

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, 2 APRIL 2026

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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Thursday, 18 December 2025 at 4pm.

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, Gray, 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, McLaren, McManus, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Williams, Wilson and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Duffy (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive, Chief Officer University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire, Chief Officer (Community Operations), Chief Officer (Housing), Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Chief Officer (Audit and Risk), Active and Creative Communities Manager, Legal Manager (Enterprise), Democratic Manager and Democratic Co-Ordinator.

APOLOGY

Councillor McKendrick.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

On behalf of the Council, the Provost congratulated Scotland on qualifying for the World Cup 2026 and confirmed that any licensing arrangements would be a matter for Licensing Board to consider.

The Provost invited the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) to give a factual update in relation to the Membership of Committees. A copy of the update is attached as Appendix One to the minute.

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.

DEMOLITION OF ALLAN, COURSINGTON AND DRAFFEN TOWERS, MOTHERWELL - VIDEO PRESENTATION

2. The Council received a video presentation on the Demolition of Allan, Coursington and Draffen Towers, Motherwell.

On behalf of the Council, the Provost congratulated the team on the smooth demolition.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS - CYCLE 4 2025

3. There was submitted the Volume of Minutes for meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels for Cycle four, 2025 for approval in terms of Standing Order 21.

The Provost advised that paragraph seven of the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 18 November 2025 had been amended to include:

“Councillor Carragher requested that section 2.2.4 of the report be amended to reflect the removal of the Home School Partnership Officer role following the approval by Council of the Labour Group Budget Motion on 15 February 2024, and this was agreed.”

Decided: that the Minutes of meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels for Cycle four, 2025, subject to the amendment to the Children, Education and Families Committee of 18 November 2025, be approved.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COSLA)

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) seeking to clarify and confirm the Council’s entitlement and political balance for representation on the COSLA Convention in accordance with the COSLA Constitution (2021) and Standing Order 33 of the Council’s Standing Orders; (2) advising that the Council is allocated six seats on the COSLA Convention, as confirmed within Appendix one of the COSLA Constitution and representation must reflect the political balance of the Council and be drawn proportionately from recognised Political Groups; (3) intimating historic appointments made since 2022 have not reflected the COSLA Constitution requirements for politically balanced representation; and (4) proposing revised membership allocations aligned to the Council’s current political composition.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:

“Can you advise whether the requirement for representation is to be balanced politically, as set out in the 2021 COSLA Constitution, is a new requirement or has the Council been out of the rules all this time? (Councillor A. Stubbs).

Decided:

- (1) that the requirement within the COSLA Constitution that Member Councils appoint representatives to the COSLA Convention on a basis which reflects the balance of political group strength, be acknowledged;
- (2) that it be recognised that the current representation is not compliant with COSLA constitutional requirements;
- (3) that the revised allocation of seats based on the current political balance under Standing Order 33 as follows, be approved:

Political Group	Seats
Labour	3
SNP	2
Others (Independent / Green / British Unionist)	1
Conservative	0

- (4) that the seat allocated to the “Others” be filled through nomination from the recognised cross-party grouping comprising Independent members, the Scottish Green Party representative and the British Unionist Party representative.

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

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

The Provost proposed that the appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies be approved, with the exception of the Policy and Strategy Committee and COSLA Convention, which was agreed.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advised that, in respect of Policy and Strategy Committee and COSLA Convention, that the number of expressions of interest exceeded the number of available places. In accordance with Standing Order 40, which provides that where a decision relates to the appointment of a Member to any particular office or Committee, the decision shall be determined by lot, the Chief Officer advised that the appointments would be determined by cutting cards and outlined the process that would be followed to allocate the places.

Following the cutting of cards, the undernoted results were recorded: -

Policy and Strategy Committee (Two Vacancies)

Councillor M. Coyle – King of Spades.
Councillor Duffy Lawson – Jack of Spades
Councillor McManus – King of Diamonds.

The Democratic Manager advised that Councillors M. Coyle and McManus were appointed to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

COSLA Convention (One Vacancy)

Councillor McKendrick – Three of Spades.
Councillor McManus – Queen of Spades.

The Democratic Manager advised that Councillor McManus was appointed as the Council's representative for the COSLA Convention.

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

ADVANCING DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ELECTRONIC VOTING AND THE MOBILE HYBRID MEETING SYSTEM

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing an update on the implementation of the Electronic Voting and Mobile Hybrid Meeting System, outlining the progress made following the contract award, the key features and benefits of the system, and the planned timeline for roll-out and adoption; and (2) advising that the project forms a central part of the Council's ongoing commitment to modernising its democratic processes; improving accessibility; transparency; and participation in decision-making across all communities.

The Council received a video presentation on the Electronic Voting and Mobile Hybrid System from Public-i.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the contract for the Electronic Voting and Mobile Hybrid Meeting System was awarded to Public-i Ltd in the sum of £217,911.69, commencing in 2026, for an initial period of 28 months;
- (2) that the next steps and the implementation timeline for the system, including training, phased deployment, and integration into community venues, be acknowledged; and

- (3) that a review of digital support to Elected Members be undertaken and a further report to be submitted to Council in Committee Cycle two, 2026, setting out future options.

REMIT FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 5 NOVEMBER 2025 - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – 2026/27 REVENUE ESTIMATES

7. With reference to paragraph 14 of the minute of the meeting of Housing Committee held on 5 November 2025, there was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) providing information on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to enable to Council to set out a Housing Revenue Budget and rent levels for 2026/27; and (2) providing an update on the Revenue Budget position for financial years 2027/28 and 2028/29.

Councillor McPake, seconded by Councillor Bustard moved: -

“1. In setting the 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account budget, the Council acknowledges the significant progress achieved in delivering its ambitious housing programme, including:

- Completion of 1,629 new-build homes, with a further 293 currently under construction. Additional sites have been identified and are progressing to deliver 1,096 more homes.
- The major success of the demolition of Coursington, Allan and Draffen Towers which will lead the way for the regeneration of that area. A number of other sites are currently in the process of being demolished.
- Expansion of the Council Buy Back Scheme, resulting in 902 properties purchased as of September 2025.
- Approval and ongoing implementation of investment and re-provisioning plans for the Council's tower properties.
- Endorsement of a five-year mainstream capital programme (2021/22–2025/26), committing £315 million of investment in the Council's housing stock, representing a 20%+ increase compared to the previous five-year period.

2. Note the cost pressures and base budget savings outlined in Section 2 of the 'Housing Revenue Account – 2026/27 Revenue Estimates' report.

3. Propose a rental increase of 7% for 2026/27. This will generate £12.203m in income. This funding will help address rising cost pressures and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality housing services. It will also support the Council's capital investment programme, enabling compliance with home quality standards, the construction of new homes, expansion of property through buy-back initiatives, and the re-provisioning of tower blocks and walk-up flats.

4. Propose all other charges including for lock-ups and Retirement Housing utilities are also increased by 7%.

5. Agree to maintain a core contingency reserve representing 1% of the Housing Revenue Account annual budget (c. £1.994m based on the above proposals).”

Councillor Sullivan, seconded by Councillor D Johnston moved as an Amendment: -

“The SNP Group note the budget gap presented in the Housing Revenue Account – 2026/27 Revenue Estimates Report.

The Group firstly proposes a 4.8% rent increase for 2026/27 raising £8.377m of rent income. This will increase the average weekly rent to £97.32 and result in a reduced gap of £3.826m.

Note information recently shared by the Section 95 Officer highlighting a recurring General Fund saving in relation to loan charges of £6.000m. With reference to changes brought about by the Housing

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(Scotland) Act 2025 approve the transfer of £3.826m of this known saving on a recurring basis to the HRA to support the cost of housing new supply and minimise the impact on tenants.

All other charges, including Sheltered Housing utilities and lock-ups should also attract a 4.8% increase.

It is also accepted that a core contingency reserve is maintained at 1% of the Housing Revenue Account Budget, equating to c.£1.994m.”

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

29 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows: -

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

43 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, Gray, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McManus, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Watson, Wilson, and Woods.

Two Members abstained as follows: -

Councillors Lennon and McCluskey.

29 Members having voted for the Amendment received, 43 Members having voted for the Motion and two Members having Abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Post Meeting Note: Councillor Ashraf’s vote was not audible in the Council Chamber, on reviewing the webcast, Councillor Ashraf can be heard expressing his vote preference.

Decided:

- (1) that in setting the 2026/27 Housing Revenue Account budget, the Council acknowledges the significant progress achieved in delivering its ambitious housing programme, including:
 - completion of 1,629 new-build homes, with a further 293 currently under construction. Additional sites have been identified and are progressing to deliver 1,096 more homes;
 - the major success of the demolition of Coursington, Allan and Draffen Towers which will lead the way for the regeneration of that area, with a number of other sites are currently in the process of being demolished;
 - expansion of the Council Buy Back Scheme, resulting in 902 properties purchased as of September 2025
 - approval and ongoing implementation of investment and re-provisioning plans for the Council’s tower properties; and
 - endorsement of a five-year mainstream capital programme (2021/22–2025/26), committing £315 million of investment in the Council’s housing stock, representing a 20%+ increase compared to the previous five-year period.
 - (2) that the cost pressures and base budget savings outlined in Section 2 of the ‘Housing Revenue Account – 2026/27 Revenue Estimates’ report be noted;
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- (3) that a rental increase of 7% for 2026/27 be approved to generate £12.203m in income allowing funding to help address rising cost pressures and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality housing services. It will also support the Council's capital investment programme, enabling compliance with home quality standards, the construction of new homes, expansion of property through buy-back initiatives, and the re-provisioning of tower blocks and walk-up flats;
- (4) that all other charges including for lock-ups and Retirement Housing utilities also be increased by 7% be approved; and
- (5) that a core contingency reserve which would represent 1% of the Housing Revenue Account annual budget (c. £1.994m based on the above proposals) be approved.

AQUATEC

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an update on the current position of Aquatec in terms of condition and usage; (2) setting out the current financial challenges, the deteriorating condition and the costs associated in repairing all issues currently identified within the Aquatec; (3) suggesting that Members consider the future of the Aquatec as part of the forthcoming budget considerations; and (4) highlighting the continued monitoring of all venues and centers.

During discussion on this matter, questions were asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:

"Can Shotts Leisure Centre be included within the comparable wet and dry information and updated information be circulated to all Elected Members?" (Councillor A. Stubbs).

"Can the footfall for the Aquatec and Ravenscaig be reviewed and provided to Elected Members?" (Councillor A. Stubbs).

"Can dates of when the Aquatec has been temporarily closed from July 2025 be confirmed?" (Councillor Thomas).

Decided:

- (1) that the deteriorating condition and the costs associated with repairing all issues currently identified within the Aquatec be noted;
- (2) that members consider the future of the Aquatec as part of forthcoming budget considerations; and
- (3) that otherwise, the contents of the report be noted.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR SMITH AND COUNCILLOR BARCLAY

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

"Council notes that 9 December 2025 marked the 70th anniversary of the designation of Cumbernauld in 1955 as one of Scotland's new towns, following the establishment of the Cumbernauld Development Corporation in 1956 and construction commencing on the first housing development in 1957.

Council recognises the significance of this anniversary locally and nationally, and notes that a number of community-led events and activities are already in planning to mark the occasion during 2026. Council further acknowledges the cultural, social, and economic contribution made by Cumbernauld and its residents over the past seven decades.

Council therefore requests that the anniversary be publicly recognised and acknowledged and that the Council provide support, where appropriate, in line with available resources”

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

Decided:

- (1) that the significance of the 70th Anniversary of the designation of Cumbernauld locally and nationally be acknowledged, and it be noted that a number of community-led events and activities are already in planning to mark the occasion during 2026;
- (2) that the cultural, social, and economic contribution made by Cumbernauld and its residents over the past seven decades be recognised; and
- (3) that the anniversary be publicly recognised with the Council providing support, where appropriate, in line with available resources.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MITCHELL AND COUNCILLOR KELTIE

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

“Council notes that there are grassed areas across North Lanarkshire which have historically been gated or padlocked for reasons no longer clearly recorded. These areas continue to be maintained by the Council, while public access remains restricted. In some cases, padlocks have been removed by residents and not reinstated by the Council, suggesting a possible change in community expectation and use.

Council recognises the public health and wellbeing benefits associated with access to green space. Council agrees that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee detailing:

- Locations where access to grassed areas is restricted;
- Ownership and the original or current rationale for access restrictions;
- Legal, safety, operational or financial considerations relating to public access; and
- Options for future access arrangements, including associated costs and implications.”

Thereon, Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Keltie, moved the terms of the Motion.

Decided:

- (1) that Council notes that there are grassed areas across North Lanarkshire which have historically been gated or padlocked for reasons no longer clearly recorded. These areas continue to be maintained by the Council, while public access remains restricted. In some cases, padlocks have been removed by residents and not reinstated by the Council, suggesting a possible change in community expectation and use; and
- (2) that Council recognises the public health and wellbeing benefits associated with access to green space. Council agrees that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee detailing:
 - Locations where access to grassed areas is restricted;

- Ownership and the original or current rationale for access restrictions;
- Legal, safety, operational or financial considerations relating to public access; and
- Options for future access arrangements, including associated costs and implications.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR TONER AND COUNCILLOR BALLINGER

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

“Council notes the amendment approved at the meeting of the full Council on 27 March 2025 relating to school transport eligibility.

Council further notes that elected members receive representations regarding the effects of the revised qualifying distance threshold for secondary school transport.

Council recognises its duties under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make such arrangements as it considers necessary for the provision of school transport and the importance of ensuring that the school transport policy has regard to all pupils, including those with medical needs and other additional support needs.

Council therefore requests that the Education, Children and Families bring a policy update report to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee. The report should:

- summarise the current eligibility arrangements within the transport policy, including how applications on health-related grounds are considered;
- provide high-level monitoring data on applications and outcomes since implementation of the revised distance threshold; and
- identify any areas where the policy may benefit from clarification or improvement to ensure continued compliance with statutory duties.

Council reaffirms its commitment to fair and equitable access to education for all pupils.”

Thereon, Councillor Toner, seconded by Councillor Ballinger, moved the terms of the Motion.

Decided:

- (1) that Council notes the amendment approved at the meeting of the full Council on 27 March 2025 relating to school transport eligibility;
 - (2) that Council further notes that elected members receive representations regarding the effects of the revised qualifying distance threshold for secondary school transport;
 - (3) that Council recognises its duties under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make such arrangements as it considers necessary for the provision of school transport and the importance of ensuring that the school transport policy has regard to all pupils, including those with medical needs and other additional support needs;
 - (4) that Council therefore requests that the Education, Children and Families bring a policy update report to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee. The report should:
 - summarise the current eligibility arrangements within the transport policy, including
-
-

how applications on health-related grounds are considered;

- provide high-level monitoring data on applications and outcomes since implementation of the revised distance threshold;
- identify any areas where the policy may benefit from clarification or improvement to ensure continued compliance with statutory duties; and

(5) that Council reaffirms its commitment to fair and equitable access to education for all pupils.

QUESTIONS RECEIVED IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 51

12. It was noted that no questions had been submitted in terms of Standing Order 51.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS LOG – CYCLE 4 2025

13. There was submitted the Questions Log for Cycle four 2025 outlining the questions asked at Committee Meetings during Cycle three 2025, together with the responses.

In response to Councillor Leckie requesting clarification on a question raised at Policy and Strategy Committee on 25 September 2025, the Provost confirmed that Committee Services will raise this with the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy Engagement).

Decided: that the Questions Log for Cycle four 2025 be noted.

Clarification provided by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic)

Given the volume of correspondence and commentary in recent days, it is important that Members hear a clear, factual explanation of the process that has been followed and, in particular, the limits of officers' role.

On 30 November 2025, the Chief Executive and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), in their capacity as Proper Officers, received a written notification from seven elected members confirming that they were resigning from the Progressive Change North Lanarkshire group, that they would now sit as independent Councillors, and that they were resigning from all Committee positions with immediate effect. That communication was clear, unambiguous, and unequivocal.

Those explicit instructions were acted upon. The members concerned were recorded as independent, and the resulting Committee vacancies were noted. There is no requirement in law or in Standing Orders for Committee resignations to be approved by full Council, and officers have no discretion to delay, qualify, or refuse to give effect to a resignation once it has been clearly communicated.

Following those resignations, officers recalculated political balance and advised Members accordingly.

It is important to be absolutely clear on the position regarding nominations, particularly in relation to Members described for political balance purposes as "Others".

For the purposes of calculating political balance under Standing Order 63, Members who are not part of a recognised political group or are a single representative from any political party are treated collectively as "Others". This is an administrative mechanism designed to ensure that independent and sole-party Members are not wholly excluded from Committee representation. However, and this is a critical distinction, "Others" is not a political group. It has no formal structure, it has no constitution and no leadership, therefore there is no recognised internal decision-making arrangements under Standing Orders.

As a consequence, the conventions that apply within political groups, including majority decision-making, do not apply to that "Others" category.

Officers therefore cannot recognise, facilitate, or accept nominations from a subset of the "Others" category unless there is clear collective agreement from all Members within that category. Officers have received explicit confirmation from a number of Members that such agreement simply does not exist. In those circumstances, officers have no authority to treat any submission as a valid collective nomination on behalf of "Others".

To do otherwise would require officers to decide which Members speak for others, or to impose outcomes on Members who have expressly indicated their disagreement. That would move officers beyond administration and into decision-making, which would be improper and in my view as Monitoring Officer, unlawful.

Accordingly, where collective agreement among "Others" does not exist, nominations can only proceed in one of two ways:

- either through that unanimous collective agreement; or
- through individual nominations being indicated to Full Council, where Council itself determines the outcome.

It may also be helpful to clarify at this point how matters are resolved where there are more nominations than available vacancies. In such circumstances, the long-established custom and practice within this Council, and commonly across local government, is for the successful appointment to be determined by lot, traditionally by the cutting of cards. This method is used where competing nominations which are otherwise equally valid and there is no agreed means of differentiation and that tie needs to be broken. It is a recognised procedural convention intended to ensure fairness and neutrality and avoids officers exercising discretion or Council engaging in further political decision-making.

It should also make clear that the existence of vacancies on a Committee does not prevent that Committee from meeting or conducting its business, provided quorum requirements are met.

Throughout this process, officers have acted impartially, lawfully, and strictly within our administrative role. Members determine political outcomes and make appointments; officers give effect to what Members formally decide or clearly instruct. Officers have neither sought nor exercised discretion beyond that role.

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

Meeting of North Lanarkshire Council – 18 December 2025

<u>Committees/Sub-Committees/Panels</u>	<u>Amendment</u>
Adult Care and Social Work Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor MacGregor to replace Councillor Ballinger
Appointments Sub-Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Councillor Watson • Add Councillor McDade • Add Councillor McManus
Audit and Scrutiny Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Hume
Education, Children and Families Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Burgess • Councillor D. Johnston to replace Councillor Smith • Councillor Jarvie to replace Councillor Carragher • Councillor Mitchell to replace Councillor Keltie • Add Councillor McManus
Education Employee Appeals Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Fotheringham to replace Councillor Robinson • Add Councillor Hume
Employees Appeals Sub Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Hume
Enterprise and Fair Work Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Robb to replace Councillor Thomas • Councillor Fotheringham to replace Councillor Mitchell •
Finance and Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Currie • Councillor Toner to replace Councillor Smith • Add Councillor Hume
Housing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Watson • Councillor Ballinger to replace Councillor Toner
Joint Consultative Committee for Local Government Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor S. Coyle
Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Currie • Add Councillor Hume
Lanarkshire Educational Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Larson, subject to approval of the Trust, to replace Councillor Ballinger • Add Councillor Williams, subject to approval of the Trust • Remove Councillor Watson
Licensing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Baudo • Councillor Cairns to replace Councillor Robb
Local Review Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Keltie to replace Councillor Mitchell • Add Councillor S. Coyle

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Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Keltie to replace Councillor Carragher • Add Councillor Duffy-Lawson • Add Councillor McManus
Policy and Strategy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor M. Coyle • Add Councillor McManus
Regulatory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Baudo to replace Councillor Costello • Remove Councillor Robinson
Wellbeing and Tackling Poverty Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gray to replace Councillor Quigley • Councillor T. Johnston to replace Councillor Cairns
Working Groups	<u>Amendment</u>
Member/Officer Working Group on Acceptable Walking Routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group be stood down.
Member/Officer Group on Equal Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group be stood down.
Member/Officer Group on Third Sector and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group be stood down.
National Care Service Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group be stood down.
Provost's Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The panel be stood down.
Resettlement and Relocation Member/Officer Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group be stood down.
Future NL Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board be stood down.
<u>Outside Bodies</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Adoption, Fostering and Family Placement Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Councillor Nolan
COSLA Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Councillor Kelly • Remove Councillor A. Stubbs • Remove Councillor Watson • Add Councillor McManus
Equalities Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Gray to replace Councillor Khan
Fusion Assets Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor McDade to replace Councillor B McCulloch
Fair Trade Steering Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor L. Stubbs to replace Councillor Barclay
Supplier Development Programme Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor McVey to replace Councillor Brannan-McVey

Thursday 26 February 2026 at 2pm.

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, Gray, 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, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Shields, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson, Williams, Wilson and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Duffy (Provost) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive; Chief Officer University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire, Chief Officer (Audit and Risk), Chief Officer (Education – South), Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Chief Officer (People Resources), Chief Officer (Place), Business Finance Managers, Democratic Manager and Democratic Co-Ordinator.

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.

REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27 TO 2028/29 AND COUNCIL TAX 2026/27

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) providing information to enable the Council to set its Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2026/2027 and providing a forecast revenue budget position in terms of financial years 2027/2028 and 2028/2029; (2) intimating that the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), approved by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 5 June 2025, identified an envisaged three year budget gap of £85.949m, with an estimated shortfall of £34.638m in 2026/27, this forecast had been subsequently updated to reflect the draft Local Government Finance Settlement Circular (1/2026) and some other changes to planning assumptions which resulted in an overall decrease in the forecast gap of £15.365m, resulting in a revised gap of £70.584m over three years; (3) detailing the reduction in the gaps relates to year one only, resulting in a £19.273m for 2026/27, with the gap for 2027/28 and 2028/29 remains unchanged at £25.956m and £25.355m, respectively; (4) advising on 4 December 2025, prior to the Scottish Government's Budget, the Section 95 Officer outlined a budget approach to utilise circa £9.282m in reserves to smooth the budget gap over a three-year period in reducing the budget gap for 2026/27 and the three-year budget period and, in line with the Council's Reserves Policy, the Section 95 Officer agreed to release £10.000m of the reserve held for future budget challenges to support one-off investment proposals as part of the 2026/27 budget; (5) advising Members that a Council Tax Strategy report was presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 4 December 2025, outlining scenarios for members' consideration, with the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology)'s recommendation that members give due consideration to Council Tax increases, which would help close the budget gap along with any requirement for savings, in order to ensure the Council meets its statutory requirement to set a balanced budget; (6) attaching, in Appendix one to the report, the updated revenue budget position for 2026/2027,
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with Appendix two summarising the position across the next three budget years; and (7) setting out, in Appendix three to the report, the financial projections for the Change Management Fund.

Councillor Logue, seconded by Councillor B. McCulloch, moved the following budget motion -

1. We note the budget report provided by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) and the update in respect of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2026/27.
2. We welcome the UK Government's autumn budget in 2025 which delivered record investment for Scotland, and acknowledge that after considering ring-fenced funds, new commitments, and other directed expenditures, North Lanarkshire Council will benefit from an additional £18.176m in core grant funding beyond the flat cash position expected.
3. However, we also acknowledge and strongly agree with the messaging in the Accounts Commission's Local Government in Scotland Financial Bulletin 2024/25 published in January 2026, which highlights Scotland's Councils risk becoming financially unsustainable. The report also acknowledges Councils have made significant savings, but the cost of delivering services is rising faster than available funding, with Councils facing a budget gap of nearly £1bn by 2027.
4. Therefore, whilst we reluctantly accept the inadequate level of funding provided, we do not accept the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison's statement that it 'should also enable Councils to protect family budgets by minimising any proposed increases in Council tax'.
5. The Accounts Commission has also indicated that Councils have been 'largely successful in implementing action agreed to manage budgets', with the majority of savings targets delivered. Indeed, the Accounts Commission has commented positively on this Council's track record in financial management and sustainability. This budget aims to address, once again, the continued challenging financial position facing North Lanarkshire to ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and help ensure financial stability.
6. Despite another one-year settlement, this Administration remains fully committed to the key principle of the Revenue Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three-year period.
7. Therefore, we accept that the Council faces a budget gap of £19.273m in 2026/27 and further gaps in 2027/28 and 2028/29 of £25.956m and £25.355m respectively, which is a total of £70.584m across the three-year planning period.
8. As advised by the Section 95 Officer we agree with the following savings solutions;
 - (a) Loan Charges Reprofiting of £6.000m and acknowledge that these resources will require to be reinstated over the medium term; and
 - (b) Financial offset of £2.000m from monies received to support costs already incurred by the Council in managing packaging waste.

This reduces the 2026/27 budget gap to £11.273m.
9. We note the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology)'s Council Tax Strategy report to Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2025, outlining options for members consideration. We recognise that the Council Tax charge in North Lanarkshire for 2025/26 is the 4th lowest in terms of Band D charge across all 32 Local Authorities at £1,452.86. We also note that this is more than £90 per year less than the average charge across Scotland. We acknowledge previous efforts of this Council to keep Council tax charges as low as possible, however, it is vital to recognise that Council tax charges represent the only significant means of generating income within Council control.
10. Therefore, against a backdrop of an extremely challenging financial outlook, we are proposing that Council Tax Band D is increased to £1,554.56, an increase of £1.95 per week. This represents a 5% increase to protect vital Council services and a 2% increase as a capital investment precept to continue this Administration's track record of delivering key investment in

community, family and person-centred services. This level of increase in Council Tax will generate additional income of £9.360m over and above the 2% increase already built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

11. We further note that the majority (69%) of all North Lanarkshire residents reside in properties banded A to C. This proposal would result in weekly rises as follows:

Band A	£1.30
Band B	£1.52
Band C	£1.73

12. In addition, it is essential to note that residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction benefit, and therefore those with the lowest incomes, will not be affected by any increase in Council Tax.

13. Previous decisions by this Administration mean that this Council has one of the largest and most ambitious capital programmes in Scotland. The Administration reaffirms its commitment to progressing community hubs at Abrohill, Ravenscraig and Glenboig along with previously approved additional investment of £40.000m in schools and facilities. In addition, we are pleased to announce that a further £1.872m of funding will be made available to lever additional capital funding of £32.122m to deliver for communities by increasing our commitment to invest in the Council's place-based transformation ambitions. This additional investment will be considered as part of the development of a new five-year capital plan from 2027/28 to 2031/32 and we instruct officers to bring forward a report to Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2026 to include investment proposals to allocate this funding.

14. The net impact on the revenue budget gap as a result of the above decisions reduces the gap to £3.785m. Therefore, in following the key principles of good governance in presenting a balanced budget a number of savings will be required for the 2026/27 budget. These are outlined in Appendix three totalling £3.785m across the three-year planning period. Officers have confirmed that any workforce impacts will be managed through the Council's approved workforce change policies. Due to the timing of delivering savings this requires use of balances totalling £2.855m. These savings require a review of the policies in respect of Empty Property Rates Relief and Council Tax on Second/Empty Homes.

15. We welcome the £10m of one-off investment monies. Appendix four summarises the investment proposals.

16. The motion put forward by the Labour Group is bold and aspirational for the communities of North Lanarkshire. It will bring investment in North Lanarkshire and continue the delivery of the Council's strategic vision and meeting the needs of communities. Whilst adhering to previous commitments of no compulsory redundancies.

17. This Administration continues to take a strategic approach to managing the challenging financial position in order to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable. Therefore, 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 2027/28 and 2028/29. To address this, we request that the Chief Executive instructs a series of reviews, which should include identifying savings options or income generation opportunities:

- Next phase of the Council's transformation journey to redesign all services to maximise effectiveness and efficiency;
- Review of utilisation of Producer Extended Responsibility for Packaging monies;
- Review of approach to grant award programme and potential synergies with community solutions approach in the IJB;
- Review of historic underspends budget adjustment;
- Review of service delivery models for early years and breakfast clubs in light of Scottish Government funding; and
- Next steps review of depot estate with a view to considering additional asset rationalisation opportunities.

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18. After reflecting the above proposals, the Administration's budget for 2026/27 is summarised in Appendices one and two, which outlines total available resources of £1,182.575m after accounting for use of balances of £2.595m to support the timing and delivery of 2026/27 approved budget savings, and £10.000m for one-off investment. The total expenditure budget is also estimated at £1,182.575m reflecting the actions outlined above, including the cost of capital investment and savings decisions. This therefore meets the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget.
19. As indicated in the Section 95 Officer's report, we acknowledge the change in policy around the General Fund Contingency and confirm that this fund be topped up by £3.800m to be £11.800m.
20. Finally, we acknowledge that the grant settlement may be subject to change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament, and agree that should further undirected funds be received on a recurring basis as a result of this process, they will in the first instance be used to mitigate against other budget risks and challenges, on a one-off basis, and ultimately will be available to mitigate future years budget gaps. This is in line with previous years' practice.

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	19.273	25.956	25.355	70.584
Managed by:				
S95 Officer Identified Savings Solutions	(8.000)			(8.000)
Increase Council Tax Income; to close the gap	(9.360)			(9.360)
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure	1.872			1.872
2026/27 Revenue Savings Decisions	(1.190)	(2.335)	(0.260)	(3.785)
Agreed one-off use of balances	(2.595)	(0.260)		(2.855)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Estimated/ Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd	0.000	2.595	0.260	2.855
Recurring Surplus/ (Shortfall)	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311
One-off Investment Balance from reserves	(10.000)	10.000		0.000
New One-off Investment (Appendix 4)	10.000	(10.000)		0.000
Net One-off Budget Implications	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311

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Summary Budget for 2026/27		
	£m	£m
Expenditure Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report		1,179.893
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure		1.872
Approved Savings		(9.190)
New One-off Investment		10.000
Revised Net Expenditure 2026/27		1,182.575
Available Resources:		
Resources Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report	1,160.620	
Increased Council Tax Income	9.360	
One-off use of balances to support the budget	2.595	
New One-off Investment; use of balances	10.000	
2026/27 Available Resources		1,182.575
Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess)		(0.000)

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			26/27	27/28	28/29	Total	FTE
Reference	Summary Saving	Description	£m	£m	£m	£m	
<u>Chief Executive Service</u>							
02CEXA	Finance Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Finance.	0.086	0.311	0.000	0.397	8.00
02CEXB	Increased Council Tax collection	Increased Council Tax collection through review of discounts and exemptions.	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.00
02CEXB	Insurance provision	A review of the Insurance Provision.	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.00
10CEXA	Legal, Democratic and Strategy Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Legal, Democratic and Strategy function.	0.000	0.055	0.117	0.172	4.50
13CEXA	Strategic Communications; Structure review and operational budget reduction	A review of staffing structure which ensures the focus remains on the effective delivery of external communications, effective content and campaigns.	0.033	0.042	0.065	0.140	2.30
16CEXA	Customer Services Hub; Staffing Review	Review of staffing structures across the Customer Service Hub.	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	2.00
		Sub-total	0.319	0.908	0.239	1.466	16.80
<u>Enterprise & Communities</u>							
14ECBSB	Building Cleaning Trading Income	As a Trading Operation, income is required to at least match expenditure. Target increased trading income.	0.000	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.00
16ECS	Facilities Support; Lunch clubs	Reduction to Supplies & Services budget.	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.00
19ECSB	Muirfield Centre; Income Generation	Increases to tenants in addition to the Council's Discretionary Fees and Charges policy.	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.005	0.00
21ECSA	Estates Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structure/ costs and recharges.	0.031	0.000	0.000	0.031	1.00
23ECSA	Procurement and Support: Income Generation	Income Generation from Spend with 3rd Party Framework Agreements.	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.00
49ECSA	Infrastructure & Transportation Staffing Costs	Review staffing costs and proportion charged to capital.	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.00
55ECSB	Growth Programme	Budget reduction associated with the delivery of the ERDP.	0.026	0.000	0.000	0.026	0.00
58ECSA	Reduce the delivery of Business Gateway services in North Lanarkshire	Reduce the operational overheads linked to the delivery of Business Gateway services.	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.00
		Sub-total	0.182	0.000	0.021	0.204	1.00
<u>Education & Families</u>							
13ECFA & 15ECFA	Education and Families HQ and back office staffing review	Review of staffing structures and expenditure budgets.	0.157	0.057	0.000	0.214	5.0
20ECFA	Reductions to non-staffing budgets within the music service.	Savings achieved via reducing budget lines such as orchestras/band equipment and supplies, hall lets and transport.	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.0
23ECF	Children & Families - Family Placements	Removal of underspend.	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.0
26ECFA	Community Learning & Development	Review of staffing structure.	0.214	0.214	0.000	0.428	7.0
		Sub-total	0.688	0.271	0.000	0.959	12.0
<u>Additional Savings</u>							
	Council Tax on second & empty homes		0.000	0.756	0.000	0.756	0.0
	Review of Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief		0.000	0.400	0.000	0.400	0.0
		Sub-total	0.000	1.156	0.000	1.156	0.00
		Total	1.190	2.335	0.260	3.785	29.75

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Theme	Project Title	Description	Est. Cost £m	Area	Council Priority
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Cumbernauld/St Andrews Pitches (School)	2G surface replacement; current pitch is far beyond its natural life expectancy and beyond meaningful repair. Essential for user safety and playability.	0.300	North	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Taylor High School Pitch (School)	2G pitch replacement. Existing surface has exceeded life expectancy; full renewal required to meet safety standards and educational requirements.	0.300	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	St Ambrose Pitches x 2 (School & ACC)	Triple pitch of 2 x 3G replacement. Existing surfaces are approaching non-maintainable due to age and high usage. Renewal ensures safe, continuous provision for school and community.	0.600	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Caldervale Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Current surface is beyond the scope of routine maintenance programs; requires full renewal to restore safety and performance.	0.275	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Coltness Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Calderhead Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Wishaw Sports Centre Pitch (ACC)	3G pitch replacement. Surface is approaching end of life. Investment is critical to maintain safety and prevent facility closure.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Cleland Football Pavilion (ACC)	Demolition of dilapidated, beyond-repair changing building. Replacement with modern modular changing facilities to restore welfare standards for local sport and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.270	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Gartferry/Moodiesburn Pavilion	Replacement of end-of-life changing unit with new modular welfare facilities, ensuring safe and accessible community sports provision and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.120	North	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Harthill Pavilion	Demolition of unsafe, beyond-repair structure. Installation of modular welfare unit to support the continued use of new 3G pitches.	0.200	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	West End Pavilion - Sir Matt Busby SC, Bellshill	Replacement of high-maintenance, dilapidated pavilion with modular unit, reducing operational costs and improving user experience supporting 3G pitch users.	0.220	South	Transforming Places
Service Development	Time Capsule Service Development	Strategic investment to complement the current Wet side and Dry side facilities by modernising the other venue offering to increase footfall and ensure long-term community and commercial viability.	2.500	Central	Transforming Places
Service Development	Colzium House, Kilsyth, Restoration	Restoration of historic hall and hospitality functions, including the creation of Kilsyth Heritage Museum to preserve this significant historical and local cultural asset.	0.845	North	Transforming Places
Service Development	Four Isles Community Centre, Airdrie	Transfer Four Isles Community Centre into ACC's portfolio to convert into a modern Training/Art/Music venue in an area of high deprivation (Top 5% SIMD).	0.820	Central	Resilient People
Country Parks Enhancements	Country Park Investment	Additional infrastructure, features and signage at the country parks	0.510	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	Environmental Enhancements	Investment programme to enhance roundabouts at key locations / arterials routes in and out of North Lanarkshire	0.400	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	Public Parks and Open Spaces Enhancement	Additional investment and enhancement to public parks and open spaces	0.240	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Welfare	Cost of Living Financial Supports	Additional financial supports to address cost of living pressures to identified residents	0.200	Authority wide	Resilient People
Communities / Land & Waste	Town Centre Improvement	Additional investment programme to enhance appearance of town centres to promote regeneration and growth	1.375	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Total			£10.000		

Councillor Carragher, seconded by Councillor A Stubbs, moved the following budget proposal: -

- 1) The North Lanarkshire Council SNP Group accepts the figures in the latest financial outlook provided by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), which covers the figures from the Medium-Term Financial Plan and subsequent updates. This motion provides for a one-year balanced budget and has been confirmed as competent by the Section 95 Officer.
- 2) Our primary goals in choosing our budget options were to:
 - (a) Minimise as far as possible the Council Tax increase applied to residents;

- (b) Deliver savings options that minimised the FTE impact on staffing, including a commitment to no compulsory redundancies; and
 - (c) Provide one-off investment in service areas important to our communities, including road safety and maintenance, the condition of schools and facilities, lighting in parks, improved energy efficiency and cost of living support.
- 3) Recognise the key principle of the Revenue Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three-year period.
- 4) Accept the gap presented in the budget report of £19.27m in 2026/27 and further gaps in 2027/28 and 2028/29 of £25.956m and £25.355m, respectively, which is a total of £70.584m across the three years.
- 5) Welcome the additional net un-ringfenced funding of £18.176m provided by the Scottish Government in their budget statement for 2026/27.
- 6) As advised by the Section 95 Officer we agree with the following solutions to help close the gap;
- Loan Charges Re-profiling of £6.000m and acknowledge that these resources will require to be reinstated over the medium term; and
 - Financial offset of £2.000m from monies received to support costs already incurred by the Council in managing packaging waste.

These two solutions reduce the 2026/27 budget gap down to £11.273m.

- 7) The SNP Group supports an allocation of the first 1% increase in Council Tax being ringfenced to support Community Investment, whilst maintaining the current approved programme. It is acknowledged that this will require a re-profiling of the current approved programme by £32.122m beyond the existing five-year programme timeline, to reflect an expectation of actual timing of delivery and need for funding. It is accepted that a newly developed five-year programme will require funding to be allocated to ensure completion of current programmed activity.
- 8) We propose that Council Tax Band D level be increased from £1,452.86 to £1,525.50 (5%), an increase of £1.39 per week. We recognise that this will be the maximum charge for around 80% of properties, many of whom benefit from Council Tax Reduction. The equivalent weekly increase for Band A properties would be £0.93, Band B would be £1.08, and Band C would be £1.24.
- 9) This proposed level of Council Tax for 2026/27 will generate £7.488m more income to manage the budget gap than currently assumed in the Section 95 Officer's Budget Report, reducing the gap to £3.785m.
- 10) A number of further savings have been identified that officers have confirmed will have a low impact on service provision and the staffing impact is likely to be achieved through vacancy management and limited voluntary severance without any requirement for compulsory redundancy (see Appendix one). These include a requirement for the Section 95 Officer to review the policies in respect of;
- (a) Empty Property Rates Relief; and
 - (b) Council Tax Discounts on Second Homes and Empty Properties.
- 11) As previously highlighted, our budget includes investment proposals on a one-off basis as highlighted in Appendix two with more detail below. Some proposals will be given consideration at the relevant Committee, as appropriate.

- (a) £3.500m additional funding to improve the condition of schools, community and leisure facilities;
 - (b) Additional funding of £1.750m for road safety and maintenance;
 - (c) £1.000m of additional investment in lighting / CCTV for parks and paths in key areas across the Council area;
 - (d) £1.000m for an energy efficiency grant to support residents in making their homes more energy efficient;
 - (e) £0.500m in additional cost of living support for the Scottish Welfare Fund to maximise the number of residents supported through crisis and to support the prevention of homelessness;
 - (f) £0.500m for community grants;
 - (g) £0.500m to support the costs of an additional bank holiday for staff in June 2026 to mark Scotland's men's football team qualification for the World Cup; and
 - (h) £1.200m to support a three-year trial across the Council area for lockable mobile phone pouches / cabinets to create phone-free environments in schools.
- 12) Appendix three provides a summary showing the overall budgeted income and expenditure position for 2026/27, after reflecting the above proposals. It is acknowledged that this will require additional use of balances of £3.081m, to manage the timing and delivery of savings.
- 13) We recognise the change in policy in respect of the General Fund contingency reserve and confirm that at £11.800m, as a result of this motion.
- 14) Acknowledge that the grant settlement is still subject to change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament, and therefore agree that should further non-directed funds be received as a result of this process, this shall be reported to the Finance & Resources Committee with the decision on how these funds should be allocated to be remitted to the earliest available meeting of Full Council.
- 15) We also acknowledge that estimated cost to fully reinstate the Aquatec of between £35-40m. We instruct officers to clarify the breakdown of this cost estimate and provide an assessment of the minimum funding required to reinstate the dry side provision in place prior to the most recent closure. Similar to the approach taken to fund the reopening of John Smith Pool, we also instruct officers to identify alternative funding within the current capital programme for agreement at Policy & Strategy Committee in March 2026.

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Ref	Summary Saving	Savings Description	Net Value of Saving			Total £000	FTE
			26/27 £000	27/28 £000	28/29 £000		
02CEXB	Increased Council Tax collection	Increasing Council Tax collection through introducing additional checks on Council Tax discounts linked to household composition and additional scrutiny on Council Tax applied to empty properties.		500		500	0.0
02CEXB	A review of Insurance Provision	A full review of the current insurance provision will be undertaken looking at current excess levels and practice within services to reduce claims.	200			200	0.0
13CEXB	Structure review of Corporate Communications	A review of staffing structure which ensures the focus remains on the effective delivery of external communications, effective content and campaigns.	33	62	185	280	4.9
10ESCA	Remove Fireworks Display	Cease fireworks display.	30			30	0.0
14ECSB	Building Cleaning Income	As a Trading Operation, income is required to at least match expenditure. Target increased trading income.			16	16	0.0
23ECSA	Income Generation	Income Generation from Spend with 3rd Party Framework Agreements.	30			30	0.0
49ESCB	Infrastructure & Transportation	Saving can be achieved by increasing the proportion of staff costs charged to capital.	81			81	0.0
55ECSA	Growth Programme	Budget reduction associated with the delivery of the ERDP.	13			13	0.0
20ECFA	Music Service	Reductions to non-staffing budgets within the music service.	217			217	0.0
23ECFA	Children & Families - Family Placements	Removal of underspend.	100			100	0.0
	Empty Property Relief Review	Review of policy in respect of empty property rates relief.		400		400	0.0
	Council tax on second and empty homes	Review of policy in respect of Council Tax on second homes and empty properties.		1,918		1,918	0.0
Totals			704	2,880	201	3,785	4.9

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	19.273	25.956	25.355	70.584
Managed by:				
S95 Officer Identified Savings Solutions	(8.000)	0.000	0.000	(8.000)
Other Savings Identified	(0.704)	(2.880)	(0.201)	(3.785)
CIF Adjustment; Reduction in loan charges	(1.872)			(1.872)
Net Increase Council Tax Income (after adj for CIF at 1%)	(7.488)	0.000	0.000	(7.488)
CIF Adjustment; reduced Council Tax for CIF	1.872			1.872
Agreed one-off use of balances	(3.081)	(0.201)		(3.282)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd		3.081	0.201	3.282
Recurring (Surplus)/ Savings Required	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311
One-off use of balances for new investment	(10.000)	10.000		0.000
One-off Growth;				
Road Maintenance	0.750	(0.750)		0.000
Scottish Welfare Fund	0.500	(0.500)		0.000
Road Safety	1.000	(1.000)		0.000
Lights/CCTV in parks/Paths etc.	1.000	(1.000)		0.000
Community Grants	0.500	(0.500)		0.000
Energy Efficiency Grant	1.000	(1.000)		0.000
World Cup Bank Holiday	0.500	(0.500)		0.000
School Mobile Phone pouches x 3 year funding model	1.200	(1.200)		0.000
Active & Creative Communities	2.000	(2.000)		0.000
School Estate - Urgent Repairs	1.500	(1.500)		0.000
Reserves	0.050	(0.050)		0.000
Recurring (Surplus)/ Shortfall	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Summary Budget for 2026/27

	£m	£m
Expenditure Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report		1,179.893
CIF Adjustment; reduction in Loan Charges		(1.872)
Total Savings Identified		(8.704)
One-off growth		10.000
Revised Net Expenditure 2026/27		1,179.317
Available Resources:		
Resources Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report	1,160.620	
Increase Council Tax Income (after adj for CIF at 1%)	7.488	
CIF Adjustment; reduced Council Tax for CIF	(1.872)	
One-off Use of Resources to support investment	10.000	
Agreed One-off Increase in resources to support delivery of savings	3.081	
2026/27 Available Resources		1,179.317
Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess)		0.000

Councillor Crichton, seconded by Councillor Brennan, moved an Amendment:

“Whilst this amendment does not fully support all aspects of the overall, proposed budget motion, it hereby places additionality to that motion of now directing available investment reserve funds.

Council notes:

- The Section 95 Officer’s confirmation that £10m from the Future Budget Challenges Reserve has been released to support one-off capital investment during 2026/27 in accordance with the agreed reserves policy.
- That there is no statutory, accounting or prudential prohibition preventing the reallocation of earmarked reserves, subject to Council determination and reprioritisation within the approved capital programme.
- The significant public representation regarding the future of the Aquatec facility.

Council therefore agrees:

1. To allocate funding from the £10m one-off capital investment provision sufficient to enable the reopening of the Aquatec facility, subject to necessary technical verification, safety and compliance requirements.
2. Instructs officers to bring forward a fully costed capital refurbishment and delivery plan at the earliest opportunity to ensure the reopening of this facility.
3. To reprioritise, where and if required, elements of the approved capital programme to facilitate the above.

This amendment is in keeping with the main budget motion, which states that the ongoing running costs of the facility are not identified as required revenue savings and hence poses no further unidentified revenue costs.

Indeed, with a refurbished facility, it is likely that revenue from the Aquatec facility will increase due to increased usage.

This amendment seeks to overturn the managed decline, over many years, of this facility and seeks to restore Aquatec as an enviable provision for local residents of Motherwell and North Lanarkshire”.

At 2.30 pm, the Provost proposed an adjournment for 30 minutes, which was agreed.

The Meeting reconvened at 3.00 pm.

The Provost advised that the Amendment received from Councillor Crichton was not competent in the current form as it did not satisfy the requirement for a Balanced Budget.

Councillor Crichton confirmed that he was moving the Labour Group Budget Proposal with the exception of Appendix four and that the 17 projects within the appendix amounting to £10m be removed and the £10m be allocated as a one-off capital funding to enable the reopening of the Aquatec facility.

Following clarification from Councillor Crichton, the Provost confirmed that it was competent and that it would be taken as a third budget proposal.

Councillor McManus, seconded by Councillor Lennon, moved that in terms of Standing Order 50, Councillor A. Stubbs be suspended for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Carragher, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved as an amendment, that Councillor A. Stubbs remain in the meeting.

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

On the roll being called 58 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:

Councillors Ashraf, Ballinger, Barclay, Baudo, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Carragher, Costello, Docherty, Duffy, Dunbar, Fisher, Fotheringham, Goldie, Gray, Harmon, Hughes, Hume, Jarvie, D Johnson, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly Keltie, Khan, Larson, Logue, Loughran, MacGregor, Masterton, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McLaren, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Mitchell, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Robb, Robinson, Shevlin, Smith, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Woods.

Six Members voted for the Motion, as follows: -

Councillors Brennan, Di Mascio, Duffy-Lawson, Lennon, McCluskey and McManus

12 Members Abstained, as follows: -

Councillors Beveridge, Campbell, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Crichton, Currie, Leckie, McKendrick, Nolan, Watson, Williams and Wilson.

58 Members having voted for the Amendment, six members having voted for the Motion and 12 Members having Abstained, the Amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Councillor A. Stubbs remained within the meeting.

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).

26 Members voted for the Amendment first received as follows:

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

43 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, Gray, Harmon, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Leckie, Logue, Loughran, McBride, McCrory, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McLaren, McManus, McPake, McPhilemy, McVey, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin, Watson, and Woods.

Six Members Abstained as follows

Councillors Brennan, Crichton, Hume, Lennon, McCluskey and Wilson.

26 Members having voted the Amendment first proposed, 43 Members having voted for the Motion and six Members having Abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

On the vote being taken between the Motion (Labour Group Budget Proposal) and the amendment second received (Independent Budget Proposal):

Five Members having voted for the Amendment second received, 42 Members having voted for the Motion and 28 Members having Abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the Council:-

1. notes the budget report provided by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) and the update in respect of the Local Government Financial Settlement for 2026/27.
 2. welcomes the UK Government's autumn budget in 2025 which delivered record
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investment for Scotland, and acknowledges that after considering ring-fenced funds, new commitments, and other directed expenditures, the Council will benefit from an additional £18.176m in core grant funding beyond the flat cash position expected;

3. acknowledges and strongly agrees with the messaging in the Accounts Commission's Local Government in Scotland Financial Bulletin 2024/25 Accounts Commission January 2026, published in January 2026, which highlights Scotland's Councils risk becoming financially unsustainable and that Councils have made significant savings but the cost of delivering services is rising faster than available funding, with Councils facing a budget gap of nearly £1bn by 2027;
4. reluctantly accepts the inadequate level of funding provided but does not accept the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Shona Robison's statement that it 'should also enable Councils to protect family budgets by minimising any proposed increases in Council tax';
5. notes that the Accounts Commission has also indicated that Councils have been 'largely successful in implementing action agreed to manage budgets', with the majority of savings targets delivered. Indeed, the Accounts Commission has commented positively on this Council's track record in financial management and sustainability.
6. acknowledges that despite another one-year settlement, the Council remains fully committed to the key principle of the Revenue Budget Strategy to develop budgets over a three-year period;
7. accepts that the Council faces a budget gap of £19.273m in 2026/27 and further gaps in 2027/28 and 2028/29 of £25.956m and £25.355m, respectively, which is a total of £70.584m across the three-year planning period;
8. implements the following savings solutions;
 - (a) Loan Charges Refiling of £6.000m and acknowledge that these resources will require to be reinstated over the medium term; and
 - (b) Financial offset of £2.000m from monies received to support costs already incurred by the Council in managing packaging waste.

Which reduces the 2026/27 budget gap to £11.273m.

9. notes the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology)'s Council Tax Strategy report to Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2025, outlining options for members consideration and recognises that the Council Tax charge in North Lanarkshire for 2025/26 is the 4th lowest in terms of Band D charge across all 32 Local Authorities at £1,452.86 and that this is more than £90 per year less than the average charge across Scotland and the previous efforts of this Council to keep Council tax charges as low as possible, be acknowledged, and it be recognised that Council tax charges represent the only significant means of generating income within Council control;
 10. agrees that Council Tax Band D be increased to £1,554.56, an increase of £1.95 per week which represents a 5% increase to protect vital Council services and a 2% increase as a capital investment precept to continue Council's track record of delivering key investment in community, family and person-centred services and notes that this level of increase in Council Tax will generate additional income of £9.360m over and above the 2% increase already built into the Medium Term Financial Plan;
 11. notes that the majority (69%) of all North Lanarkshire residents reside in properties banded A to C would result in weekly rises as follows:
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Band A	£1.30
Band B	£1.52
Band C	£1.73

12. notes that residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction benefit, and therefore those with the lowest incomes, will not be affected by any increase in Council Tax;
13. notes that the Council has one of the largest and most ambitious capital programmes in Scotland and is committed to progressing community hubs at Abronhill, Ravenscraig and Glenboig along with previously approved additional investment of £40.000m in schools and facilities with a further £1.872m of funding available to lever additional capital funding of £32.122m to deliver for communities by increasing the commitment to invest in the Council's place-based transformation ambitions with this additional investment being considered as part of the development of a new five-year capital plan from 2027/28 to 2031/32 and a report be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2026 to include investment proposals to allocate this funding;
14. notes that the net impact on the revenue budget gap as a result of the above decisions reduces the gap to £3.785m and following the key principles of good governance in presenting a balanced budget a number of savings will be required for the 2026/27 budget which are outlined in Appendix three totalling £3.785m across the three-year planning period with any workforce impacts being managed through the Council's approved workforce change policies and due to the timing of delivering savings it will require use of balances totalling £2.855m with these savings requiring a review of the policies in respect of Empty Property Rates Relief and Council Tax on Second/Empty Homes;
15. agrees the £10m of one-off investment in seventeen projects as set out in Appendix four;
16. acknowledges that the budget will bring investment into North Lanarkshire and continue the delivery of the Council's strategic vision and meeting the needs of communities, whilst adhering to previous commitments of no compulsory redundancies;
17. notes that the Council continues to take a strategic approach to managing the challenging financial position in order to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable therefore, 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 2027/28 and 2028/29, to address this, the Chief Executive undertakes a series of reviews, which should include identifying savings options or income generation opportunities:
- Next phase of the Council's transformation journey to redesign all services to maximise effectiveness and efficiency;
 - Review of utilisation of Producer Extended Responsibility for Packaging monies;
 - Review of approach to grant award programme and potential synergies with community solutions approach in the IJB;
 - Review of historic underspends budget adjustment;
 - Review of service delivery models for early years and breakfast clubs in light of Scottish Government funding; and
 - Next steps review of depot estate with a view to considering additional asset rationalisation opportunities.
18. Implements the Labour Group Budget for 2026/27;
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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

19.acknowledges the Section 95 Officer's report and the change in policy around the General Fund Contingency and confirms that this fund be topped up by £3.800m to be £11.800m; and

20.acknowledges that the grant settlement may be subject to change as the Finance Budget Bill progresses through Parliament, and agree that should further undirected funds be received on a recurring basis as a result of this process, they will in the first instance be used to mitigate against other budget risks and challenges, on a one-off basis, and ultimately will be available to mitigate future years budget gaps which is in line with previous years' practice.

	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Budget Shortfall per the Budget Report	19.273	25.956	25.355	70.584
Managed by:				
S95 Officer Identified Savings Solutions	(8.000)			(8.000)
Increase Council Tax Income; to close the gap	(9.360)			(9.360)
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure	1.872			1.872
2026/27 Revenue Savings Decisions	(1.190)	(2.335)	(0.260)	(3.785)
Agreed one-off use of balances	(2.595)	(0.260)		(2.855)
Reversal of Use of Balances; Estimated/ Unresolved Budget Gap B/fwd	0.000	2.595	0.260	2.855
Recurring Surplus/ (Shortfall)	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311
One-off Investment Balance from reserves	(10.000)	10.000		0.000
New One-off Investment (Appendix 4)	10.000	(10.000)		0.000
Net One-off Budget Implications	0.000	25.956	25.355	51.311

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

	£m	£m
Expenditure Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report		1,179.893
Additional CIF Investment; Increased loan charge expenditure		1.872
Approved Savings		(9.190)
New One-off Investment		10.000
Revised Net Expenditure 2026/27		1,182.575
Available Resources:		
Resources Budget 2026/27 per Budget Report	1,160.620	
Increased Council Tax Income	9.360	
One-off use of balances to support the budget	2.595	
New One-off Investment; use of balances	10.000	
2026/27 Available Resources		1,182.575
Recurring Budget Shortfall/ (Excess)		(0.000)

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Reference	Summary Saving	Description	26/27 £m	27/28 £m	28/29 £m	Total £m	FTE
<u>Chief Executive Service</u>							
02CEXA	Finance Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Finance.	0.086	0.311	0.000	0.397	8.00
02CEXB	Increased Council Tax collection	Increased Council Tax collection through review of discounts and exemptions.	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.00
02CEXB	Insurance provision	A review of the Insurance Provision.	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.00
10CEXA	Legal, Democratic and Strategy Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structures across Legal, Democratic and Strategy function.	0.000	0.055	0.117	0.172	4.50
13CEXA	Strategic Communications; Structure review and operational budget reduction	A review of staffing structure which ensures the focus remains on the effective delivery of external communications, effective content and campaigns.	0.033	0.042	0.065	0.140	2.30
16CEXA	Customer Services Hub; Staffing Review	Review of staffing structures across the Customer Service Hub.	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	2.00
Sub-total			0.319	0.908	0.239	1.466	16.80
<u>Enterprise & Communities</u>							
14ECSB	Building Cleaning Trading Income	As a Trading Operation, income is required to at least match expenditure. Target increased trading income.	0.000	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.00
16ECS	Facilities Support; Lunch clubs	Reduction to Supplies & Services budget.	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.00
19ECSB	Muirfield Centre; Income Generation	Increases to tenants in addition to the Council's Discretionary Fees and Charges policy.	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.005	0.00
21ECSA	Estates Employee Budgets	Review of staffing structure/ costs and recharges.	0.031	0.000	0.000	0.031	1.00
23ECSA	Procurement and Support: Income Generation	Income Generation from Spend with 3rd Party Framework Agreements.	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.00
49ECSA	Infrastructure & Transportation Staffing Costs	Review staffing costs and proportion charged to capital.	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.00
55ECSB	Growth Programme	Budget reduction associated with the delivery of the ERDP.	0.026	0.000	0.000	0.026	0.00
58ECSA	Reduce the delivery of Business Gateway services in North Lanarkshire	Reduce the operational overheads linked to the delivery of Business Gateway services.	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.00
Sub-total			0.182	0.000	0.021	0.204	1.00
<u>Education & Families</u>							
13ECFA & 15ECFA	Education and Families HQ and back office staffing review	Review of staffing structures and expenditure budgets.	0.157	0.057	0.000	0.214	5.0
20ECFA	Reductions to non-staffing budgets within the music service.	Savings achieved via reducing budget lines such as orchestras/band equipment and supplies, hall lets and transport.	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.0
23ECF	Children & Families - Family Placements	Removal of underspend.	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.0
26ECFA	Community Learning & Development	Review of staffing structure.	0.214	0.214	0.000	0.428	7.0
Sub-total			0.688	0.271	0.000	0.959	12.0
<u>Additional Savings</u>							
	Council Tax on second & empty homes		0.000	0.756	0.000	0.756	0.0
	Review of Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property Relief		0.000	0.400	0.000	0.400	0.0
Sub-total			0.000	1.156	0.000	1.156	0.00
Total			1.190	2.335	0.260	3.785	29.75

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Theme	Project Title	Description	Est. Cost £m	Area	Council Priority
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Cumbernauld/St Andrews Pitches (School)	2G surface replacement; current pitch is far beyond its natural life expectancy and beyond meaningful repair. Essential for user safety and playability.	0.300	North	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Taylor High School Pitch (School)	2G pitch replacement. Existing surface has exceeded life expectancy; full renewal required to meet safety standards and educational requirements.	0.300	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	St Ambrose Pitches x 2 (School & ACC)	Triple pitch of 2 x 3G replacement. Existing surfaces are approaching non-maintainable due to age and high usage. Renewal ensures safe, continuous provision for school and community.	0.600	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Caldervale Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Current surface is beyond the scope of routine maintenance programs; requires full renewal to restore safety and performance.	0.275	Central	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Coltness Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Calderhead Pitch (School)	3G pitch replacement. Total replacement required to ensure a safe environment for local clubs.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pitch Replacement	Wishaw Sports Centre Pitch (ACC)	3G pitch replacement. Surface is approaching end of life. Investment is critical to maintain safety and prevent facility closure.	0.275	South	Resilient People
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Cleland Football Pavillion (ACC)	Demolition of dilapidated, beyond-repair changing building. Replacement with modern modular changing facilities to restore welfare standards for local sport and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.270	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Gartferry/Moodiesburn Pavillion	Replacement of end-of-life changing unit with new modular welfare facilities, ensuring safe and accessible community sports provision and supporting new 3G pitch.	0.120	North	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	Harthill Pavillion	Demolition of unsafe, beyond-repair structure. Installation of modular welfare unit to support the continued use of new 3G pitches.	0.200	South	Transforming Places
Sports Pitch Strategy - Pavillion Replacement	West End Pavillion - Sir Matt Busby SC, Bellshill	Replacement of high-maintenance, dilapidated pavillion with modular unit, reducing operational costs and improving user experience supporting 3G pitch users.	0.220	South	Transforming Places
Service Development	Time Capsule Service Development	Strategic investment to complement the current Wet side and Dry side facilities by modernising the other venue offering to increase footfall and ensure long-term community and commercial viability.	2.500	Central	Transforming Places
Service Development	Colzium House, Kilsyth, Restoration	Restoration of historic hall and hospitality functions, including the creation of Kilsyth Heritage Museum to preserve this significant historical and local cultural asset.	0.845	North	Transforming Places
Service Development	Four Isles Community Centre, Airdrie	Transfer Four Isles Community Centre into ACC's portfolio to convert into a modern Training/Art/Music venue in an area of high deprivation (Top 5% SIMD).	0.820	Central	Resilient People
Country Parks Enhancements	Country Park Investment	Additional infrastructure, features and signage at the country parks	0.510	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	Environmental Enhancements	Investment programme to enhance roundabouts at key locations / arterials routes in and out of North Lanarkshire	0.400	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Land & Waste	Public Parks and Open Spaces Enhancement	Additional investment and enhancement to public parks and open spaces	0.240	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Welfare	Cost of Living Financial Supports	Additional financial supports to address cost of living pressures to identified residents	0.200	Authority wide	Resilient People
Communities / Land & Waste	Town Centre Improvement	Additional investment programme to enhance appearance of town centres to promote regeneration and growth	1.375	Authority wide	Transforming Places
Total			£10.000		

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 4 MARCH 2026

Thursday, 4 March 2026 at 2pm.

A Meeting of the **AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

PRESENT

Councillor Watson, Convener; Councillor Kelly (Vice Convener); Councillors Costello, Hughes, Hume, Leckie, McCrory, M. McCulloch, McLaren and Robinson.

CHAIR

Councillor Watson (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Audit and Risk), Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities); Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Audit Manager, Corporate Risk Manager, Strategy and Customer Experience Manager, Strategy, Performance and Data Manager, and Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

John Boyd and Pauline Murray, Audit Scotland.

APOLOGY

Councillor D. Johnston.

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.

CHANGES TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTING 2025/26

2. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) explaining that the Council's Financial Statements are compiled in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, which is based on International Financial Reporting Standards and also the requirements of the accounting and statutory guidance of the UK Government and that, further, the Code requires appointed auditors to pay due attention to quarterly bulletins published by Audit Scotland; (2) highlighting any significant changes to the Code, or guidance in the technical bulletins, which might impact on the accounting requirements and presentation of the Council's 2025/26 Annual Accounts, and (3) indicating that the 2025/26 Unaudited Annual Accounts were due to be submitted to External Audit by 30 June 2026.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the actions being taken to ensure the Council submits a fully compliant set of Annual Accounts to External Audit be recognised.

HOUSING PERFORMANCE UPDATE

3. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) detailing a response in respect to the variance between: (a) the red indicators shown in the housing section of the quarterly performance assurance review report; and (b) the accompanying narrative for these indicators within the same report; and (2) providing the supplementary information to ensure performance is considered with the most up to date context, the future improvement actions to support transparency and a full understanding of performance outcomes for the service.

Following discussion, it was requested that a report on reactive repairs appointments be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel, which was agreed.

Decided:

- (1) that the explanation for the difference between the red indicators highlighted on the report, and the narrative provided in respect of these, be noted;
- (2) that the current position in respect of the indicators where no narrative was provided in the previous report, be noted;
- (3) that the actions proposed to ensure an explanation of all 'Red' indicators is provided in all future reports be noted; and
- (4) that a report on the non-reporting of reactive repairs appointments be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel

AUDITING BEST VALUE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT - UPDATE

4. There was a joint report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement) and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing an update on the new national approach to auditing Best Value which requires the Council to ensure arrangements are in place to secure continuous improve in delivery the best possible services and outcomes for the public; (2) detailing the priority for the year four thematic Best Value audit work, and the implication for the Council; and (3) highlighting the role (in line with the Scheme of Administration) in terms of ensuring the Council continues to secure Best Value in practice in line with the statutory duty.

Decided:

- (1) that the update to the national approach to auditing Best Value, the priority for the year four thematic Best Value audit work, and the implications for the Council in this respect be noted; and
- (2) that their role (in line with the Scheme of Administration) in terms of ensuring the Council continues to secure Best Value in practice in line with the statutory duty be endorsed.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME - ANNUAL UPDATE

5. There was a joint report submitted by the Interim (Chief Officer – Strategy and Engagement) and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing an update in relation to the Scrutiny Work Programme, items reported previously to the panel and scheduled on the Scrutiny Work Programme for the year ahead; and (2) aiming to ensure the Council fulfils both (a) its statutory Best Value duty (with scrutiny structure that supports Elected Members in reviewing and challenges performance); and (b) the principles of good corporate governance (as set out in the CIPFA Delivery Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)).

Decided:

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 4 MARCH 2026

- (1) that the annual update to the composite Scrutiny Work Programme and reporting schedule for the scrutiny function of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel, as set out in Appendix three to the report be noted;
- (2) that the role of Panel Members in identifying potential issues for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme in line with the Assessment and Prioritisation Process (in Appendix two the report) and the overall approach (in Appendix one to the report) be endorsed, and
- (3) that the Panel continue to carry out their scrutiny role in reviewing and challenging performance to ensure the Council fulfils its statutory Best Value duty.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING SCHEDULE - QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE REVIEW

6. There was submitted a joint report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement) and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing the Panel with the outcome of the latest quarterly performance assurance review which was undertaken on performance reports submitted to Council Committees during Cycle Four of 2025; and (2) attaching, as Appendices to the report: (a) Chief Officer individual performance reviews submitted to Service Committees in line with the Strategic Performance Framework; and (b) Chief Officer Service specific reporting which takes place each year to meet business and/or statutory obligations.

Decided: that the composite overview of performance reporting provided in Appendices one and two to maintain an awareness within the latest Performance Reporting Schedule be noted.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK QUALITY ASSURANCE - ANNUAL REPORT

7. There was submitted a joint report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement) and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) advising that the delivery of the Plan for North Lanarkshire is subject to Quality Assurance arrangements in line with the corporate Project Management Framework; and (2) aligning the governance support the Programme of Work to ensure the Council can (a) demonstrate compliance with the Project Management Framework; and monitor delivery of programmes, projects and activities supporting the Programme of Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the rolling review programme now well established to support the Quality Assurance arrangements be acknowledged;
- (2) that the analysis of the latest position as at January 2026 which provides assurances that the Council has adopted suitable review procedures and the independent reviews being undertaken during a project's life cycle are adding value be noted, and
- (3) that the role of the Panel set out in the next steps at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 to support ongoing oversight and assurance be noted.

AUDIT AND RISK RELATED ITEMS: ACTION LOG

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) enabling the Panel to track implementation of requests and recommendations made by it in respect of Audit and Risk related items; and (2) attaching, as an Appendix to the report, the action log, recording the requests and recommendations by the Panel, and when these had been addressed and/or were expected to be addressed.

Decided: that the report be noted.

INTERNAL AUDIT: PROGRESS REPORT

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) providing an overview of Internal Audit activity and reporting the results of Internal Audit outputs finalised since the last update to the Panel in November 2025; (2) highlighting the progress with the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan; and (3) providing an update on performance management.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officer committed to respond outwith the meeting:

“Can you clarify how many volunteers require and already have PVGs, how these will be recorded internally and the arrangements to be put in place to ensure records are and remain up to date?” (Cllr Robinson).

Following discussion, it was agreed that an update report in relation to the aforementioned question be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the Internal Audit reports together with the associated management responses be noted;
- (2) that the Internal Audit report to future meetings of the Panel on the progress in implementing agreed management actions categorised as ‘High’ or ‘Medium’ priority be acknowledged; and
- (3) that an updated report on PVGs be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel.

INTERNAL AUDIT: FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

10. 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 contained within Internal Audit reports, where those actions were due to be completed in the period up to 31 December 2025; (2) advising that Internal Audit had concluded that of the 27 actions agreed in response to relevant Internal Audit recommendations during the period 12 had been fully completed, and of the 15 recommendations that remain outstanding, two have an implementation date which are more than 12 months overdue; (3) explaining that of the 20 actions due in respect of external outputs, seven had been completed, four had been partially implemented, one is no longer relevant and eleven were not due yet; (4) attaching, in Appendix one to the report, the register of outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations; (5) advising that since April 2021, 94% of all relevant audit recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented by Services, meaning that only 6% of these audit recommendations remain outstanding; and (6) enclosing in Appendix two to the report, External Audit recommendations transferred to risk register.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) providing an overview of the Corporate Risk Register and developments on Corporate Risks since the last update to the Panel in November 2025; and (2) summarising the key considerations of the Risk Management Corporate Working Group within the reporting period.

Decided:

AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL – 4 MARCH 2026

- (1) that the Corporate Risk Register as detailed in Appendix one to the report, be noted;
- (2) that that the changes to corporate risk assessments in sections 2.2 to 2.4 of the report, be noted;
- (3) that the overview of high scoring service level risk as set out in Appendix two to the report and described in section 2.25 of the report be noted;
- (4) that the Corporate Risk Benchmarking detailed in Appendix three and as described at section 2.6 of the report, be noted; and
- (5) that the summary of other risk management developments as noted at section 2.8 of the report, be noted.

AUDIT SCOTLAND – ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2025 – 26

12. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) presenting the Annual Audit Report produced by the Council's appointed External Auditors, Audit Scotland; and (2) attached, as Appendix one to the report, the External Auditor's 2025-26 Annual Audit Report which summarises the audit work completed and presenting the main findings arising from the audit and containing audit recommendations and responses, including planned actions, which had been agreed by management.

Decided:

- (1) that the External Auditor's 2024-25 Annual Audit Report be noted; and
- (2) that monitoring of the implementation by management of actions agreed in response to External Audit's recommendations be undertaken through reports to the Panel from Internal Audit.

Tuesday, 13 January 2026 at 10am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor Quigley, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Bustard, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Thomas and Watson.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Principal Solicitor (Regulation), Solicitor (Employment and Regulation), and Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Licensing Standards Officer.

In respect of paragraphs two and three Sergeant Ross Edgar, North Lanarkshire Licensing and Partnership Liaison Officer, Police Scotland.

In respect of paragraph two – Thomas Johnston, Private Sector Enforcement Officer, Andrew Brock and Kirsty McLaughlin.

In respect of paragraph three – Lindsay Sim.

In respect of paragraph four – Muhammad Haseeb and Faisal Farooq.

In respect of paragraph five – Joshua Cassidy.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Docherty and Shields.

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

1. It was 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 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs three and six of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

ONE SERVICE/SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: LANDLORD REGISTRATION CONSIDERATION

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) advising that a number of individuals (Landlords and/or agents) had been reviewed by the Council's Fit and Proper Person Panel in connection with short term let licence applications, where objections had been received or where applicants had failed to comply with requests from the Panel; and (2) recommending that the application by Joc & Al Rentals Ltd, for a short term let licence, be refused.

The Committee heard the Private Sector Enforcement Officer outline the report and a timeline of the investigation.

Thereafter the Committee heard Sergeant Edgar, Andrew Brock and Kirsty McLaughlin speak in respect of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, the Private Sector Enforcement Officer, Andrew Brock and Kirsty McLaughlin withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, the Private Sector Enforcement Officer, Andrew Brock and Kirsty McLaughlin were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Ballinger, seconded by Councillor Thomas moved that the application by Joc & AI Rentals Ltd for a short term let be refused.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Bustard moved as an Amendment that the application by Joc & AI Rentals Ltd for a short term let be granted.

On a vote being taken, eight members voted for the Motion and three members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application by Joc & AI Rentals Ltd for a short term let be refused.

The Convener exercised their discretion to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

REQUEST FOR THE REVOCATION/SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE – MUHAMMAD HASEEB

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): advising of a complaint in terms of Paragraph 11(2) (a) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, from the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Muhammad Haseeb, who currently holds a Private Hire Driver's Licence and a Private Hire Car Licence.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar outline the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's complaint and Muhammad Haseeb speak in the respect of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, Muhammad Haseeb, Faisal Farooq and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, Muhammad Haseeb, Faisal Farooq and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Robb moved that the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's complaint be upheld.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Baudo moved as an Amendment that the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's complaint not be upheld.

On a vote being taken, eight members having voted for the Motion, and three members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

The Committee, having determined that the complaint by the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Muhammad Haseeb, in respect of the Private Hire Driver and Private Hire Car Licences be upheld, heard Muhammad Haseeb in mitigation.

Thereafter Muhammad Haseeb, Faisal Farooq, Sergeant Edgar and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration on the matter.

Muhammad Haseeb, Faisal Farooq, Sergeant Edgar and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Beveridge, seconded by Councillor Quigley moved that no action be taken in relation to the Private Hire Driver Licence and the Private Hire Car Licence.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Thomas moved as an Amendment to take no action in relation to the Private Hire Car Licence and to suspend the Private Hire Driver Licence.

On a vote being taken, six members having voted for the Motion, and five members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that in terms of Paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Muhammad Haseeb, in respect of the Private Hire Drivers Licence and Private Hire Car Licence be upheld; and
- (2) that no action to be taken in relation to Private Hire Driver Licence and Private Hire Car Licence.

REQUEST FOR THE REVOCATION SUSPENSION OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE – MUGSTOCK LTD

4. There was submitted a report by The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): advising of a complaint in terms of Paragraph 11(2) (a) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, from the Watch Commander, Lanarkshire Area, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, relative to MugStock Ltd, who currently hold a public entertainment licence.

The Committee heard the Licensing Standards Officer outline details of the Licensing Standard Officer's Report and Lindsay Sim speak in respect of the matter.

Lindsay Sim, the Licensing Standards Officers withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Lindsay Sim, the Licensing Standards Officers and Sergeant Edgar were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the Public Entertainment Licence relative to MugStock Ltd be suspended, with immediate effect, for the unexpired duration of the licence.

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE – PENNY CARS LIMITED

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) an application from Penny Cars Limited to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence along with a Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Committee heard Joshua Cassidy speak in respect of the application for their renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Joshua Cassidy and the Licensing Standards Office withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Joshua Cassidy and the Licensing Standards Officers were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application for a Renewal of Private Hire Car Licence by Penny Cars Limited, be granted for a period of twelve months, effective from the expiry date of the existing licence.

Thursday, 15 January 2026 at 11.00am.

A Meeting of the **LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

PRESENT

Councillor Bustard, Vice Convener; Councillors Burgess, M. Coyle, S Coyle, Hughes, Keltie, McVey and Robb.

CHAIR

Councillor Bustard (Vice Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Planning Manager (Strategy and Policy), Senior Planning Officer, Transportation Manager, Administrative Assistant, Innovative Place Associate and Democratic Co-Ordinator.

APOLOGIES

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.

EXTRACT OF RELEVANT POLICY DOCUMENTS

2. There was submitted the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4 which would be used to determine the undernoted application.

Decided: that the contents of North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4 be noted.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY PROCEDURE

3. There was submitted the Local Review Body Procedure.

Decided: that the contents of the Local Review Body Procedure be noted.

PLANNING APPLICATION - 24/00643/FUL - USE OF LAND AS HAULAGE AND PLANT HIRE DEPOT INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF WORKSHOP BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATED LAND RAISING AND ENGINEERING WORKS, MOUNTCOW FARM, DUNTILLAND ROAD, SALSBURGH

1. There were submitted: (1) a Notice of Review of the decision taken by the Chief Officer (Place) under delegated authority to refuse Planning Application 24/00643/FUL – Use of land as haulage and plant hire depot including construction of workshop buildings and associated land raising and engineering works, Mountcow Farm, Duntilland Road, Salsburgh; (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

LOCAL REVIEW BODY – 15 JANUARY 2026

and maps of the site location; and (5) North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4.

Thereon, having heard the 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.

The Local Review Body having discussed and given consideration to various submissions and relevant policies of the Development Plan, agreed that the designated use of land was suitable for industrial and business use, and accordingly determined that the planning application be granted.

Decided: that the application be granted, subject to the following conditions to be determined by the Chief Officer (Place), as undernoted:-

Conditions

Condition 1 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997, planning permission is granted for the use of the site solely as a haulage depot which shall be the operating centre for a maximum of 17 rigid (i.e. non-articulated) lorries, and for no other purpose or unless specifically approved in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to limit the scale of development to that which has been applied for, given the unsuitability of the location and its means of access for more intensive development.

Condition 2 Notwithstanding the details shown on the submitted plans, no further development shall commence until full details of existing and proposed site levels, shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt, no further material shall be imported onto the site and no other development shall commence until such time as amended plans have been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority.

The development shall thereafter be completed in accordance with the approved amended plans, and any excess landraising material which is currently stockpiled on the site but not needed for the approved development shall be removed from the land prior to the haulage use commencing.

Reason: To carefully manage site levels, in the interests of the integrity of the landscape and loss of greenfield land justified by the proposed use.

Condition 3 No construction of any buildings or additional hardstanding shall take place on the site until such time as an intrusive site investigation has been undertaken and a report, prepared by a suitably qualified person, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, identifying;

- a) The nature, extent and type(s) of contamination and/or ground gas on the site;
- b) Measures proposed to treat/remove contamination to ensure the site is fit for the use proposed;
- c) Measures proposed to deal with contamination during construction works;
- d) The timescale for implementation of these remedial measures relative to the development; and
- e) The condition of the site on completion of these decontamination measures.

Reason: To prevent harm to human health and pollution of the environment.

Condition 4 No part of the development shall be brought into use until such time as any mitigation measures agreed under the terms of the condition above have been fully implemented as

approved, and a validation statement signed by a suitably qualified person confirming that the mitigation has been so implemented has been submitted to and agreed by Planning Authority.

Reason: To prevent harm to human health and pollution of the environment.

Condition 5 No further land raising material shall be brought onto the site and no use of the site for the approved purpose shall commence until such time as:

- a) Plans showing the provision of inter-visible passing places suitable for use by heavy goods vehicles along Duntilland Road between the application site and the entrance to Duntilland Quarry have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority, including the granting of any separate planning permission which such works might require;
- b) The passing places approved under point (a) above have been constructed to the standard set out in the Council's Roads Development Guidelines as suitable for adoption as part of the public road and have been brought into use.

Reason: In the interests of road safety and the convenience of road users.

Condition 6 The haulage depot shall not be brought into use until such time as a routeing strategy demonstrating that all heavy goods vehicles using the site that access it by way of the southern end of Duntilland Road (over which the abovementioned passing places are to be provided) has been submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority. The haulage depot shall thereafter operate in accordance with the approved routeing strategy unless otherwise be agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of road safety and the convenience of road users.

Tuesday, 27 January 2026 at 10am.

A Meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor Quigley, Vice Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Bustard, Docherty, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Thomas, and Watson.

ALSO PRESENT

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

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Licensing Standards Officer; Principal Solicitor (Regulation), Solicitor (Employment and Regulation), Administrative Officer and Democratic Co-Ordinator.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

In respect of paragraph two – Lee Hutton and Bernadette Alison.

In respect of paragraph three – Ashfaq Ahmed.

In respect of paragraph four – Gerard Ferrie.

In respect of paragraph five – John Moore.

In respect of paragraph six - James Moore, Moore Macdonald Solicitors and Elijah Farman.

In respect of paragraph eight - Rahela Mohammed, Ilyas Mohammed, Jennifer Cowan, and Audrey Junner.

In respect of paragraphs nine to eleven - Richard McIntosh, Workshop Co – Ordinator (Fleet).

In respect of paragraph nine - Shih Chang Lin.

In respect of paragraph ten – Thomas Cross.

In respect of paragraph eleven – Edward Smyth.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Baudo and McVey.

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

1. It was 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 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs three and six of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REQUEST FOR THE REVOCATION SUSPENSION OF A STREET TRADER LICENCE – LEE HUTTON

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) a complaint, in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, from the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Lee Hutton, who held a Street Trader's Licence; and (2) a complaint from the Council's Licensing Standards Officer.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar outline the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's complaint and Licensing Standards Officer speak in respect of the matter.

Thereafter the Committee heard from Lee Hutton speak in respect of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, Lee Hutton and Bernadette Alison withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, Lee Hutton and Bernadette Alison were readmitted to the meeting.

The Committee determined that the complaint by the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Lee Hutton, in respect of the Street Trader Licence be upheld, heard Lee Hutton in mitigation.

Subsequently Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, Lee Hutton and Bernadette Alison withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and Lee Hutton and Bernadette Alison were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Lee Hutton, in respect of the Street Trader's Licence be upheld;
- (2) that the Street Trader Licence be suspended with immediate effect for the unexpired duration of the licence.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – ASHFAQ AHMED

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising: (1) of an application by Arbaz Hussain for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence; and (2) that a representation letter had been received from Police Scotland in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, advising of a representation.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar address Members on why the details of the representation letter received from Police Scotland should be admitted.

Subsequently, the Committee determined that it was necessary, in the circumstances of the case, to admit and consider information provided by Police Scotland, and a copy of the Police Scotland representation letter was issued to Members by the Democratic Co-ordinator.

The Committee heard Ashfaq Ahmed and Sergeant Edgar speak about the representation.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and Ashfaq Ahmed withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and Ashfaq Ahmed were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted for three years.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE – GERARD CHARLES FERRIE

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising: (1) of an application by Gerard Charles Ferrie for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence; and (2) that an objection letter had
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been received from Police Scotland in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, advising of a representation.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar address Members on why the details of the representation letter received from Police Scotland should be admitted.

Thereafter, the Committee determined that it was necessary, in the circumstances of the case, to admit and consider the information provided by Police Scotland and a copy of the Police Scotland representation letter was issued to Members by the Democratic Co-ordinator.

The Committee heard Gerard Charles Ferrie and Sergeant Edgar speak about the information.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and Gerard Charles Ferrie withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and Gerard Charles Ferrie were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted for three years.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE – JOHN MOORE

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising: (1) of an application by John Moore for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence; and (2) that a representation letter had been received from Police Scotland in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, advising of a representation.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar address Members on why the details of the representation letter received from Police Scotland should be admitted.

Subsequently, the Committee determined that it was necessary, in the circumstances of the case, to admit and consider information provided by Police Scotland and a copy of the Police Scotland representation letter was issued to Members by the Democratic Co-ordinator.

The Committee heard John Moore and Sergeant Edgar speak regarding about the representation.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and John Moore withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, and John Moore were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted for three years.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE - ELIJAH FARMAN

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising: (1) of an application by Elijah Farman for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence; and (2) that an objection letter had been received from Police Scotland in terms of paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, advising of a representation.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar address Members on why the details of the representation letter received from Police Scotland should be admitted.

Councillor Docherty, seconded by Councillor Thomas moved that the representation letter should be admitted.

Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor Robb moved as an Amendment that the representation letter should not be admitted.

On a vote being taken, eight members having voted for the Motion and two members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Thereafter, a copy of the Police Scotland representation letter was issued to Members by the Democratic Co-ordinator.

The Committee heard James Moore and Sergeant Edgar speak about the representation.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, James Moore and Elijah Farman withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, the Licensing Standards Officer, James Moore and Elijah Farman were readmitted the meeting.

Decided: that the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted for three years.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A STREET TRADER'S LICENCE – CONOR MCCALLION

7. The Principal Solicitor (Regulation) advised that the item had been withdrawn following the withdrawal of Street Traders' Licence by the applicant.

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A LATE HOURS CATERING LICENCE – ALI'S GERMAN DONNER

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) an application for the Variation for a Late Hours Catering Licence in respect of Ali's German Donner, 376 Muir Street, Motherwell, with proposed operating hours beyond North Lanarkshire Council's standard policy on late hours catering; (2) that there were no representations received on the application; and (3) a report submitted by the Licensing Standards Officer.

The Committee heard the Licensing Standards Officer outlined details of the report and Audrey Junner speak in support of the application.

The Licensing Standards Officer, Rahela Mohammed, Ilyas Mohammed, Jennifer Cowan and Audrey Junner withdrew from the meeting.

Licensing Standards Officer, Rahela Mohammed, Ilyas Mohammed, Jennifer Cowan and Audrey Junner were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Duffy, seconded by Councillor Watson moved that the application for the Variation for a Late Hours Catering Licence be granted with the condition that the extension of current operating hours is limited to Friday, Saturday and Sunday only, until 5.00am.

Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Robb moved as an Amendment that the application for the Variation for a Late Hours Catering Licence be granted with the condition that the extension of current operating hours is limited to Friday and Saturday only, until 3.00am.

On a vote been taken, six members having voted for Motion and four members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application for a Variation of a Late hours Catering Licence at Ali's German Donner, 376 Muir Street, Motherwell be granted, subject to the following condition:

- The extension of current operating hours is limited to Friday, Saturday and Sunday only until 5.00am.

CONSENT TO A CHANGE OF VEHICLE - PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE - EXPRESSWAY VEHICLE SOLUTIONS LTD

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of a request received from Expressway Vehicle Solutions Ltd to change their current vehicle, which following an inspection by the Transport workshop, had been deemed non-compliant with the Council's Private Hire Specification.

The Committee heard Shih Chang Lin, and the Workshop Co – Ordinator (Fleet) speak in respect of the application.

The Licensing Standards Officer, Shih Chang Lin and the Workshop Co – Ordinator (Fleet) withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

The Licensing Standards Officer, Shih Chang Lin and the Workshop Co – Ordinator (Fleet) were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the request for a Change of Vehicle by Expressway Vehicle Solutions Ltd be refused.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCES

(1) THOMAS CROSS

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) an application from Thomas Cross to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence along with a Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Principal Solicitor (Regulation) advised that Thomas Cross did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

Thereon, the Committee heard Thomas Cross speak in respect of the application for their renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Thomas Cross and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Thomas Cross and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved that the application for renewal of Private Hire Car Licence be granted a six-month extension from the expiry date of the current licence.

Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Ballinger moved as an Amendment that the application for renewal of a Private Hire Car licence be refused.

On a vote being taken, five members having voted for the Motion, and five members having voted for Amendment, the Chair exercised casting vote and determined that the Amendment be carried.

Decided: that the application by Thomas Cross for the renewal of their Private Hire Car Licence, be refused.

(2) EDWARD SMYTH

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) an application from Edward Smyth to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence along with a Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Principal Solicitor (Regulation) advised that Edward Smyth did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

Thereon, the Committee heard Edward Smyth speak in respect of the application for their renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Edward Smyth and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting, and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter

Edward Smyth and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Councillor Docherty, seconded by Councillor Bustard moved that the application for the renewal of Private Hire Car Licence be granted for one year from the expiry date of the current licence.

Councillor McLaren, seconded by Councillor Thomas moved as an Amendment that the application for renewal of Private Hire Car Licence be refused.

On a vote being taken, six members having voted for the motion and four members having voted for amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the application by Edward Smyth for the renewal of their Private Hire Car Licence be granted for one year.

5 February 2026 at 10am

A Meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Shevlin, Convener; Councillor Currie, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beveridge, Bustard, Cairns, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy- Lawson, Fisher, Hughes, T. Johnston, Keltie, Logue, Loughran, McManus, McPake, Mitchell, Robb, Smith and Woods.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors Costello and Roarty attended as substitutes on behalf of Councillors McLaren and McVey respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Shevlin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Place), Planning and Place Manager, Planning Manager (Invest NL), Planning Manager (Local Development), Senior Planning Officer, Communications Officer and Democratic Co-Ordinator.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Burgess, McLaren and McVey.

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 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.

PLANNING AND PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024-2025

3. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Place) providing feedback on the performance of the National Planning Improvement process against key indicators and the improvement actions for 2024-25.

Decided: that the actions being taken to improve performance and service delivery be endorsed.

PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL LODGED

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

Decided: that the report be noted.

NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEAL DECISION

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

Decided: that the report be noted.

PLANNING - 5 FEBRUARY 2026

Application No: 23/01328/FUL
Applicant: Mr Daniel Lowden
Development/Locus: Subdivision of Existing Building into 4 Units and Change of Use of Sui Generis to Class 5 and Construction of Building Containing 3 Units (Classes 4 & 6) Holytown Road Holytown ML4 1EE
Decision: Refuse

Application No: 24/012025/FUL
Applicant: PP Builders & Son Ltd
Development/Locus: Use of Premises as Builder's Yard and Construction of Storage Building (In Retrospect) 31A Rothesay Crescent Shawhead Coatbridge ML5 4JP
Decision: Grant.

Friday, 6 February 2026 at 10am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Costello, Convener; Councillor Harmon, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barclay, Baudo, Brannan-McVey, Currie, Fotheringham, Gray, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Keltie, Khan, Leckie, McCrory, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Robb, L. Stubbs and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillor Sullivan attended as substitute on behalf of Councillor Goldie.

CHAIR

Councillor Costello (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice), Business Finance Manager (Resources), Business Manager (Tackling Poverty Team), Assistant Business Manager (Tackling Poverty Team) and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGY

Councillor Goldie.

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.

CASH FIRST PROJECT REPORT 2026

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice): (1) providing an update and evaluation on the outcome of the Cash First Food Referral Gateway – Interim Payments Projects; (2) indicating funding from the Scottish Government and the Council's fuel poverty; and (3) detailing the Council's launch of the project in December 2023 to its completion in November 2025 in providing enhanced accessibility and bridging gaps in crisis support.

Decided: that the report and the next steps as set out in paragraphs 2.36 -2.40 be endorsed.

CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK 2025

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice): (1) advising of the Council's participation from 6 to 12 October 2025 in the Challenge Poverty Week for the sixth consecutive year; (2) outlining the background and themes underpinning the Challenge Poverty Week; and (3) highlighting the activities and messaging undertaken by the Council and its partners along with links to the wider Tackling Poverty Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the intention to incorporate analysis and feedback in the ongoing Tackling Poverty Actions be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the Council's future participation in Challenge Poverty Week be endorsed.

9 February 2026 at 10am.

A Meeting of the **COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor Woods, Convener; Councillor Reddin, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barclay, Beveridge, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Keltie, Leckie, McBride, B. McCulloch, Mitchell, Nolan, Shevlin, Smith and Toner.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors Costello and Gray attended as substitutes on behalf of Councillors Duffy and McDade respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Woods (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Community Operations), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement), Active and Creative Communities Manager, Area Community Partnership Managers, Business Partnership Manager, Community Partnership Officer, Facility Support Service Manager and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Duffy, Jones and McDade.

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

1. Councillor Smith by virtue of being a Council appointed Director to the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph six "Community Wealth Building" and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Councillor Smith, by virtue of being a Board Member of Cumbernauld Theatre, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph nine "Cumbernauld Theatre Trust – Future Operating Model and Service Level Agreement 25-26" and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

The Convener, being of the opinion that the following item of business was relevant, competent and urgent, authorised its consideration to enable the Council to comply with the petitions process.

AQUATEC UPDATE AND RECEIPT OF PETITION

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing information on a petition received to prevent close of the Aquatec in prioritising funding for maintenance and refurbishment where needed; and (2) detailing that a previous report provided on the Aquatec with a recommendation that members consider this ask as part of future budget deliberations.

Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Burgess submitted an amendment: -

Recommendations - Insert a new number (4) as follows, and renumber existing number (4) as (5): -
(4) “Acknowledges the decision made by Council on 5 October 2023 that, inter alia, reversed the decision of Policy and Strategy Committee of 28 September 2023 in respect of the review of Active and Creative Communities facilities and decided that the facilities (which included Aquatec) be maintained and remain open for at least the duration of the current term of the Council. “

The Convener determined ruled that the amendment could not be accepted as it had not been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol for Hybrid and Remote Council and Committee Meetings.

Decided:

- (1) that the petition received and the requests made therein be acknowledged;
- (2) that the current condition of the Aquatec and its usage, noting the costs required to fulfil the asks of the petition be acknowledged; and
- (3) that members may wish to consider the future of the Aquatec as part of forthcoming budget considerations.

COMMUNITY BOARD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

3. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing an update on the progress of the Community Board Local Development Programme (LDP) projects previously approved by Committee; (2) setting out, in Appendix two to the report, the capital budget allocated to the LDP for each Community Board area from 2024/25 onwards; (3) seeking approval, in principle, for new potential and existing projects which have been proposed by local community groups; and (4) highlighting the programme of play area projects for 2025/26.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress with the current project portfolio be recognised and the projects which have potential for delivery in future financial years depending on availability of budget and community support be approved;
- (2) that the capital budget allocated to the LDP for each Community Board area in the new capital programme from 2024/25 onwards, as set out in Appendix two, be acknowledged;
- (3) that the completed project case studies, as set out in Appendix three, be acknowledged;
- (4) that the delivery of play area projects for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix four, be acknowledged;
- (5) that the amendments to existing projects and further project proposals, together with project criteria, be approved; and
- (6) that the current challenges faced in achieving delivery of the Local Development Programme be acknowledged.

COMMUNITY BOARD AND PATRNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

4. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing an update on key progress linked to supporting the development of the Community Boards model, including updates from cycle four of the Community Board meetings which took place during
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-

November and December 2025; and (2) setting out details of the participation, representation and items discussed at Community Board meetings.

There was a video presentation to the Committee providing information on Community Boards, thereafter, two pupils from St Aidens High School, Wishaw who featured in the video provided an overview of their positive experiences.

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

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL OVERSIGHT AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES REPORT 2024-25

5. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing details of the North Lanarkshire Partnership Strategic Leadership Board's Annual Oversight and Outcome report 2024-25, as attached in Appendix one to the report; and (2) setting out the positive impact in strengthening partnership working and improving outcomes for shared ambitions.

Decided: that the North Lanarkshire Partnership Strategic Leadership Board's Annual Oversight and Outcome report 2024-15, as attached in Appendix one to the report, be approved.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Smith having declared a connection, by virtue of being a Council appointed director to the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING UPDATE

6. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing an update on the Council's approved approach in the creation of a Community Wealth Building Partnership; and (2) detailing the process for developing a partnership action plan to reflect the emerging requirement of the introduction of the Community wealth Building legislation.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting: -

"For those organisations with a nil award, how many organisations had asked for feedback?" (Councillor Goldie).

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made to date to develop the partnership approach to Community Wealth Building (CWB) in anticipation of the introduction of legislation and the approach outlined for creation of a CWB Partnership be acknowledged;
- (2) that the next steps for the working group to start to develop actions following the formal introduction of legislation associated guidance be supported; and
- (3) that further updates and discussion on the introduction of the legislation and associated guidance as they become available be agreed.

GRANT AWARDS PROGRAMME (GAP) 2026- 2027

7. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing an overview of funding applications for the Grants Awards Programme 2026-27; (2) seeking approval
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to allocate discretionary funding to Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) organisations, based on a scoring framework; (3) detailing the approach for any unallocated/returned funding; and (4) advising that a report be submitted later in 2026 on additional programme improvements across the Grant Award Programme, Community Grants and potential funding streams.

Decided:

- (1) that the funding recommendations for the 2026-2027 grant awards programme as outlined in section 2.4 and Appendices one to ten of this report, be approved;
- (2) that the proposed approach to any unallocated/returned funding as outlined in Section 2.5 of this report be endorsed;
- (3) that a report being submitted later in 2026 on the plan for additional programme improvements across the Grant Awards Programme, Community Grants and potential funding streams operated and managed by the Community Partnership Team, as outlined in Section 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 of this report be acknowledged; and
- (4) that the allocation to Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire as outlined in Appendix 11 of this report be approved.

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS

8. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) providing an update on the current review of the nine Local Outcome Improvement Plans; and (2) advising of the aim to launch the refreshed local plans for delivery from April 2027.

Decided: that progress work undertaken to date in relation to the current LOIP Review and ongoing work in continuing to develop, strengthen and embed the supporting partnership delivery approaches be acknowledged.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Smith having declared a connection, by virtue of being a Director of Cumbernauld Theatre Trust, left the meeting during consideration of the item.

CUMBERNAULD THEATRE TRUST - FUTURE OPERATING MODEL AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 25-26

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) seeking approval of the proposed funding agreement, to the value of £100,300, for the period 2025-26 and the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Cumbernauld Theatre Trust.

Decided:

- (1) that the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Cumbernauld Theatre Trust, attached at Appendix One, be approved; and
- (2) that the funding of Cumbernauld Theatre Trust to the value of £100,300 for the period 2025-26. Overall funding will continue to be paid on a quarterly basis with the position being reviewed before the release of each payment, be approved.

ACTIVE & CREATIVE COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITY USAGE AND FOOTFALL Q3 25-26 AND Q3 24-25

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an overview of usage of a range of sports, culture and leisure venues and community facilities; and (2) attaching in an Appendix to the report, a comparison between Quarter three 2025-26 and Quarter three 2024-25.

Decided: that the usage, and footfall associated with the Council's sports, culture, leisure and community facilities be acknowledged.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets & Procurement): intimating that the contracts highlighted within Appendix one to the report had been awarded by them 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.

11 February 2026 at 2pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor Loughran, Convener; Councillor McPhilemy, Vice-Convener; Councillors Carragher, Duffy, Duffy-Lawson, Fotheringham, Goldie, Harmon, Leckie, MacGregor, Masterton, McBride, B. McCulloch, M. McCulloch, McKay, Reddin, Roarty, Robinson, Smith, Thomas, Watson, Williams and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor Loughran (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement), Chief Officer (Community Operations), Chief Officer (Place), Assistant Contracts and Assurance Manager, Assets Services Manager, Business Manager (Protective Services), Contracts Manager, Engineering Manager, Greenspace and Country Parks Manager, Interim Engineering Manager, Resilience Planning Officer, Trading Standards Manager and Democratic Services Manager.

In terms of Standing Order 14, the meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 2.30pm.

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

1. Councillor Fotheringham, by virtue of their employment, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph two – “Final update report on vape recycling” and Paragraph three “Scottish Illegal Tobacco team hosted by North Lanarkshire Council Trading Standards” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Councillor Smith, by virtue of their employment, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph three “Scottish Illegal Tobacco team hosted by North Lanarkshire Council Trading Standards” and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Robinson, by virtue of their role with a stakeholder, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph 14 – “Contract Agreement Update” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Fotheringham having declared a connection, by virtue of their employment, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

FINAL UPDATE REPORT ON VAPE RECYCLING

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an update on vape recycling and retailer compliance in relation to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013; and (2) detailing the progress with the increasing take-back facilities, enforcement actions following the ban on single-use vapes, collaborative operations with the Office for Product Safety & Standards and Scottish Government, and recent consumer awareness campaigns.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting: -

“How do we measure the effectiveness of social media posts highlighting risks and importance of disposing of vapes?” (Councillor Goldie).

Decided: that the continued actions of the Trading Standards team in respect of these matters be acknowledged.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillors Fotheringham and Smith having declared a connection, by virtue of their employment, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

SCOTTISH ILLEGAL TOBACCO TEAM HOSTED BY NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) setting out the opportunity to host up to two full-time Fair Trading Officers within a Scottish Illegal Tobacco team as part of a national initiative; (2) outlining the strategic benefits with enhanced collaboration with key partners such as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Police Scotland and other Scottish local authorities; and (3) advising that the full cost of the two full-time officers be paid for from a grant agreed between the HMRC and the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards for Scotland (SCOTSS) base on the sum of £150,000 per year.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting: -

“Where does the money seized as penalties go?” (Councillor Thomas).

Decided:

- (1) that the strategic importance of North Lanarkshire Council’s hosting role for the project duration be acknowledged;
- (2) that North Lanarkshire Council host up to two full-time Fair-Trading Officers within the Scottish Illegal Tobacco team for a project duration of a minimum of three years from 1 April 2026, be agreed;
- (3) that the integration of a Scottish Illegal Tobacco team into the North Lanarkshire Trading Standards service to deliver our objectives, alongside those of colleagues in other Scottish local authority Trading Standards Services (SLATS), by continuing and expanding enforcement efforts to combat the illicit supply of illegal tobacco products in our communities be supported;
- (4) that continued collaboration with HMRC, Police Scotland, SLATS and SCOTSS and the new role of North Lanarkshire Trading Standards in contributing to this be endorsed;
- (5) that the Assistant Business Manager, Trading Standards and Finance colleagues agreeing the terms of the funding agreement between North Lanarkshire Council, HMRC and SCOTSS be acknowledged; and
- (6) that North Lanarkshire Trading Standards were best placed to deliver a scalable, efficient, and consistent central support function for the Scottish Illegal Tobacco team and the proposed hosting arrangements satisfy national Operation CeCe requirements (agreed between HMRC and SCOTSS) and enable enhanced operational performance.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS PROGRESS UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) providing an update on the progress in delivering the Flood Risk Management Plans and associated work across North Lanarkshire which are key deliverable in the Sustainable Futures Programme of Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress actions agreed by committee in August 2024 be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the actions currently planned for progression of Kilsyth Flood Risk Reduction Scheme, flood studies and options for intervention, and development of updated planning guidance with respect to flood risk management and drainage requirements be endorsed.

CORPORATE RESILIENCE AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY UPDATE

5. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the Council's arrangements relevant to Resilience Planning, Business Continuity and Power Resilience.

Decided:

- (1) that the ongoing improvements to the Council's business continuity and resilience planning arrangements be supported;
- (2) that the continued development and delivery of North Lanarkshire Council's Power Resilience Strategy be endorsed;
- (3) that the procurement and implementation of a new software solution corporate wide be supported to manage:
 - Business Continuity
 - Incident Management
 - Scenario Planning
- (4) that the creation and promotion of resilience-focused eLearning modules to enhance staff awareness and capability be approved.

PUBLIC SECTOR DUTIES CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT 2024-2025

6. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement): (1) detailing the Public Sector report on Compliance with Climate Change Duties submitted on behalf of the Council in November 2025 for reporting year 2024/25; and (2) providing an update on the progress against carbon budgets set within the Climate Plan ACT2030 and work that contributes to the overall net-zero ambition.

Decided:

- (1) that the performance presented within this report and accompanying Appendix be noted;
 - (2) that the Council's carbon footprint performance since its baseline year as detailed in Table two, be noted;
 - (3) that the performance of individual emission scopes (paragraphs 2.3-2.3.4) be noted;
 - (4) that the Council's performance in terms of its thematic carbon budgets (paragraphs 2.4-2.4.2) be noted; and
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-

- (5) that a summary of climate and sustainable action taking place throughout the Council be noted.

COMMUNITY OPERATIONS PROGRAMME OF WORK UPDATE

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an update on the proposals in the Waste and Land and Fleet Services in line with the Council's Sustainable Futures Programme of Work; (2) detailing the progress against Bellshill new fleet workshop, office accommodation and welfare facilities; (3) highlighting the issues impacting on the introduction of an Eco Park within the Bellshill complex; (4) detailing the opportunity in continuing to explore a Waste transfer Station within North Lanarkshire; (5) providing an update on the Dolar Farms; and (6) advising of the progress in the decarbonisation of the Council fleet and requesting that support the decision to move from the hydrogen and focus on electric vehicles be supported.

Following discussion on the traffic management arrangements around Wardpark, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress against the Bellshill new fleet workshop, office accommodation and welfare facilities be acknowledged;
- (2) that the issues impacting on the introduction of an Eco Park within the Bellshill complex be noted;
- (3) that the decision in continuing to explore opportunities for a Waste Transfer Station within North Lanarkshire be acknowledged;
- (4) that the update on progress with Solar Farms be acknowledged;
- (5) that progress in meeting statutory requirements relevant to the collection and storage of materials containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) be acknowledged;
- (6) that the progress on the decarbonisation of the Council fleet and to acknowledge the decision to move from hydrogen and focus on electric vehicles be supported; and
- (7) that a report on the reconfiguration of the traffic management arrangements around Wardpark be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - LATEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR COMMUNITY OPERATIONS

8. There was a submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations) providing an update on a substantial range of performance indicators within Community Operations to assess efficiency and effectiveness in terms of service delivery and case management.

Following discussion on the scheduling of planning roadworks, it was agreed that the list of planning resurfacing works across North Lanarkshire be issued to all Elected Members.

The Chief Officer (Community Operations) provided an update in respect of the Accounts Commission's Findings from the Controller of Audit report and advised that reference was made to Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators showing "strong improvements across all services for North Lanarkshire Council with the exception of 3. Environmental Services being one of these and advised that compared to base year figures used in the Audit ,50% of Environmental Services indicators had improved and if compared to most recent year over 57% of indicators had improved. I just wanted to highlight this positive movement as from the report published it could read that Environmental Services weren't performing well. Also to note, North Lanarkshire Council was one

of only three councils to have over 50 percent of Environmental Services indicators showing improvement.”

Decided:

- (1) that the high-level performance overview presented in Appendix one be acknowledged;
- (2) that the list of planned resurfacing works across North Lanarkshire be issued to all Elected Members; and
- (3) that the update by the Chief Officer (Community Operations) regarding the Accounts Commission’s Findings from the Controller of Audit report be noted.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES - COUNTRY PARKS FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an update on the successful delivery of Country Parks for the Future (CPFF) projects since the last report in Audit 2024; (2) detailing that the projects contribute to both the Sustainable Future and Transforming Places strands of the Programme of Work; and (3) outlining the proposed mid-programme review that will create a targeted 5-year work programme for further CPFF delivery in partnership with local communities.

The Convener advised that a video on “Watersports Centre What’s Changing” would be circulated to all Members of the Committee.

Following discussion on works undertaken at Colzium House and Museum, Kilsyth, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the continued progress made in delivering Country Parks for the Future and the contribution this makes to programme of work ambitions, in Sustainable Futures and Transforming Places be recognised;
- (2) that the progress towards delivery of the near-net-zero led redevelopment of the Watersports Centre at Strathclyde Country Park into Strathshore, the new base for health and wellbeing activity for the whole community, be acknowledged;
- (3) that the challenges in securing external funding for the agreed Palacerigg Country Park Masterplan and Playful Landscape Plan for the site be acknowledged;
- (4) that the proposed mid-programme review process, which will take place over the next six months, be approved; and
- (5) that a report on the works undertaken by all Council services at Colzium House and Museum, Kilsyth be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES CONTRACT - INTERIM REPORT

10. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an Interim Performance report up to the first anniversary of the commencement of the Roads and Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement Service Contract; and (2) detailing the work undertaken to date and future reporting arrangements.

Decided:

- (1) that the operational performance of the Contractor, covering the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 be acknowledged;
- (2) that the enhanced contract management regime in place to support the management of this Contract be acknowledged;
- (3) that the key Contract achievements in the first 12 months of operation, including the successful mobilisation of the Contract, integration of transition contracts and Social Value deliverables be acknowledged; and
- (4) that the planned future committee reporting cycle arrangements be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE USE OF THE SCOTLAND EXCEL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CATERING SUNDRIES

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) highlighting the Council's participation in the Scotland Excel Framework Agreement ("Framework Agreement") for Supply and Delivery of Catering Sundries (1223) as directed by Scotland Excel for a maximum value of Eighteen Million Pounds Sterling (£18,000,000) exclusive of VAT, with the Council's anticipated spend through the Framework Agreement's terms anticipated to be circa £1,920,000 exclusive of VAT; and (2) detailing the commencement on 1 December 2024 until its expiry 30 November 2028.

Decided: that the Council's participation in the Scotland Excel Framework Agreement for Supply & Delivery of Catering Sundries (1223) ("Framework Agreement") from its commencement on 1 December 2024 until its expiry 30 November 2028 as directed by Scotland Excel. The Framework Agreement was awarded at the maximum value of £18,000,000 exclusive of VAT with the Council's anticipated spend throughout the Framework Agreement's term anticipated to be circa £1,920,000 exclusive of VAT be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR PURCHASE OF 4 X 32T REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE HOOKLOADERS AND 1 X 32T GRAB MOUNTED CRANE TRUCKS

12. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) advising of action taken by the Depute Chief Executive in awarding a contract for the purchase of 4 x 32t RCV Hookloaders and 1 x 32t Grab Mounted Crane Trucks; (2) reporting that the contract had been awarded to Lothian Vehicle Bodybuilders Limited at the maximum value of £960,510 exclusive of VAT; and (3) informing that the contract commenced on 10 October 2025.

Decided: that the action taken to award a contract for the purchase of 4 x 32t RCV Hookloaders and 1 x 32t Grab Mounted Crane Trucks, to Lothian Vehicle Bodybuilders Limited at a maximum value of £960,510 exclusive of VAT, be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

13. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets & Procurement) intimating that the contracts highlighted within Appendix one to the report had been awarded by them 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.

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 eight and nine of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Robinson having declared a connection, by virtue of their role with a stakeholder, left the meeting during consideration of the item.

CONTRACT AGREEMENT UPDATE

14. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive in relation to a matter considered commercially sensitive.

Decided: that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

Thursday, 16 February 2026 at 2pm.

A Meeting of the **LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

PRESENT

Councillor Docherty, Convener; Councillors Burgess, Bustard, M. Coyle, S Coyle, Hughes, Keltie and Robb.

CHAIR

Councillor Docherty (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Planning Manager (Strategy and Policy), Senior Planning Officer and Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Logue and McVey.

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.

EXTRACT OF RELEVANT POLICY DOCUMENTS

2. There was submitted the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4 which was used to determine the undernoted application.

Decided: that the contents of North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4 be noted.

LOCAL REVIEW BODY PROCEDURE

3. There was submitted the Local Review Body Procedure.

Decided: that the contents of the Local Review Body Procedure be noted.

PLANNING APPLICATION - 25/00626/FUL – COMMERCIAL HORSE STABLES (TO ESTABLISH AN EQUESTRIAN BUSINESS) AND DWELLING WITH ANCILLARY DOMESTIC GARAGE AT LAND EAST OF MEDROX QUARRY MOLLINSBURN ROAD ANNATHILL

1. There were submitted: (1) a Notice of Review of the decision taken by the Chief Officer (Place) under delegated authority to refuse Planning Application 25/00626/FUL – Commercial Horse Stables (to establish an equestrian business) and Dwelling with Ancillary Domestic Garage at Land East of Medrox Quarry Mollinsburn Road Annathill; (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 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.

Councillor M. Coyle, seconded by Councillor S. Coyle moved that the application be granted with conditions.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved as an amendment to refuse the application based on concerns raised within the Planning Advisor's Background Report of housing being built on a green field site.

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

On the roll being called, four Members voted for the Motion as follows: -

Councillors Burgess, M. Coyle, S. Coyle and Docherty.

Four Members voted for the Amendment, as follows: -

Councillors Bustard, Hughes, Keltie and Robb.

On the votes being equal, the Convener exercised the casting vote and determined that the application be refused.

The Local Review Body having discussed and given consideration to various submissions and relevant policies of the Development Plan, determined that the proposed development is considered contrary to policy PP 4 POLICY Purpose of Place, AD 4 POLICY Amount of Development and equivalent National Planning Framework Policy 8 constituting the Development Plan, NLC Supplementary Planning Guidance SPG 07- Green Belt as no business is established at this location demonstrating the requirement for the proposed dwelling nor has the applicant demonstrated any special circumstances that require the construction of a dwelling at this greenbelt location.

Decided: that the application be refused and was deemed unacceptable in terms of the development plan as it does not meet the criteria set out in the relevant policies and other material considerations. It was considered that the proposed dwellinghouse and ancillary buildings associated with a business yet to be established at this location would not represent a development supported by the National Planning Framework Policies and the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan within the designated Greenbelt.

Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 10am

A Meeting of the **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McPake, Convener; Councillor Bustard, Vice Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Campbell, Carragher, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Dunbar, Fisher, Gray, Hughes, Jarvie, Jones, Keltie, Leckie, Logue, MacGregor, M. McCulloch, McKay, McKendrick, McVey, Mitchell, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Robinson, Shevlin, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs and Watson.

CHAIR

Councillor McPake (Convener) presided.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Costello, Roarty, Toner and Robb attended as substitutes for Councillors Harmon, Khan, Larson and Sullivan respectively.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Place), Business Finance Manager, Contracts Performance and Assurance Manager, Contract Support Manager, Housing Development Manager, Housing Solutions Managers, Investment Manager, Repairs and Maintenance Manager and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Harmon, Khan, Larson and Sullivan.

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

1. Councillor A. Stubbs, by virtue of their employment, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph eight "Community Safety Hub Performance and Development" and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

NEW SUPPLY PROGRAMME - OPEN MARKET PURCHASE SCHEME

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an overview on the progress of the Open Market Purchase Scheme; (2) explaining that the Scheme enables the Council to acquire privately owned properties, with a particular focus on public sector housing; (3) highlighting the impact and benefits gained from the scheme in assisting to increase housing supply and improve stock condition; and (4) informing that a further update would be submitted to the Committee in six months.

Decided:

- (1) that the Open Market Purchase Scheme's performance in helping to increase housing supply and improve the stock condition be acknowledged; and
- (2) that it be noted that a further update will be provided to the Committee in six months.

NEW SUPPLY PROGRAMME - FUTURE NEW BUILD SITES

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) seeking approval on the proposed inclusion and removal of development sites within the Council's new supply programme, aiming to deliver 6,000 homes by 2035; and (2) highlighting identified sites for inclusion in which further appraisal in evaluating the practical and financial viability of the site, including technical factors: (a) geotechnical and environmental conditions; (b) accessibility; and (c) legal considerations.

Decided:

- (1) that the inclusion of the proposed sites outlined in sections 2.1-2.2 and Appendix two of the report within the new supply programme be approved;
- (2) that demolition of flats at 332-376 Bellshill Road, Motherwell be approved; and
- (3) that demolition of flats at 296-376 Watson Street, Motherwell be approved.

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2025

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) advising on the progress made in delivering the strategic priorities and actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026; and (2) advising the Local Housing Strategy Annual Strategy Annual Progress report 2025 will be the fourth and final annual progress review for the 2021-2026 as a new interim Local Housing Strategy has been developed covering the period 2026-2028.

Decided: that the process made in the final annual report and the delivery of the actions set out in the Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026 be acknowledged.

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2026 – 2028

5. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) seeking approval on the new Local Housing Strategy covering a two year period (2026-2028), ; (2) highlighting that the new Local Housing Strategy covers a two-year period instead of a five-year period to align with the Housing Need and Demand Assessment process and the development of the new Local Development Plan; and (3) advising the governance arrangements for the ongoing monitoring and review of the strategy and that the annual progress reports will be reported to the Housing Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the development, consultation and involvement activity to develop the Local Housing Strategy be acknowledged;
- (2) that the Local Housing Strategy covers a two-year period instead of a five-year period to enable better alignment with the Housing Need and Demand Assessment process and the development of the new Local Development Plan for North Lanarkshire, be recognised;
- (3) that the Local Housing Strategy (action plan attached as an Appendix to the report and link to the Local Housing Strategy has been issued to members under separate cover due to the size of the document), be approved; and
- (4) that the governance arrangements for the ongoing monitoring and review of the strategy and that annual progress reports will be reported to Housing Committee be acknowledged.

HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (HAMP) 2026 – 2031

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) seeking approval of Homes for a Thriving Tomorrow, our Housing Asset Management Plan (HAMP) 2026-2031; (2) advising that the HAMP aligns with the Plan for North Lanarkshire and the seven pillars of the Programme of Work, alongside the Local Housing Strategy; and (3) providing the strategic framework to manage housing assets and future investment over the next five year.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be acknowledged; and
- (2) that Homes for a Thriving Tomorrow 2026-31 and associated Action Plan be approved.

LOCK - UP DEMOLITION

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) seeking approval to demolish lock-ups at various locations through North Lanarkshire.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing details of all lock-ups and garage reserve sites across North Lanarkshire, together with occupancy rates and an update on condition.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to remove lock-ups at various sites throughout North Lanarkshire from the rent accounting system and carry out selective demolition where possible be approved; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing details of all lock-ups and garage reserve sites across North Lanarkshire, together with occupancy rates and an update on condition.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor A. Stubbs having declared a connection, by virtue of their employment, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

COMMUNITY SAFETY HUB PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) providing an update on the performance and service development of the Community Safety Hub.

Decided: that the performance of the Community Safety Hub and recognition of the ongoing positive impact delivery of this service has across the communities of North Lanarkshire be acknowledged.

STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK - LATEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR HOUSING

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) providing an update a six-monthly update on the strategic performance indicators used for the Housing service for 2025/26; and (2) attaching as an appendix to the report, a high-level performance overview.

Following discussion, it was agreed to explore whether the performance targets for emergency repairs could be more ambitious.

Decided: that the high-level performance overview, as attached at Appendix one to the report and supporting data contained within the linked documents, be acknowledged.

HOUSING AND CORPORATE MAINTENANCE AND INVESTMENT SERVICES CONTRACT: INTERIM REPORT

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) setting out a mid-year Performance report on the implementation of the Housing and Corporate Maintenance and Investment Services Contract, undertaken by Mears LLP; (2) highlighting the operational performance for both Housing and Corporate repairs for the period from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025; and (3) highlighting the key achievements of the contract in first twelve months of operation, including the successful mobilisation of the contract, integration of a number of transition contracts and social value deliverables.

Following discussion, it was agreed that future reports to Committee contain the total number of complaints, the nature of the complaint and the percentage of complaints upheld, together with the overall budget being shown when setting out the contractual spend.

Decided:

- (1) that the operational performance of Mears Limited, the appointed Contractor to deliver the requirements of the Contract, for both Housing and Corporate repairs, covering the period from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the key Contract achievements in the first 12 months of operation, including the successful mobilisation of the Contract, integration of many transition contracts and Social Value deliverables be acknowledged.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT - 1 APRIL 2025 TO 2 JANUARY 2026

11. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) reviewing the progress towards agreed spending plans within the 2025/26 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programmes; and (2) intimating that all programmes are on target to fully spend at this stage of the financial year.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 HRA Capital Programme be acknowledged.

ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITIES - CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

12. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) highlighting the financial performance of the 2025/26 Enterprise and Communities' capital programme for the period up to 2 January 2026 (Period 10); (2) advising that, as at Period 10, the Service had reported a forecast of £5.561m less than current year programme, following approval of Strategic Capital Delivery Group on 23 October 2025 to reprofile a net £13.905m to future years; and (3) providing further explanation of project variances and management actions undertaken, as set out in the report and the accompanying Appendices.

During discussion on this matter, a number of questions were asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:

"Can a breakdown of the sources of the external funding of £7.48m be provided to Committee Members?" (Councillor Robinson).

"Can you confirm the funeral route to the new Pather cemetery?" (Councillor Burgess).

“Can details be provided regarding which project the ecological mitigation requirements the underspend relates to?” (Councillor Nolan).

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 Enterprise and Communities capital programme be acknowledged.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORT ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITIES

13. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) providing a financial performance of the Enterprise and Communities for the period from 1 April to 2 January 2026 (Period 10); (2) illustrating the projected outturn position as at 31 March 2026; (3) highlighting the major outturn variances and explained in accordance with the Council’s approved Financial Regulations; and (4) advising that the Service was currently projecting a break even position at this stage in the financial year.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 Enterprise and Communities revenue budget be acknowledged.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORT - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

14. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) providing a summary of the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account for the period from 1 April to 2 January 2026 (Period 10); (2) illustrating the projected outturn position as at 31 March 2026, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council’s financial regulations; (3) advising that the service was currently projecting an underspend of £0.101m with the anticipation that these savings will be fully delivered by the end of the financial year; and (4) outlining the additional funding as detailed at 2.7 of the submitted report to support the opportunity for the HRA capital Buy Back Scheme

Decided:

- (1) that the opportunity outlined in paragraph 2.7 to support the HRA capital Buy Back Scheme be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the financial position of the 2025/26 HRA revenue budget be acknowledged.

HRA CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2026/27 - 2030/31

15. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) seeking approval of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital five-year Investment Plan 2026/27-2030/31; and (2) outlining the £531.512 million five-year Mainstream HRA Capital Investment Plan 2026/27-2030/31 and £87.923 million Mainstream Housing Capital Programme 2026/27.

Decided:

- (1) that the HRA Capital five-year Investment Plan 2026/27 – 2030/31, as detailed at Appendix one to the submitted report, be approved; and
- (2) that the HRA Capital Programme 2026/27, as detailed at Appendix two to the submitted report, be endorsed.

FORMER TENANT ARREARS WRITE OFF TO 31 MARCH 2024

16. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) providing a summary of the outstanding Housing Rent debts deemed uncollectable following all attempts at recovery by the Housing Rents and Court teams or are considered uneconomically viable to continue
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pursing; (2) advising under delegated responsibilities to the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) and the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) the write off of £405,989.24; and (3) seeking approval to write off £3,828,768.80, including the individual debts greater than £500 and the credit balances that have arisen in some former tenancy rent accounts, totalling £30,326.12.

Decided:

- (1) that the decision of the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) and the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) to write off £405,989.24 under delegated responsibilities be acknowledged;
- (2) that the write off of £3,828,768.80 which includes individual debts greater than £500 be approved; and
- (3) that the write off of credit balances that have arisen in some former tenancy rent accounts, totalling £30,326.12 be approved.

NEW HOUSING SUPPLY PROGRAMME - PROCUREMENT UPDATE

17. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) providing an update on the current procurement activity relating to the new build programme by: (a) seeking approval to increase the budget from £4.5m, previously approved by Housing Committee, to £4.8m, for Bank Street Coatbridge to Cruden Limited up the value of £4.8m, including contingency allowance; (b) seeking approval of award of contract procured through a competitive tender under Scottish Procurement Alliance H2 New Build Housing Framework, for the conversion of former Municipal Buildings, Kildonan Street Coatbridge to social housing and office/civic accommodation as a value of £19.8m including contingency allowance; and (c) advising of the award of contract for new build social housing at Newton Drive, Newmains (35 units), to McTaggart Construction on 6 January 2026 at a value of £8,462,801.26.

During discussion on this matter, a number of questions were asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:

“Can a breakdown of the house type for the 35 units at Newton Drive, Newmains be provided?” (Councillor A. Stubbs).

“Can a breakdown of the demolition costs for the Bank Street, Coatbridge project be provided?” (Councillor A. Stubbs).

Councillor McPake, seconded by Councillor Bustard moved the recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor A. Stubbs, seconded by Councillor Robinson moved as an amendment:

“Approve recommendations one and three;

Does not approve recommendation two.”

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

12 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:

Councillors Ballinger, Carragher, Hughes, Jarvie, Keltie, MacGregor, Mitchell, Robb, Robinson, A. Stubbs, L. Stubbs and Toner.

23 Members voted for the Motion, as follows:

HOUSING COMMITTEE - 18 FEBRUARY 2026

Councillors Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Campbell, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Dunbar, Fisher, Gray, Jones, Logue, M. McCulloch, McKay, McKendrick, McPake, McVey, Patton, Quigley, Reddin, Roarty, Shevlin and Watson.

Two Members abstained, as follows:

Councillors Leckie and Nolan.

12 Members having voted for the Amendment, 23 Members having voted for the Motion and two Members having abstained, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that an increase in the budget of £4.5m, previously approved by the Housing Committee, to £4.8m, for the award of contract be procured through a Direct Award under the Scottish Procurement Alliance H2 New Build Housing Framework for Bank Street, Coatbridge to Cruden Limited up to the value of £4.8m, including contingency allowance be approved.
- (2) that the award of a contract, procured through a competitive tender under the Scottish Procurement Alliance H2 New Build Housing Framework, for Conversion of former Municipal Buildings, Kildonan Street, Coatbridge to social housing and office/civic accommodation at the value of £19.8m, including contingency allowance be approved.
- (3) that the award of contract for Newton Drive, Newmains (35 units), previously approved by the Housing Committee for new build social housing be awarded to McTaggart Construction on 6 January 2026 at a value of £8,462,801.26 be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD REPORT -SHERIFF OFFICER SERVICES 2026 – 2030

18. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities) seeking approval to award a contract for Sheriff Officer Services 2026 - 2030 in two Lots to Graham Stewart & Co LLP (Lot 1), and Malcolm J Boyd Sheriff Officers (Lot 2) at a maximum value of £880,000 exclusive of VAT across the Agreements' full term which is made up of an initial period of two years that is anticipated to commence on 1 April 2026, with the Council reserving the right to extend the Agreement for two additional 12 months periods up to a maximum of a further 24 months.

Decided: that the award of the contract to Graham Stewart & Co LLP (Lot 1), and Malcolm J Boyd Sheriff Officers (Lot 2) at the maximum value of Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Pounds Sterling (£880,000) exclusive of VAT across the Agreements' full term, which is made up of an initial period of two years that is anticipated to commence on 1 April 2026, with the Council reserving the right to extend the contract for two additional 12 month periods up to a maximum of a further 24 months be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR MTC FOR REPLACEMENT OF CONTROLLED DOOR ENTRY SYSTEMS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS; 2025 – 2029

19. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Housing and Communities): (1) seeking approval to award of the contract for MTC for replacement of Controlled Door Entry Systems and Associated Work 2025-2029 at a the maximum value of £7,000,000.00 exclusive of VAT for an initial period of 24 months anticipated to commence on 26 April 2026 with the Council reserving the right to extend the contract for additional periods of 2 x 12 months.

Decided: that the award of the contract for MTC for replacement of Controlled Door Entry Systems and Associated Work 2025-2029 to DM Integrated Ltd the ("Contractor") at the maximum value of £7,000,000.00 exclusive of VAT for an initial period of 24 months anticipated to commence on 26 April 2026 with the Council reserving the right to extend the contract for additional periods of 2 x 12 months be approved.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

20. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) intimating that the contracts highlighted within Appendix one to the report had been awarded by them 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.

20 February 2026 at 10am.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McVey, Convener; Councillor McKay, Vice-Convener; Councillors Bustard, Cairns, Currie, Docherty, Duffy-Lawson, Dunbar, Fotheringham, Goldie, Gray, Khan, Leckie, Masterton, B. McCulloch, Nolan and Robinson.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Fisher, Ballinger and Keltie attended as substitutes for Councillors McPake, Robb and Sullivan respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor McVey (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Place), Chief Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice), Active and Creative Communities Manager, City Deal Manager, Economic Analyst, Employability Support and Skills Development Business Manager, Enterprise Manager, Enterprise and Development Officer, Project Development Manager and Democratic Officer.

APOLOGIES

Councillors McPake, Robb and Sullivan.

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

1. Councillor Nolan, by virtue of a Council appointment to the Management Committee of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP and a Director of North Lanarkshire Property Investments Limited, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph six "Business and Industry Strategy Update" and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiency remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Councillors Fisher and Robinson by virtue of a Council appointment to the Management Committee of North Lanarkshire Properties LLP, as Directors of North Lanarkshire Property Investments Limited and a Directors of Fusion Assets, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph six "Business and Industry Strategy Update" and Paragraph seven "Lanarkshire AI Growth Zone" and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiency remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

CITY DEAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an update on the current status of North Lanarkshire City Deal Infrastructure Programme and subprojects; and (2) seeking agreement for the submission of the Eurocentral Strategic Active Travel Full business case for Phase 1 and 2 (covering routes from Holytown to Eurocentral and Whifflet Rail station to the M8 active travel route at Shawhead) to the Glasgow City Region.

Decided:

- (1) that the status and recent progress of North Lanarkshire City Deal infrastructure subprojects and revised programme be acknowledged; and
- (2) that for the submission of the Eurocentral Strategic Active Travel Full Business Case for Phase 1 and 2 (covering routes from Holytown to Eurocentral and from Whifflet rail station to the M8 active travel route at Shawhead) to the Glasgow City Region be approved.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION DELIVERY PLAN ACTION PLAN -2026/27

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) seeking approval for the North Lanarkshire's Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan (ERDP) Action Plan 2026/27; and (2) detailing that the progress against the 2025/26 Action Plan and wider ERDP Performance Framework will be presented to Enterprise and Fair Work Committee in Cycle three 2026.

Decided:

- (1) that the Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan (ERDP) Action Plan 2026/27, attached as an appendix to the report be approved; and
- (2) that an annual performance report detailing progress against the 2025/26 Action Plan and wider ERDP Performance Framework, to be presented to Enterprise & Fair Work Committee in Cycle three 2026, be acknowledged.

BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an update on the business grant funding programmes administered by the Council; and (2) highlighting plans for business support activity and delivery during 2026/27.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the activities undertaken to support business development and economic growth in North Lanarkshire, including delivery of business grant programmes be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the plans for business support activity and delivery during 2026/27 be endorsed.

HERITAGE LED REGENERATION PROJECTS

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) providing an overview of two projects currently underway with the support of Historic Environment Scotland and the National Lottery Heritage Fund; and (2) highlighting the work undertaken to support local community groups to celebrate local history.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress outlined across a number of key projects, using heritage principles to celebrate and restore key areas for the future benefit of all communities be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillors Nolan, Fisher and Robinson having declared a connection, by virtue of Council appointments, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY STRATEGY UPDATE

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an overview of the work undertaken by Ryden LLP in providing the assessment of the delivery of employment land supply; (2) detailing the development of a 10-year Business and Industry Strategy; and (3) highlighting the promotion in investing and growing businesses designed to support decision making on the future funding and land-use to inform the Local Development Plan.

The Enterprise Manager advised that the portfolio of properties detailed in the submitted report were owned by North Lanarkshire Properties LLP and Fusion Assets. The Enterprise Manager further advised that collaborative working between the organisations and the Council was progressing with the establishment of a working group which aligned to the relevant strategies.

Decided:

- (1) that the North Lanarkshire Business and Industry Strategy Update and Background Report, along with next steps be acknowledged; and
- (2) that a further report, including the finalised Strategy and action plan, be presented to Committee.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillors Fisher and Robinson having declared a connection, by virtue of Council appointments, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

LANARKSHIRE AI GROWTH ZONE

7. There was a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) detailing the benefits of the Lanarkshire AI Growth Zones following the recent announcement of North Lanarkshire as the location for Scotland's first AI Growth Zone; (2) highlighting the proposed £8.2bn investment including 3,400 jobs and a £543m Community Fund for North Lanarkshire; and (3) outlining the next steps the Council will take to maximise the benefits of the investment.

Decided:

- (1) that the update regarding the AI Growth Zone designation and the potential benefits the planned investment could bring to North Lanarkshire and its residents be acknowledged; and
- (2) that further updates will be presented to future committees, and through members' briefings as further details become available and proposals are developed, be noted.

ROUTES TO WORK ACTION PLAN - ALEO REVIEW

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice): (1) providing details of the assessments of the ALEO contributions in the delivery of the Council's Strategic priorities and the Plan for North Lanarkshire; and (2) providing the Action Plan taking forward the recommendation of the ALEO review for Routes to Work Ltd.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a Social Value study that was commissioned by Routes to Work and the University of the West of Scotland be shared with Elected Members.

Decided: that the Action Plan developed to take forward the recommendations of the ALEO Review for Routes to Work Ltd be acknowledged.

UK GOVERNMENT PRIDE IN PLACE FUNDING - UPDATE

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an update on the recent announcement by the UK Government confirming Pride of Place (Phase 2) funding for Motherwell (Forgewood, North Motherwell and Town Centre); and (2) proposing the approach in progressing with the appointment of a Chair and the suggested composition of the Neighbourhood Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of £19.6m Pride in Place funding for Motherwell (Forgewood, North Motherwell and Town centre) and the arrangements required to be put in place to secure and deliver the investment be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the approach to progressing with the appointment of a Chair and the suggested composition of the Neighbourhood Board required be put in place in line with Pride in Place Programme guidance, be endorsed.

Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 10am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor Quigley, Vice Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Bustard, Hughes, McVey, Robb, Shields, Thomas, and Watson.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); Solicitor (Litigation); Democratic Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Licensing Standards Officer.

Sergeant Ross Edgar, North Lanarkshire Licensing and Partnership Liaison Officer, Police Scotland.

In respect of paragraph three – Carol Cullen.

In respect of paragraph four – Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum.

In respect of paragraph five – Muhammad Ihtsham Syed and Muhammad Siddique.

APOLOGIES

Councillor Docherty.

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

1. The Committee noted there were no declarations.

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 three and six of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REQUEST FOR REVOCATION/SUSPENSION OF TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE – AHMED SAJJAD SIDDIQUE

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of a complaint in terms of Paragraph 11(2) (a) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, from the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Ahmed Sajjad Siddique, who currently holds a Taxi Driver's Licence and Private Hire Car Licence.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advised that Ahmed Sajjad Siddique was not in attendance and had been properly cited to attend with guidance on the importance of attending the meeting personally or being legally or otherwise represented and further advised of correspondence received from McQuillan, Glasser and Waughman Solicitors and in addition, an email from the Licence Holder which was circulated.

Councillor McLaren, seconded by Councillor Thomas proposed that the matter proceed in the absence of Ahmed Sajjad Siddique.

Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved as an amendment that the matter should be continued to allow Ahmed Sajjad Siddique a further opportunity to attend.

On a vote being taken, nine members having voted for the Motion and three members having voted for the Amendment, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar outline the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's complaint in respect of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that in terms of Paragraph 11 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division, relative to Ahmed Sajjad Siddique, in respect of the Taxi Driver's Licence and Private Hire Car Licences, be upheld; and
- (2) that the Taxi Driver's Licence and the Private Hire Car Licences be suspended with immediate effect, for the unexpired duration of the licences.

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A TAXI DRIVER'S LICENCE – CAROL CULLEN

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) regarding: (1) an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Carol Cullen; and (2) a representation on the application received from the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division.

The Committee heard Sergeant Edgar outline the Local Policing Commander, Lanarkshire Division's representation and Carol Cullen speak in respect of the matter.

Sergeant Edgar, Carol Cullen and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting.

Sergeant Edgar, Carol Cullen and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Carol Cullen for the Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence, be renewed for three years.

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE

(1) JAMSHED IQBAL KHAN BAGUM

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) attaching: (1) an application from Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence together with the Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advised that Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

Thereon, the Committee head Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum speak in respect of the application for renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Jamshed Iqbal Khan Bagum for the renewal of their Private Hire Car Licence, be refused.

(2) MUHAMMAD IHTSHAM SYED

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): attaching (1) an application from Muhammad Ihtsham Syed to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence together with the Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advised that Muhammad Ihtsham Syed did not have an age compliant vehicle in accordance with the Council's vehicle specification.

Thereon, the Committee head Muhammad Ihtsham Syed and Muhammad Siddique speak in respect of the application for renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, Muhammad Ihtsham Syed and Muhammad Siddique and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Muhammad Ihtsham Syed and Muhammad Siddique and the Licensing Standards Officer were readmitted to the meeting.

Decided: that the application by Muhammad Ihtsham Syed for the renewal of their Private Hire Car Licence, be refused.

24 February 2026 at 2pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor M. McCulloch, Convener; Councillor Baudo, Vice Convener; Councillors, Barclay, Boyd, Burgess, Goldie, Jones, Kelly, Keltie, Leckie, McCrory, B. McCulloch, McKendrick, Quigley, Shevlin, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Toner, Wilson and Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillor Hughes attended as substitute on behalf of Councillor Larson.

CHAIR

Councillor M. McCulloch (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Adult Social Work Service), Chief Officer Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice), Chief Officer (University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire), Chief Finance Officer (University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire), Chief Officer (Adult Social Work Service), Business Finance Manager and Democratic Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillors Larson and MacGregor.

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.

There was a presentation to Committee providing information on the Audit Scotland Reports - Delayed Discharges and Community Health and Social Care.

AUDIT SCOTLAND'S REPORT DELAYED DISCHARGES: A SYMPTOM OF THE CHALLENGES FACING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Performance, Planning and Quality Assurance): (1) providing an update on the publication of Audit Scotland's report Delayed Discharged: A symptom of the challenges facing health and social care; and (2) outlining the key findings along with the Council's and Health and Social Care Partnership's response.

Decided: that the report be endorsed.

AUDIT SCOTLAND'S REPORT INTO COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE: PERFORMANCE 2025

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Performance, Planning and Quality Assurance): (1) providing an update on the publication of Audit Scotland's report into Community Health and Social

ADULT CARE AND SOCIAL WORK - 24 FEBRUARY 2026

Care: Performance 2025; and (2) outlining the key findings along with the Council's and Health and Social Care Partnership's response.

During discussion on this matter, questions were asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting: -

"In relation to the percentage delayed discharge reason, can the figures and the impact be provided?" (Councillor Barclay).

"Can percentage figures of the number of Power of Attorneys be advised? (Councillor Barclay).

Decided: that the approach to continue to use the Audit Scotland interactive data tool to compare performance with other areas, to understand and explain relative performance in term of local context, priorities, policy and operational decisions and to analyse performance along local data to support benchmarking, self-assessment and the development of improvement plans, be endorsed.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 2 2025/26

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership): (1) providing an update on the latest results of the strategic performance indicators used for Adult Health and Social Care for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 (Quarter 2 2025/26); and (2) attaching as Appendices to the report, areas for improvement and an overview of planned actions.

Decided:

- (1) that the improvement actions included within Appendix two of the report, be endorsed; and
(2) that the performance of key areas of activity within Appendix one of the report, be acknowledged.

REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT: ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERIOD 09: 01/04/2025 TO 05/12/2025

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Planning, Performance and Quality Assurance): (1) providing a summary of the financial performance of the Health and Social Care Partnership– North Lanarkshire (Adult Social Care & Housing) for the period from 1 April to 5 December 2025 Period 9; and (2) illustrating the projected outturn forecasts for the financial year ending 31 March 2026, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's financial regulations.

Decided: that the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership– North Lanarkshire (Adult Social Care & Housing) revenue budget be noted.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement): intimating that the contracts highlighted within Appendix one to the report had been awarded by them 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.

Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 2pm.

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

PRESENT

Councillor McBride, Convener; Councillor McCrory, Vice Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Barclay, Beveridge, Boyd, Brannan-McVey, Burgess, Bustard, Costello, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Currie, Dunbar, Fotheringham, Gray, Hughes, Jarvie, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Jones, Kelly, Logue, Loughran, Masterton, McDade, McKay, McKendrick, McPake, McPhilemy, Mitchell, Reddin, A. Stubbs and Toner.
Mr. G. McCormick and Ms. M. McCrossan.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors Robinson and Patton attended as substitutes for Councillors Larson and McDade respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor McBride (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Community Operations), Chief Officer (Education – North), Chief Officer (Education – South), Business Finance Manager (Resources), Business Manager (Fleet), Education Project Manager, Hub Strategy Manager, Senior Education and Families Managers, Education and Families Manager, Principal Solicitor (Litigation), and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Duffy-Lawson, Larson, McDade, Wilson and Ms. M. Clarkson.

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

1. Councillor Bustard, by virtue of a close family member being a Company Director of one of the companies who submitted a tender, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph ten “Contract Award report - Flexible Framework for Vocational & Skills Based Interventions 2026-2030” and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE AND THIRD RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

2. The Convener advised that this item had been continued.

TRANSFORMING PLACES - TOWN AND COMMUNITY HUB PROGRAMME SIX MONTHLY UPDATE ON PROGRESS

3. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Assts and Procurement): (1) providing an update of the Town and Community Hub Delivery Programme along with status of each project; and (2)

advising that the information provided was in line with The Plan for North Lanarkshire and the associated Programmes of Works.

Decided: that the position of each of the projects in the current Town and Community Hub Delivery Programme be acknowledged.

2026 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY PLACING REQUESTS & EXCLUSIONS

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education - North): (1) providing an update on North Lanarkshire Council's Admission process, in particular, the legal basis, practical procedures and current challenges; (2) outlining the appeals process for both placing requests and exclusions; (3) proposing to increase school admission capacity for Dalziel High School to 80%; (4) seeking approval to consult on the new admission policy; and (5) advising that a future paper on exclusions and exclusion appeal processes will be submitted.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be endorsed;
- (2) that the proposed change to Dalziel High School capacity to 80% be approved;
- (3) that a consultation on a new Admission Policy be approved; and
- (4) that a future paper on exclusions and exclusions appeal processes be endorsed.

STRENGTHENING INCLUSION - NEXT STEPS

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education – South): (1) outlining the five-year Additional Support Needs (ASN) provision transformation programme (2019-2024), enacted through the ASN Implementation Plan; (2) seeking approval for revised approach towards ASN provision focused around six key priorities: (a) expansion of enhanced support provision; (b) the redesignation of ASN provision to a three-tier model; (c) a one-year pilot, within St Margaret's of Scotland Primary Language and Communication Support Centre, which will extend the current model from Primary 1-3 to Primary 1-7; (d) strategic 5-year capital plan and feasibility study for a bespoke ASN establishment; (e) realignment of Early Years provision; and (f) review of Empowering Clusters; and (3) highlighting that all actions will be undertaken within available ASN budgets.

During discussion on this matter, questions were asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:-

"Do you have the number of teachers who work between ASN schools and mainstream schools?" (Councillor Barclay).

"Can a comparison of the Council's percentage of 40.9% be provided against other Scottish Local Authorities?" (Councillor Burgess).

Councillor Ballinger, seconded by Councillor A. Stubbs, moved as an Amendment: -

"Additional recommendation:-

Agrees a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee exploring options for further additional enhanced learning provision within secondary schools to ensure that provision is not overly concentrated in a single locality, with the report to include details of any associated capital and revenue costs.

The report should also consider primary and secondary school catchment areas to ensure that any proposed locations reflect existing patterns of enrolment, local need and accessibility."

The Amendment was unanimously agreed.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised approach towards ASN provision focused around the six key priorities be approved;
- (2) that the extension of the Enhanced Learning Provision to an additional three primary schools and three secondary schools be approved;
- (3) that the redesignation of ASN provision to a three-tier model be approved;
- (4) that a temporary one-year pilot, within St Margaret's of Scotland Primary Language and Communication Support Centre, extending the current model from Primary 1-3 to Primary 1-7 be approved;
- (5) that a feasibility study/business case be undertaken in the provision of a bespoke ASN educational facility within North Lanarkshire with a further report presented to Committee on the outcome be approved;
- (6) that the proposal to realign Early Years Provision with a further report to be submitted to Committee outlining the detail and final recommendations be acknowledged;
- (7) that the review of the current Empowering Clusters Model with a further report to be brought back to Committee outlining the key proposals be acknowledged;
- (8) that all actions will be undertaken within available ASN budgets be acknowledged; and
- (9) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of Committee exploring options for further additional enhanced learning provision within secondary school to ensure that provision is not overly concentrated in a single locality, with the report to include details of any associated capital and review costs, together with consideration of primary and secondary school catchment areas to ensure that any proposed locations reflect existing patterns or enrolment local need and accessibility.

PERFORMANCE UPDATE

6. There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Officer (Education - North) and Chief Officer (Education - South): (1) providing an update on the performance from last session (2024-25), across key measures including: (a) attainment within the broad general education; (b) attendance and exclusion; and (c) teacher numbers and pupil teacher ratio; and (2) providing a summary of His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Care Inspectorate Inspection Outcomes for session 2024-25.

Decided: that the various updates contained within the paper be endorsed.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice): (1) outlining the annual report of the Community Payback Orders (CPOs) being submitted to the Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland; (2) providing an overview of service delivery, performance, key issues and outcomes relating to Community Payback; (3) detailing information on the impact on individuals who are subject to CPOs and on tangible benefits provided through this Court disposal to the local Communities; and (4) highlighting the positive contribution of Community Payback to communities, alongside challenges associated with rising complexity of need, mental health demand, poverty, and public protection responsibilities.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2024/25 be endorsed; and
- (2) that the contribution of Justice Services and partners in delivering Community Payback Orders which support community safety, reduce reoffending, and provide effective alternatives to custody be acknowledged.

FOSTER CARER FEES AND ALLOWANCES

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Children, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice): (1) providing an update on current arrangements for the payment of fostering allowances and fostering fees; and (2) seeking approval for changes to the fostering fee structure.

Decided: that the implementation of a standard fostering fee and cessation of the current competency scheme as detailed at paragraph 2.4 of the submitted report, be approved.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education - North): (1) providing a summary of the financial performance of the Education, Children and Families Service for the period from 1 April 2025 to 2 January 2026 (Period 10), and (2) illustrating the projected outturn position as at 31 March 2026, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained as per the Council's financial regulations.

Decided:

- (1) that the financial position of the Education, Children and Families revenue budget be noted; and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Bustard having declared a connection, by virtue of a close family member being a Company Director for one of the companies proposed for tender, left the meeting during consideration of the item.

CONTRACT AWARD REPORT - FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR VOCATIONAL & SKILLS BASED INTERVENTIONS 2026 – 2030

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Education – North): (1) seeking approval to award a contract for the Framework Agreement for Vocational and Skills Based Interventions and appointment of the Contractors listed within Appendix one of the submitted report, for the value of the call-offs under the Framework Agreement that shall not exceed £5m, exclusive of VAT across the Framework Agreement's full term; and (2) advising that the contract was anticipated to commence on 4 May 2026 for a period of four years, with no option to extend.

Decided: that the contract for the Vocational and Skills Based Interventions be awarded to the Contractors listed within Appendix one of the submitted report, for the value of the call-offs under the Framework Agreement that shall not exceed £5m, exclusive of VAT across the Framework Agreement's full term, with an anticipated commencement date of 4 May 2026 for a period of four years with no option to extend.

CONTRACT AWARD REPORT FOR THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR AD - HOC MINIBUS & COACH HIRE

11. There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Officer (Education – North) and Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) seeking approval to award a contract for the Framework Agreement for Ad-Hoc Minibus and Coach Hire to the 12 Contractors as detailed in Appendix one to the submitted report, for a maximum value of £1.6m exclusive of VAT across the Framework Agreement’s full term; and (2) advising that the contract was anticipated to commence on 1 May 2026 for a period of 48 months, with no option to extend.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting:-

“Can confirmation be advised on how organisations are accredited as a Living Wage Employer?” (Councillor Barclay).

The Chief Officer (Community Operations) updated Committee, advising that the contract for Lot 3 had also been awarded to Parks of Hamilton (Coach Hires) Limited.

Decided: that the contract for the Ad-Hoc Minibus and Coach Hire be awarded to the 12 Contractors as detailed in Appendix one to the submitted report, subject to the aforementioned inclusion that Lot 3 award included Parks of Hamilton (Coach Hires) Limited, for a maximum value of £1.6m exclusive of VAT across the Framework Agreement’s full term; with an anticipated to commence on 1 May 2026 for of a period of 48 months, with no option to extend.

CONTRACT AWARDS BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

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

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

Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 10AM.

A Meeting of the **FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor B McCulloch, Convener; Councillor McDade, Vice Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Beveridge, Carragher, Costello, S. Coyle, Currie, Duffy, Fisher, Hume, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, MacGregor, Masterton, McLaren, McPake, McPhilemy, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Roarty, Robinson, Shields, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner, Watson and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A), Councillors Jones, Goldie and McCrory attended as substitutes on behalf of Councillors Boyd, Larson and Woods respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor B McCulloch (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement), Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Chief Officer (People Resources), Business Finance Manager, Finance Manager, Group Manager (Estates), Legal Manager (Governance and Information), Principal Solicitor (Information Governance), Principal Solicitor (Property), Group Manager (Estates), Procurement and Support Manager and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Boyd, Larson and Woods.

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

1. Councillor Watson, by virtue of being a shareholder in a successful contractor referenced in the report, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of Paragraph 19 “Contracts awarded below Committee approval threshold” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiency remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY - MONDAY 15 JUNE 2026

2. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (People Resources): (1) advising that on the 5 January 2026, the First Minister, John Swinney announced an intention to mark Scotland’s qualification for the men’s World Cup finals, their first appearance since 1998, by designating Monday 15 June 2026 as a national bank holiday, which received Royal Assent on Thursday, 5 February 2026; (2) acknowledging concerns raised about the disruption such a holiday would cause to children’s education, given existing pressures on learning time and attendance; (3) intimating that COSLA indicated that they will defer to individual Local Authorities as employer to make the final decision; and

(4) recommending that the Council do not recognise Monday, 15 June 2026 as a bank holiday, for the reasons outlined in the report.

Councillor D Johnston, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved as an Amendment:-

“Add the following recommendation:

5) Notes that the recent SNP Budget for 2026/27 included funding to support an additional bank holiday on Monday 15 June, a proposal that was unfortunately not endorsed by the Council at its meeting on 26 February 2026.”

The Amendment was unanimously agreed.

Decided:

- (1) that First Minister’s designation that Monday 15 June 2026 be adopted as an additional bank holiday and that this has received Royal Assent be acknowledged;
- (2) that Monday 15 June 2026 will not be recognised as a public holiday for North Lanarkshire Council employees, for the reasons outlined in the report be agreed;
- (3) that alternative arrangements that will be made available to employees to support their participation wherever possible be acknowledged;
- (4) that the wider facilities being considered for the local community to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy Scotland’s participation in the World Cup be acknowledged; and
- (5) that it be noted that the recent SNP Budget for 2026/27 included funding to support an additional bank holiday on Monday 15 June, a proposal that was unfortunately not endorsed by the Council at its meeting on 26 February 2026 be noted.

ANNUAL DATA PROTECTION COMPLIANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

3. There was a report submitted by Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing a comprehensive and strategic assessment of North Lanarkshire Council’s performance and compliance with its statutory protection and information governance obligations during the financial year 2024/25; and (2) setting out a strategic insight into emerging legislative frameworks, technological enablers and organisations trends what will influence the Council’s information governance practices over the next three to five years.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council’s data protection and information governance performance during 2024/25, including improvements achieved and areas requiring further development be acknowledged;
- (2) that the statutory roles, responsibilities, and assurance provided by the Senior Information Risk Owner and the Data Protection Officer be acknowledged;
- (3) that the ongoing and planned improvement actions be acknowledged, including:
 - (a) strengthened breach reporting and incident response processes;
 - (b) continued emphasis on mandatory training and staff awareness across all Council services;
 - (c) updated and enhanced policies, guidance and internal awareness campaigns;

- (d) targeted training and support in higher-risk Service areas; and
 - (e) enhanced monitoring, reporting and senior oversight of Subject Access Request performance.
- (4) that the incorporation of forward-looking, evidence-based strategies to anticipate and adapt to evolving regulatory requirements, technological innovations, and emerging data governance risks be acknowledged;
- (5) that further development and refinement of information governance processes, including reviewing performance indicators, enhancing Schedule 2 request management, improving Data Protection Impact Assessments and Data Sharing Agreements, providing targeted training, updating guidance materials, and ensuring ongoing staff support be acknowledged; and
- (6) that information governance improvement remains a corporate priority and is embedded within service planning, digital transformation, and risk management arrangements be acknowledged.

SENIOR INFORMATION RISK OFFICER (SIRO) - INFORMATION GOVERNANCE - ASSURANCE AND PERFORMANCE INTERIM REPORT

4. There was a report submitted by Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing assurance that the Council's information governance, data protection and information security arrangements remain effective, proportionate and appropriate, overseen from the period between January to March 2025; and (2) transitioning the calendar-year Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) reporting cycle to align to the financial year (April to March), in line with other corporate governance, risk and assurance reports; and (3) detailing that from April 2025, the statutory role of SIRO transferred from the Chief Officer (Business and Digital) to the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) which strengthens alignment between information governance, legal compliance and corporate assurance and future SIRO reports will reflect the revised governance structure.

Decided:

- (1) that the assurance provided by the SIRO in respect of the Council's information governance, data protection and information security arrangements for the period between January to March 2025 be acknowledged;
- (2) that the transition to annual SIRO reporting on a financial-year basis from 2025/26 onwards be agreed;
- (3) that the assurance-based reporting approach adopted within the interim report be endorsed; and
- (4) that delivery of the Digital North Lanarkshire Programme of Work continues to provide a significant opportunity to strengthen information governance, cyber security and data management maturity during 2025/26 be acknowledged.

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2026/27

5. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement): (1) explaining that, in order to comply with procurement legislation, the Council prepares and publishes a Procurement Strategy on an annual basis; (2) outlining the evolution of the Procurement Strategy to produce a new version to cover the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027; (3) detailing, in Appendix one to the report, the refinements to the Procurement Strategy; and (4) advising that the Council was required

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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 content of the report be approved;
- (2) that the publication of the Procurement Strategy 2026/27 be endorsed; and
- (3) that the requirement to share a copy of the approved Procurement Strategy with Scottish Ministers be acknowledged.

LAND REALLOCATION - FORMER ST MARY'S SCHOOL, HILL STREET, CALDERCRUIX ML6 7PZ

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) seeking approval to transfer land held by Education and Families at the former St Mary's School site, Hill Street, Caldercruix, to Planning and Regeneration for inclusion in the new build programme, as detailed in the terms at section 2.2 2 of the submitted report.

Decided:

- (1) that the land transfer of a site at Hill Street, Caldercruix from Education and Families to Planning and Regeneration to the new build programme, as detailed in the terms at Section 2.2 of the report, be approved; and
- (2) that all other terms and conditions to be adjusted by the Chief Officer (Assets & Procurement) be acknowledged.

REVENUES AND BENEFITS UPDATE

7. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) providing an update on the performance within the Revenues and Benefits functions of Finance and Technology as at 31 December 2025.

Decided: that the contents of the report be acknowledged.

REVENUE MONITORING REPORT COUNCIL SUMMARY 1 APRIL 2025 TO 2 JANUARY 2026

8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) providing an update on the overall position of the General Fund Account, Housing Revenue Account and Adult Health and Social Care for financial year as at 31 March 2026; (2) consolidating the budget monitoring position of all Services; (3) highlighting and explaining major variances as per the Council's approved Financial Regulations; and (4) summarising the reported position of the Council's Arm Length External Organisations, North Lanarkshire Properties, Fusion Assets and Routes to Work.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget be acknowledged.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT; CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE 1 APRIL 2025 TO 2 JANUARY 2026 (PERIOD 10)

9. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) providing a summary of the Chief Executive's Service financial performance for the period from 1 April to 2 January 2026 (Period 10), and (2) illustrating the provisional outturn as at 31 March 2026, with major outturn variances highlighted and explained per the Council's approved Financial Regulations.

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 Chief Executive's Service Revenue Budget be acknowledged.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 MONITORING REPORT

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) providing an update on the 2025/26 resources and expenditure for the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme; and (2) detailing the 2025/26 projected outturn position and the resultant variances.

Decided: that the financial position of the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme, as at 2 January 2026, be acknowledged.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE - CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT 1 APRIL 2025 TO 2 JANUARY 2026 (PERIOD 10)

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) highlighting the financial performance and projected outturn of the 2025/26 Chief Executive's Service Capital Programme for the period ended 2 January 2026 (Period 10).

Decided: that the financial position of the 2025/26 Chief Executive's Service Capital Programme be acknowledged.

REVIEW OF 2025/26 TO 2027/28 BUDGET SAVINGS

12. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) providing an update on the achievement of the three-year financial savings total of £8.326m, approved as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.

Decided: that the contents of the report be acknowledged.

LOCAL TAXATION DEBT WRITE-OFF 2025/26

13. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) presenting a summary of outstanding local taxation accounts which were deemed uncollectible following all attempts at recovery; and (2) indicating that, in accordance with financial guidelines, a provision for credit losses had previously been established for the outstanding accounts; and (3) recommending the write off in 2025/26 is £3,586,287.97.

Decided:

(1) that the decision of the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) to write off £982,058.33 for debts under £500 under delegated responsibilities be acknowledged; and

(2) that the write-off of all items over £500 to the value of £2,604,229.64 be approved.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

14. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) explaining that the report fulfilled 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 of the quarterly treasury management activity for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2025, together with compliance with the mandatory Treasury and Prudential Indicators.
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Decided: that Treasury Management activity for the quarter ending 31 December 2025, including the performance against the key treasury and prudential indicators, be acknowledged.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2026/2027 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2026/2027 TO 2030/2031

15. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology) indicating that the report fulfils the key requirements of the Local Government Act 2003 to: (a) outline the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27 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 2026/2027 be approved and that the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2026/2027 to 2030/2031, set out within Appendix one to the report, be adopted; and
- (2) that the Treasury Management Strategy 2026/27 be remitted to the Council for approval.

FUTURE OF COUNCIL TAX IN SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION

16. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) detailing that the Scottish Government launched a consultation on the future of Council Tax in Scotland on 27 October 2025; (2) highlighting that the consultation aimed to explore the view on how the Council Tax system could be made fairer and more up to date; (3) exploring the different models in relation to the revaluation of properties, adjusting tax bands and introducing protection to help households manage any financial impact; and (4) advising the consultation had been considered and submitted outwith the Committee cycles with the response submitted to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Council by the deadline of 30 January 2026.

Decided: that the submission of the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the Future of Council Tax in Scotland as set out in Appendix one be acknowledged.

POSTAL CONTRACT VARIATION

17. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) notifying of the postal services contract which commenced on 1 January 2024 and is due to conclude on 30 June 2026; (2) advising the expenditure levels are anticipated to exceed the contract award levels by greater than 5% of £25,000; (3) highlighting a significant rise in postal costs that have contributed to additional postal spend to those not previously outlined as within scope for the Hybrid, Planned/Bulk Mail contact; and (4) advising the anticipated total spend to the contract end in June 2026 is expected to be in the region of £2,431,755.85, with all cost met through existing budgets.

Decided: that the content of the report and the accompanying Appendix, be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR PROVISION OF LAN/SAN HARDWARE SUPPLY & MAINTENANCE 2026-2029

18. There was submitted a report by Chief Officer (Finance and Technology): (1) regarding the award of the contract for the Provision of LAN/SAN Hardware Supply & Maintenance 2026-2029, in accordance with the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, to Virgin Media Business Limited, at a maximum value of £7,994,000 exclusive of VAT; and (2) advising that the contract was anticipated to commence on 1 April 2026 for a period of 36 months.

Decided: that the contract for the Provision of LAN / SAN Hardware Supply & Maintenance 2026-2029 be awarded to Virgin Media Business Limited at a maximum value of £7,994,000 exclusive of VAT for a period of 36 months with an anticipated commencement date of 1 April 2026.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Watson having declared a connection, by virtue of being a shareholder in a successful contractor referenced in the report, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

CONTRACT AWARDS BELOW COMMITTEE APPROVAL THRESHOLD

19. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets & Procurement) intimating that the contracts highlighted within Appendix one to the report had been awarded by them 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.

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 nine of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

LAND ACQUISITION

20. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) in relation to a matter considered to be commercially sensitive.

Councillor B. McCulloch, seconded by Councillor Duffy moved the recommendations within the submitted report.

Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Currie moved as an Amendment which amended recommendation one, which was unanimously agreed.

Councillor D Johnston, seconded by Councillor Robinson, moved a further amendment.

Thereon, in terms of Standing Order 39, the vote was taken by calling the roll between the Motion and the Amendment second received.

14 Members voted for the Amendment, as follows:

Councillors Ballinger, Carragher, Goldie, Hume, D. Johnston, T. Johnston, MacGregor, Masterton, Robinson, L. Stubbs, Sullivan, Thomas, Toner and Williams.

21 Members voted for the Motions, as follows:

Councillors Beveridge, Costello, Currie, Duffy, Fisher, Jones, Kelly, Khan, Logue, Loughran, McCrory, B. McCulloch, McDade, McLaren, McPake, McPhilemy, Nolan, Patton, Quigley, Roarty and Watson.

14 Members having voted for the Amendment, 21 Members having voted for the Motion, the Motion was accordingly declared carried.

Decided: that the recommendations contained within the submitted report be approved, subject to recommendation one being updated to reflect the amendment first received.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

21. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement) in relation to a matter considered to be commercially sensitive.

Decided: that the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

5 March 2026 at 10am

A Meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Shevlin, Convener; Councillor Currie, Vice-Convener; Councillors Beveridge, Burgess, Bustard, Cairns, M. Coyle, S. Coyle, Docherty, Duffy-Lawson, Fisher, Hughes, Jarvie, T. Johnston, Keltie, Logue, Loughran, McLaren, McManus, McPake, Mitchell, Robb, Smith and Woods.

CHAIR

Councillor Shevlin (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Officer (Place), Planning and Place Manager, Planning Manager (Invest NL), Planning Manager (Local Development), Senior Planning Officer and Democratic Officer.

APOLOGY

Councillor McVey.

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 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.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT CHARTER REVIEW 2026

3. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) advising that the Council's Planning Enforcement Charter is now two years old and has been reviewed; and (2) seeking approval of the Planning Enforcement Charter, attached at Appendix A to the submitted report.

Decided: that the revised Planning Enforcement Charter, attached at Appendix A to the submitted report be approved.

UPDATE TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) ON EDUCATION CONTRIBUTIONS

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an update to the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Education Contributions to ensure that developer contribution rates remain accurate; (2) detailing that the 2026 review incorporates the latest build cost data from completed education projects; and (3) advising the adjustment contributions will be applied to all relevant planning applications along with being subject to indexation.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates to the cost metrics, appendices and proposed text amendments to the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Education Contributions be acknowledged;
- (2) that an updated Supplementary Planning Guidance for Education Contributions be prepared and published be agreed; and
- (3) that future updates to the cost metrics and school capacity forecasts in the guidance for developer contributions be made on an annual basis be agreed.

NOTICE OF PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT NOTICE APPEALS DECISIONS

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place) advising of recent decisions in respect of planning and enforcement notice appeals.

Decided: that the report be noted.

PLANNING - 5 MARCH 2026

Application No: 24/01250/PPP
Applicant: Macrocom (1023) Ltd
Development/Locus: Residential Development with Associated Accesses and Roads, Car Parking, Landscaping and Associated Development (In Principle) Land At Rydenmains Road Glenmavis
Decision: Grant (P)

Application No: 25/00603/FUL
Applicant: Miller Homes Ltd
Development/Locus: Erection of Residential Development and Associated Works Site At Langmuir Road Bargeddie
Decision: Grant (P)

(P)

24/01250/PPP - legal agreement required in relation to education contribution

25/00603/FUL - legal agreement required in relation to education contribution and provision of a public footpath

Tuesday, 10 March 2026 at 10am.

A Meeting of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor McLaren, Convener; Councillor Quigley, Vice-Convener; Councillors Ballinger, Baudo, Beveridge, Bustard, Docherty, McVey, Robb, Thomas and Watson.

CHAIR

Councillor McLaren (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Solicitor (Licensing), Solicitor (Litigation), Democratic Officer and Administrative Officer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Licensing Standards Officer.
In respect of paragraph three – David Bow

APOLOGIES

Sergeant Ross Edgar, North Lanarkshire Licensing and Partnership Liaison Officer (Police Scotland).

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

1. It was 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 items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs three and six of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A TAXI DRIVER LICENCE – STEVEN JAMES GALLACHER

2. The Solicitor (Licensing) advised that this item had been continued, following consultation with the Convener, to a future meeting.

APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE – DAVID BOW

3. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic) advising of: (1) an application from David Bow to renew their Private Hire Car Licence; and (2) the specifications required for a Private Hire Car Licence along with a Private Hire Car Licence Schedule of Conditions.

The Committee heard David Bow speak in respect of the application for their renewal of the Private Hire Car Licence.

Thereafter, David Bow and the Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting and the Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Decided: that the application for the Renewal of Private Hire Car Licence by David Bow, be granted for a period of twelve months, effective from the expiry date of the existing licence.

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVERS LICENCE – ALEXANDRU IACOB

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic); advising of (1) an application from Alexandru Iacob for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence; and (2) an extract of the minutes of the meetings of the Finance and Resources Committee stipulating the requirement that all applicants for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence are required to sit and pass a knowledge test.

The Solicitor (Licensing) advised that Alexandru Iacob was not in attendance and had been properly cited with guidance on the importance of attending the meeting personally or being legally or otherwise represented, and further advised that Mr Iacob had failed to complete a knowledge test since lodging the application on 24 November 2025.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed that consideration of the matter should proceed in the absence of Alexandru Iacob.

The Licensing Standards Officer withdrew from the meeting to allow the members to consider the matter. Subsequently, the Licensing Standards Officer was readmitted to the meeting

Decided: that the application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence by Alexandru Iacob, be refused.

Thursday, 19 March 2026 at 2.00pm.

A Meeting of the POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Logue, Convener; Councillors Fisher and Roarty, Vice Convener; Councillors Barclay, Beveridge, Brannan-McVey, Campbell, Carragher, M. Coyle, Duffy, Goldie, D. Johnston, Leckie, Loughran, McBride, Nolan, Robinson, Smith, A. Stubbs, Sullivan, Watson and Woods.

ALSO PRESENT

In accordance with Standing Order 64(A) Councillors B. McCulloch and Bustard attended as substitutes for Councillors Costello and McPake respectively.

CHAIR

Councillor Logue (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive, Chief Officer University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire, Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement), Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice and Integrated Practice), Chief Officer (Education – North), Chief Officer (Education – South), Chief Officer (Finance and Technology), Chief Officer (Housing and Communities), Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic), Active and Creative Communities Manager, Brighter Futures Manager, Enterprise Development Manager, Enterprise Manager, Information Risk Manager, Principal Solicitor (Social Care), Strategic Communication Manager and Democratic Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Costello, McManus and McPake.

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

1. Councillor Duffy, by virtue of being a Board Member of Routes to Work Limited, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph six “UK Government Local Growth Funding” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Councillor Smith, by virtue of being involved in the initial discussions regarding the submission of the bid, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph ten “UK Town of Culture” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Councillor Brannan-McVey, by virtue of being involved in discussions with Community Groups, declared a connection amounting to a declarable interest in respect of paragraph ten “UK Town of Culture” and further declared that they considered that the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

MINUTE OF MEETING OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY PANEL OF 4 MARCH 2026

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 4 March 2026 for approval.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel held on 4 March 2026 be approved.

DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME OF WORKS TO 2028 - ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

3. With reference to paragraph seven of the minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 14 March 2024, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive: (1) reminding Committee that it had approved the five-year Programme of Work to 2028 with Committee having the strategic oversight role; (2) summarising a number of achievements made through the Programme of Work over the last six months; (3) highlighting that the Programme continues to demonstrate a significant pace of change that is happening across communities, making North Lanarkshire the place to live, learn, work, invest, and visit; and (4) attaching within the report: (a) 28 health check indicators showing a strong 68% improvement over the period of the Plan for North Lanarkshire, reflecting clear progress, although wider pressures continue to create fragility; and (b) a summary of progress in delivering the Programme of Work to 2028 at Appendix One.

There was a video presentation to the Committee by the Chief Executive providing an update on Delivering the Programme of Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the report provides a six-monthly update on progress in delivering the Programme of Work to 2028, in line with the Committee's strategic oversight and the commitment made in March 2024, be recognised;
- (2) that the Committee's role in continuing to support delivery of The Plan for North Lanarkshire through the Programme of Work, be endorsed; and
- (3) that continuation of the Committee's strategic oversight of the transformation projects and activities that underpin the Programme of Work, and ensuring their ongoing development, coordination, and monitoring be endorsed.

THE LATEST NORTH LANARKSHIRE CONTEXT, CHALLENGES, AND THE NEXT STEPS

4. There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive: (1) providing an interim update on: (a) the Programme of Work Review framed by the latest health check indicators results; (b) the challenges facing the wider local government environment; and (c) the implications for delivering North Lanarkshire's priorities; (2) detailing the next steps of the review over the spring of 2026 include a programme of engagement to further enhance Elected Members' involvement in the strategic planning process; and (3) proposing that a further report be submitted to the Committee on 11 June 2026.

Decided:

- (1) that regular assessment of the key role in which the Health Check Indicators play in providing the evidence base through which progress in delivering The Plan for North Lanarkshire be noted;
 - (2) that the latest results set out in the report and the Appendices, including the successes and challenges noted in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 of the submitted report be recognised; and
 - (3) that it be noted that more detail on the outcome and next steps following the review of the Programme of Work will be presented to this Committee in June 2026, following a period of Elected Members and stakeholder engagement.
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SOCIAL VALUE FRAMEWORK

5. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (People Resources): (1) seeking approval of the Council's revised Social Value Framework: *Creating Local Impact with Lasting Change*; (2) detailing that the Social Value Framework aligns to Scotland's Sustainable Procurement Duty, Fair Work First and Community Wealth Building principles; (3) highlighting the phased approach of implementation as set out within the report; (4) detailing the requirement that Procuring Service Areas that consider Social Value outcomes in contracts £50,000 and above, and a minimum of 10% of the Quality weighting; and (5) advising an Annual Social Value Insights Report with quantitative outcomes and qualitative case studies that demonstrate the real world impact of social value activity across North Lanarkshire will be submitted annually to this Committee.

During discussion on this matter, a question was asked in respect of which Officers committed to respond outwith the meeting: -

"Can examples of the work contained within the £27k funding in support of local community groups be provided?" (Councillor Woods).

Decided:

- (1) that the progress to date on the creation of a Social Value Framework to materially increase value, deliver better outcomes and align monitoring, oversight and reporting of social value be acknowledged;
- (2) that the Council's Social Value Framework: *Creating Local Impact with Lasting Change* be implementation and embedding across all services be approved;
- (3) that the phased approach to implementation as set out within the report be endorsed;
- (4) that when the requirement for Procuring Service Areas that consideration of Social Value outcomes in contracts of £50,000 and above, and a minimum of 10% of the Quality weighting be endorsed; and
- (5) that a new Social Value Insights Report be presented annually to this Committee be agreed.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Duffy, having declared a connection, by virtue of being a Board Member of Routes to Work Limited, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

UK GOVERNMENT LOCAL GROWTH FUNDING

6. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Place): (1) providing an update on the UK Government's Local Growth Fund which commences from 1 April 2026; (2) detailing an allocation of Local Growth Funding of £60.9m to Glasgow City Region for the period 2026/27 – 2028/29, with the potential allocation of £1,414,500 revenue funding from the Local Growth Fund to North Lanarkshire Council in 2026/27; (3) advising the funding allocated to the Local Growth Fund is a reduction in relation to what was previously available for similar activities and projects through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and (4) highlighting that the Council has been allocated a second funding stream, the Pride in Place Impact Fund, as part of the UK Government's proposals for long term local growth funding to support regional growth across the UK for the next three -year period.

Following discussion, it was agreed that: (a) a report be submitted to this Committee on the Outcomes following review of projects and staffing following the reduction in funding; and (b) a report be submitted to Communities Committee following the allocated additional funding for the Local Development Plan projects, with the details of the projects selected and which projects can be accommodated with the new funding stream.

Decided:

- (1) that the allocation of Local Growth Funding of £60.9m to Glasgow City Region for the period 2026/27 – 2028/29 be noted;
- (2) that the potential allocation of £1,414,500 revenue funding from the Local Growth Fund to North Lanarkshire Council in 2026/27 be noted;
- (3) that the impact from the reduction in funding that will have on staff and services and the actions being taken to minimise this be acknowledged;
- (4) that the proposed allocations to volunteering, business support and employability and skills as set out in paragraph 2.1.15 of the submitted report be approved;
- (5) that the proposed allocations for the Pride in Place Impact Fund as set out in section 2.2 to the submitted report be endorsed;
- (6) that a report be submitted to this Committee on the Outcomes following review of projects and staffing following the reduction in funding; and
- (7) that a report be submitted to Communities Committee following the allocated additional funding for the Local Development Plan projects, with details of the projects selected and which projects can be accommodated with the new funding.

EMBEDDING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC) AND REALISING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

- C**
7. There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Social Work Officer (Education, Families, Justice & Integrated Practice) and Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) setting out the Council's ongoing activity to support and strengthen the realisation of children's rights, alongside detailed consideration of the legislative framework introduced by the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024; and (2) seeking approval for the adoption of a clear and proportionate "best practice" policy approach to the incorporation of the UNCRC within the Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report, including the analysis of the legislative framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, the associated legal considerations, and the Council's existing and ongoing work to support the realisation of children's rights be endorsed; and
- (2) that the adoption of the following policy position in relation to the incorporation of the UNCRC within North Lanarkshire Council be approved as undernoted:

Policy on Children's Rights and the UNCRC

North Lanarkshire Council will apply a children's rights-based approach across the organisation and will, so far as possible, act in a way which is compatible with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the performance of all of its functions, notwithstanding the legislative source of those functions.

In doing so, the Council will seek to promote, respect, protect, and fulfil children's rights, while ensuring that decisions are lawful, proportionate, and financially sustainable, and that the Council retains the ability to take appropriate decisions where competing statutory duties or resource constraints apply.

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE POLICIES AND GUIDANCE: TWO - YEARLY REVIEW AND UPDATE 2025

- C**
8. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) advising that consistent with the Council's Strategic Policy Framework, all information governance policies are embedded as sub-policies within the Digital and IT Strategy 2024–2027, which was approved by the Policy and Strategy Committee in March 2024; (2) intimating that the policies are subject to a formal review cycle every two years to ensure continued compliance with legislative requirements, alignment with recognised good practice, and consistency with the Council's strategic objectives; and (3) seeking approval of the Data Protection Policy, Payment Card Data Security Policy, Information and Cyber Security Policy and the Records and Information Management Policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the updated information governance policies, as attached to the report, be approved, noting that they have been reviewed in line with the Council's approved review cycle and updated to reflect current legislative requirements, organisational arrangements and recognised good practice; and
- (2) that it be acknowledged that the next scheduled review of these policies will take place in 2027, or earlier where required to reflect legislative change, regulatory requirements, emerging risks or developments in best practice.

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S DEMOCRATIC, COMMITTEE, AND DECISION MAKING GOVERNANCE PROCEDURES – PHASE ONE UPDATE AND PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

9. There was a report submitted by the Chief Officer (Legal and Democratic): (1) providing a comprehensive update on the delivery of Phase One (Foundations – Governance Systems and Access) of the Review of the Council's Democratic, Committee and Decision-Making Governance Procedures; (2) advising that a report on CMIS appraisal and confirming the completion of Phase One would be submitted to this Committee; (3) intimating that implementation of the electronic voting and enhanced hybrid/webcasting arrangement along with establishment of a documented governance baseline has been completed; and (4) detailing the scope and delivery approach for Phases Two to four of the programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in delivering Phase One of the governance review be acknowledged;
- (2) that the establishment of a documented governance baseline be acknowledged;
- (3) that the implementation of electronic voting and enhanced hybrid/webcasting arrangements be acknowledged;
- (4) that a further report will be presented regarding the Committee Management System options appraisal be acknowledged; and
- (5) that the proposed scope and delivery approach for Phases Two to Four of the programme be acknowledged.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Smith, having declared a connection, by virtue of being involved in the initial discussions regarding the submission of the bid, further declared that they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Brannan-McVey, having declared a connection, by virtue of being involved in discussions with Community Groups, further declared that

they considered the interest was so sufficiently remote that it did not preclude their participation in consideration of the item.

UK TOWN OF CULTURE

10. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) advising that in early January 2026, the UK Government launched the search for the UK's first Town of Culture, which builds on the UK City of Culture introduced in 2009 and seeking to celebrate the contribution of people and places across the UK to our cultural life; (2) highlighting that Cumbernauld representatives had submitted an application to become UK Town of Culture; and (3) intimating the support that will be offered by the Council with an outline of the programme and key next steps.

Decided:

- (1) that the proposal to support the community led application from the Cumbernauld community for the new UK Town of Culture award be approved; and
- (2) that, otherwise the contents of the report be noted.

CORPORATE BOOKING SYSTEM – UPDATE OF IMPLEMENTATION

11. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Community Operations): (1) highlighting in February 2024, the Council approved the award of a contract for a Corporate Booking System to Gladstone MRM, with a 60 month initial award period commencing in March 2024; (2) detailing the procurement was split into three sections: (a) Leisure Management and Membership System; (b) Community Facilities and School Lets; and (c) Community Hub bookings; and (2) providing an update on the implementation and an overview of the next steps.

Decided:

- (1) that progress on implementation of the new Corporate Booking System and actions taken to work with stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition to improved customer management arrangements be noted; and
- (2) that, otherwise the contents of the report be noted.

RAVENS CRAIG COMMUNITY HUB

12. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) providing an update on the Options Appraisal exercise for the provision of mainstream school provision; (2) advising that a statutory education consultation would be required to change both the location, and the catchment area for the new schools (at the appropriate time); (3) seeking agreement for officers to track the need for a new school against the rate and number of new houses built each year using the published Housing Land Audit; (4) advising that further ground investigations be undertaken on the Levelling Up Fund site; and (5) detailing that following completion of the ground investigations works, the feasibility assessment for a dedicated Additional Support Needs facility and on receiving the outcome from Historic Environment Scotland on the future of the Motherwell Concert Hall, a further report will be submitted to Committee outlining how future developments could continue with the place making ambitions for Ravenscraig in line with the Council's overall Programme of Work.

Decided:

- (1) that the outcome of the Options Appraisal exercise for the provision of mainstream school provision be acknowledged;

- (2) that a statutory education consultation would be required to change both the location, and the catchment area for the new schools (at the appropriate time) be acknowledged;
- (3) that officers track the need for a new school against the rate and number of new houses built each year using the published Housing Land Audit be agreed;
- (4) that further ground investigations are undertaken on the Levelling Up Fund site be agreed; and
- (5) that, following completion of the ground investigations works, the feasibility assessment for a dedicated Additional Support Needs facility and on receiving the outcome from Historic Environment Scotland on the future of the Motherwell Concert Hall, a further report will be submitted to Committee outlining how future developments could continue with the place making ambitions for Ravenscraig in line with the Council's overall Programme of Work be acknowledged.

CIVIC THEATRE & CONCERT HALL UPDATE

13. There was a report submitted by Chief Officer (Assets and Procurement): (1) providing an update on the current position regarding the proposed demolition of the Civic Theatre and Concert Hall within the Motherwell Civic Centre Complex; (2) detailing the preparation of the Planning Statement, technical documentation and Listed Building Consent application intended for submission in May 2026; (3) highlighting that the full demolition and reinstatement programme is expected to take at least 20 months, including creation of new parking areas, landscaping, and integration of design elements sympathetic to the retained Civic Centre; and (4) acknowledging the risks associated with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete projects and that budget allocation will require to be kept under review, with further capital funding likely to be required within future plans

Decided:

- (1) that the substantial work completed to date in preparing the necessary documentation to support forthcoming Planning and Listed Building Consent application for the demolition of the Civic Theatre and Concert Hall, with the intention to submit these applications in May 2026 be acknowledged;
- (2) that the work undertaken to re-design external elements of the Civic Centre Complex following the demolition of the Civic Theatre and Concert Hall be acknowledged;
- (3) that the demolition of the Civic Theatre and Concert Hall is conditional on the Council obtaining the necessary statutory consents be recognised; and
- (4) that the risks associated with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete projects and that budget allocation will require to be kept under review, with further capital funding likely to be required within future plans be acknowledged.

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

14. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) seeking approval of the revised Risk Management Strategy, attached at Appendix One; and (2) detailing the role of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel in providing ongoing Elected Member oversight of the Council's Risk Management arrangements.

Decided:

- (1) that the revised Risk Management Strategy, attached at Appendix One, be approved; and
 - (2) that the role of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel in providing ongoing Elected Member oversight of the Council's Risk Management arrangements be endorsed.
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CORPORATE FRAUD POLICY

15. There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer (Audit and Risk): (1) seeking approval for an updated Corporate Fraud Policy; (2) detailing the key changes to the Policy and the implications of the new legislation; and (3) highlighting the requirements of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 with the title of the documents changing from Counter Fraud Policy to the Corporate Fraud Policy.

Decided:

- (1) that the key changes to the Policy and the implications of the new legislation be acknowledged; and
- (2) that the Corporate Fraud Policy, attached at Appendix One, be approved.

STRATEGIC CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2024/25 TO 2028/29 - PROFILE

16. There was submitted a report by the Depute Chief Executive: (1) seeking approval of the Council's Strategic Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 along with the updated profile of the Strategic Capital Investment Programme from 2027/28 to 2028/29; and (2) detailing available resources and expected profile of expenditure of the remainder of the current five-year capital planning period from 2024/25 to 2028/29

Decided:

- (1) that the forecast resources available to fund the capital programme be acknowledged;
- (2) that the 2026/27 Strategic Capital Investment Programme as outlined in Appendix One be approved;
- (3) that the updated profile of the Strategic Capital Investment Programme from 2027/28 to 2028/29 as outlined in Appendix One be approved,
- (4) that the Trend Based Adjustment applied as detailed in paragraph 2.15 be acknowledged;
- (5) that the updated Terms of Reference for the Strategic Capital Delivery Group in Appendix Two be approved; and
- (6) that a new five-year Strategic Capital Investment Programme 2027/28 to 2031/32 will be brought to this Committee in December 2026 for consideration be acknowledged.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR POSTAL SERVICES

17. There was submitted a report by the Interim Chief Officer (Strategy and Engagement): (1) seeking approval of an interim contract awards to: (a) Royal Mail Group Limited for a period of 12 months for Physical Mail with a contract value of £325,000, exclusive of VAT; and (b) Critqom Limited for a period of 12 months for Hybrid and Scheduled Mail with a contract value of £1,200,000 exclusive of VAT; and (2) highlighting the Council's participation in Scotland Excel's upcoming aggregated procurement.

Decided:

- (1) that the interim contract awards be approved, for a period up to 12 months, to:
- Royal Mail Group Limited for Physical Mail, contract value £325,000, exclusive of VAT;

- Critiqom Limited for Hybrid and Scheduled Mail, contract value £1,200,000 exclusive of VAT;
and
- (2) that the Council's participation in Scotland Excel's upcoming aggregated procurement be endorsed.