outwith the meeting:-

- Can you advise if taxis from throughout North Lanarkshire are still escorting pupils to Cumbernauld and provide details of the costs? (Councillor Burgess)

Decided: that the financial position of the Education, Children and Families Service Revenue Budget be noted.

CONTRACT AWARD – EARLY HELP AND FAMILY SUPPORT

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice) (1) seeking approval to award a contract for the Early Help and Family Support to Barnardo's; (2) advising that the contract is for an initial period of 24 months, with the option to extend for a maximum of a further 12 months, and (3) detailing the value of the contract is £4,000,080, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the contract award for Early Help and Family Support to Barnardo's, to the value of £4,000,080, be approved.

28 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Fisher, Convener; Councillors Barclay, Beveridge, Boyd, Brennan, Bustard, Carragher, Costello, Currie, Duffy, Hume, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Larson, Lennon, Loughran, Masterton, McLaren, McPake, Nolan, Patton, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Sullivan, Thomas, Watson and Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors M. McCulloch, Harmon, McVey and McCrory attended as substitutes for Councillors Campbell, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar and Logue respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Fisher (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Finance); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement); Chief Officer (People Resources); Chief Officer (Business and Digital); Group Manager (Estates); Category Manager; Business Finance Manager (Resource Solutions); Technology Strategy Manager; Employment and Policy Manager, and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Campbell, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Logue and McKendrick.

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

1. Councillor McPake, by virtue of being the holder of a private hire vehicle licence, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in agenda item 2 – Taxi Licensing – Fares Review – and left the meeting during consideration of that item.

Councillor McPake, by virtue of being the Council appointee to the Board of Scotland Excel, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in agenda item 22 – Contract Award for Audio Visual Panels – and further declared that he considered the nature of the interest sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in consideration of that item.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor McPake, by virtue of being the holder of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, had declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest and left the meeting during its consideration.

TAXI LICENSING - TAXI FARES REVIEW

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) (1) advising that North Lanarkshire Joint Taxi Trade Association had been consulted regarding a review of taxi fares and other charges; (2) advising that the Association had responded by stating that its membership was of the view that there should be a modest increase in the fares charged; (3) providing details of the increases of the fares and, attaching as Appendices to the report, the current fare structure and the

proposed fare structure, and (4) informing that, as required by legislation, the Council published the proposed taxi fare increases on its website and representations regarding the proposals to increase the fares be invited to be made on or before 1 December 2023 and that no responses had been received.

Decided: that the taxi fare increases proposed by the North Lanarkshire Joint Taxi Trade Association be approved and that new fare cards be issued before 1 May 2024.

REFRESHED HYBRID WORKING SCHEME

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (People Resources) (1) providing an overview of the refreshed Hybrid Working Scheme which is proposed to come into force on 1 April 2024; (2) indicating that, whilst the Scheme would remain under constant review, it is envisioned that this version of the Scheme be considered to be the Council's final position for ensuring that it strikes the right balance between enabling eligible staff to retain a proportion of hybrid working, whilst ensuring that the Council meets its desired performance and productivity expectations and progresses its strategic aims and objectives; (3) detailing the proposed changes to the current operation of the Scheme; (4) reporting that the refreshed Scheme has been carefully considered by the Corporate Management Team and that the trade unions have been afforded the opportunity to provide comment; (5) indicating that it is proposed to retain a scheme that will allow consideration of posts that are appropriate for hybrid working whilst providing parameters around the ways in which hybrid working will operate; (6) clarifying that there is no legal entitlement to work from home and, therefore, employees would be invited to join the Scheme only if their post was deemed suitable for hybrid working and employees would retain the right to come out of the Scheme at any time should working in this way no longer suit their individual circumstances and, equally, the Council would retain the right to amend or withdraw the Scheme from individuals, Services or in its entirety if deemed necessary for furtherance of the organisation; (7) detailing that the Scheme is not applicable to Chief Officers, frontline or direct customer facing posts however, those groups of staff do retain the right to apply through the Smarter Working Policy to change their working hours or pattern if they required flexibility for a specific purpose, and (8) attaching, as Appendices to the report, the proposed Hybrid Working Scheme and a set of FAQs.

Decided:

- (1) that the requirement to update and agree a final version of the Hybrid Working Scheme, and the arrangements currently in place, be recognised;
- (2) that it be acknowledged that the Council continues to support hybrid working, where appropriate, in recognition of its benefits to both the Council and relevant employees, including team flexibility, resilience and an improved work life, and
- (3) that the refreshed Hybrid Working Scheme be approved and implemented from 1 April 2024, and thereafter, remain in place until any required review.

CONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK - OPERATIONAL REVIEW

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) providing an update on the implementation and operational status of the Connectivity Framework approved by the Committee in December 2021, together with details of the performance of the approved provider, Commsworld Limited; (2) outlining progress against the initial deliverables on the long-term contract, namely (a) replacement Wide Area Network (WAN); (b) increased operational bandwidth and resilience; (c) approved internet capacity and throughput; (d) single consolidated and more widely available public wi-fi service, and (e) fibre availability for existing and future sites; (3) explaining the reason for the WAN delivery having delayed for six months and that it was now expected to be complete by January 2024; (4) outlining the successful delivery of the substantially increased internet capacity and

throughput, in particular for the Council's school estate, with a high-level explanation of CCTV contract integration, the plans for consolidated public wi-fi delivery and the general fibre enablement of the community via fibre to Council sites; (5) providing a narrative on how the contract delivery is managed and the Service's assessment of its performance to date, and (6) attaching, as Appendices to the report, further information in relation to performance management.

Decided: that the delivery of the contract to date, including the assessment of the performance of the positive performance of Commsworld, together with the expectation of the contract for the coming year, be acknowledged.

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (People Resources) (1) providing an update on legislative changes to be implemented in 2024 and beyond, some of which will impact on the Council's employment policies and procedures; (2) explaining that, while some of these legislative changes will have little or no impact on the Council, there are a small number of changes that will result in updates to current policies and procedures, with these being detailed within the report; (3) noting that employment law is regularly reviewed and that it is anticipated that, if there is a change to the UK Government in 2024, other legislative changes concerning employment law could be considered and implemented, and (4) outlining the next steps in this process, including consultation with trade unions on all necessary changes that will be required to policies and procedures and that, thereafter, changes would be made to those policies and procedures at the appropriate times and in advance of the implementation dates of legislation, where possible, with all changes being communicated to staff accordingly.

Decided:

- (1) that the recent and upcoming changes to employment law, as detailed in the report, be acknowledged;
- (2) that the impact of these changes on current employment policy and procedures be noted, and
- (3) that it be noted that any necessary changes will be made to employment policies and procedures to ensure that the Council remains compliant with all legislative requirements.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORT COUNCIL SUMMARY - 11 APRIL TO 8 DECEMBER 2023

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing an update on the overall position of the General Fund Account, Housing Revenue Account and Adult Health and Social Care for the financial year to 31 March 2024; (2) consolidating the budget monitoring position of all Services, and (3) highlighting and explaining major variances as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

Decided:

- (1) that the financial position of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 MONITORING REPORT

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing an update on the 2023/24 resources and expenditure of the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme, and (2) detailing the 2023/24 projected outturn position and resultant variances.

Decided: that the financial position of the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme, as at 5 January 2024, be acknowledged.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE - 1 APRIL 2023 TO 5 JANUARY 2024 (PERIOD 10)

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing a summary of the Chief Executive's Service financial performance for the period 1 April 2023 to 5 January 2024 (Period 10); (2) illustrating the provisional outturn as at 31 March 2024; (3) highlighting and explaining major outturn variances as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations; (4) informing that the Council's insurance premiums for property, liability and motor have seen an overall increase in rates of 27% and that this is the result of claims history over the previous 12 months as well as general premium increases being seen across the insurance market, with the claims projected to exceed the approved budget by £1.6m this year, although these overspends can be supported by the insurance fund set aside for this purpose which currently is set at £13m, and (5) seeking authority to vire £0.487m of budget from property claims and £0.402m from liability claims to reflect the increase in premiums, with the final claim overspends being charged directly to the fund.

Decided:

- (1) that the financial position of the 2023/24 Chief Executive's Service Revenue Budget be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the virement request as detailed in the report be approved.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE - CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT - 1 APRIL 2023 TO 5 JANUARY 2024 (PERIOD 10)

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) highlighting the financial performance and projected outturn of the 2023/24 Chief Executive's Service Capital Programme for the period ended 5 January 2024 (Period 10).

Decided: that the financial position of the 2023/24 Chief Executive's Service Capital Programme be noted.

REVIEW OF 2023/24 TO 2025/26 BUDGET SAVINGS

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) providing an update on the achievement of the three-year financial savings total of £15.143m, approved as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

COUNCIL TAX - SECOND HOMES

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) informing the Committee that the Scottish Parliament has approved new regulations allowing local authorities to charge up to double the full rate of Council Tax on second homes; (2) outlining the change in policy to be implemented from 1 April 2024, following the Council budget decision on 15 February 2024 to introduce the 100% additional levy; (3) explaining that there are 68 properties in North Lanarkshire currently categorised as second homes and that the future occupation and active use of these properties would deliver economic, social and wellbeing benefits, and (4) advising that the potential net increase in Council Tax liability for these properties is estimated at £0.050m, with billing and recovery activities to be progressed in the normal way.

Decided:

- (1) that the changes to the Council Tax Second Homes charge be acknowledged, and
- (2) that a 100% additional levy for second homes in North Lanarkshire be implemented from 1 April 2024.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) fulfilling the key requirements of the Council's reporting procedures for Treasury Management in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, and (2) informing on the quarterly treasury management activities for the period 1 July to 31 December 2023, together with compliance with the mandatory Treasury and Prudential Indicators.

Decided: that the Treasury Management activity for the quarter ended 31 December 2023, including the performance against the key treasury and prudential indicators, be acknowledged.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2024/2025 TO 2028/2029

13. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) indicating that the report fulfils the key requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 to (a) outline the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and (b) to report on the Treasury and Prudential Indicators as required by the above Code and the CIPFA Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

Decided:

- (1) that the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/2025 be approved and that the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2024/26 to 2028/29, as set out within the Appendix to the report, be adopted, and
- (2) that the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/2025 be remitted to the Council for approval.

REVENUES AND BENEFITS UPDATE

14. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing an update on the performance within the Revenues and Benefits function of Finance as at 31 December 2023; (2) explaining that the Committee had approved the policy on Empty Property Relief following the

devolution of this relief to Local Government from 1 April 2023 with that policy due to expire on 31 March 2024, and (3) proposing that the current policy be extended to 31 March 2025 to ensure a degree of stability while some of the inflationary pressures, as detailed in the report, persist.

During consideration of this matter, Councillor Duffy requested an explanation for the increase in applications received in relation to changes in circumstances. The Business Finance Manager (Resource Solutions) confirmed that he would provide additional detail to the Member outwith the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the continuation of the existing Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief policy, as set out in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

LOCAL TAXATION DEBT WRITE-OFF 2023/24

15. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) presenting the summary of outstanding local taxation accounts which are deemed uncollectable following all attempts at recovery; (2) indicating that, in accordance with financial guidelines, a provision for credit losses has previously been established for the outstanding accounts, and (3) recommending the write-off in 2023/24 of £5,588,406.25.

Decided:

- (1) that the decision of the Chief Officer (Finance) to write-off £1,127,589.65 for debts with a value under £500 under delegated responsibility be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the write-off of all items with a value over £500 to the value of £4,456,816.60 be approved.

REMIT FROM THE HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 14 FEBRUARY 2024 – FORMER TENANT ARREARS WRITE-OFF TO 31 MARCH 2022

16. There had been submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing Management) to the Housing Committee at its meeting held on 14 February 2024, which presented to that Committee a summary of outstanding housing rent debts deemed uncollectable following all attempts at recovery by the Housing, Rents and Court teams, or which were considered uneconomically viable to continue pursuing, and which had been remitted to this Committee for final approval.

Decided: that the write-off of former tenant arrears, as detailed in the report be approved.

REMIT FROM THE AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL OF 26 FEBRUARY 2024 – ACCOUNTS COMMISSION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL BULLETIN 2022-23

17. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk) which had been considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Panel at its meeting held on 26 February 2024 and which had presented to that Panel the Accounts Commission's Local Government Financial Bulletin 2023-24 which had been published in late January 2024; (1) explaining that the report by the Accounts Commission, attached as an Appendix to the report, presents its consideration of councils' financial performance in the period, together with commentary on the financial outlook for local government and issues arising; (2) highlighting that effective financial management within councils is crucial as budget gaps increase and providing commentary that there continues to be reliance on savings, reserves and other financial

flexibilities to balance budgets which, although assisting with immediate budget pressures, defers costs to later years and can fail to tackle underlying challenges to financial sustainability; (3) explaining that, despite more core funding from the Scottish Government for the period, there was a significant increase in councils' total funding gap, due to pressures including increased demand for services, inflation and the cost-of-living; (4) explaining that the report by the Accounts Commission contains a small number of audit recommendations and that management responses to those were included in the report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk), and (5) remitting the report to this Committee for its consideration.

Decided:

- (1) that the findings and recommendations contained within the Accounts Commission's report, and the management responses to the issues raised, be noted, and
- (2) that it be noted that financial sustainability remains a key corporate risk with relevant existing controls and future planned actions subject to regular review.

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

18. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) (1) explaining that, in order to comply with the main procurement legislation – The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, the Council prepares and publishes a Procurement Strategy on an annual basis; (2) outlining the evolution of the Procurement Strategy, with refinements, to produce a new version to cover the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025; (3) detailing, in Appendix 1 to the report, the refinements to the Procurement Strategy, and (4) advising that the Council is required by legislation to publish the revised Procurement Strategy online in an accessible format and to share a copy with Scottish Ministers.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be approved;
- (2) that the publication of the Procurement Strategy 2024/25 be endorsed, and
- (3) that it be acknowledged that there is a requirement to share a copy of the revised Procurement Strategy with Scottish Ministers.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - LATEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR BUSINESS AND DIGITAL

19. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) providing the Committee with an update on the latest results for the strategic performance indicators used by Business and Digital to inform service delivery and underpin operational decisions, and (2) attaching, as an Appendix to the report and contained within the link included in the report, a high-level performance overview.

Decided: that the high-level performance overview, presented in Appendix 1 to the report, and the supporting data contained within the linked spreadsheet, be acknowledged.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - LATEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR FINANCE

20. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance) (1) providing the Committee with an update on the latest results for the strategic performance indicators used by Finance to inform service delivery and underpin operational decisions, and (2) attaching, as an Appendix to the report and contained within the link included in the report, a high-level performance overview.

Decided: that the high-level performance overview, in Appendix 1 to the report and the supporting data contained within a linked document be acknowledged.

SENIOR INFORMATION RISK OWNER (SIRO) - INFORMATION GOVERNANCE - ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT - APRIL 2022 TO NOVEMBER 2023

21. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) informing the Committee that, in her role of Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) she seeks to provide assurances that information risks are being effectively managed to ultimately enable the Council to comply with legislative requirements and good practice; (2) summarising the Data Governance Board's oversight of information governance arrangements for the period April 2022 to November 2023; (3) outlining the areas that are progressing well and highlighting key matters of concern, together with details of the improvement actions which the Data Management Team will be asked to progress from January 2024 to further improve awareness, understanding and compliance, and (4) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the SIRO Information Governance – Assurance and Performance – April 2022 to November 2023 report.

Decided:

- (1) that the activities which have been undertaken, or are underway, to enable the SIRO to provide assurances that information risks are being effectively managed, be noted, and
- (2) that the activities and next steps planned from January 2024 onwards to further improve the Council's information governance arrangements be noted.

During consideration of the following item of business, Councillor McPake, by virtue of being a Council appointee to the Board of Scotland Excel, had declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest and further declared that he considered the nature of the interest sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in its consideration.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR AUDIO VISUAL PANELS

22. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) seeking approval for the award of a contract for audio visual panels to AVMI Kinly Ltd for an initial period of 36 months, anticipated to commence on 31 March 2024, with the Council reserving the right to extend the agreement for additional periods up to a maximum of a further 12 months and with the maximum value of the agreement being £5m, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the agreement to AVMI Kinly Ltd at a maximum value of £5m, exclusive of VAT, be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR MOBILE VOICE AND DATA SERVICES INCLUSIVE OF HARDWARE

23. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) seeking approval for the award of a contract for mobile voice and data services, inclusive of hardware, to Vodafone Limited for an initial period of 24 months, anticipated to commence on 25 March 2024, with the Council reserving the right to extend the agreement for additional periods up to maximum of a further 24 months and with the value of the agreement being £1,685,000, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the agreement to Vodafone Limited at the value of £1,685,000, exclusive of VAT, be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS

24. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) seeking approval for the award of a contract for unified communications solutions to Virgin Media Business Limited for an initial

period of 60 months, anticipated to commence on 5 March 2024, with the value of the agreement being £4,323,000, exclusive of VAT.

Decided: that the award of the agreement to Virgin Media Business Limited at the value of £4,323,000, exclusive of VAT, be approved.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

25. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) providing a summary of contracts, awarded since the last Committee, which fell below the threshold requiring Committee approval in accordance with 21.10 of the Council's General Contract Standing Orders.

Decided: that the contract awards made since the last Committee reporting cycle be acknowledged.

It was agreed, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

OPTION AND LEASE OF LAND AT MORNINGSIDE ROUNDABOUT, NEWMAINS

26. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) seeking consent to grant an option to lease, and approval of the terms of the lease, for an area of land at Morningside Roundabout, Newmains.

Decided:

- (1) that the option to lease, and the terms of the lease, as detailed in the report, subject to the land being declared surplus to the Council's requirements, be approved,
- (2) that all other terms and conditions be adjusted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement).

TRANSFORMING PLACES: LEASE OF LAND UNDER THE WEST COAST MAINLINE RAILWAY, MOTHERWELL

27. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) seeking consent to lease an area of land under the West Coast Mainline Railway, which is part of the Glasgow City Region City Deal Ravenscraig Access Infrastructure Project.

Decided:

- (1) that the lease of the land under the West Coast Mainline Railway, on the terms as detailed in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that all other terms and conditions be adjusted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement).

PATHFINDER ACQUISITION - 18 UNITS AT CALDER GARDENS, CARNBROE, ML5 4UF

28. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) seeking consent to acquire 18 three bed homes at Calder Gardens, Carnbroe, ML5 4UF to support the Council's New Supply Housing Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the purchase of the 18 residential properties at Calder Gardens, Carnbroe, ML5 4UF on the terms as detailed in the report be approved;
- (2) that delegated authority be provided to the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) to increase the price should additional specification be required, up to a maximum amount as detailed in the report, and
- (3) that all other terms and conditions be adjusted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement).

SPECIFICATION COSTS - LORNE PLACE, COATBRIDGE, ML5 4FS

29. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) informing the Committee of additional specification costs for 24 residential properties at Lorne Place, Coatbridge, as requested by New Supply, to support the Council's new housing specification requirements.

Decided:

- (1) that the cost of the additional specification, as requested by New Supply to improve the 24 residential properties at Lorne Place, Coatbridge, ML5 4FS, on the terms as detailed within the report, be acknowledged, and
- (2) that all other terms and conditions be adjusted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement).

29 February 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Shevlin, Convener; Councillor Currie, Vice-Convener; Councillors Brennan, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Carragher, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Hughes, Jarvie, Loughran, McManus, McPake, McVey, Robb, Robinson, Smith and Woods.

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Baudo, Duffy and Stevenson attended as substitutes for Councillors McPhilemy, Logue and Docherty respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Shevlin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Place); Planning and Place Manager; Planning Manager (North), and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Cairns, Docherty, T. Johnston, Logue and McPhilemy.

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

1. Councillor M. Coyle, by virtue of being a former Director of Fusion Assets Limited, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of planning application 22/00725/PPP - paragraph 2 and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Robinson, by virtue of being an alternate Director of Fusion Assets Limited, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of planning application 23/00725/PPP – paragraph 2 and further declared that he considered the interest so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in the determination of the application.

Councillor Smith, by virtue of submitting the application for listing to Historic Environment Scotland, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 4 and further declared that he considered the interest so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in that item.

Councillor M. Coyle, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection in respect of planning application 23/00725/PPP, by virtue of being a former Director of Fusion Assets Limited, left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Robinson, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection in respect of planning application 23/00725/PPP, by virtue of being an alternate Director of Fusion Assets Limited, further declared that he considered that the interest was so sufficiently that it did not preclude his participation in consideration of the application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS INDEX

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) detailing applications for planning consent.

Decided: that the applications be dealt with in accordance with the Annex to this Minute.

NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL DECISION

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) advising of one recent decision in respect of a planning and enforcement notice appeal.

Decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Smith, prior to consideration of the following item of business, having declared a connection by virtue of submitting the application for listing to Historic Environment Scotland, further declared that he considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude his participation in consideration of the matter.

NOTIFICATION OF LISTING OF FORMER CUMBERNAULD COTTAGE THEATRE, BRAEHEAD ROAD, CUMBERNAULD AS A CATEGORY C LISTED BUILDING

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) advising that Historic Environment Scotland had designated the former Cumbernauld Cottage Theatre, excluding all later additions to the rear, as a Category C listed building, and (2) providing details of the rationale and criteria for meeting the category of special architectural or historic interest.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DIRECTIONS ON FINALISED GUIDANCE – FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (ANTONINE WALL) WORLD HERITAGE SITE

5. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 June 2023 when the Supplementary Guidance: Affordable Housing, Planning and Noise and Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site were finalised and submitted to the Scottish Ministers for approval, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) intimating that the Scottish Ministers have advised that they would not be issuing a direction relating to the Supplementary Guidance for the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, and (2) proposing that the Supplementary Guidance be adopted as part of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the Scottish Ministers would not be issuing a direction relating to the Supplementary Guidance for the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, and
- (2) that the Supplementary Guidance be adopted and published as part of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022.

ANNEX

Application No: 23/00725/PPP

Applicant: Drumpellier Business Park Ltd

Development/Locus: Change of Use from Employment Land to Residential Use - Comprising a Mix of Houses/Flatted Properties with Associated Access and Parking Arrangements, SuDS and other Associated Infrastructure Site to the East of 47 Crawhill Drive, Bargeddie

Decision: Grant

29 February 2024 at 11 am

A Meeting of the **LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

PRESENT

Councillor Bustard, Vice-Convener; Councillors Brennan, Burgess, Carragher, M. Coyle, McVey, Robb and Smith.

CHAIR

Councillor Bustard (Vice-Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Senior Planning Officer; Planning Officer, and Principal Democratic Officer.

APOLOGY

Councillors Docherty and Logue.

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

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

PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 22/00274/FUL - ERECTION OF FOUR DWELLINGHOUSES WITH PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT 324 MORNINGSIDE ROAD, MORNINGSIDE, NEWMAINS

2. There were submitted (1) a Notice of Review of the decision taken by the Chief Officer (Place) under delegated authority to refuse Planning Application 22/00274/FUL – Erection of Four Dwellinghouses with Parking and Landscaping at 324 Morningside Road, Morningside, Newmains; (2) a Decision Notice and Report of Handling of the case by the appointed officer; (3) representations received from interested parties; (4) a report by the Chief Officer (Place) outlining the background to the application, details of the Notice of Review, photographs and maps of the site location, and (5) North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4.

Thereon, having heard the Vice-Convener with regard to the request on behalf of the applicant, contained within the Notice of Review, that the review should be undertaken by way of one or more hearing sessions, and following preliminary consideration of the matter before it, the Local Review Body determined, in terms of the Town and Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, that the review documents provided sufficient information to enable it to determine the review without any further procedure.

Thereon, the Local Review Body, having discussed and given consideration to the various submissions and representations and the policies contained within North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4, determined that the development would result in an unacceptable departure from Green Belt Policy, resulting in an adverse impact on the function of the Green Belt, with no adequate justification, special circumstances or material considerations having been demonstrated to merit a departure from the Local Development Plan, and the development was contrary to National Planning Framework 4 Policies: (1) Tackling the Climate and Nature Crisis; (2) Climate Migration and Adaptation and (15) Local Living and 20 Minute

Neighbourhoods, as the site would primarily be accessed by private vehicles rather than more sustainable modes of transport.

Decided: that the decision of the Chief Officer (Place) to refuse Planning Application 22/00274/FUL for the Erection of Four Dwellinghouses with Parking and Landscaping at 324 Morningside Road, Morningside, Newmains be upheld, as the development would result in an unacceptable departure from Green Belt Policy resulting in an adverse impact on the function of the Green Belt, with no adequate justification, special circumstances or material considerations having been demonstrated to merit a departure from the Local Development Plan, and the development was contrary to National Planning Framework 4 Policies: (1) Tackling the Climate and Nature Crisis; (2) Climate Migration and Adaptation and (15) Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, as the site would primarily be accessed by private vehicles rather than more sustainable modes of transport.

Motherwell, 5 March 2024 at 10 am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor McCrory, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Dunbar, Hughes, McVey, Robb and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillor Duffy attended as a substitute for Councillor Docherty and Councillor Loughran attended as a substitute for Councillor Fisher.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Principal Solicitor and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Sergeant Brown, Police Scotland.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Docherty, Fisher and Thomas.

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

1. No declarations were made.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARINGS

(1) TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE – NEW APPLICATION – MUSA SAHO SAHO

2. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 February 2024, there was submitted (1) an application by Musa Saho Saho for a Taxi Driver's Licence, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Brown outline the Chief Constable's objection to the application and Musa Saho Saho speak in support of the application.

Thereafter, Musa Saho Saho and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Musa Saho Saho and the representative of Police Scotland were then readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Musa Saho Saho for a Taxi Driver's Licence be refused.

(2) SECOND HAND DEALER'S LICENCE – RENEWAL – ANTHONY DAVID SANTINI

3. There was submitted (1) an application by Anthony David Santini for the renewal of his Second Hand Dealer's Licence to enable him to trade in used car sales from premises at Lanarkshire Car Sales, 33 Bellshill Road, Motherwell, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland.

The Committee then heard Sergeant Brown outline the Chief Constable's objection to the application and Anthony David Santini's agent, Michael Lott, Michael Lott, Solicitors, speak in support of the application.

Thereafter, Anthony David Santini, Michael Lott and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Anthony David Santini, Michael Lott and the representative of Police Scotland were then readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Anthony David Santini for the renewal of his Second Hand Dealer's Licence be granted.

(3) METAL DEALER'S LICENCE – NEW APPLICATION – NEW TOWN SKIP HIRE LIMITED

4. There was submitted (1) an application by New Town Skip Hire Limited for a Metal Dealer's Licence in respect of premises at New Town Skip Hire Limited, 22 Albert Street, Motherwell, and (2) an objection to the application received from the Infrastructure and Transportation Service.

The Principal Solicitor then intimated that following the applicant's acceptance of conditions the Infrastructure and Transportation Service objection had subsequently been withdrawn.

The Committee then heard Billy Neilson, New Town Skip Hire Limited, who was accompanied by Brian McFall, Architect, speak in support of the application.

Thereafter, Billy Neilson, Brian McFall and the representative of Police Scotland withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Billy Neilson, Brian McFall and the representative of Police Scotland were then readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by New Town Skip Hire Limited for a Metal Dealer's Licence be granted subject to the following conditions:-

the applicant is required to remove the loose material from the existing vehicular access in its entirety and contact North Lanarkshire Council Roads Operations to agree the specification and extent of carriageway/footway reinstatement, and an acceptable timeframe for completion and any associated temporary traffic management required to undertake the works.

14 March 2024 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Logue, Convener; Councillor Roarty, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barclay, Beveridge, Brannan-McVey, Campbell, Carragher, Costello, Duffy, Fisher, D. Johnston, Larson, Leckie, Lennon, Loughran, Masterton, McBride, Robinson, Smith, Stevenson, A. Stubbs, Watson and Woods.

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Brennan and Currie attended as substitutes for Councillors Di Mascio and Nolan.

CHAIR

Councillor Logue (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive; Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Health and Social Care); Chief Officer (Finance); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Chief Officer (Business and Digital); Chief Officer (Strategic Communications and Engagement); Chief Officer (Place); Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement); Chief Officer (People Resources); Business Finance Manager (Resource Solutions), Enterprise Development Manager and Democratic Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Di Mascio and Nolan.

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

1. Councillor McBride, by virtue of being the Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 13 – Integration Scheme Review Post Consultation Update – and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Barclay, by virtue of being a Member of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph 13 – Integration Scheme Review Post Consultation Update, and further declared that she believed that the interest was sufficiently remote that it did not preclude her participation in consideration of that item of business.

MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2023

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 20 November 2023 for approval.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 20 November 2023 be approved.

PRESENTATION – THE PLAN FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE – PROGRAMME OF WORK 2028

3. There was a presentation to the Committee by the Chief Executive providing visual and audio information in relation to (a) achievements to date of the Programme of Work, and (b) goals and ambitions for the Programme of Work going forward to 2028.

Following a question and answer session by the Committee, it was agreed that the two videos be played to all Elected Members at the meeting of the Council on 28 March 2024.

Decided:

- (1) that the two videos be played at the meeting of the Council on 28 March 2024, and
- (2) that the contents of the videos, and the responses by Officers to questions asked by Elected Members, be noted.

STRATEGIC CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2028/29

4. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) informing of the process for and the outcome of the development of the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme for the five-year period from 2024/25 to 2028/29; (2) highlighting record levels of capital investment of £660m over the next five years as the Council continues the delivery of its long-term place shaping transformation of towns and communities; (3) explaining that, alongside record levels of investment in the Council's housing provision through the Housing Revenue Account, this represents potential investment of £1.46bn in North Lanarkshire's towns and communities; (4) detailing the forecast level of resources and expenditure over the five-year period and explaining the approach to prioritisation of the capital bids, with potential risks and opportunities being highlighted which may impact on the Strategic Capital Investment Programme in future years, and (5) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) Strategic Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29, and (b) Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked to which Officers committed to providing information outwith the meeting namely:-

- of the number of Community Asset Transfer requests progressed, how many have progressed to a successful conclusion? (Councillor Brennan)

Decided:

- (1) that the process for the development of the five-year Strategic Capital Investment Programme be acknowledged;
- (2) that the use of one-off resources associated with the changes in accounting for service concessions to augment Capital Programme Resources, as outlined in the report, be approved;
- (3) that the forecast resources available to fund the Capital Programme be acknowledged;
- (4) that the five-year Strategic Capital Investment Programme be approved;
- (5) that the Council's Strategic Capital Delivery Group establish the indicative annual phasing of the Capital Programme to support future Treasury Management Strategy reports and thereafter monitor progress against the delivery and expected outcomes;
- (6) that the update on Town and Community Hubs, as outlined in the report, be acknowledged;

- (7) that the impact of project commitments on future Capital Investment Cycles, as detailed in the report, be acknowledged, and
- (8) that the updated Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29, as contained in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

PROGRAMME OF WORK ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) reminding the Committee that, since The Plan for North Lanarkshire was established in 2019, it has provided a clear direction that has been consistently followed in every day service delivery activities and embedded in strategic and financial decision making, strategy and policy development, and corporate governance approaches across the organisation; (2) explaining that this approach has been key to enabling the Programme of Work to be the delivery vehicle for The Plan for North Lanarkshire in a way that brings cohesion to strategic planning and community investment and to an integrated one Council one Plan approach that has been instrumental in establishing solid foundations for the place-based approach upon which The Plan is based; (3) outlining the extensive Programme of Work achievements to date, details of which were provided in Appendix 2 to the report; (4) confirming that, in line with the governance arrangements that have been developed to support progress and performance monitoring of the Programme of Work to 2028, the Committee would continue to receive an annual report that demonstrates achievements to date and which would be complimented by a six-monthly update providing key delivery highlights in respect of the seven Programme of Work priorities, and (5) attaching, as Appendices to the report (a) a summary of what the seven Programme of Work priorities aim to achieve, as approved by the Committee at its meeting held in March 2023, and (b) the Programme of Work achievements to date.

During consideration of this item of business, the Committee agreed that Elected Members should be offered the opportunity to visit Hubs and see their usage.

Decided:

- (1) that the key role that the Policy and Strategy Committee plays in ensuring the continuing commitment to delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire through the Programme of Work, and ensuring strategic oversight in terms of its ongoing development, co-ordination and monitoring, be recognised, and
- (2) that the extent of the achievements which have been delivered through the Programme of Work to date, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be recognised.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK – THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE CONTEXT

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) explaining that The Plan for North Lanarkshire is supported by a suite of high-level Health Check Indicators that collectively provide the context of North Lanarkshire as a place; (2) explaining that, by providing the local demographic, social, and economic profile, these indicators were key to shaping the long-term vision set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire when it was approved in 2019 and that they have continued to provide a robust, consistent and independent way of assessing progress since then; (3) intimating that the suite of indicators has also played an important role in terms of informing the Council's Strategic Planning Process through the Programme of Work; (4) informing that most of the latest results for each of the 28 indicators now reflect a period towards the end, or in the aftermath, of the Covid 19 Pandemic and that this has enabled a much clearer interpretation of the impact of the pandemic and what The Plan for North Lanarkshire set out to achieve when it was established; (5) providing a narrative of the latest results and the trends which have been identified across a number of economic and social indicators, and (6) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the latest results and a North Lanarkshire commentary.

Decided:

- (1) that the key role that the Health Check Indicators play in providing the place-based evidence base, from which progress in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire can be regularly assessed, be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the latest results as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and the successes and challenges summarised in the report, be recognised.

THE PLAN FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE – DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2028

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (1) reminding the Committee that it had approved the new five-year Programme of Work to 2028 and that a further report in September 2023 fulfilled the commitment to provide an update on the next steps, and high-level deliverables, to set the direction to further develop the seven priorities in the new Programme of Work and actions to be delivered on the ground; (2) providing the single integrated One Council Delivery Plan for the Programme of Work to 2028 which will be formally in place for 2024/25 onwards, and (3) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) summary of what the seven Programme of Work priorities aim to achieve as approved by the Committee in March 2023; (b) the strategic timeline overview of the key milestones in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and (c) the single integrated Council Wide Delivery Plan for the Programme of Work to 2028.

Decided:

- (1) that it is recognised that the commitment is now fulfilled to establish a single integrated Council Wide Delivery Plan to support implementation of the Programme of Work to 2028;
- (2) that the indicative reporting schedule, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, to ensure ongoing Elected Member consideration and approval of the next phase of delivery for the wide range of programmes, projects and activities and the Programme of Work to 2028 be acknowledged, and
- (3) that the next steps as detailed in the report to ensure the Committee continues to play a key role in the delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire by ensuring strategic oversight and monitoring of its ongoing development, co-ordination and delivery be supported.

TRANSFORMING PLACES – ST. KEVINS COMMUNITY HUB CONTRACT AWARD

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) (1) advising of the status of the contract pricing and commercial activities for St. Kevins Community Hub, and (2) seeking approval to progress the contract award for the project.

Decided:

- (1) that the Property Manager (Estate Development) conclude the contract activities to finalise the commercial costs necessary for contract award as described in the report for St. Kevins Community Hub;
- (2) that it be acknowledged that the design and build development agreements with Hub South West for the design and construction of St. Kevins Community Hub, as referred to in the report, on terms to be agreed by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), and subject to terms representing best value, be acknowledged;
- (3) that the contract be awarded in accordance with the contents of the report, and

- (4) that it be acknowledged that regular Town and Community Hub Programme updates will be presented to the Education, Children and Families Committee.

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND ANNUAL UPDATE

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) (1) explaining that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is an essential pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up Agenda and will provide £2.6bn of new capital and revenue funding across the UK for local investments up to 31 March 2025; (2) informing that the North Lanarkshire allocation of UKSPF is £13,871,047, providing a mixed capital and revenue funding for projects across the UKSPF's three investment priorities: Communities and Place, Support for Local Businesses, and People and Skills; (3) highlighting that an additional allocation was provided for "Multiply"; (4) detailing that due to delays on the UKSPF programme being approved by the UK Government, lead authorities were given the opportunity to reprofile expenditure across the three-year programme and also between the Multiply and People and Skills investment themes, with the changes made to the North Lanarkshire Investment Plan being detailed in the report; (5) summarising the composition of the North Lanarkshire UKSPF Project Board and the supporting governance arrangements and documentation; (6) providing a summary of the breadth of the programme in North Lanarkshire and an update on projects which were currently live; (7) explaining that, in line with UK Government requirements, the Council has submitted quarterly reports confirming the level of expenditure and the outputs and outcomes recorded and verified in the previous quarter with the latest report, covering the period up to 31 December 2023, having been submitted to the Glasgow City Region on 12 January 2024; (8) advising that an integral part of the North Lanarkshire UKSPF Investment Plan is to deliver a number of challenge funds where community groups and/or local businesses can apply to deliver activities under the appropriate interventions and that, to date, the project board and the relevant service committees have approved five challenge funds specifications with four already open to applications and the fifth due to come on stream for delivery in 2024/25; (9) confirming that the progress of the investment plan will be gauged against targets across a range of outputs and outcomes which are reported as part of each six-monthly report to the UK Government, with progress in this area being summarised in the report, and (10) providing, as links, copies of (a) the UKSPF prospectus; (b) the Glasgow City Region Investment Plan summary, and (c) the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Update, Policy and Strategy Committee, 16 March 2023.

Decided: that the progress that has been made with delivery of the Shared Prosperity Delivery Plan over the course of 2023/24, with accumulative spend for the UKSPF Programme of £2,348,627 having been reported as at the end of December 2023, be acknowledged.

FINDINGS OF INTERNAL AUDIT OF COUNCIL APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

10. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive (1) providing details of the findings of the most recent internal audit into climate change, which had been remitted by the Audit and Scrutiny Panel to this Committee; (2) highlighting the actions already under consideration to address the findings, and (3) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the Internal Audit Report on climate change.

Decided:

- (1) that the implications of the findings of the Internal Audit Report be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the approach to, not only address the audit findings, but move the Council and North Lanarkshire towards net zero, be approved.

STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK - ANNUAL REVIEW AND REFRESH

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) explaining that, since The Plan for North Lanarkshire had been established, many strategies, policies and plans had been developed, reviewed, updated and approved at Committee and implemented to support delivery of the Council's long-term vision of inclusive growth and prosperity for all; (2) indicating that the Strategic Policy Framework has supported this process by providing corporate guidance to ensure that development of new strategies, policies and plans remain aligned to the One Plan Direction and One Council Approach, as well as relevant local and/or national strategy, policy and legislative contexts; (3) providing a summary of the role of the Strategic Policy Framework in supporting the alignment of delivery plans and that this has been recognised by Audit Scotland in its Best Value thematic work; (4) intimating that the Strategic Policy Framework and the Programme of Work sit side by side to provide the Council with an integrated approach to strategic planning and delivery and that, as such, the framework is subject to an annual review in Committee Cycle 1 at the same time as the Programme of Work annual process; (5) providing, following this year's review, the refreshed Strategic Policy Framework, attached to the report as Appendix 1, and explaining that, within the Appendix, sub-Appendix A provides guidance to support future development and monitoring processes, while sub-Appendix B sets out the accompanying review programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the role of the Strategic Policy Framework in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire, and ensuring each of the strategies, policies and plans listed therein, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, are up to date, on a schedule to be updated at an appropriate interval, and reported to the relevant Committee, be acknowledged, and
- (2) that the refreshed Strategic Policy Framework and accompanying Review Programme be approved.

DIGITAL AND IT STRATEGY 2024-2027

12. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) (1) confirming that, since 2019, the Council has been actively delivering the vision for a Digital North Lanarkshire to support the ambition set out in The Plan for North Lanarkshire, with plans to achieve Digital Communities, a Digital Economy, and a Digital Council providing the focus for activities; (2) highlighting that, to guide and support the drive for a Digital North Lanarkshire, a five-year Digital and IT Strategy was established and approved in June 2019 and that this was subsequently kept under review and regularly updated to ensure it remained current and relevant in the modern digital world; (3) indicating that an opportunity has been taken, within the Programme of Work to 2028, to realign the Digital and IT Strategy accordingly and to firmly establish what it means to be digital and move from doing digital to being digital and that, therefore, the three-year Digital and IT Strategy for 2024-2027 aims to provide a clear direction and ensure a common shared understanding of the journey that needs to be taken to achieve a Digital North Lanarkshire and that this will also make it clear how digital will support delivery of the Programme of Work priorities and where resources need to be targeted through a One Council Approach, and (4) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the Digital and IT Strategy 2024-2027.

During consideration of this item, the Convener, indicated that a request had been made to him that in relation to paragraph 2.5 of the report, the Committee should receive six-monthly updates instead of annually as detailed. The Convener indicated that he was content to accept this amendment to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that the extensive redevelopment of the Digital and IT Strategy for 2024-2027, in order to ensure alignment to the Programme of Work to 2028 and to provide a clear direction for delivery towards achieving a Digital North Lanarkshire, be recognised;

- (2) that the Committee receive updates on implementation of the Strategy on a six-monthly basis, and
- (3) that the new Digital and IT Strategy for 2024-2027 be approved.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor McBride, by virtue of being the Chair of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), had declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest and left the meeting during its consideration.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Barclay, by virtue of being a Member of the Integration Joint Board (IJB), had declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest and had further declared that she believed that the interest was sufficiently remote that it did not preclude her participation in consideration of the item of business.

INTEGRATION SCHEME REVIEW - POST CONSULTATION UPDATE

13. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) (1) explaining that the Integration Scheme is a legally binding document jointly developed by NHS Lanarkshire and the Council and sets out the local framework within which the integration of Health and Social Care would be taken forward; (2) reporting that the Integration Scheme was last approved by the Cabinet Secretary in April 2019; (3) indicating that, in line with the normal review timescales, further minor amendments had now been made to reflect updated processes and structures relating to risk, support, care and clinical governance, committees and complaints, and (4) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) the North Lanarkshire Integration Scheme, and (b) the Integration Scheme consultation process.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised Integration Scheme be approved, and
- (2) that it be noted that the revised Integration Scheme had been subjected to four weeks' public consultation from 15 January to 11 February 2024, would be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for approval subject to approval also being given by NHS Lanarkshire Board.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REVIEW OF SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME AND COUNTER TERRORISM ARRANGEMENTS

14. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) (1) providing an update on the Council's arrangements in addressing the risks arising from serious organised crime and terrorism in relation to the ongoing strategies to mitigate against these; (2) explaining that further detail and background to these risks can be found in the report "Review of Serious Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Arrangements" which had been approved by the Committee in September 2022, and (3) attaching, as Appendices to the report, (a) the Prevent Annual Assurance Statement, and (b) the Serious Organised Crime and Cyber Threat Guidance Document 2022.

During consideration of this item, and following a request from the Committee, it was agreed that arrangements in place for the Civic Centre, Motherwell be issued to all Elected Members for their awareness.

Decided:

- (1) that continued assurance be provided in respect of serious and organised crime and counter terrorism and that the following actions be undertaken:-
 - (a) regular reviews of serious and organised crime and counter terrorism risks across all Services;
 - (b) that the key training requirements for all staff roles be identified and that compliance be recorded in order that the Council can fulfil its annual statutory reporting duty, and
 - (c) that the promotion of all relevant e-learning modules across Services continue, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.