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24 September 2024

Members of the Council

Chief Executive's Office

Archie Aitken
Chief Officer (Legal & Democratic)
Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street,
Motherwell ML1 1AB
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Notice is given that a Meeting of the **Council** is to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell, ML1 1AB on Thursday, 03 October 2024 at 16:00 PM which you are requested to attend.

The agenda of business is attached.

Des Murray
Chief Executive

Members :

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



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Agenda

- 1 **Declarations of Interest In Terms of the Ethical Standards In Public Life Etc. (Scotland) Act 2000**

- 2 **Minutes of Meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels - Cycle 3**
Submit volume of minutes of meetings of committees, sub-committees and panels for cycle 3 for approval in terms of standing order number 21 (copy to follow)

- 3 **Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Group and Outside Bodies**
Submit proposed amendments to Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Outside Bodies (copy to follow)

- 4 **APSE Membership** 9 - 12
Submit report by the Depute Chief Executive proposing that the Council continue its membership of APSE.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- 5 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Carragher and Councillor A Stubbs**

Council Notes:

- Section 51 of the 1980 Education (Scotland) Act[6] requires local authorities to make such arrangements as they consider necessary for the provision of school transport for pupils residing, and attending schools, in their area.

- Local authorities have a wide level of discretion in this regard.

- When considering whether to make arrangements for the provision of school transport, local authorities are further required to have regard to the safety of the pupils.

- Legislation does not prescribe the distance beyond which they must, nor distance below which they must not,

provide transport.

- It is for local authorities to determine the nature of the provision they offer.

Council Understands:

- Local authorities are expected to keep their criteria for providing school transport under review and be flexible enough to take into account factors, relative to the nature of the route, which might affect pupil safety.
- North Lanarkshire Council has not undertaken a review of criteria for providing school transport since May 2018.

Council Agrees:

- A member/officer working group is set up to thoroughly review and update the criteria used to provide school transport being flexible enough to take into account factors, relative to the nature of the route, ensuring at all times child safety is placed as the number one priority.
- The recommendations of the member/officer working group to be submitted to the appropriate Committee of the Council to allow the updated criteria to be agreed and implemented in sufficient time to ensure necessary transport provision is in place before further changes are made to primary school provision.
- Secondary school provision should be reassessed ensuring it meets the new agreed criteria.

6 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Smith and Councillor Hughes

“Council acknowledges the contribution of the Local Development Programme in making positive differences to communities throughout North Lanarkshire, and the work of Community Partnership Officers in progressing these projects to completion.

Council agrees that the Local Development Programme should be further opened to schools and Parent Councils to apply to, for the purposes of making external improvements and enhancements to school facilities, such as exterior décor, outdoor play and learning equipment, benches, landscaping, and other capital projects.

These changes should be approved at a future meeting of the Communities Committee and implemented in time for applications to be submitted in financial year 2025/2026”

7 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A Stubbs and Councillor Ballinger**

“Council notes that more than a year has now passed since a substantial majority of respondents to a consultation, including a clear majority in each stakeholder group, favoured a change to the school holidays in North Lanarkshire and therefore agrees that necessary steps be taken to adjust the school holidays, including carrying out a formal consultation on the following proposals:

1. An earlier return to school following the summer break in August
2. Expanding the February break to one week
3. Expanding the October break to two weeks

The consultation should include trade unions (teaching and non-teaching), parents/carers and pupils. If supported, the changes should be implemented from August 2026”

8 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Crichton and Councillor Brennan**

“In realising the requirement for council to act transparently, and in particular towards providing relevant information to the electorate of North Lanarkshire, council hereby accepts and agrees to display publicly online, via the MARS system and any / all other appropriate means, all submitted council motions, whether deemed competent or non-competent by the Provost’s office.

This in turn allows the electorate to better understand and reference the full scope of representation being made by elected members on their behalf.

This process should be adopted for motions and amendments submitted in relation to all council meetings ongoing following 3rd October 2024 full council meeting.

In addition, a footnote from the Provost's office should accompany any rejected motions specifically detailing the rationale behind refusal, based on the interpretation used to determine competency.

We appreciate there may be a small or insignificant cost attaching to this motion (estimated by Chief Officer Finance as being £110 pa”

9 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Carragher and Councillor A Stubbs**

“This Council welcomes the positive contribution the young people of North Lanarkshire make to our communities, an example being the worldwide positive publicity gained by the NL School Pipe Band.

The Council does not agree in any way that our young people are feral, knife-wielding murderers and cannot support the continuation in a senior civic role someone who believes this to be the case, and therefore agrees that Councillor Bob Burgess be removed as Depute Provost with immediate effect”

10 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Ballinger and Councillor Toner**

Council notes the difficulties faced by those living with the challenges of neurodiversity.

Council agrees to create a member/officer working group to consider the potential of:

Providing neurodivergent-friendly sessions at NL Leisure venues, and the optimal times for these to be offered.

Offering reduced lighting in NLC venues to support those who experience light sensitivity.

Offering reduced noise levels for those who experience audio sensitivity.

Delivering a communications campaign to encourage organisations within North Lanarkshire to consider neurodiverse-friendly services and facilities.

Council agrees to present the recommendations from this member/officer working group to the appropriate committee before the end of committee cycle two 2025.

11 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brennan and Councillor McCluskey**

“That Council agrees to instruct the Council Leader to write to the Labour Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer, to request the immediate reversal of his Government’s punitive decision to introduce means testing to the Winter Fuel Payment.

This decision is expected to negatively impact on the household incomes of around 40,000 NLC residents who received the payment last year, and is expected to remove around £7 million from the North Lanarkshire economy”

12 **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Brennan and Councillor Crichton**

“That Council agrees to the establishment of an officer/member working group, to develop and implement a savings strategy to reduce Council spending on external consultants (including external legal advice), over the next 5 years”

QUESTIONS

13 **Questions Received in Terms of Standing Order 51 - None Received**

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Council

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref AM

Date 03/10/24

APSE Membership

From Andrew McPherson, Depute Chief Executive

E-mail mcphersona@northlan.gov.uk **Telephone** 07939 280467

Executive Summary

Following a report to Council on 21 December 2023, covering Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Group and Outside Bodies, there was a decision taken for Council to remove its membership from APSE.

The report provides information as to the unintended consequences of this decision and recommends that the Council continues its membership.

Recommendations

That Committee:

- (1) Agrees to the continuation of APSE membership.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement All ambition statements

Programme of Work Statutory / corporate / service requirement

1. Background

- 1.1 Following a report to Council on 21 December 2023 covering Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels, Working Group and Outside Bodies, there was a decision taken for Council to remove its membership from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE).
- 1.2 Following this decision, a number of services across the Council have expressed a concern as to the impact of the decision.

2. Report

2.1 The Council has been a membership of APSE since its inception in 1996. This membership provides a number of operational benefits to the Council including:

- Engagement in benchmarking across the public sector;
- Access to training programmes and seminars across a diverse range of service areas;
- Sharing of information and best practice across the 300 local authority members; and
- Access to regulatory advisory groups covering a diverse range of front-line service areas.

2.2 APSE is run on a not-for-profit basis and the annual cost of subscription for the Council for the current financial year is £18,652.80, including VAT.

2.3 In light of the relatively low cost incurred by the Council and the significant operational benefit which membership brings, it is recommended that the Council continues its membership of APSE.

3. Measures of success

3.1 Continuing membership of APSE will allow areas of improvement and efficiency to be identified across a wide variety of Council services.

4. Supporting documentation

N/A



Andrew McPherson
Depute Chief Executive

5. Impacts

5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Continuation of membership will incur a relatively modest cost and will be covered within existing financial budgets.
5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.6 Technology / Digital impact

Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes No

5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.8 Communications impact

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.9 Risk impact

Is there a risk impact?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes No