



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**

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Comhairle Siorrachd  
Chlach Mhanann

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB (Tel.01259-450000)

# **Meeting of Clackmannanshire Council**

**Thursday 10 December 2020 at 9.30 am**

**Via Video Conference (MS Teams)**



## **Clackmannanshire Council**

There are 32 Unitary Councils in Scotland. Clackmannanshire Council is the smallest mainland Council. Eighteen Councillors are elected to represent the views of the residents and businesses in Clackmannanshire. The Council has approved Standing Orders that detail the way the Council operates. Decisions are approved at meetings of the full Council and at Committee Meetings.

The Council is responsible for approving a staffing structure for the proper discharge of its functions, approving new policies or changes in policy, community planning and corporate governance including standards of conduct.

The Council has further responsibility for the approval of budgets for capital and revenue expenditure, it also has power to make, alter or cancel any scheme made under statute and to make, alter or cancel any orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws and to make compulsory purchase orders. The Council also determines the level of Council Tax and approves recommendations relating to strategic economic development.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our Council and Committee meetings to see how decisions are made.

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**2 December 2020**

**A MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL will be held via VIDEO CONFERENCE (MS TEAMS), on THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2020 at 9.30 AM.**

  
**Stuart Crickmar**  
**Strategic Director**  
**(Partnership & Performance)**

**pp. NIKKI BRIDLE**  
**Chief Executive**

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3. Confirm Minutes of Meetings of Clackmannanshire Council held on 22 October 2020 (Copies herewith)	7
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(ii) Planning Committee 27 October 2020	
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(iv) Place Committee 5 November 2020	
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(viii) Special Meeting of the Place Committee 1 December 2020	
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## Clackmannanshire Council – Councillors and Wards

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### Councillors

### Wards

Provost	Tina Murphy	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Darren Lee	1	Clackmannanshire West	CONS
Councillor	George Matchett, QPM	1	Clackmannanshire West	LAB
Councillor	Les Sharp	1	Clackmannanshire West	SNP
Councillor	Donald Balsillie	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Martha Benny	2	Clackmannanshire North	CONS
Councillor	Dave Clark	2	Clackmannanshire North	LAB
Councillor	Helen Lewis	2	Clackmannanshire North	SNP
Councillor	Jane McTaggart	3	Clackmannanshire Central	SNP
Councillor	Derek Stewart	3	Clackmannanshire Central	LAB
Councillor	Mike Watson	3	Clackmannanshire Central	CONS
Councillor	Chris Dixon	4	Clackmannanshire South	IND
Councillor	Kenneth Earle	4	Clackmannanshire South	LAB
Councillor	Ellen Forson	4	Clackmannanshire South	SNP
Councillor	Craig Holden	4	Clackmannanshire South	SNP
Councillor	Graham Lindsay	5	Clackmannanshire East	SNP
Councillor	Kathleen Martin	5	Clackmannanshire East	LAB
Councillor	Dennis Coyne	5	Clackmannanshire East	CON





**MINUTES OF MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held via MS Teams, on  
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020 at 9.30 am.**

**PRESENT**

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor Darren Lee  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
Councillor Graham Lindsay  
Councillor George Matchett QPM  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Les Sharp  
Councillor Mike Watson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive  
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)  
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Lorraine Sanda, Chief Education Officer  
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Cherie Jarvie, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance)  
Emma Fyvie, Senior Manager (Place)  
David Hunt, Programme Management Officer  
Alastair Hair, Team Leader – HR Workforce Development and Learning  
Rose Hetman, Strategy and Performance Adviser  
Lindsay Thomson, Senior Manager (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)  
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership and Performance)

The Provost advised that due to poor sound quality within the Council Chamber, the meeting would be adjourned until 9.45 am so she could move to an alternative room.

**CC.341            APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Derek Stewart, Councillor Chris Dixon and Councillor Kathleen Martin.

**CC.342            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**CC.343                    MINUTE OF MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL  
10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 10 September 2020 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 10 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

**CC.344                    MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL  
24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the special meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 24 September 2020 were submitted for approval.

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Clackmannanshire Council held on 24 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

The Clerk advised that under item CC.337 Council Governance, it had been agreed to note that notice had been given for a proposal to change Standing Orders for the next full meeting of Council in October 2020. The Clerk offered her apologies and advised there had been insufficient time to prepare the changes, and asked Council to agree to the report coming forward to Council on 10 December 2020.

The Council unanimously agreed that the changes to standing orders will be brought to Council on 10 December 2020.

**Action**

Clerk to the Council

**CC.345                    COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONVENED SINCE THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL  
MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Council agreed to note the Committee meetings that had taken place since the last ordinary meeting on 10 September 2020.

- (i) Local Review Body 17 September 2020
- (ii) Licensing Board Sub Committee 21 September 2020
- (iii) Local Review Body 22 September 2020
- (iv) Planning Committee 1 October 2020
- (v) Licensing Board 6 October 2020

**CC.346                    CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY – DEBRIEF PROCESS**

Following agreement of Council on 10 September 2020 to conduct a debrief on the Council's response to the global Coronavirus pandemic, the report submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance) outlined a number of next steps in that process.

**Motion**

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Helen Lewis. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.



## Decision

The Council agreed to note the approach as set out in the report.

### **CC.347 BE THE FUTURE UPDATE: WORKFORCE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The report, submitted by the Chief Executive, provided an update on progress achieved in relation to the activities outlined in the Council's reprioritised Be the Future Programme. The report had a specific focus on the development of the Workforce Programme of activity which was agreed by Council as one of the seven refreshed Be the Future priorities on the 10 September 2020. The report also complemented separate papers previously submitted to Council on the 10 and 24 September 2020 in respect of the City Region Deal, including Scotland's International Environment Centre; Skills and Inclusion, the development of the Regional Energy Masterplan, and progress towards implementing our Digital Strategy. This thematic and routine approach to reporting aimed to ensure that Council is regularly updated on progress and allowed for appropriate governance to be sought as required.

## Motion

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

## Amendment

That Council agree to

1. Insert a new recommendation (recommendation 2.1(A)) after recommendation 2.1 as follows:
  - a. *2.1(A) to fund £50k from the Transformation Fund to appoint external capacity, in accordance with procurement requirements, to support recovery and priority transformation activity in the People Directorate (Social Work).*
2. As a consequence of the insertion of a new recommendation 2.1(A), amend recommendation 2.12 to show the remaining balance on the Transformation Fund as £550k.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Councillor Graham Lindsay.

## Decision

The Council agreed:

1. To fund £20k from the Transformation Fund to develop an action plan to re-establish the Council's GIS (Geographic Information System) capacity which is a key enabler in developing ongoing response, recovery and place based transformation proposals (paragraph 5.4); and 2.1 (A) to fund £50k from the Transformation Fund to appoint external capacity, in accordance with procurement requirements, to support recovery and priority transformation activity in the People Directorate (Social Work).
2. To fund £122k from the Transformation Fund and £80k from the non-ringfenced Covid funding from Scottish Government to appoint an additional fixed term Strategic Director level resource for 18 months to focus on ongoing response and recovery activity and transformation priorities (paragraphs 5.5 and 5.6);
3. To establish an Appointments' Committee to take forward the recruitment of the fixed term Strategic Director (Transformation); and

4. To provide nominations for the Appointments' Committees in line with political balance (two Administration (SNP) representatives, one Labour representative and one Conservative representative).

The Council agreed to note:

5. The background information set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5;
6. The Workforce Programme and progress to date summarised in Appendix A and paragraphs 3.6 to 3.8;
7. The Case Study on Health and Safety learning and improvement highlighted in Table 1;
8. The arrangements for the annual staff survey, taking account of the particular focus on Health and wellbeing (Paragraphs 3.9 to 3.12);
9. The work being progressed to develop internal communications arrangements for staff and elected members (Section 4 and Appendices B and C);
10. The agreed additional resources and associated costs to support ongoing response, recovery and renewal activity set out in Table 2 and Section 5;
11. The update on the Recovery Coordinator post appointment and the consequential release of £79k of committed funds (Paragraph 5.7); and
12. That subject to the agreement of recommendations 2.1 and 2.2, the remaining balance of £550K on the Transformation Fund (Paragraph 6.1 – as amended).

#### **Action**

Chief Executive

#### **CC.348 EU EXIT PREPAREDNESS**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Partnership and Performance), provided an update on the work being taken forward by Council in preparation of the end of the EU Withdrawal period on the 31st December 2020. This work is set in the context of the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario risks published by Scottish Government in 2019 and the Yellow Hammer assumptions published by the UK government also in 2019.

#### **Motion**

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Helen Lewis. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie.

#### **Decision**

Having commented on and challenged the report, the Council agreed to note the report.

## **CC.349 CITY REGION DEAL UPDATE**

The report, submitted by the Strategic Director (Place), provided an update on progress of the City Region Deal. It outlined the steps being taken to enable the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal partners to reach agreement with the UK and Scottish Governments on a revised Implementation Plan and Financial Profile for the Deal, in order to secure an Offer of Grant for Year 1 of the Deal. The report also provided brief updated project summaries for each of the investment themes.

### **Motion**

That Council agrees the recommendations as set out in the report.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Craig Holden.

### **Decision**

The Council agreed to note:

1. The progress set out in the report;
2. That discussions are taking place with the Scottish and UK Governments on a revised Financial Profile; and
3. That governance for any additional borrowing requirement for Clackmannanshire Council will be sought via the usual budget processes at the appropriate time.

### **Action**

Strategic Director (Place)

## **CC.350 NOTICE OF MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 16**

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16.0 was submitted by Councillor Dave Clark.

### **Motion**

This Council acknowledges the enormous strain on Clackmannanshire's already fragile economy due to the Coronavirus lockdown and will use our own Procurement potential to its fullest to regenerate that economy both in the short and long term. We will also use our influence on our partner agencies to do likewise. This Council recognises our staffing complement is inadequate to accomplish such a complex task with the urgency needed and will look to the 2021 - 2022 budget to appoint additional skilled staff to enable this critical task to be undertaken.

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle

### **Amendment**

That Council :

1. This Council acknowledges the enormous strain on Clackmannanshire's already fragile economy due to the Coronavirus lockdown and will use our own Procurement potential to its fullest to regenerate that economy both in the short and long term.
2. Delete the remainder of the motion
3. Add the following text to the motion

“Notes the extensive work already being undertaken by the Council to address this, including our ongoing work with CLES and the Scottish Government around community wealth building - of which procurement will play a large part; understands that a workshop is taking place with our partners to explore this further at 4pm on Thursday 22 October, and looks forward to the detailed report which will inform our next steps.”

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Donald Balsillie

### **Voting on Amendment**

In terms of Standing Order 14.7, Councillor Clark asked for a roll call vote. The Council agreed that a vote be taken by calling the roll and at this stage there were 13 members present who were eligible to vote. Councillor Darren Lee was unable to participate in the roll call vote due to a technical IT issue. On the roll being called, the elected members present voted as follows:

#### **For Amendment (10)**

Provost Tina Murphy  
Councillor Les Sharp  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Helen Lewis  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Mike Watson  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Craig Holden  
Councillor Graham Lindsay

#### **Against Amendment (2)**

Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Kenneth Earle

#### **Abstain from Voting (1)**

Councillor George Matchett QPM

On a division of 10 votes to 2 with 1 abstention, the amendment was carried.

### **Decision**

The Council therefore acknowledged the enormous strain on Clackmannanshire's already fragile economy due to the Coronavirus lockdown and that the Council will use its own Procurement potential to its fullest to regenerate that economy both in the short and long term.

The Council also agreed to note the extensive work already being undertaken by the Council to address this, including its ongoing work with CLES and the Scottish Government around community wealth building - of which procurement will play a large part; and understands that a workshop is taking place with our partners to explore this further at 4pm on Thursday 22 October, and looks forward to the detailed report which will inform the Council's next steps.

Ends: 11:23 am

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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Committee Recommendations Referred to Council**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of recommendations which have been made by the Partnership and Performance Committee of 29 October, 2020, Place Committee of 5 November, 2020 and People Committee of 26 November, 2020.
- 1.2. Under the Council's decision-making framework, Council has delegated certain matters to committees and has reserved certain powers. Included in the latter are the approval of main policies and strategies (Scheme of Delegation 3.2), the approval of budgets (Scheme of Delegation 3.19) the appointment of particular post holders (Scheme of Delegation 4.7) and the spending of money not budgeted for (Scheme of Delegation 3.20).
- 1.3. Standing Order 8.4 requires that where a Committee passes a report to Council, the full Committee report shall not be included again on the Council agenda and that officers should prepare a brief report that refers to the relevant Committee report and recommendation(s).

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council:

1. from the **Partnership and Performance Committee of 29 October, 2020** in relation to the report entitled "*HR Policies*".
  - (a) Approves the revised Homeworking Policy and Procedure
2. from the **Place Committee of 5 November, 2020** in relation to the report entitled "*Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021-2026*"
  - (a) Agrees the disposal of HRA land at Stoneyacre (Site 3, Appendix 4) and General Fund land at Park Street (Site 4, Appendix 4) Tillicoultry, at a value agreed with the District Valuer, to Kingdom Housing Association for the development of affordable housing

- (b) Agrees that Clackmannanshire Council as a member of the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) for NHT properties in Coalsnaughton will seek the agreement of the LLP to sell up to 42 mid market rent NHT properties in Coalsnaughton to Kingdom Housing
- 3. from the **People Committee** of **26 November, 2020** in relation to the report entitled "*People Business Plan - End of Year Report and People Business Plan 2020/21*"
  - (a) Approves the Plan for 2020/21
- 4. from the **People Committee** of **26 November, 2020** in relation to the report entitled "*Be the Future: People Directorate - Respond, Redesign and Transformation*"
  - (a) Approves delegated authority to the Strategic Director to appoint an acting Chief Education Officer for a period of three years from the existing pool of Education Service Managers at para 3.4.6. The ongoing need for this post will be reviewed on an annual basis in discussion between the Strategic Director and the Convenor and Vice Convenor of People Committee
  - (b) Approves delegated authority to the Strategic Director to appoint an acting Chief Social Work Officer pending the wider service redesign
- 2.2 The reports relating to Partnership and Performance Committee, Place and People Committees are available on the Council's website.

### **3.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 3.1. N/A

### **4.0 Resource Implications**

#### *4.1. Financial Details*

- 4.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ☐

- 4.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☐

#### *4.4. Staffing*

### **5.0 Exempt Reports**

- 5.1. Is this report exempt? No

## 6.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐  
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☐  
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☐  
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☐

### (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 7.0 Equalities Impact

7.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

## 8.0 Legality

8.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

## 9.0 Appendices

9.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".  
None.

## 10.0 Background Papers

10.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)  
Yes ☒ (please list the documents below) No ☐

a) Agenda, together with Minute of the Partnership and Performance Committee of 29 October, 2020

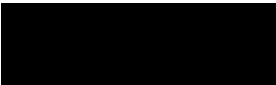
b) Agenda, together with Minute of the Place Committee of 5 November, 2020

c) Agenda, together with Minute of the People Committee of 26 November, 2020

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive	452002

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive	



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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Conservative Group Committee Membership**

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**Report by: Lindsay Thomson, Senior Manager Legal & Governance**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report proposes nominations of Conservative elected Council members for vacancies on two committees and an amendment to membership on a third committee.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council agree:
- 2.2. To appoint Councillor Darren Lee to the vacancy on the Place Committee
- 2.3. To appoint Councillor Denis Coyne to the vacancy on the Planning Committee
- 2.4. To remove Councillor Darren Lee from membership of the Audit Committee and
- 2.5. To appoint Councillor Denis Coyne to the Audit Committee in Councillor Lee's place.

**3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The proposed changes to the Place and Planning Committee arise from vacancies which were left unfilled by Council in December 2019, when Councillor Benny took up the role of Leader of the Conservative Group following the resignation of Councillor Bill Mason. At that time Councillor Benny took up a number of appointments which were vacated by Councillor Mason but not all of the committee roles allocated to the Conservative group were filled. The report in December 2019 indicated that this matter would be revisited once the by-election had taken place.
- 3.2. In addition there is a proposal to remove Councillor Lee from the Audit Committee and appoint Councillor Coyne in his place.
- 3.3. These appointments retain the political balance which was previously agreed by Council and, if accepted, will apply from the date of the Council's decision.

## 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. None

## 5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes x

5.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes x

5.4. *Staffing*

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No x

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☐

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☐

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☐

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☐ No X

## 9.0 Legality

- 9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒ x

## 10.0 Appendices

- 10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

## 11.0 Background Papers

- 11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)


Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☐

### Report to Council December 2019 "Member Appointments"

#### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lindsay Thomson	Senior Manager Legal & Governance	2084

#### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lindsay Thomson	Monitoring Officer	



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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Be the Future Update**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress achieved in relation to key activities outlined in the Council's Be the Future Programme. This report has a specific focus on the progress in relation to several related pieces of collaborative work: iESE; Wellbeing Economy project, Community Wealth building action plan and the developing work with the Social Innovation Partnership. There is also an update on recent developments to establish the Senior Leadership Forum for senior managers and progress with securing previously approved additional fixed term resources.
- 1.2 This update report also complements separate papers previously submitted to Council on the 10 and 24 September and 22 October in respect of the City Region Deal, including Scotland's International Environment Centre; Skills and Inclusion, the development of the Regional Energy Masterplan, and progress towards implementing our Digital Strategy. This thematic and routine approach to reporting aims to ensure that Council is regularly updated on progress and allows for appropriate governance to be sought as required.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council agree:

- 2.1 that Community Wealth Building, and the recommendations in the report, will be a key approach in the development and delivery of the future Wellbeing Economy strategy
- 2.2 to promote the delivery of Community Wealth Building approaches through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, particularly where those projects have a direct impact on Clackmannanshire.

**It is recommended that Council notes:**

- 2.2.1 the final phase, findings and recommendations from the work with iESE (paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5)
- 2.2.2 progress with the range of innovative collaborative work and its relationship with the Be the Future core principles as detailed in Section 3 of the report
- 2.2.3 the progress report on the Wellbeing Economy Project (Appendix A)
- 2.2.4 next steps on the Wellbeing Economy Project (paragraph 3.6)
- 2.2.5 the Community Wealth Building Action Plan Report from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (Appendix B)
- 2.2.6 that the final Community Wealth Building Action plan and recommended priorities will be submitted to Council for approval following further partner and stakeholder engagement
- 2.2.7 the developing People and Place Collaborative with the Social Innovation Partnership (paragraphs 3.13 to 3.15)
- 2.2.8 positive steps to move forward with The Promise (paragraph 3.17)
- 2.2.9 the early work and redesign tasks being reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Forum (SLF) (Section 4)
- 2.2.10 current status of recruitment activity in respect of the additional fixed term posts secured from funding delegated by Council to the Strategic Leadership Group since August (Table 2).

## **Background**

- 2.3 In October 2019, Council agreed to fund a targeted diagnostic to provide independent assurance over the development of the Council's Transformation approach. The work was based on the following iESE tools:
  - Customer focus diagnostic
  - Cultural diagnostic
  - Efficiency and Effectiveness Diagnostic
- 2.4 The review was undertaken at the turn of the year, prior to Budget setting in February 2020. The work was focussed and structured around the Council's agreed Organisational Redesign Plan (the Council's internally focussed Transformation Plan). At the time this work was underway, the Strategic Leadership Group adopted elements of the innovation mandate methodology used by iESE to inform the development of the substantial Be the Future Programme (the Council's externally focussed Transformation Plan). The approach ensured that proposals were ambitious, but achievable, and the resultant Programme of activity was agreed by Council as part of the 2020/21 Budget setting meeting in February 2020.

2.5 The outcome and outputs of this review activity were due to be reported following Budget setting, however, timescales were deferred due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As soon as practicable, this work has subsequently been taken forward. This has resulted in the following recent feedback sessions:

- Extended Senior Leadership Group (18 November)
- Elected members (26 October)
- Workshop participants (23 November)

2.6 The output from the work consolidates:

- feedback from the Innovation Mandate workshops
- analysis of 'day in the life of' (DILo) activity
- review of procurement and commissioning arrangements
- Staff Activity Analysis
- Process mapping activity
- Customer demand observations.

2.7 The detailed findings from this work have been presented to elected members and have also been the subject of workshops with senior management and participants in the original fieldwork. The following additional observations and recommendations have been made as a consequence of this final stage of the work:

- several recommended actions have already been taken forward as part of the development of the Be the Future Programme in February 2020
- the original iESE focus was on the Organisational Redesign plan but the Innovation Mandate workshop methodology informed the development of the Be the Future Programme, approved in February 2020
- the high level action plan and 'quick win' financial opportunities are being prioritised for scrutiny as part of Council Budget preparations for 2021/22
- remote working and the incidence of the pandemic is requiring further investment in embedding vision and values for staff and stakeholders
- there is a need to ensure that lessons learned activity is embedded as business as usual within the Council's approaches to continuous improvement
- prioritise cross service working, learning and the development of options for change
- sustain a focus on the work to embed the Golden thread across all council services
- sustain focus on embedding the desired Be the Future behaviours and culture to support transformational change.

2.8 As indicated, there are several strands of recommended activity which are being considered potentially for inclusion/ further development as part of budget preparations. Many of these strands of activity are set out in this update report and Council will note some recurrent themes which appear across the different, but related, activities.

### **3.0 Innovation through collaboration and partnership working**

- 3.1 There are a series of related partnership activities integrated within the Be the Future Programme. A significant theme which binds many individual proposals together is focussed on how we work collaboratively to ensure prosperity, empowerment and participation for/of our communities. This report provides an update on three critical pieces of such work which were also discussed at an elected member briefing held on the 8 December 2020:
- the Wellbeing Economy Project, working with Scottish Government
  - Community Wealth Building Action Plan, working with Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)
  - Improving outcomes for local people through working with the Social Innovation Partnership (SIPP)/ People and Places Collaborative.
- 3.2 The interconnectedness of these strands of activity underlines the importance of some of the key design principles embedded within the Council's agreed Be the Future Programme, notably collaboration, integration empowerment and a focus on people and place.

#### **Wellbeing Economy Project**

- 3.3 The Wellbeing Economy Project is the focus of significant attention from Scottish Government for Clackmannanshire and helps to put Clackmannanshire at the forefront of Local Authority efforts in Scotland to 'Build Back Better'.
- 3.4 It is supportive of, and integrated within, the Council's Be the Future ambitions and, whilst the project commenced prior to the COVID crisis, it is proving very timely in supporting our 'Respond, Recover, Renew' plans for Clackmannanshire.
- 3.5 The full update report is set out at Appendix A and summarises:
- The purpose of the partnership approach and intended outputs at local and national levels, noting the relationship between this project and Community Wealth Building
  - What a wellbeing economy is and illustrates the relationship between local and national ambition.
  - The seven themes for the work identified at stage 1.
  - An overview of the Scottish Government's Inclusive Growth Framework process which underpins the project.
  - Available evidence organised by theme. It includes consideration of COVID impacts and stakeholder engagement at stages 3 and 4 including the SIPHER systems mapping which Council endorsed at it's meeting in September 2020.



- Ongoing activity, including a prioritisation exercise to plot the urgency and importance of issues against the likely availability of levers in short term, for example, the Community Wealth Building Action Plan. This will aid decision-making for stages 5 and 6 where delivery and evaluation will take place.
- 3.6 The update report also sets out the next steps which involve further, targeted engagement in respect of issues arising from the analytical work undertaken to date, including the recent SIPHER workshop outputs. The purpose of this further work is to identify key levers for change and opportunities to make use of those levers to improve outcomes. These levers may be held by and/or impact a broad range of national and local policy makers and stakeholders. Recommendations will be made based on a prioritisation exercise before looking to work collaboratively to implement priority proposals.

### **Community Wealth Building**

- 3.7 The Scottish Government is committed to advancing Community Wealth Building, as set out in the Programme for Government. Clackmannanshire is the first of 5 areas the Scottish Government is supporting in taking forward this work, following the commitment it has made to Community Wealth Building in North Ayrshire.
- 3.8 Whilst not a formal part of the Wellbeing Economy Project it is clearly strongly aligned and the Action Plan will enable the Council, and potentially anchor partners, to identify and implement early actions.
- 3.9 Appendix B sets out the findings and recommendations from CLES' work. CLES has worked at pace with both Council and partner stakeholders to finalise its work, and, whilst much has already been undertaken to secure shared ownership of the Action Plan, the Council Leader and Chief Executive have agreed that further time is taken to secure this outcome, following consideration of this report by Council. This approach underlines the importance of securing a shared vision of priorities with a number of the Council's key partners and stakeholders. Further Be the Future Update reports will submit the proposed priority actions for Council's approval as well as seek any additional governance as required.
- 3.10 The report states that: 'the (Council's) strategic approach is impressive and bold....acknowledges that the ambition will require longer term transformation activity, need to be delivered in partnership, and will require a clear and consistent focus'. Additionally, CLES recognises the connectivity between core elements of the strategic planning framework between the LOIP, (Be the Future) Strategic Framework, Strategic Workforce Plan and Corporate Plan. These elements are considered to be encouraging, especially when considered alongside the Council's honesty about the scale of the challenge that the Be the Future Programme seeks to address. CLES also highlights the need for appropriate capacity to be put in place to ensure priority actions and the level of ambition described can be realised.
- 3.11 The report comprises consideration of the following key factors:

- Clackmannanshire as a community wealth building place
- Progressive procurement of goods and services
- Making financial power work for local places
- Socially productive use of land and assets
- Fair employment and just labour markets
- Plural ownership of the economy.

3.12 Section 8 of the report sets out the recommendations and Action Plan. Council will note the extensive range of recommendations. It is envisaged that the bulk of these represent a medium to longer term plan. To this end, ongoing discussions with partners will inform the realisation of the plan along with the suggested immediate priorities recommended in the report. As indicated in paragraph 3.9, the recommended immediate priorities will be submitted to Council following further partner and stakeholder consultation.

3.13 Through the networking opportunities afforded by working with CLES, the Chief Executive has established a collaborative, learning partnership approach with Wigan Council (Director of Customer Transformation). It is intended that this collaborative approach will provide mutual peer review and challenge as both council's progress ambitions to embed community wealth building over the coming years.

### **People and Places Collaborative (working with Social Innovation Partnership Programme)**

3.14 Discussions continue to progress positively with Scottish Government and the Hunter Foundation about the involvement of Clackmannanshire in the Social Innovation Partnership Programme (a collaboration between Scottish Government, the Hunter Foundation, Herriot Watt University and social innovators).

3.15 The aim of the partnership between the Council and the SIP is to combine assets and share learning in testing and embedding approaches to tackling child poverty, closing the attainment gap and reforming public services. This builds on existing work through the Scottish Attainment Challenge, and will add value to accelerate the Council's transformation journey and improve outcomes for local people.

3.16 One of the key principles of the collaboration will be taking a holistic approach to families and communities, putting them front and centre in determining "what matters" and how public services are redesigned to better meet their needs. This work will draw on the Wellbeing Economy pilot as it progresses to identify priorities for building a well-being economy. It will also embed priorities from the community wealth building action plan with the integrated set of activity being the People and Places Collaborative.

### **The Promise**

3.17 Discussions have started with Scottish Government team leading on The Promise to ensure that Clackmannanshire is at the forefront of the first phase

#### 4.0 Senior Leadership Forum

- ## Exhibit 1: Adaptive Resilience Model

- 4.3 In respect of the practical tasks taken forward, workgroups have been established to review the options for potential redesign based on our experience of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two key themes were explored:
- support for vulnerable service users (based on several Covid-related support activities, for instance Shielding and Isolate and Support)

- review of business critical management processes such as customer contact/triage and Information/performance management and reporting.
- 4.4 A summary report was considered by the Extended Senior Leadership Group on the 2 December and feedback has been provided to the two working groups to clarify the scope, desired outputs/outcomes and timescales for developing the next stages of this work. It is intended that work will now be progressed to develop options for potential service redesign, aligned with the current budget preparation process.

## 5.0 Resourcing Update

- 5.1 As priorities are agreed, it is necessary to ensure that the Council's resources continue to be deployed effectively, and in line with these agreed priorities.
- 5.2 At recent meetings, Council has delegated funds to allow additional fixed term resources to be recruited in respect of priority resourcing needs. Table 2 below provides an update on progress with all of the posts identified by the Senior Leadership Group from this funding source. There is unanimous agreement amongst the Senior Leadership group that these resources are critical to the delivery of the priority work highlighted in this and previous update reports to Council:

**Table 2: Priority additional fixed term resources funded from SLG delegated funding approved by Council**

Role	Duration of appointment	Comment
<b>Asset Management Officer*</b>	18 months fixed term	Service designing job profile
<b>Assistant Learning and Development Adviser</b>	24 months fixed term (partially funded by Training Budget)	Job profile undergoing job evaluation assessment
<b>Revenues Project Officer*</b>	12 months fixed term	Strategic Director developing job profile
<b>Senior Project Officer (Redesign)*</b>	12 months fixed term	Job profile developed and undergoing HR check prior to submission for job evaluation
<b>Economic development Officer</b>	18 months fixed term	The job profile has been agreed and evaluated and the recruitment process is in progress
<b>Project</b>	18 months fixed term	The job profile has been developed

<b>Role</b>	<b>Duration of appointment</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Managers (X2)</b>		and evaluated and has been passed for finalising
<b>Business Analysts (X2)</b>	18 months fixed term	The job profile has been developed and evaluated and has been passed for finalising
<b>Quantity Surveyor</b>	18 months fixed term	The job profile has been developed and evaluated and has been passed for finalising
<b>Recovery Co-ordinator</b>	N/A	The post was recruited but not taken up. The requirement has been reviewed in the light of recent experience and alternate resource being progressed.
<b>Strategic Director (Transformation)</b>	18 months	The job profile has been developed and evaluated. The Appointments Committee is in place and recruitment ongoing.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>N/A</b>	

\* Dependant on outcome of Job Evaluation

## 6.0 Sustainability Implications

6.1 N/A

## 7.0 Resource Implications

7.1 *Financial Details*

7.2 The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ☐

7.3 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes X

7.4 *Staffing*

## 8.0 Exempt Reports

8.1 Is this report exempt? No

## 9.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

- Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐
- Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☐
- Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☐
- Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☐

### (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 10.0 Equalities Impact

- 10.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

## 11.0 Legality

- 11.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

## 12.0 Appendices

- 12.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix A: Wellbeing Economy Update report  
Appendix B: Community Wealth Building Action Plan report


## 13.0 Background Papers

- 13.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)  
Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☐

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive	452002

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Nikki Bridle	Chief Executive	

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## **Developing and delivering a Wellbeing Economy in Clackmannanshire**

Clackmannanshire Council and Scottish Government  
Update report, December 2020

## Part 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

A Wellbeing Economy<sup>1</sup> is an economy that is built on, and seeks to drive, the wellbeing of communities, businesses and the natural environment. It is underpinned by inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and resilience, to help protect the economy from shocks.

The Scottish Government and Clackmannanshire Council are currently working together to identify opportunities to drive wellbeing economy outcomes in the Clackmannanshire area. This report provides an update on the progress of that project.

### 1.2 Clackmannanshire Council aims

Clackmannanshire Council is a small local authority in Scotland that has experienced a number of economic and social challenges, which have been at least partially driven by a legacy of industrial decline. The area has poorer than average outcomes on a range of social and economic indicators, including a forecast decline in the working age population. The Council has been building towards an Inclusive Growth approach for some time, partly through development of the Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region Deal, and shares inclusive priorities which match those of the Clackmannanshire Alliance (CPP).

The Council has already committed to a significant programme of transformation, *Be the Future*, which includes a summary of the Council's strategic approach:

*'In Clackmannanshire, we are living longer with more complex needs: there are high levels of vulnerability and inequality in some of our towns and villages that require significant and often complex support; our economic performance requires improvement to facilitate the social and financial resilience and independence of our residents; we have a high proportion of our children living in poverty, and we are facing unprecedented challenges to protect our outstanding natural environment within the context of a worldwide climate emergency. At the same time, resources continue to reduce.'*

*'Our ambition is to deliver sustainable public services by improving the economic performance of the area and creating the conditions to ensure that our people, places and businesses enjoy the benefits of greater prosperity. We want to build on the strong identities of our town and villages and develop sustainable new models of delivering public services in our communities. This is not a quick fix and represents a significant and challenging programme of longer term transformation activity and investment that will need to be delivered in partnership. A clear and consistent focus on sustainable inclusive growth, empowering families and communities and health and wellbeing is required to achieve our transformation ambitions.'*

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<sup>1</sup> The [OECD](#) (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) defines an 'Economy of Well-Being' as the 'capacity to create a virtuous circle in which citizens' well-being drives economic prosperity, stability and resilience, and vice-versa, that those good macroeconomic outcomes allow to sustain well-being investments over time'.

### 1.3 The project

The Scottish Government and the Council have committed to working together to understand how the area currently performs from a wellbeing economy perspective and to identify priorities for delivering transformational change. This will involve 'whole-system' thinking to identify, design and facilitate the delivery of sustainable interventions to improve both local and national outcomes.

Through the project, we are seeking to widen the focus of an existing six-stage Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework to accommodate considerations that are important for the delivery of a wellbeing economy. Key considerations include: incorporating stronger measures of, and approaches to improving, environmental sustainability; considering the whole-system interactions between policies and impacts and moving further away from policy silos; and consideration of actions that are underpinned by Community Wealth Building principles.

Aligned to the project, the Scottish Government has commissioned the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to work with the Council on the development of a Community Wealth Building (CWB) Action Plan. This will provide an early opportunity to identify and implement pragmatic actions, and the CWB work will report separately.

Overall, we are working to achieve two key outcomes through the Clackmannanshire wellbeing economy project which are;

- At the local level, a wellbeing economy vision for Clackmannanshire that cuts across a broad range of issues, and a path towards realising and implementing that vision; and
- At a national level, an evidence based policy-making process for a wellbeing economy that can be scaled and replicated, and can be tailored to the needs, aspirations and characteristics of local areas and regions across Scotland.

## Part 2: Policy context

### 2.1 Overarching policy aims

Traditional measures of economic performance do not capture the growth and development of wellbeing among communities, businesses and our natural environment. Trends in the levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will tell us about the wealth of a country overall, but not about the distribution and sustainability of that wealth, the quality of jobs, the health of citizens and the impact of economic activity on levels of emissions. There is growing support, including from the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), for an approach to economic development that is built on and supports the wellbeing of citizens – now and for future generations.

In a 2019 TED talk on this subject, the Scottish First Minister referenced the work of the Scottish economist Adam Smith, who wrote in *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* that the value of any government is “judged in proportion to the extent that it makes its people happy”. Over recent months, there has been a sharp focus on the need for an inclusive and sustainable approach to economic recovery from the COVID-19 economic shock. The Scottish Government set out a framework for a national wellbeing economy in its [response to the recommendations](#) of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery. That framework highlights the importance of inclusive growth and sustainability, as well as the need to invest in what are [known as the four capitals](#) (economic, environmental, social and human capitals) to ensure we have a robust economy that is resilient to future shocks. An illustration of this approach is provided at Annex A.

### 2.2 Partnership working to improve outcomes

There are a range of Scottish Government and Clackmannanshire Council policies, actions and incentives that are aimed specifically at improving the wellbeing of Scottish citizens. These include policies furthering free education, free healthcare, subsidised public transport and income support, along with a commitment to tackling our climate crisis and achieve net zero emissions.

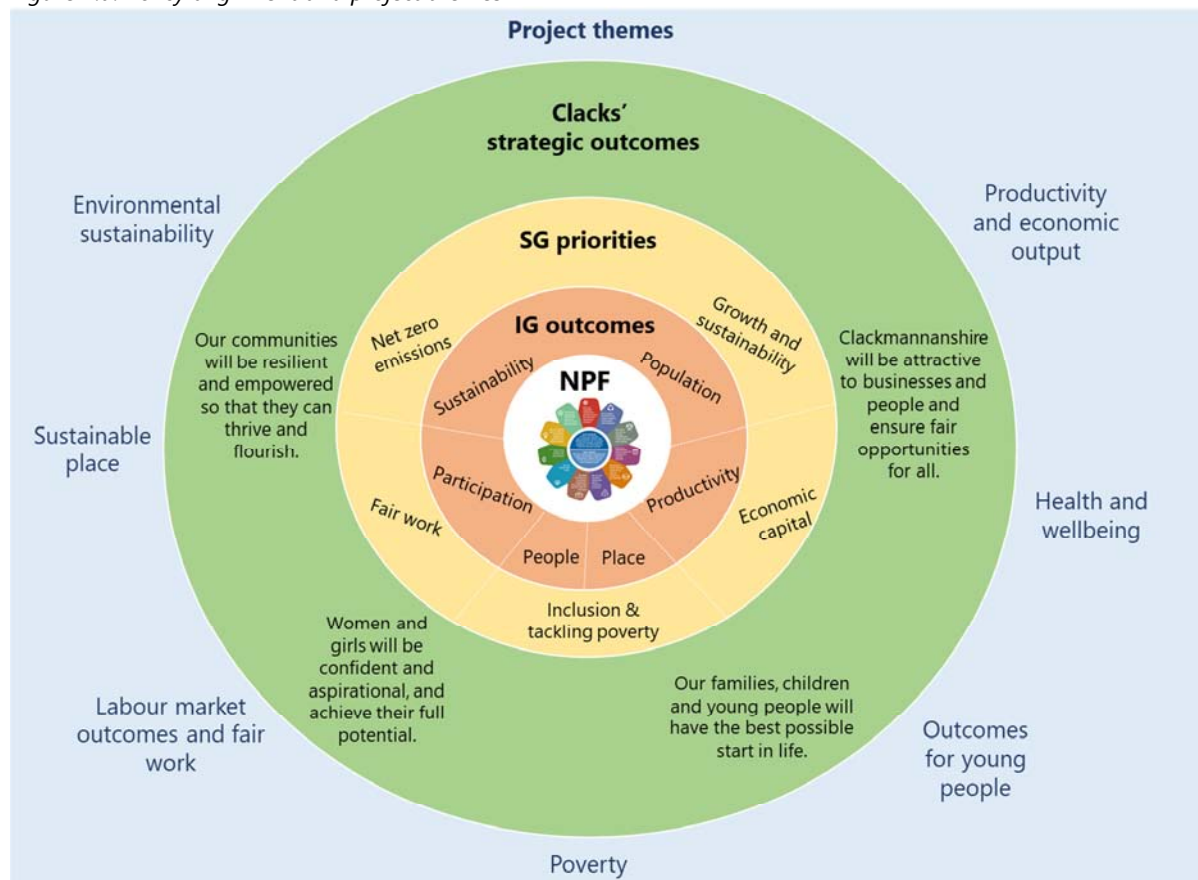
At the national level, Scotland has been measuring its performance in broad terms through the [National Performance Framework](#). That framework recognises the [importance of wellbeing](#) across our communities, business and natural environment. At the local and regional level, Clackmannanshire Council has committed to transformative action, including through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Deal. It currently measures performance through a range of indicators set out in the Corporate Plan and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

However, despite efforts, measurements of progress at local and regional levels show room for further improvement. While the general principles of a wellbeing economy are of relevance across the country, different localities within Scotland face different policy challenges. Each area has unique geographical features, which can impact on transport links or the quality of natural resources; varying types and sizes of both economic and social institutions; and diverse populations with unique demographics and skill profiles.

This project is designed to seek to improve outcomes for Clackmannanshire, and also to demonstrate the priorities and types of actions that are needed to build a local wellbeing economy, taking account of the characteristics of a particular place within Scotland.

Figure 2.a, below, shows the alignment between the National Performance Framework, the Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework, and Clackmannanshire's local priorities as articulated in the *Be The Future* Corporate Plan. This figure also shows how shared aims across the Council and Scottish Government have resulted in key themes, which have formed the basis of the wellbeing economy project.

Figure 2.a: Policy alignment and project themes

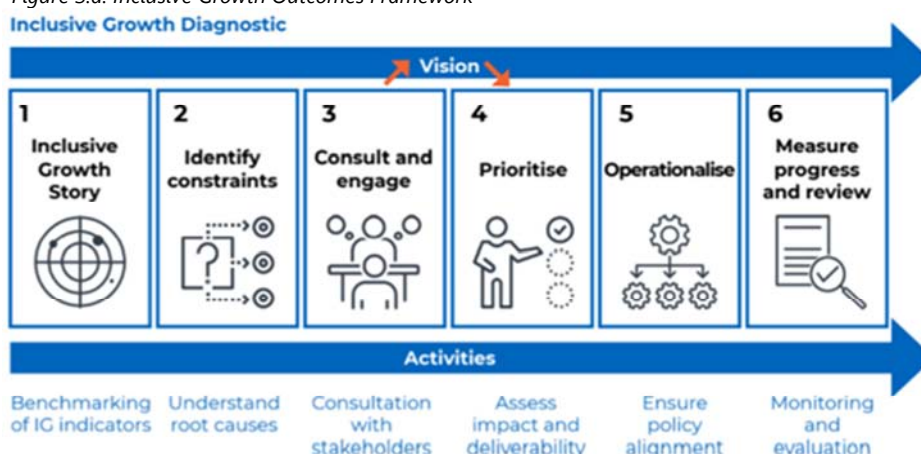


## Part 3: Project Progress

### 3.1 The framework

The project is based on an existing six-stage Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework (see Figure 3.a, more information at Annex B). Stages one and two focus on analysing existing evidence; stages 3 and 4 consider stakeholders' views on priorities and opportunities for change; and stages 5 and 6 entail the delivery of change and the measurement of impacts.

Figure 3.a: Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework



The first two stages of the project have focused on understanding Clackmannanshire's performance on key wellbeing economy outcomes and working to understand what is driving that performance, with a view to ultimately identifying areas where intervention may be beneficial.

- **Stage one, Wellbeing Economy Story** – This stage involved reviewing policy aims for the project and selecting indicators to measure local performance on the wellbeing economy. The project team undertook and expanded on the inclusive growth diagnostic exercise (see Annex B). To align this stage with wellbeing economy considerations and local priorities, an emphasis has been placed on strengthening our understanding of performance in relation to the environment in Clackmannanshire (work on that continues) and building in existing priorities of Clackmannanshire Council.
- **Stage two, Identification of Constraints** – utilising the outputs of stage one, this stage comprised of a deeper dive into the evidence available in relation to each of the project's key themes (ref. Figure 2.a), capturing potential cause & effect for outcomes where possible, identifying gaps in evidence and providing sources to support identified indicators. In addition to this, to capture additional issues that may be emerging from COVID impacts, a qualitative impact survey was carried out with local businesses and communities. The surveys have concluded and findings are set out in the theme-by-theme updates at section 4 of this report.

The data uncovered at stages 1 and 2 is being used to map the system in Clackmannanshire, to try to help us to see the relationships between issues, possible root causes, and

opportunities to intervene. We are inviting those who live and work in the Clackmannanshire area to help us to do that.

- **Stage three, Consult and Engage** – this is our current focus. We are starting to engage with stakeholders on issues, experiences, current initiatives, lessons learned and potential opportunities for action within Clackmannanshire. To achieve this in a way that identifies the linkages between policy areas and key indicators, we are in the process of undertaking a system mapping exercise with **SIPHER (Systems Science in Public Health and Health Economics Research)**. This work will: facilitate conversations with key stakeholders on what a wellbeing economy could look like in Clacks; consider issues experienced by those who live and work in the area and how those issues interact; and highlight potential opportunities for intervention.

### 3.2 Collaborative systems mapping

A **SIPHER systems mapping workshop** took place on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The participant group was comprised of relevant Scottish Government and Clackmannanshire Council policy leads and augmented by key national and local policy partners, whose work aligned with the identified key indicators. The workshop objectives were:

- to acquire a shared and tested understanding of what the wellbeing economy means for Clackmannanshire;
- to develop a mental systems map of an inclusive wellbeing economy focused on health and non-health outcomes, drivers of these outcomes and underlying causal structures;
- to collaboratively develop a 'wellbeing economy story' for Clackmannanshire, focusing on the policies and practices that constrain growth, identify priority areas for action, as well as potential opportunities for change, to improve outcomes;
- to inform Council and Scottish Government policy and approaches to developing and delivering a wellbeing economy.

The outputs from that workshop will help to inform Council decisions on priority areas for action, by illustrating to Council leaders and elected members the connections between issues, as experienced by those who live and work in Clackmannanshire.

Likewise the outputs will inform the Scottish Government's approach to developing and delivering a wellbeing economy – through both ground-up local insights that influence national policy thinking as well as the potential to evolve the Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework into a tool that can be scaled to national/regional/local levels to support the growth of wellbeing economies. We may identify where Scottish Government policies and approaches to delivery act as constraints or offer opportunities for improvement – particularly in relation to how local and national systems interact.

Analysis of the SIPHER workshop outputs is underway and some information on the workshop discussions has been provided at Annex D.

### 3.3 Next steps

The next steps for our work together will involve further, targeted engagement with colleagues and stakeholders on the issues that have arisen from our analytical work, including the SIPHER workshop outputs. The purpose of this engagement will be to identify levers for change and opportunities to make use of those levers to improve outcomes. Those levers may be held by local or national government, other public sector organisations, private sector organisations and/or third sector partners. We will then undertake a prioritisation exercise, considering the urgency and importance of policy issues and the availability of levers to affect change.

We will make recommendations for change and then seek to work together with partners to deliver those recommendations and measure the impacts. The exact nature of this activity will depend on the outputs from the systems mapping and prioritisation exercises.

We are already working closely with colleagues across the Scottish Government to identify opportunities and levers for change, including those who are responsible for the delivery and measurement of the Scottish Government's Environment Strategy, the development of Clacks' Community Wealth Building strategy and the delivery of social policy interventions through the Social Innovation Partnership.



## Part 4: Emerging findings

### 4.1 Key themes

As explained at Part 2 of this paper, we identified key themes for our work together, by considering:

- policy aims shared by Clackmannanshire Council and the Scottish Government; as well as
- areas of concern, where Clackmannanshire appears to underperform on indicators of a wellbeing economy when compared with adjacent Local Authorities and the national average.

The project themes were agreed as:

1. productivity and economic output
2. labour market outcomes and fair work, particularly for females
3. sustainable place (infrastructure and services)
4. outcomes for young people
5. environmental sustainability
6. health and wellbeing
7. poverty.

### 4.2 Findings

The tables below set out a short summary of our findings. These include quantitative data relating to various aspects of a wellbeing economy, as well as qualitative data on the impacts of COVID-related restrictions in recent months. We don't yet know the medium or long-term impacts of COVID restrictions and response activities, however, we have tried to understand where existing issues have been exacerbated, or where stakeholders consider that impacts may be felt in the longer term. Emerging evidence suggests that the impacts of COVID-19 have acted to exacerbate existing inequalities.

While the themes have been helpful in focusing our work thus far, the SIPHER systems mapping exercise will help us to better understand connections across themes – for example, the relationships between health and employability, or between poverty and outcomes for young people.

## Theme 1: Productivity and economic output

What this is about	How Clackmannanshire performs on standard economic measures such as Gross Value Added (GVA); the numbers of jobs and businesses in the area; and other factors such as investment in research and development (R&D).
What we found (areas for improvement)	GVA per head is significantly lower than the national average, and lower than that in Falkirk and Stirling.
What could be driving this	Few businesses relative to the population; low jobs density. Low level of spend on business R&D.
What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.	<p><u>Short-term impacts:</u> Reliance on financial support. Demand is too low to sustain some businesses, whereas others have been able to pivot to new markets. Difficult to meet demand from businesses for some support schemes.</p> <p><u>Possible longer-term impacts:</u> Could create dependency on temporary support (financial or other services) and have a negative impact when the support is no longer available. Potential job losses.</p> <p><u>Suggested priorities for recovery:</u> Support for start-up businesses. More R&amp;D. Access to new markets and development of the local market.</p>

## Theme 2: Labour market outcomes and fair work, particularly for females

What this is about      How well the local labour market works for our residents.

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What we found  
(areas for  
improvement)

Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:

- Lower employment rate, particularly among females.
- Lower pay for female workers and a significant gender pay gap.
- Lower rate of workforce in highly skilled occupations.

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What could be  
driving this

Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:

- High rates of inactivity due to care responsibilities (particularly impacting women), sickness and retirement.
- Lower levels of job-related training; low levels of female Modern Apprentices.

Note links to theme 4 (Outcomes for young people), particularly qualification attainment and destinations for school leavers; and also to theme 1 (Productivity and economic output) a low jobs density (i.e. access to local jobs) can exacerbate challenges for those who may rely on childcare, public transport, etc.

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What stakeholders  
have told us about  
how COVID has  
impacted.

Short-term impacts: Flexible working practices have been important to allow people to work when schools have closed or when childcare has not been available. Concerns about job security, particularly for those on temporary or zero-hour contracts.

Possible long-term impacts: Potential for lost opportunities – fewer jobs, or reduction in skills development activities.

Suggested priorities for recovery: Flexible working practices to accommodate care responsibilities. Focus on literacy, including digital literacy, to help people to access work.

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### Theme 3: Sustainable Place

**What this is about** This includes consideration of population, transport, skills and opportunities including, for example: digital and housing. Some findings are set out below, however 'place' will be a particular consideration as we look to identify opportunities for action. We will consider how levers can improve outcomes across other themes (e.g. through the provision of, and investment in, services and infrastructure).

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**What we found (areas for improvement)** Relatively high dependency ratio (high proportion of young and older population relative to the working-age population) and a forecast decline in working-age population.

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**What could be driving this** Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:  
People do not think that transport in the area is convenient. High level of access deprivation (SIMD).  
Low level of services registered to provide ELC; low level of children registered for ELC.  
Home internet access rate is low, and the download speed (superfast) is slower than in some other areas.

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**What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.** Short-term impacts: Inequality of access to online services. Cost and availability of IT equipment, as well as skills development opportunities, were an issue for some. Council services were modified or withdrawn as part of Covid restrictions. Stronger relationships within communities as people have been helping each other.  
Possible long-term impacts: Level of IT access and skills increased for some, with increased online presence for some businesses, however, continued inequality of access to services if they remain online.  
Suggested priorities for recovery: Improve IT access and skills/digital literacy. Continued need for on-site and in-person services. Improve business access to low cost/affordable and appropriate premises.

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## Theme 4: Outcomes for young people

What this is about	The extent to which young people are thriving in the years after leaving school up to the age of 25.
What we found (areas for improvement)	<p>Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High rate of people with no qualifications.</li><li>• Low, but improving, rate of school leavers with no positive destination.</li><li>• High rates of unemployment for 18-24 year olds.</li></ul>
What could be driving this	<p>In respect of education and attainment, compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average, we found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High school exclusion rate.</li><li>• Low level of people aged 18-24 in full-time education.</li><li>• High rate of people with no qualifications; low rate of people with degree-level qualifications.</li></ul> <p>There is a clear link to theme 6 (Health and wellbeing), e.g. teenage pregnancy rate, and to theme 1 (Productivity and economic output) as opportunities can be created through business activity.</p>
What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.	<p><u>Short-term impacts:</u> Loneliness/isolation among young people. Relationship breakdowns mean separation of household incomes, with children at risk of homelessness or of being in a difficult home environment.</p> <p><u>Possible long-term impacts:</u> May see an increase in child protection issues, if visible to teachers. Difficult to re-engage young people who have disengaged from education due to restrictions.</p> <p><u>Suggested priorities for recovery:</u> Access to counselling services for children and parents. Creation of positive destinations for young people, particularly for Christmas leavers and those who finish school in Summer 2021. As at theme 2 (Labour market outcomes) literacy and digital literacy must be a key focus – to prevent a wider attainment gap.</p>

## Theme 5: Sustainability

What this is about	This theme is a new focus of work within the Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework.
What we found (areas for improvement)	<p>Our data shows that the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita is higher than the average for Scotland.</p> <p>There is a good level of access to the outdoors, and household recycling rates are relatively high.</p> <p>We are working with Scottish Government Environment and Transport policy leads, as well as external stakeholders, to consider how to build in wider measures of environmental sustainability – those that reflect our aims in respect of the circular economy and the quantity/quality/use of environmental capital.</p>
What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.	<p><u>Short-term impacts:</u> There has been a reduction in travel to work. More people are going outside to exercise. Reduced energy consumption for offices. Some negative impacts due to the increase in the use of disposable packaging and PPE.</p> <p>Depending on the nature of economic activity in the longer-term, some of the benefits (e.g. reduced emissions as a result of people working from home) may continue in the longer term.</p>

## Theme 6: Health and Wellbeing

What this is about      Health and community safety including: mental health; mortality; life expectancy; domestic abuse; life limiting illnesses; drug and alcohol issues and the impact of those issues on economic outcomes.

What we found  
(areas for improvement)      Poor health as a barrier to participation.

What could be driving this      Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:

- High teenage pregnancy rate.
- High proportion of adult smokers.
- High rate of children who are obese or overweight.
- High rates of suicide and drug related deaths.

What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.      Short-term impacts: Difficult to get non-emergency support from NHS. Increase in gender based violence. Loneliness and mental health impacts, particularly for adults who are shielding. Impacts of service disruption, particularly on adults with learning disabilities. Service/care providers sometimes unable to follow social distancing guidance. Lack of access to information (individuals don't know how to access, or information is not available in alternative languages or easy read versions). Lack of understanding of challenges for particular groups – LGBTIQ, BME. PPE expenditure.

Possible long-term impacts: Potential long-term physical and mental health impacts – new and exacerbated.

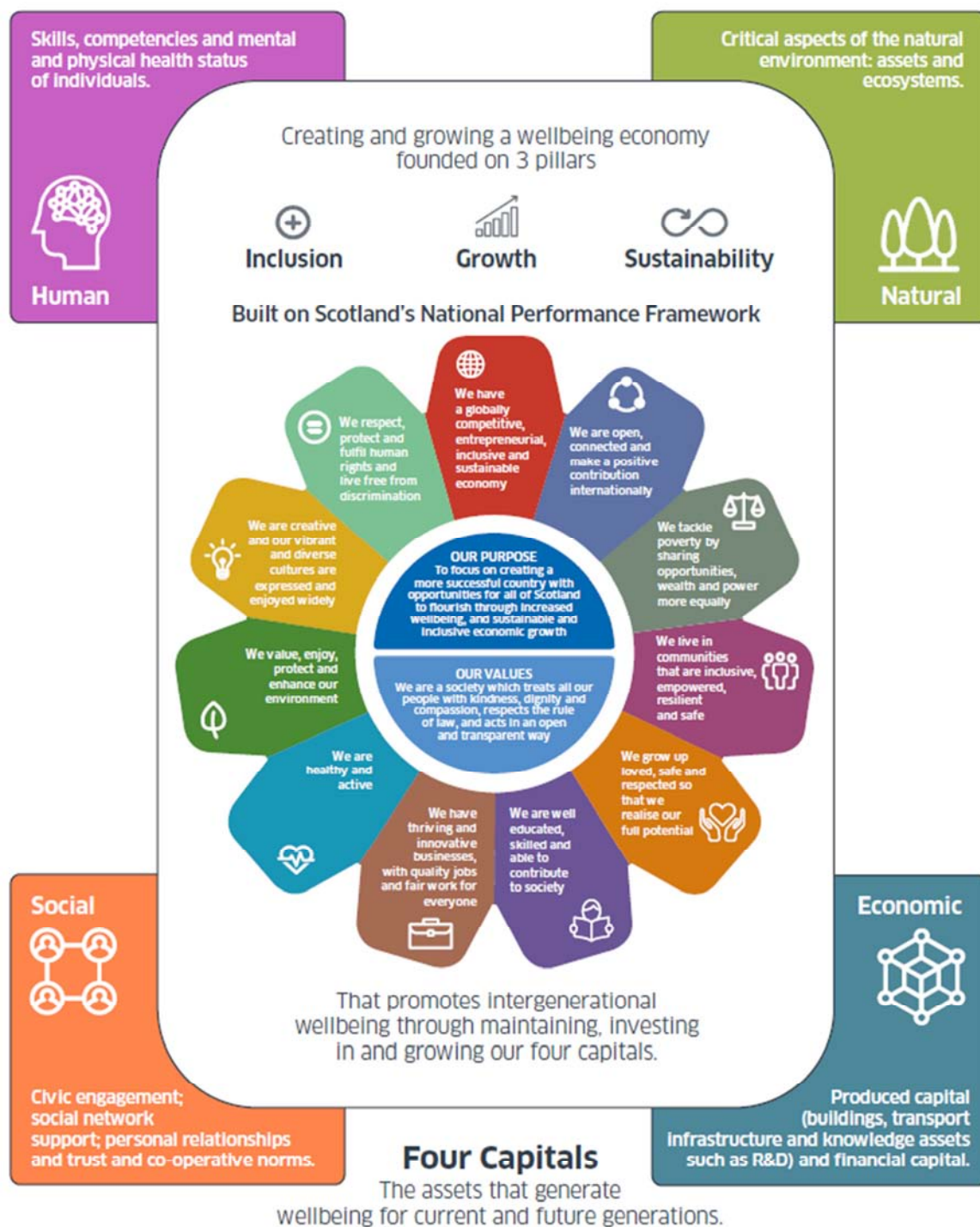
Suggested priorities for recovery: Expansion of services – through additional resource, partnership working. Respite needed for carers. Recognition of the role of third sector as delivery partners and greater level of signposting to local services.

## Theme 7: Poverty

What this is about	This theme looks at poverty broadly considering relative, absolute and persistent poverty.
What we found	<p>Compared with Falkirk, Stirling and/or the Scotland average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High rate of children in low-income households (workless and working).</li><li>• High levels of fuel poverty.</li></ul>
What could be driving this	<p>Note the link to theme 2 (Labour market outcomes, particularly for women) and to theme 4 (Outcomes for young people, including qualification attainment and positive destinations).</p> <p>Also, relatively low rate of energy efficient housing.</p>
What stakeholders have told us about how COVID has impacted.	<p><u>Short-term impacts:</u> Financial pressure of having a whole family in the house. Additional pressures on carers. Breakdowns in relationships leading to separation of incomes and increase in lone parent (often unwaged) households. Increase in benefit claims. Food insecurity and gap in school lunch provision.</p> <p><u>Possible long-term impacts:</u> People living in poverty who have never been in that situation before.</p> <p><u>Suggested priorities for recovery:</u> Action to address food and fuel poverty.</p>



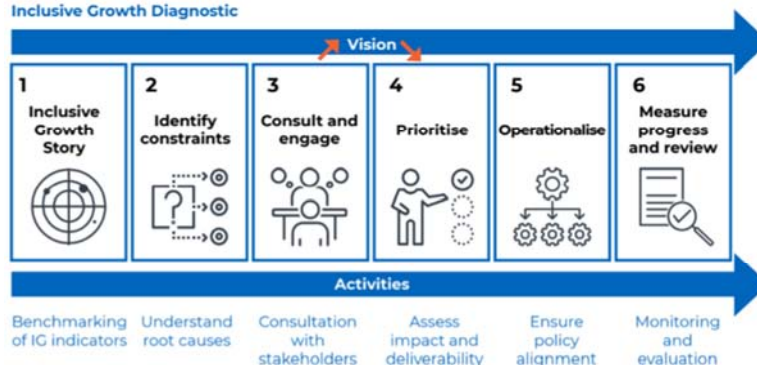
## Annex A: The Wellbeing Economy



## Annex B: Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework

In 2018, the Scottish Government published an Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework. The Framework sets out a six-stage process (see figure B.a below) to guide policy-makers' considerations of evidence, issues, stakeholder views and priorities.

Figure B.a: Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework  
Inclusive Growth Diagnostic



The Framework seeks to facilitate action to create outcomes that support inclusive growth (see figure B.b, below).

Figure B.b: Inclusive Growth Outcomes

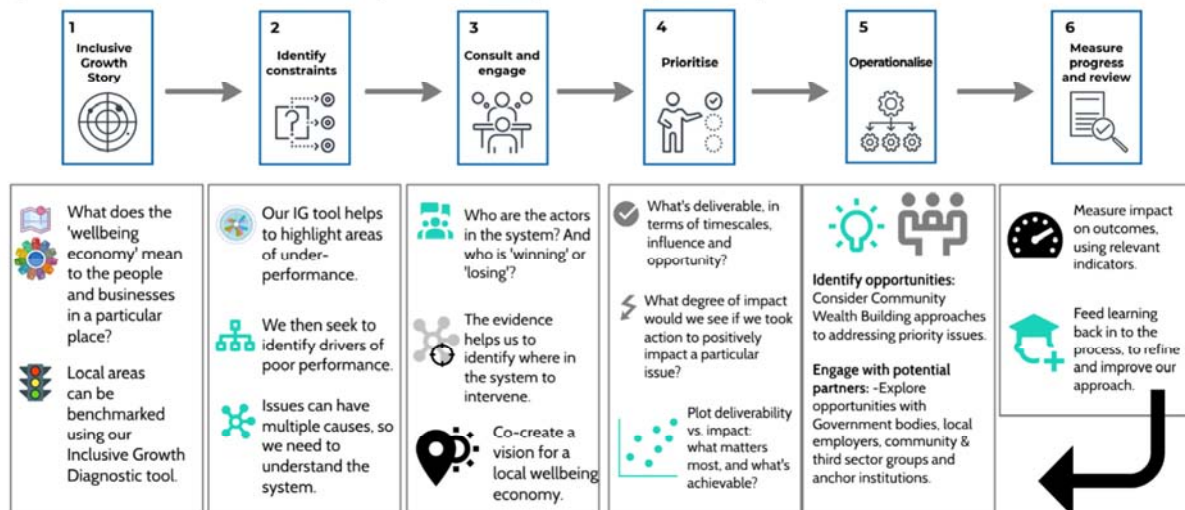


This framework must evolve in line with the wider policy landscape and so must be adapted to more fully consider aspects of a wellbeing economy. Our project has three main objectives in this respect:

- Strengthen our approach to measuring and evaluating sustainability outcomes. The current data set that underpins our Inclusive Growth considers CO2 emissions per capita. We are working with Environment Strategy colleagues to broaden our considerations around the concept of the circular economy.
- Test systems mapping, to work with key partners to try to better understand links between policy issues and potential opportunities for change.
- Explore the potential for Community Wealth Building principles to drive wellbeing economy outcomes.

The Wellbeing Economy in Clackmannanshire project has been designed around the six stages. Figure B.c below gives greater detail on the Wellbeing Economy work and shows alignment with the Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework.

Figure B.c – framework for developing and delivering a wellbeing economy



## Annex C: Stage 1 diagnostic

This diagnostic tool is the first stage of the six-stage Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework process. It allows a comparison between Clackmannanshire's performance on a range of indicators relating to Inclusive Growth against those in neighbouring Council areas and the Scotland average.

In the tables below, areas highlighted green show results that are outperform the Scotland average, and red highlights show underperformance.

Outcome	Indicator	Clackmannanshire	Stirling	Falkirk	Scotland
Productivity	GVA per head, 2018	19,728	28,326	25,720	26,134
	GVA annual growth (%), 2018	0.1*	-0.7	10	3.4
	Exports (% of Scottish total)	1.4	0.8	8.4	100
	Businesses (stocks per 10,000 adults)	302	541	322	391
	Business survival (3-year survival rate)	57.6	61.6	62.5	60.4
	BERD per head (16+), £	59	128	78	300
Population	Migration (net), 2018	-31	505	428	20,900
	Dependency ratio (Dependents as proportion of working age population %)	59.7	55.1	57	55.7
	Working age population forecasts (% change to 2041)	-16.7	-0.2	-2.7	-4.0
Participation	Job density	0.53	0.87	0.7	0.82
	Employment rate, 16 - 64 (%), Sept 2019	71.6	74.6	74.0	74.8
	Median weekly earnings (full-time, excluding overtime), 2019	494.7	634.0	530.8	544.4
	Male median weekly earnings (full-time, excluding overtime), 2019	547.1	604.6	500.0	525.4
	Female median weekly earnings (full-time excluding overtime), 2019	347.9	383.7	401.6	378.9
	Hours underemployment	7.9	6.8	6.7	7.4
	In-work training (last 13 weeks), Sept 2019	11.5	14.5	10.7	17.3
	Public sector employment, Sept 2019	24.1	24.1	20.6	25.8



Outcome	Indicator	Clackmannanshire	Stirling	Falkirk	Scotland
People	Children living in relative low-income families (%), 2018/19	21	15	18	18 (GB figure)
	No qualifications (NVQ), 16 - 64 (%), 2018	11.7	7.3	10	9.7
	Life expectancy male (at birth)	77	79	77	77
	Life expectancy female (at birth)	80	83	81	81
	Degree qualification, 16-64 (%), 2018	24	37.9	18.9	29.6
	School leavers in positive destinations, 2018/19	94.2	95.3	94.9	95
	Workless households, 2018 (%)	17.3	20	15.7	17.1
	School attendance rate	92.9	94.1	93.1	
	School exclusion rate (per 1000 pupils)	29.9	16.4	20.8	26.8
	Drug-related deaths per 10,000 population, 2014-18	0.16	0.13	0.14	0.16
	Suicide rate per 10,000 population, 2014-2018	18.3	11.4	16.8	13.2
	Teenage pregnancy rate per 1000 women (2015-17)	2.9	1.8	2.3	2.8
	Modern Apprentices who are female, Q3 2019/20	56.7%	66.4%	60.8%	61.3%
	18-24 claimant count (2019 average)	7.9%	2.8%	5.4%	4.3%
Place	Residents who rate public services are very or fairly good	51	53	44	46
	Premises that don't have access to high-speed broadband	9	16	6	13
	SIMD 20% most deprived (local share), %	25	11.9	16.4	
	Fuel poverty	30.7	25.8	22.5	27.3
	Access to green and blue space (proportion of adults who live within 5 minutes of their local green/blue space)	72	75	37	64
	Number of recorded crimes per 10,000 population	433	371	418	453
	% of dwellings that fail the SHQS, 2016-18	26	34	38	42
Sustainability	CO2 emissions per capita	10.3	14.9	5.5	5.3

## **Annex D: SIPHER systems mapping – reflections from workshop facilitators**

A systems mapping workshop was held on 24 November. The workshop was facilitated by SIPHER, a research consortium led from Sheffield University whose wider work focuses on approaches to driving inclusive growth across the UK.

The workshop sought to understand the links between policy issues and the outputs emerging from the project analytical work. Attendees comprised representatives of the Scottish Government and Clackmannanshire Council, across a range of policy areas, as well as some key partners including Public Health Scotland, NHS Forth Valley and Scottish Enterprise.

Analysis of the workshop outputs has commenced, and some basic, initial reflections from facilitators on the content of the discussions are set out below.

### **The group identified the importance of realising economic opportunity...**

Importance of moving towards a wider view of economic prosperity, with the aim of attracting and creating sustainable businesses that stay in the area and offer quality jobs. There was emphasis on fostering a flexible, well-qualified workforce. Digital skills were seen as particularly important in helping people access labour market and civic opportunities.

### **... and of ensuring a sustainable, connected population that will develop the labour market...**

Addressing population decline and building well-connected local neighbourhoods were viewed as important in improving economic wellbeing and prosperity. Access to a good public transport system will be important if people are to enter the labour market and gain equality of access to services.

There was a wider discussion on the importance of transport, highlighting affordability, particularly for young people, and gaps in provision, e.g. direct services to education and health facilities, and connections to allow journeys with multiple legs such as those to work via childcare, which are often made by women.

Gender inequality was raised an issue more generally – childcare burdens fall mostly to women, and social norms present barriers to labour market participation and career choices for women and girls. Affordable, flexible childcare was seen as a key factor in helping groups such as women or lone parents access labour market and other opportunities.

There were also discussions on unemployment among older people and the link to both health and digital exclusion; the impact of poverty on health, as well as feelings of shame leading to social isolation; and links between social policy interventions and job creation, as well as voluntary roles and skills improvement.

For young people, there is a need to help improve confidence and ambition through interventions such as mentoring. The group felt that giving children the best start in life was critical to their success as adults.

**... to help to tackle poverty; noting the relationship between economic and health outcomes...**

There are key linkages between health and social inclusion – substance misuse and addiction were cited as health problems which also create complex barriers to economic and civic participation.

A human-rights-based approach to addressing poverty was viewed as important, with an emphasis on peoples' dignity.

Child poverty is a major issue locally, and support for households most at risk is key in improving labour market and wellbeing outcomes. Child poverty in particular was highlighted as a key driver in many of the outcomes in Clacks with links drawn to educational outcomes, skills, mental health and good quality paid work.

Levers identified to support outcomes in this area were identified as flexible childcare support, welfare and social security programmes, educational opportunities, as well as the need for a push to combat place based barriers to choice and wellbeing. Quality homes and places to live were seen as vital in addressing health inequalities and addressing poverty.

**...and the importance of enriched and healthy lives for those of all ages.**

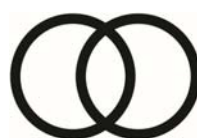
This group recognised the importance of green spaces and leisure facilities to improve health and the quality of life for those of all ages: not just a measurement of the proximity to these, but also the quality of the space/facility and accessibility – in terms of transport availability, the cost of transport, and information or guides to promote available activities. The potential to leverage funding and resource from partners was discussed.





# Community wealth building in Clackmannanshire

Final report – November 2020



**CLES**  
the national organisation  
for local economies

Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)

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CLES is a values-based organisation. These values are embedded in all our work.

<b>Fair</b>	Treating people with fairness and equality
<b>Bold</b>	Devising progressive solutions through pioneering work
<b>Collaborative</b>	Working with others to achieve the best result
<b>Independent</b>	Always acting with integrity
<b>Acting in solidarity</b>	Supporting, nurturing, and empowering ourselves and others

# Community wealth building in Clackmannanshire

Final report – November 2020

**Published by** CLES, November 2020

Presented to Clackmannanshire Council

Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)  
[info@cles.org.uk](mailto:info@cles.org.uk) | +44 (0) 161 832 7871  
[www.cles.org.uk](http://www.cles.org.uk) | @CLEStinkdo

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# Executive Summary

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The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) are delighted to present this report to Clackmannanshire Council. The work started in late September 2021, and this final report lays out the context to community wealth building in Clackmannanshire, outlines the activities that are currently being undertaken, and provides recommendations for how the agenda should be taken forward.

## Methodology

CLES conducted this work via our community wealth building Action Planning process. The process involved assessing community wealth building in Clackmannanshire across the five pillars of community wealth building. These are progressive procurement of goods and services; making financial power work for local places; socially productive use of land and assets; fair employment and just labour markets; and plural ownership of the economy.

We conducted a document review of key Council strategies to develop an understanding of the Clackmannanshire context, and to highlight pillars where existing activity is strong. We supplemented this work with officer, councillor, and key stakeholder interviews to understand what has already been done, and which areas could be developed. An introductory anchor workshop was held in November 2020.

## Findings and recommendations

Our recommendations are aimed at identifying achievable, evidence-based actions to develop an approach to community wealth building in Clackmannanshire.

Inevitably, there are some areas where work is more developed, and others where it is less so. There are also some areas where the scope for scaling up work is more feasible than in others. This is reflected in the action plan in Section 8, which identifies short, medium, and long-term recommendations.

Some of the recommendations are technical in nature, some are more policy-focused, and others relate to culture, governance, and practice. There needs to be a meaningful commitment to these actions, and a recognition of the role they can play in realising the core priorities of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, and a wellbeing economy more broadly.

Across all these recommendations political leadership is key, in terms of having the existing democratic mandate across all of Clackmannanshire, in the wider sub region.

# Recommendations

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Community wealth building should become the golden thread for all economic measures the Council and other partners of the Clackmannanshire Alliance deploy. The following recommendations demonstrate how this golden thread can be developed in practice. **Actions in bold signify key actions.**

## Clackmannanshire as a community wealth building council

### 1) Community wealth building for gender justice

One of the Strategic Outcomes of the LOIP is *“women and girls will be confident and aspirational and achieve their full potential.”* Applying community wealth building principles to this outcome could have significant and positive ramifications across the Clackmannanshire economy. Examples of activity are detailed in Section 2, but could include:

- Bespoke Community Benefit Frameworks
- Political leadership in supplier development
- Scottish Living Wage and Good Employment Charter (Recommendation 18)
- Supporting social enterprise

### 2) **An Economic Strategy for Community Wealth**

A good portion of this report from CLES – from narrative to recommendations – should form the baseline for the Economic Strategy for Community Wealth. An Economic Strategy for Community Wealth should identify the key role for the development of a social and solidarity economy. Though explained more in Section 6, CLES have identified a number of areas where this could begin, including:

- Food and Drink
- Craft and textile
- Green business

As such, the Economic Strategy for Community Wealth could focus on two key sectoral themes:

- Tourism
- Food

Getting an Economic Strategy for Community Wealth in order quickly will also be important in terms of feeding into the Regional Economic Strategy. In this way, community wealth building can become the thread that runs through not only Clackmannanshire Council, but also the Alliance, Regional Economic Strategy, through to the City Region Deal.

### 3) Community wealth building culture building

Community wealth building training should be provided to staff through resources on the staff intranet and through annual workshops to ensure the culture of community wealth building becomes understood across the Council. Training focused on generating community wealth building through Community Benefits should also be delivered to all commissioners and buyers within the Council, building a culture where Community Benefits are seen as a central part of Council business and delivery.

### 4) Community wealth building working group

A community wealth building working group comprised of staff and councillors (and perhaps stakeholders of the Clackmannanshire Alliance) should be established. This group should be chaired by the Leader of Clackmannanshire Council, in order to establish political leadership and oversight of the community wealth building agenda.

### 5) Publish an annual community wealth building progress report

The Council should produce an annual report, assessing progress on the five pillars of community wealth building. Community wealth building work should be celebrated by the council, with successes and case studies promoted either on the Council website or as a part of a separate website. This could also potentially be adopted by the Clackmannanshire Alliance and Regional Economic Partnership.

### 6) Deepen and formalise collaboration on community wealth building through the Clackmannanshire Alliance

The Clackmannanshire Alliance is already well-placed in pushing community wealth building work, featuring voices from several sectors. Further collaboration should be progressed to deepen and scale-up progressive practice in Clackmannanshire. The need for strong democratic political leadership will be crucial to this, so that the key priorities of community wealth building cut through and become the focus of strategic work by the Alliance.

Good practice from Clackmannanshire Council and other anchor institutions across the Alliance should be shared in this forum, leading to joint action where possible around key pillars such as procurement and workforce (Recommendation 17).

Clackmannanshire Council should take the role as first among equals, though elements should land as the responsibility for all anchors involved in the Alliance.

### 7) All City Region Deal projects should follow the principles of community wealth building

Ensuring a progressive Community Benefits Procurement Framework

(Recommendation 9) is placed upon the City Region Deal from the outset could ensure that it becomes the key lever for unlocking opportunities for community wealth building. A joint progressive procurement working agreement or strategy should be progressed and used for all suppliers to the City Region Deal projects and wider Regional Economic Partnership.

## **Progressive procurement of goods and services**

### **8) Develop the corporate culture of procurement and commissioning**

In order for services to treat procurement and commissioning with the status that it requires, an awareness-raising campaign should be developed to explain how procurement and commissioning – as a strategic place-based economic development function just as much as a regulatory one – is a lever of community wealth building.

### **9) Develop a robust and bespoke Community Benefit Procurement Framework**

A robust and bespoke Community Benefit Procurement Framework should be informed by the 'Community Benefits Factory' and broader political priorities. This Framework should be an easy to use tool for Commissioners to identify relevant Community Benefits when designing goods, services, and works opportunities.

### **10) Provide Community Benefit Capacity Building for suppliers**

Led by Economic Development, Clackmannanshire Council should look to provide capacity building to the market. The Council should broker relationships between potential suppliers and organisations that provide support with the delivery of Community Benefits. Political leadership will be crucial in conveying what is expected of suppliers to Clackmannanshire Council. Thus, forms of conveying Community Benefits should be developed, including statement on websites, leadership letter to suppliers, and leadership participation in supplier events.

### **11) Foster a deeper relationship between Procurement and Economic Development**

Procurement and Commissioning are key economic development levers to advance a wellbeing economy. As such, the relationship between Procurement, Commissioning and Economic Development is significant, but as it stands capacity is required on both sides. A shared new post between Procurement and Economic Development should be considered.



## Making financial power work for local places

- 12) Support and promote Clackmannanshire Credit Union to become a financial anchor

Clackmannanshire Council could support and promote the Clackmannanshire Credit Union, helping it to grow and develop. To do this, the Council could incentivise more staff to open savings accounts by working with the Credit Union on the workplace saving scheme. The Council could explore options for Credit Union development in Clackmannanshire with other credit unions and the Association of British Credit Unions.

- 13) Work with Falkirk Pension Fund to achieve more local investment.

Clackmannanshire should use the significant weight that being the first community wealth building Council in the Forth Valley brings to encourage and cajole other members of the Pension Fund to look for more local investment opportunities.

## Socially productive use of land and assets

- 14) **Create a Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan**

Clackmannanshire Council needs to think about assets in terms of their wider social, cultural, and ecological use. The first stage of this is understanding what assets the council owns, and as such a Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan should be created.

- 15) Unlock space for small business and social enterprise

The major challenge for SMEs, social enterprises, and other forms of business in Clackmannanshire is access to space, particularly small workshop and industrial type space. Efforts should be made to identify space or facilities through the register in Recommendation 14, and through work with other public, private and third sector anchors, to establish community enterprise hubs. These would be places where those interested in starting a new business can find the space, networking opportunities, and access to materials and support.

- 16) Advance key sites as community wealth building exemplars

Several sites and activities are identified as key aspects of progressive and productive use of land and property which could unleash significant community wealth building outcomes, and as such need to be advanced. These include:

- The planned food farm at Forthbank
- The Scottish Government Heat Sabs programme
- Re-establishing of Ash trees to tackle the challenge of die back.

- The Primrose Street housing development for dementia friendly design aimed at older households in Alloa town centre
- The redevelopment of the former Glentana Mill site in Alva

## Fair employment and just labour markets

### 17) Undertake an employee mapping and diversity exercise

There is fertile ground for progressive action when it comes to ensuring senior leaders reflect the diversity of Clackmannanshire's residents. Targeted recruitment and apprenticeship strategies aimed at particular wards – especially those suffering from deprivation – coupled with clearer paths to progression for graduate and apprentice employees are strategies that have been successful in other places. This work could be done across all anchors, with Clackmannanshire encouraging this through the Alliance (Recommendation 4 and 6).

### 18) Adopt a “Clackmannanshire Leader” good employment charter

This could take the form of an accreditation awarded to businesses and anchors who meet specific criteria, such as paying the Scottish Living Wage, offering flexible working, or engaging in targeted hiring from deprived areas in Clackmannanshire.

## Plural Ownership of the Economy

### 19) Develop a Clackmannanshire Community Wealth Building Hub

The Business Support Partnership which emerged and has been successful during the pandemic should be reset to create a community wealth building hub. This Hub could be national pilot which if successful could be spread throughout Scotland, pending further discussions with Business Gateway, Ceteris and the Scottish Government.

### 20) Women into business programme

The success of ClacksWiSE indicates a proven track record for this type of project, which tallies well with Clackmannanshire Council's Strategic Outcome and with Recommendation 1. As such, the £90,000 of funding from the Hunter Foundation should be unlocked swiftly to deliver the programme described in Section 7.

### 21) Undertake business analysis to pinpoint potential firms for co-operative conversion

As part of the work to create an Economic Strategy for Community Wealth (Recommendation 2), business analysis should be undertaken to understand if co-operative and worker ownership conversion could be a viable strategy in Clackmannanshire. If so, targeted intervention with viable firms could be undertaken by the Council. More generally, this analysis will also be useful in developing a sense of the business base in Clackmannanshire.

# 1. Introduction and context

---

This report for Clackmannanshire Council represents a key element in developing a wellbeing economy through a new approach to economic development – community wealth building. In so doing, the Council is the second in Scotland to embark on this journey, joining a progressive movement of UK local authorities and areas using this approach.

Community wealth building forms a central theme of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government and national performance framework, as part of the National Mission to Create New Jobs, Good Jobs and Green Jobs. The Scottish Government is working with five areas to produce bespoke community wealth building action plans. These are Clackmannanshire, South of Scotland, Glasgow City Region, Western Isles and Tay Cities.

## Inclusive growth and wellbeing

The Scottish Government and Clackmannanshire Council are currently working together on a project to implement the six-stage *Inclusive Growth Outcomes Framework*. This will widen policy considerations to include a focus on how to achieve wellbeing economy outcomes in the area.

The Scottish Government and the Council have committed to working together to consider how the area currently performs in respect of indicators of a wellbeing economy. This will involve 'whole-system' thinking to identify, design and facilitate the delivery of sustainable interventions to improve both local and national outcomes.

## Clackmannanshire

Clackmannanshire is clearly an ambitious council, with two core documents forming a crucial part of analysis in CLES's community wealth building work. These documents, and their corresponding outcomes are:

- Be the Future, which aims to empower people and places to improve their wellbeing, skills and prosperity, ensuring that the environmental, social and financial needs of are met and that future generations thrive. Be the Future has three Programme Themes:
  - 1) Sustainable and inclusive growth
  - 2) Empowering families and communities
  - 3) Health and wellbeing
- The Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, which has four Strategic Outcomes:

- 1) Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses and people and ensure fair opportunities for all.
- 2) Our families, children and young people will have the best possible start in life.
- 3) Women and girls will be confident and aspirational and achieve their full potential.
- 4) Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish.

Clackmannanshire Council are fully aware that they cannot deliver these bold long-term ambitions alone. Clackmannanshire will need all people, communities, organisations, and institutions to play their part. This is reflected through the Clackmannanshire Planning Partnership (Clackmannanshire Alliance) sharing the vision of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, to jointly tackle the inequalities that exist in Clackmannanshire as result of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage.

The Scottish Government and the Council has committed to boosting and improving social and economic opportunity to create a wellbeing economy. In order to achieve these aims, however, purposeful action is needed. That is the community wealth building approach. The progressive programme of work included in this report and suite of recommendations is therefore an important first step.

In this work, CLES has assessed Clackmannanshire Council's progress across the five pillars of community wealth building. The recommendations contained within this report articulate what needs to happen to make the development of a wellbeing economy through community wealth building a reality, and in so doing help to bring about the ambitious Be the Future and LOIP agendas. Throughout this work, CLES have focused on ambition and feasibility.

This report presents the findings from our community wealth building diagnostic in Clackmannanshire. The report is split into the following elements:

- Section 1 places the report within the local strategic and wider UK contexts and gives an overview of the methodology employed
- Section 2 sets out the overarching community wealth building frame for Clackmannanshire and what needs to happen for it to be amplified
- Sections 3 to 7 are organised by the five elements of community wealth building, and for each we outline the key issues, review Clackmannanshire Council's existing strategies, and present emerging recommendations in each area
- Section 8 sets out an action plan based on the recommendation to taking the important next steps of a community wealth building approach in Clackmannanshire

- Appendix 1 provides a list of stakeholders consulted, documentation reviewed, and anchor institutions present at the workshops, all of which fed into this report.

## What is a wellbeing economy?

A wellbeing economy is a key aspiration for Scotland, based on an approach to economic development that is built on and supports the wellbeing of citizens, now and for future generations. Instead of trends in the levels of GDP, a wellbeing economy approach actively pursues an economy that prioritises human and planetary wellbeing<sup>1</sup>, and is focussed on social goals, social justice, environmental sustainability, and prosperity for all.

A wellbeing economy considers how social benefits flow from, or feed into, economic activity. In this, a wellbeing economy is less interested in inclusion after the fact of growth, but in reorienting goals and expectations for business, politics, and society to deliver good lives for people first time around<sup>2</sup>. This agenda is aligned to a belief in community wealth building, heterodox economics and new forms of economic democracy and urban development such as new municipalism<sup>3</sup>.

In recent months, there has been a sharp focus on the need for an inclusive and sustainable approach to economic recovery from the Covid-19 economic shock. The Scottish Government set out a framework for a national wellbeing economy in its response to the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery. That framework highlights the importance of inclusive growth and sustainability, as well as the need to invest in economic, environmental, social, and human capitals, to ensure Scotland have a robust economy that is resilient to future shocks.

The wellbeing economy pilot process for Clackmannanshire is an opportunity to test and realise wellbeing aspirations. Community wealth building is a core part of realising wellbeing, and the actions recommended will connect with the wellbeing economy pilot process.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.smart-development.org/what-does-a-wellbeing-economy-look-like#:~:text=A%20wellbeing%20economy%20is%20a,to%20all%20aspects%20of%20society>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/what-is-a-wellbeing-economy-new-weall-ideas-paper>

<sup>3</sup> <https://cles.org.uk/blog/local-government-the-commons-the-time-has-come/>

## A wellbeing economy in Scotland



## What is community wealth building?

Broadly, the current economic growth model is failing many locations and communities, and those same communities are suffering the most from the pandemic. Recent OECD data showed that the UK is the only developed economy in which wages fell while the economy was actually growing, albeit meagrely.<sup>4</sup> The UK is an economy where one in eight workers live in poverty,<sup>5</sup> and where 1.3 million people (including children) rely on food banks.<sup>6</sup> In Scotland, more than half of people in relative poverty live in households where at least one adult is in paid employment<sup>7</sup>.

These problems are not caused by a lack of wealth, but rather where wealth is going, who owns it and who benefits from it. Fuelling this inequality is the fact that the fruits of growth are often too readily extracted. At a local level, the prevailing model of economic development has often failed to engage with questions of wealth distribution, focusing instead on generating contributions to GDP.

In response, community wealth building has emerged as a powerful new approach to local economic development. Emerging first in the USA and taken forward by CLES in partnership with a range of local municipalities, community wealth building is a fundamental driver of a wellbeing economy. Community wealth building aims to reorganise the local economy so that wealth is not extracted but broadly held and generative, with local roots, so that income is recirculated, communities are put first, and people are provided with opportunity, dignity and well-being. In this, community wealth building seeks to hotwire social, economic and ecological benefits into the economy.

The Scottish Government has adopted community wealth building, committing to working with five areas on community wealth building action plans which build on learning from work already underway in North Ayrshire. The five areas are Clackmannanshire, South of Scotland, Glasgow City Region, Western Isles and Tay Cities – to grow community wealth building here.

Building strength and empowerment in local economies and communities is key to Scotland's collective recovery, and community wealth building has the potential to bring tangible local benefits quickly. Taking this approach ensures that local people and businesses have a genuine stake in producing, owning and enjoying the wealth they create, and moves us closer to the more just, equitable and sustainable society we want to see in a post Covid-19 Scotland.

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4 <https://www.ft.com/content/83e7e87e-fe64-11e6-96f8-3700c5664d30>

5 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/uk-poverty-2017-country-reaches-turning-point>

6 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/food-banks-uk-how-many-people-adults-poverty-a8386811.html>

7 <https://www.scotpho.org.uk/life-circumstances/income-and-employment/data/working-age-poverty/#:~:text=In%202018%2F19%2C%20more%20than,challenge%20in%20Scotland%20over%20ti me.>



Community wealth building has a particular focus on the activities of anchor institutions. These anchor institutions are large commercial, public, and social sector organisations (including local authorities) which have a significant stake in a place. Anchors can exert sizable influence in impacting upon economic, social, and environmental priorities, by adopting community wealth building strategies. In terms of public institutions, community wealth building asserts the strong democratic oversight of those institution, with a strong role for local political leadership.

At the heart of the community wealth building approach are five strategies for harnessing existing resources to enable local economies to grow and develop from within.



**Plural ownership of the economy** – community wealth building seeks to develop a more diverse blend of ownership models: returning more economic power to local people and institutions. As such, community wealth building asserts that small enterprises, community organisations, co-operatives and forms of municipal ownership are more economically generative within the local economy than large companies or public limited companies.

**Making financial power work for local places** – community wealth building seeks to increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing the wealth that exists locally, rather than by seeking to merely attract national or international capital. For example, local authority pension funds can be encouraged to redirect investment from global markets to local schemes. Mutually owned banks are supported to grow, and regional banks charged with enabling local economic development are established. All of these are ideally



placed to channel investment to local communities while still delivering a steady financial return for investors.

**Fair employment and just labour markets** – often the biggest employers in a place, the approach anchors take to employment can have a defining effect on the employment prospects, incomes, and overall prosperity of local people and local communities. Commitment by anchors to pay the living wage, have inclusive employment practices, recruit from lower income areas, build progression routes for workers and comprehensive union recognition can stimulate the local economy and bring social improvements to local communities.

**Progressive procurement of goods and services** – progressive procurement is a means through which greater economic, social and environmental benefits can be achieved for local places and people. Increased local spend creates jobs, contributing to a multiplier effect which in turn creates additional jobs via increased demand for local goods and services. CLES have pioneered and been at the forefront of work around progressive procurement in the UK, helping to develop a dense local supply chain of local enterprises, SMEs, employee owned businesses, social enterprises, co-operatives and other forms of community ownership.

**Socially productive use of land and assets** – anchors are often major land, property, and asset holders. These represent an asset base from which local wealth can be accrued. In community wealth building the function and ownership of these assets is deepened to ensure any financial gain from these assets is harnessed by citizens. Furthermore, there is a desire to develop local economic uses, and extend local social/community use of those assets. Indeed, much public sector land and facilities are the commons, and should be used to develop greater citizen ownership of the built, open space and natural environment.

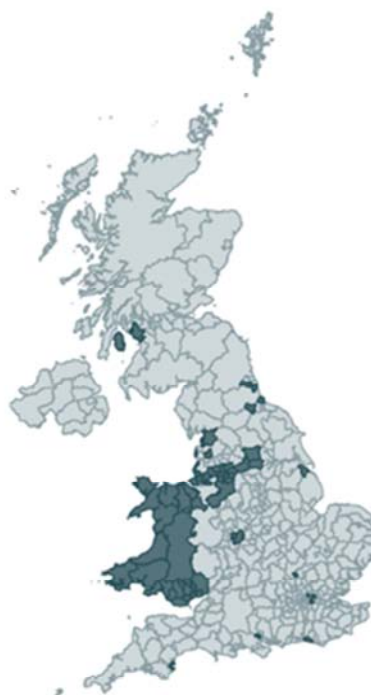
CLES has worked with dozens of institutions across the UK to develop the community wealth building movement, with each locality taking on a different blend of activities based on the five elements outlined above. 14 million people now live in community wealth building neighbourhoods, which is 21% of the UK's population.

## Map of community wealth building localities in the UK



### Community Wealth Building in the UK

Belfast	Newham
Birmingham	North Ayrshire
Brighton & Hove	North East Lincs
Bury	Oldham
Darlington	Preston
Gateshead	Rochdale
Hartlepool	Salford
Islington	Sandwell
Kirklees	Stockport
Lancaster	Southampton
Lambeth	Sunderland
Leeds	Swindon
Lewisham	Torbay
Liverpool	Wakefield
Liverpool City Region	Wales
Luton	Wigan
Manchester	Wirral



### Methodology: community wealth building diagnostic

The methodology CLES adopt is based on assessing and then identifying activity which is already happening, whilst also identifying new opportunities. In this, CLES has undertaken a desk-based review of key documents as a means of assessing the extent to which the tranches of work Clackmannanshire Council is currently undertaking (i.e. in policies, strategies and actions) are reflective of a progressive and inclusive local economic approach. These structured around the five pillars of community wealth building.

A series of semi-structured interviews with officers, councillors, and key stakeholders were undertaken, in order to assess existing and future possibilities for community wealth building. See Appendix 1 for a full list of stakeholders we engaged with.

We have used the findings from this process, alongside the desk based work, and wider experiences and insight from CLES' work on community wealth building work to make recommendations across the five pillars.

These recommendations feature at the end of each section. These obviously relate to the Council, but also have relevance to wider set of Clackmannanshire anchors.

This report also includes an action plan, in Section 8, which sets out next steps for each recommendation.

## 2. Clackmannanshire as a community wealth building place

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Community wealth building is central to the narrative and practical actions related to creating a wellbeing economy in Clackmannanshire. This section sets out the overarching strategy of the Council and what CLES see as the key challenges and opportunities going forward. It also makes recommendations as to where CLES thinks there is opportunity for deeper community wealth building work.

### Context

Clackmannanshire Council are an ambitious council, with both politicians and officers are imbued with public values, with a strong municipalist zeal, energy, and drive reflected in numerous strategic ambitions and priorities.

Clackmannanshire Council have a number of core strategic documents which are interrelated and connected. The document review conducted by CLES found a lot of crossover between the LOIP, Strategic Framework, Strategic Workforce Plan and Corporate Plan. This is encouraging, as it suggests clear ambition from the Council and an honesty as to the scale of the challenge, which is outlined in the Be the Future document as the following:



There are high levels of vulnerability and inequality in some of our towns and villages that require significant and often complex support; our economic performance requires improvement to facilitate the social and financial resilience and independence of our residents; we have a high proportion of our children living in poverty, and we are facing unprecedented challenges to protect our outstanding natural environment within the context of a worldwide climate emergency. At the same time, resources continue to reduce.

”

In response to Covid-19, Clackmannanshire Council have committed to a significant programme of transformation in Be the Future, which sets out the following strategic approach:

“

Our ambition is to deliver sustainable public services by improving the economic performance of the area and creating the conditions to ensure that our people, places and businesses enjoy the benefits of greater prosperity. We want to build on the strong identities of our town and villages and develop sustainable new models of delivering public services in our communities. This is not a quick fix and represents a significant and challenging programme of longer-term transformation activity and investment that will need to be delivered in partnership. A clear and consistent focus on sustainable inclusive growth, empowering families and communities and health and wellbeing is required to achieve our transformation ambitions.

”

This strategic approach is impressive and bold, and the Council acknowledges that this ambition will require longer-term transformation activity, need to be delivered in partnership, and need a clear and consistent focus.

Alongside the Be the Future transformation programme, there is also the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal. The City Region Deal is aimed at driving inclusive economic growth, by creating higher value jobs, sharing prosperity, and creating an inclusive skills ecosystem. Through the City Region Deal, £8 million (capital) in projects in Clackmannanshire is to be developed collaboratively with Clackmannanshire Council and other local partners as part of the City Region Deal.

The City Region Deal also aims to deliver “a Net Zero Region as a national and global exemplar of decisive, collective action in response to the global climate emergency”, with a Regional Energy Masterplan (REM) due to be developed.

Clearly then, it is a pivotal time of opportunity for Clackmannanshire. The Scottish Government Wellbeing Economy project, of which CLES’s work forms a part, and the City Region Deal presents a real opportunity to shape a flourishing wellbeing economy in Clackmannanshire. This has been made even more vital in the wake of Covid-19. The task is to ensure that these opportunities are capitalised upon, however there are a number of challenges which could impede action.

## Challenges

### Competing priorities?

As mentioned, Clackmannanshire Council are ambitious. However, while this ambition is heartening, this is a small council, with competing priorities which could limit progress in terms of clear focussed action.

Just as too many cooks can spoil the broth, sometimes too many outcomes and priorities can detract from the key message and aim. Clackmannanshire are clearly determined, but there is scope for these ambitions to be sifted and prioritised to begin bold intentional action which deliver on real outcomes for Clackmannanshire communities and business.

The City Region Deal provides additional impetus to the need for a clear and consistent focus to be developed in Clackmannanshire, to make the most of the opportunity for significant transformation. Community wealth building should become the golden thread with which to do this, which will be explored in the Recommendations section below.

### Community wealth building as economic strategy and action

While it can be said that Clackmannanshire are strategy-heavy in some respects, in others they are lacking. This is most apparent in the lack of an Economic Strategy and Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan (addressed in Section five). For Clackmannanshire Council to develop the clear and consistent focus set out in the strategic approach from Be the Future, an Economic Strategy is crucial – not only to address the specific issues which are present in the Clackmannanshire economy (explored in more detail in Section 6), but also to enhance long-term, sustainable impact into the future. The narrative and recommendations in his work should form the basis to Clackmannanshire’s Economic Strategy (Recommendation 2).

### Capacity and resources

The lack of an Economic Strategy is indicative of a longstanding underpowering of Economic Development at Clackmannanshire Council. Whilst the service retains a strong employability function, it needs to stretch out into wider economic aspects and community wealth building should be at the core. In recent times, business

and tourism support was lost through budget savings. In addition, wider roles in the former Development Service which supported functions such as inward investment, property management and wider infrastructure investment have been lost over a period of years. As of 2018, Clackmannanshire spend less than any other authority in Scotland on economic development – at just £2 million. While the small size of Clackmannanshire likely has a role to play in this spend, it is not the sole culprit.

Indeed, resource and capacity are a major challenge facing the rest of the Council more generally. Many teams vital to a community wealth building and wellbeing economy approach – such as Procurement and Sustainability – are made up of single, individual people.

## Opportunities

Though the challenges outlined are indeed pressing, they are by no means insurmountable. In fact, its relative small size means that Clackmannanshire is nimble and should be well-placed to apply the principles of community wealth building as both a means to implementing the wellbeing economy agenda, and as a broader project that seeks to make Clackmannanshire's local economy more prosperous and pluralistic.

Embedding the principles of community wealth building into the City Region Deal at an early stage will be crucial in delivering a wellbeing economy, and the City Region Deal already includes elements for building community wealth, which should be developed.

One of these opportunities is with the City Region Deal's Regional Procurement Strategy, which includes "targeted community benefits that meet the needs of the region's disadvantaged communities, encouraging Scottish Living Wage within the supply chain in addition to creating opportunities for social enterprise." Furthermore, the Deal states that it aims to support activity to tackle the climate emergency while "meeting the energy needs of our local communities and businesses in both Council areas." The change of plans around Scotland's International Environment Centre (explored in Recommendation 7) is another of these opportunities.

Building upon these pre-existing opportunities with more strident community wealth building and wellbeing economy principles could see significant transformation of the social, economic, and environmental destiny of Clackmannanshire, and the wider Forth Valley region.

## Recommendations

Community wealth building should become the golden thread for any and all economic measures the Council and other partners of the Clackmannanshire Alliance deploy.

The following recommendations demonstrate how this golden thread can be developed in practice.

## 1) Community wealth building for gender justice

One of the Strategic Outcomes of the LOIP is “Women and girls will be confident and aspirational and achieve their full potential.” Applying community wealth building principles to this outcome could have significant and positive ramifications across the Clackmannanshire economy.

Examples of such activity could include:

- Community Benefits Frameworks (like the one in Recommendation 9) can ensure that commissioning and procurement processes could be used to advance gender equality by measuring things like the gender pay gap, care leave and other indicators of gender equality.
- It should be made clear in procurement processes that Clackmannanshire is particularly keen to do business with organisations that will help it fulfil its Strategic Outcomes. Political leadership will also be significant here in promoting the unwritten message that organisations which want to work with Clackmannanshire Council must support the Council's priorities.
- Think about how land and assets can advance gender justice. The planned Food Farm at Forthbank (detailed in Section 5) could be a real opportunity for education here: involving girls from the get-go would equip them with useful skills which could see them grow up to be the farmers, or community landowners of the future.
- The implementation of a Scottish Living Wage, or a broader focused good employment charter (detailed in Section 6) can have a positive impact on women, who often are in low-paid forms of work.
- Women make up 65% of social entrepreneurs in Scotland, and 54% of trustee or board members of social enterprises are women as well. Supporting this sector is one clear way to ensure that women enjoy ownership of the economy.

## 2) An economic strategy for community wealth

The lack of economic strategy, and the continuing re-powering of economic development generally, is among the most pressing challenges for creating a wellbeing economy in Clackmannanshire. As such, a good portion of this report from CLES – from narrative to recommendations – should form the baseline for the Economic Strategy for Community Wealth. This would hopefully help address resource and capacity issues, while at the same time providing legitimacy and weight to the Economic Development service who will be vital in ensuring the sustainable success of the agenda.

An Economic Strategy for Community Wealth should identify areas ripe for the development of a social and solidarity economy. Though explained more in Section 7, CLES have identified several areas where this could begin, including:

- Food and Drink: Many SMEs are in food and drink, and the case study below demonstrates an example of a number of successful food and catering co-operatives, which could be drawn from in Clackmannanshire.
- Craft and textile: There are many small craft and textile businesses, and supporting this sector could help some social enterprises
- Green business: The council are trying to get a recycling / maker project going with their waste department, which is an excellent example of municipal ownership and creativity. Further, there are massive resources around alternative energy generation – from geothermal energy, wastewater, and the river – which could be unlocked with collaboration from other anchors, such as Diageo.

Cutting across these sectors for development could be two key sectoral themes:

- Tourism: A community wealth building lens could inform the approach to supporting tourism across the County and form a part of the strategic approach to the development of projects under the Culture, Heritage and Tourism Fund within the City Region Deal. In this, community wealth building continues upon the solid foundations in place with the work already progressed by Clackmannanshire Council. Tourism could also play a holistic role in tying together all areas for development listed above.
- Food: The Forthbank Food Farm (discussed in more detail in Section 5) could act as a hook for further community wealth building activity related to food. Developing this sector within the social and solidarity economy could be important in addressing the deep-rooted issues around skills and job density, as well as the economic inclusion of women and girls.

Getting an Economic Strategy for Community Wealth in order quickly will also be important in terms of feeding into the Regional Economic Strategy. In this way, community wealth building can become the thread that runs through not only Clackmannanshire, but also the Alliance, Regional Economic Strategy, through to the City Region Deal.



## Participatory City Co-Op Development

Barking and Dagenham

In Barking and Dagenham, the Participatory City project run around six Business Incubator Programmes a year. The themes of these programmes are based on the interests expressed by the people in Barking and Dagenham, and the businesses can take many different forms that will include a mixture of Co-operatives, Community Interest Companies,



Limited Companies, self-employed micro businesses or Community Businesses.

The idea for the first food programme came out of an event called “Food Day” in April 2018. Food Day was an open call for everyone in the borough who loved food to come share their food with others and learn about ways to develop their ideas into a business. Residents interested in test trading their food ideas were invited to identify the types of support they would need to do so, which included: product development, branding, packaging, food safety, accounting, and above all mentorship and emotional support. Over three months, a group of twelve residents designed, made, and sold their food products at a market stall in West London.<sup>8</sup>

By the start of Autumn 2019 five collaborative food businesses had emerged: shelf-stable food products sold at a market stall; fresh food catering; baked goods wholesale and delivery; cake mixes; and shelf-stable sauces sold at market.

From this initial phase, a food Business Incubator Programme called Bowled emerged which now provides specialist support to develop food businesses. Bowled also connects those involved with the existing local network of food businesses and with other community food business from further afield such as Homebaked, a community bakery in Liverpool.

### 3) Community wealth building culture building

There is clear political and officer buy-in and understanding of the principles of community wealth building in Clackmannanshire. Similar levels of understanding were also apparent across many of the officer interviews CLES conducted. To build on this, community wealth building training should be provided to staff, through resources on the staff intranet, and through annual workshops staff can take part in.

Training focused on generating community wealth building through Community Benefits should also be delivered to all Commissioners and Buyers within the Council, building a culture where Community Benefits are a central part of Council business and delivery.

### 4) Community wealth building working group

A community wealth building working group comprised of staff and councillors (and perhaps stakeholders of the Clackmannanshire Alliance) should be established. This group should be chaired by the Leader of Clackmannanshire Council to establish political leadership and oversight of the community wealth

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.participatorycity.org/tools-to-act>

building agenda. They should meet for first time in early 2021 to take the actions from this report forward.

The first action of this group could be to examine the Be the Future and LOIP agendas, highlighting the linkages between these and the pillars of community wealth building. Then, the core strategic outcomes and associated actions can be sifted and refined based on how they reflect the clear and consistent focus on building a wellbeing economy. Completing this activity as part of the working group would also ensure that necessary process of sifting and refining does not become siloed into one department or end up becoming one person's responsibility.

This group can also begin to progress the short-term recommendations set out in Section 8.

#### 5) Publish an annual community wealth building progress report

The Council should produce an annual community wealth building progress report, assessing progress against the five pillars and recommendations that the Council choose to adopt and push forward on. This could also potentially be explored for Clackmannanshire Alliance and the Regional Economic Partnership

This would be similar to the annual LOIP update, but with fewer actions and outcomes, so that activity can be more directly channelled.

On top of this, community wealth building activity should be celebrated by the Council, with successes and case studies flagged up either on the Council website or as a part of a separate website. Alongside this, there is scope to use these sites as portals with helpful resources and toolkits for anchors and other interested parties.

#### 6) Deepen and formalise collaboration on community wealth building through the Clackmannanshire Alliance

CLES's experience across diverse places is that community wealth building is most effective and transformative in places where the local authority and key anchors meaningfully collaborate, with formal structures getting key partners in the same rooms, advancing shared strategies and goals.

The Clackmannanshire Alliance is already well-placed in pushing the community wealth building work, featuring voices from several sectors. Further collaboration should be progressed to deepen and scale-up progressive practice in Clackmannanshire. The need for strong democratic political leadership will be crucial to ensuring this, so that the key priorities of community wealth building cut through and becomes the focus of strategic work by the Alliance. As such, it will be imperative for the Council Leader to play a strong role. In this, Clackmannanshire Council should take the role as first among equals, though elements of this Action Plan should land as the responsibility for all anchors involved in the Alliance.

There is good practice from Clackmannanshire Council (and almost certainly from other anchors involved in the Alliance) that could be shared in a structured manner. There are also already procurement meetings between the Council, University of Stirling, and hospital.

This recommendation is about ensuring the Alliance have a laser-like focus on key issues and can advance action on them. In light of the pandemic, work will likely focus on jobs and on the role of human resources departments, and procurement and spending as key elements of stimulating local demand. As such, the establishment of a deeper forum where practitioners can work on joint strategy around procurement, commissioning, and Community Benefits, supporting each other in very practical terms, could be valuable. Similarly, employee mapping exercises undertaken across anchors would have a deeper impact across Clackmannanshire as whole (Recommendation 17).

**7) All City Region Deal projects should follow the principles of community wealth Building.**

Each part of the £214m package planned for the wider Stirling & Clackmannanshire City Region must seek to embed and build community wealth, providing benefits to local residents. This requires secure awareness and some concrete connections between aspirations for the City Region Deal and principles of community wealth building. The change of plans around the SIEC in the wake of the pandemic indicates that Clackmannanshire Council has already begun to develop thinking around the realisation of community wealth building through the City Region Deal. This, alongside the proposed Sustainable Aging project should be viewed as key elements of a community wealth building approach to the City Region Deal. Ensuring a progressive Community Benefits Procurement Framework (explored in Recommendation 9) is placed upon these from the outset could ensure that the City Region Deal is a key lever for unlocking opportunities for community wealth building.

Indeed, procurement is likely to feature heavily. A joint progressive procurement working agreement or strategy should be progressed and used for all suppliers to the City Region Deal projects and wider Regional Economic Partnership. This arrangement must embed social values and Community Benefits.

### 3. Progressive procurement of goods and services

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The procurement and commissioning of goods and services by local authorities and key anchor institutions is a crucial lever in the building of community wealth. It is vital the Council and key partners use their purchasing power and convening abilities to deliver economic, social, and environmental justice to the people of Clackmannanshire through the progressive procurement and commissioning of goods and services.

By progressive procurement and commissioning, we mean a number of things. First, it is about increasing the importance of procurement as a corporate function. Second, it is about increasing levels of spend with local organisations and Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMES). Third, it is about using procurement and commissioning levers to address the local economic, social, and environmental challenges faced.

It is this third element that CLES's focus in Clackmannanshire hones in upon. This element needs a rigid deployment of Community Benefits and the development of markets that can deliver them. As such, CLES are particularly interested in how Community Benefits are embedded in the different stages of the commissioning and procurement cycle, alongside supply development.

In this we consider wider how community benefits:

- Can be a **primary aspect of some** commissioned services and procured goods (i.e. social care or purchase of solar panels)
- Should be a **secondary aspect for all** commissioned services and procured goods

#### The progressive procurement and commissioning cycle

The process of commissioning and procurement should be viewed as a cycle with each of five stages complementary and interlinked for it to become more progressive. The image below demonstrates this cycle, with each theme explained in more depth.

## The Progressive Procurement Cycle



### Theme 1: Governance and strategy

Governance and strategy should drive the way in which commissioning and procurement is undertaken politically, strategically, and operationally. This includes the need for political buy-in, regular spend analysis, effective and bespoke frameworks, and a culture within an organisation in which community benefits are seen as significant considerations across all commissioning and procurement activities.

### Theme 2: Commissioning

Commissioning encapsulates all things that those responsible for designing goods and services can think about prior to going to tendering and the market. This includes service user engagement, cross-departmental relationships, appropriate community benefit weighting.

### Theme 3: Pre-procurement

Pre-procurement refers to all activities which local authorities can undertake to make potential suppliers aware of upcoming procurement opportunities. This includes information provision on the scale, strength and size of various markets, and meet the market events.

### Theme 4: Procurement and decision-making

Procurement and decision-making includes actions which local authorities can take in the tender process itself and in evaluating the responses of potential suppliers. This includes asking specific questions as part of the tender process around Community Benefits and effective qualitative and quantitative evaluation.

### Theme 5: Delivery

Delivery involved the things which local authorities can do during the actual delivery of the contract by the chosen supplier. This includes legal and contractual terms and active monitoring.

## What Clackmannanshire Council is doing

The assessment of Clackmannanshire Council against each of the themes and activities outlined in the progressive procurement cycle detailed above is made using a strength based system, with activities graded as strong (activity is fully progressing), less strong (work has commenced but there is still work to be done to fully embed), and weaker (significant work needs to be done to embed). The focus of all the assessments is upon progressing procurement in relation to Community Benefits, with accompanying commentary detailing the reasoning for the assessment.

Theme 1 – Governance and strategy		
Activity	Assessment	Commentary
Political buy-in	Less strong	The process of procurement is viewed very positively at a political level in Clackmannanshire Council. Procurement is seen as a key way of developing the local economy and supporting local business to develop and grow through delivering more local authority contracts with Community Benefits as central. This political commitment is reflected in the regular presentation of procurement strategy reports to Committee and particularly spend reports.

		<p>However, there is scope and potential to further advance this narrative beyond 'local spend' – as there is already a good understanding and narrative there – to consider wider Community Benefits. There should be enhanced political and strategic narratives around how procurement and Community Benefits can address social and environmental challenges, regardless of where a supplier is based geographically.</p>
<b>Spend Analysis</b>	Strongest	<p>Clackmannanshire Council has been undertaking Spend Analysis since 2003 and was the first local authority to undertake such analysis.</p> <p>Undertaken annually, Clackmannanshire Council explores where spend goes geographically (Clackmannanshire, Forth Valley, Scotland, elsewhere), sectorally, and in business type terms, with an understanding of how much is spent with SMEs, for example. This provides the procurement function with a solid evidence base which is regularly presented to local politicians. It also provides the Procurement Team (one officer) with an understanding of where the key gaps are in terms of local spend and particular sectors where spend is elsewhere in the UK and overseas.</p>
<b>Community Benefit focused Procurement Strategy and accompanying Framework</b>	Less strong	<p>Clackmannanshire Council has a Procurement Strategy in place and a suite of accompanying documentation and guidance for Commissioners. The Strategy rightly focuses upon legislative requirements and procedures, however it has also embedding Community Benefits across all procurement activity within the local authority. The accompanying documentation includes templates for RFQ's and ITT's, which refer to Community Benefits. The challenge in Clackmannanshire is implementing this documentation and raising awareness with Commissioners of the importance of embedding Community Benefits as part of</p>

		the commissioning and procurement process.
<b>Community Benefit Trained Commissioners and Procurers</b>	Less strong	The Procurement Team (one officer) at Clackmannanshire Council is hugely experienced in developing strategy and guidance around procurement and Community Benefits, and in setting up governance arrangements to further this, in the form of the Procurement Matters group. However, Community Benefits do not always filter into the behaviour of Commissioners, due to the lack of capacity. There is a need for a process which outlines exactly what Clackmannanshire Council wants to achieve through procurement, with subsequent training for Commissioners and other buyers as to how they can achieve it.

Theme 2 – Commissioning		
Activity	Assessment	Commentary
<b>Service User engagement</b>	Less strong	The process of commissioning and procurement is increasingly about relationships and cooperation on two levels: between buyers and the market, and between buyers and citizens. Clackmannanshire Council recognises that their engagement with citizens during commissioning and with the market pre-procurement is 'patchy', and something for improving.
<b>Cross Departmental relationships</b>	Less strong	The Procurement Officer at Clackmannanshire Council has an excellent relationship with Commissioners and the Economic Development team, recognising the importance of effective communication, given such limited capacity. There is scope however for this relationship to become more focused on identifying more local and wider enterprises which could be made aware of upcoming procurement opportunities and be encouraged



		<p>to bid for them.</p> <p>The relationship between commissioners and Economic Development and Policy Officers could also become more effective, in terms of explaining the scale of the challenge in relation to economic, social, and environmental development in Clackmannanshire.</p>
<b>Community benefit weighting</b>	Strongest	<p>Clackmannanshire Council already has in place a weighting in all procurements around Community Benefits, which varies between 10% and 20%, dependent upon the nature of the good or service being procured. The Council is also becoming more forthright on the implementation of this by suggesting suppliers that 'we expect you to do this' rather than 'will you do this'. Linking into the activity around service user engagement, Clackmannanshire Council is also seeking to make their Community Benefit requirements more focused through the development with CTSI of a 'Community Benefit Factory'. This is an excellent innovation and should be encouraged as a key element in devising bespoke community related community benefits from specific contracts. This Factory should become a central part of the Community Benefit Framework in Recommendation 9.</p>

Theme 3 – Pre-procurement		
Activity	Assessment	Commentary
<b>Information provision</b>	Strongest	Clackmannanshire Council advertises all procurement opportunities through national and regional procurement portals.
<b>Meet the market</b>	Strongest	Clackmannanshire Council attends all the national meet the market events that are held, and organises local events. Importantly, these

<b>events</b>		<p>local events are all encompassing and move beyond the focus upon construction projects, which is often the case in other local authorities. Two events have been held in the last year which have attracted businesses from across a range of sectors. The meet the market events are viewed as both an opportunity to discuss the types of goods and services being procured by the Council, and the types of economic, social and environmental challenges they are seeking to address. For the latter, the events have been attended by the Leader of the Council. These are excellent, should be encouraged and developed further, focused on the key aspirations of council in Be the Future and the LOIP. Political leadership could also be used to establish the overarching aim of all suppliers being to assist Clackmannanshire Council by delivering community benefits, including focusing on women into employment (Recommendation 1).</p>
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<b>Theme 4 – Procurement and decision-making</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b>Community Benefit questions menu</b>	Less strong	<p>Clackmannanshire Council utilises a method statement approach to gather responses as to the types of activities which suppliers are going to undertake around Community Benefits. The challenge with this is that it is that there are often a breadth of responses which makes it difficult to compare one supplier against another. There is scope to develop a suite of more focused Community Benefit questions which focus upon Community Benefits emerging from specific economic, social and environmental outcomes which the Council is seeking to achieve. These outcomes could emerge from the sifting and refining activity recommended in Section 1.</p>

<b>Qualitative and quantitative evaluation</b>	Strongest	Clackmannanshire Council evaluates all quotation and tender responses using a blend of quantitative and qualitative techniques.
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Theme 5 – Delivery		
Activity	Assessment	Commentary
<b>Legal and contractual terms</b>	Less strong	Clackmannanshire Council is currently seeking to 'tidy-up' its legal and contractual terms, notably in terms of Community Benefit commitments. Award letters and contracts are currently based around the tender submission of the successful supplier, including their Community Benefit commitments. However, there is a challenge in holding suppliers to account on these commitments given the lack of effective contract monitoring of such outcomes.
<b>Community Benefit brokerage</b>	Weaker	Clackmannanshire Council recognises that brokering and signposting suppliers to organisations that can help them deliver Community Benefits is something that they are working on and can be improved upon. There are lots of providers of support for the unemployed and apprenticeships in the locality and voluntary and community sector organisations. There is a continued role for Economic Development in brokering this relationship.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Weaker	Clackmannanshire Council recognises that contract monitoring Community Benefit commitments and achievements is the key challenge associated with progressing procurement processes and practices in the local authority. As already outlined, lots of positive work is being undertaken around the 'Community Benefit Factory' and making

		suppliers aware of the importance of Community Benefits. However, this is not being measured during delivery, due largely to a lack of capacity.
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## Challenges

Overall the challenges do not relate to Procurement as such, as this is well developed, but instead with commissioning and in terms of matching demand (spending), to supply (suppliers), and role of Economic Development in this.

Clackmannanshire Council is keen to progress the way in which it undertakes commissioning and procurement further, with a specific focus upon how it can achieve Community Benefits through the process. This is not straightforward, however, and as part of a workshop held with Commissioners at Clackmannanshire Council as part of this work, five key barriers were identified in relation to Community Benefits and Commissioning:

- Commissioners often do not fully know which wider Community Benefits are important when it comes to commissioning and procurement. Is it important to focus upon bespoke Clackmannanshire priorities, be that creating jobs, or improving skills, or reducing carbon emissions, for example?
- Commissioners do not precisely know which community benefits are relevant for the service or work they are looking to design. The Community Benefits being sought through social care will be very different to those being sought through a construction project, for example.
- Commissioners are not always clear on the specific questions they need to develop and ask as part of a procurement exercise. Whilst a method statement will identify the generic Community Benefits which a supplier is looking to deliver, more specific questions, will enable a more focused answer around Community Benefits.
- Commissioners are not always sure of the capacity and capability of local suppliers and SMEs to bid for procurement opportunities and in some cases who local suppliers are. This means a key barrier to realising priorities around local spending through procurement and a need for an effective relationship with Economic Development.
- Commissioners often do not have access to a robust way of monitoring Community Benefit outputs and impacts during the actual delivery of a good, service or work.

These barriers, and the conversations with commissioners and procurers at Clackmannanshire Council has enabled us to develop the following recommendations in relation to progressing procurement as part of the Community Wealth Building Action Plan.

## Recommendations

Before discussing the recommendations, it is important to note that there are capacity issues, namely that the existing Procurement Officer and (small) Economic Development team are already doing more than can be expected, making the delivery of market support to fit into procurement and commissioning demand difficult.

To move forward into deliverability with the suite of recommendations listed below, there will need to be greater capacity. This may include a shared resource between procurement and economic development.

### 8) Develop the corporate culture of procurement and commissioning

In order for departments to treat procurement and commissioning with the status that it requires, an awareness-raising campaign should be developed to explain how procurement and commissioning is a lever of community wealth building and the role of Community Benefits in that. Highlighting how it is a strategic place-based economic development function just as much as a technical or regulatory one, as regards council expenditure.

Therefore, a close working relationship and alignment of plans should be fostered between Procurement and Economic Development (see Recommendation 11). Doing so should enable a real cultural amplification as to the reasons why Community Benefits are important and maximise the ability for both functions and wider Council to build community wealth.

### 9) Develop a robust and bespoke Community Benefit Procurement Framework

A robust and bespoke Community Benefit Procurement Framework should be informed by the Community Benefits Factory and broader political priorities. This Framework should be an easy to use tool for Commissioners to identify relevant Community Benefits when designing goods, services, and works opportunities. The Framework would ensure Community Benefits are adopted consistently as part of quick quotes (threshold from £10k to £50k), and would detail:

- The bespoke Community Benefit **outcomes** which the Council is seeking to achieve through procurement and commissioning
- The types of Community Benefit **activities** which suppliers and the market (construction very different to catering) could potentially deliver in relation to those outcomes
- The **questions** that could be asked as part of a procurement exercise in relation to each outcome and accompanying activity
- The way in which the responses to the Questions from potential suppliers could be **evaluated**
- The types of goods, services and works for which particular Outcomes, Activities, Questions and Evaluation ways are relevant – effectively a **matrix**

## 10) Provide Community Benefit Capacity Building for suppliers

Whilst it is important that Clackmannanshire Council develops its own processes internally around Community Benefits, it is also important that this is effectively communicated to the market, particularly amongst smaller enterprises and other forms of inclusive ownership. Many businesses will not understand what is meant by Community Benefits, nor how to effectively respond to Community Benefit questions as part of the procurement process. Therefore, Clackmannanshire Council (led by the Economic Development Team) should look to provide capacity building to the market and broker relationships between potential suppliers, and organisations that provide support with the delivery of such benefits. Here political leadership will be crucial in conveying what is expected of suppliers to Clackmannanshire Council. Thus, forms of conveying Community Benefits should be developed, including statement of websites, letter to suppliers, and participation in supplier events.

Clackmannanshire Council has already undertaken quite a lot of work in developing their activities around Community Benefits and progressing procurement. However, there is a key gap around contract monitoring, particularly in relation to monitoring the Community Benefit achievements of suppliers. As part of the development of the Community Benefit Framework (described in Recommendation 9), Clackmannanshire Council should therefore develop a monitoring tool which enables the outputs of suppliers to be tracked in relation to Community Benefits and the impacts measured.

## 11) Foster a deeper relationship between procurement and economic development

Procurement and commissioning are key economic development levers with which to advance a wellbeing economy. As such, the relationship between Procurement, Commissioning and Economic Development is significant. Clackmannanshire is a small council and relationships are already there. However, they should be deepened and strengthened wherever possible.

## 4. Making financial power work for local places

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The UK banking sector is orientated to global markets rather than local investment and economic development. Over recent years, there has been a stagnation in lending to small business and the many local bank branches and lending centres have closed, reducing the connection between lenders and their local communities. Access to credit is the life blood of many small businesses without which they struggle to operate and compete with larger firms to provide goods and services. At the same time, increasing poverty is driving many individuals to pay-day lenders, with punitive interest rates.

Community wealth building seeks to increase flows of investment within local economies. It does this by harnessing the wealth that exists locally, rather than by seeking to attract national or international capital. For example, local authority pension funds are encouraged to redirect investment from global markets to local schemes. Mutually owned banks are supported to grow, and regional banks charged with enabling local economic development are established. Ensuring there are ethical lenders such as credit unions is also key in ensuring local people are not sent into unmanageable debt. As such, access to finance is fundamentally important to the success of community wealth building.

### Context

SMEs are vitally important – both in Clackmannanshire, and across the UK economy. They account for 99.9% of all private sector businesses<sup>9</sup>, 60% of private sector employment and 47% of private sector turnover across the country.<sup>10</sup> In Clackmannanshire, SMEs make up 90.91% of businesses, employing over 5,000 people<sup>11</sup>. Increasingly, however, traditional banks are preferring not to take the perceived risk of lending to SMEs, increasingly implementing stricter lending

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<sup>9</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/746599/OFFICIAL\\_SENSITIVE\\_-\\_BPE\\_2018\\_-\\_statistical\\_release\\_FINAL\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746599/OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE_-_BPE_2018_-_statistical_release_FINAL_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.civitas.org.uk/content/files/helpingsmesaccessfinance.pdf>

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<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2019/11/businesses-in-scotland-2019/documents/businesses-in-scotland-2019-pdf/businesses-in-scotland-2019-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/Businesses%2Bin%2BScotland%2B-%2B2019%2B-%2Bpdf.pdf>

criteria. In 2019, the value of bank loans to SMEs fell in more than half of the country.<sup>12</sup>

Getting funding to SMEs is crucial. Doing so acts as a poverty alleviation strategy – by helping local firms to flourish, grow, invest, and hire – and as a way of building a robust and resilient local economy, which is not vulnerable to the shocks that can occur through the closure or departure of a large private employer.

Personal debt is also a significant problem in Clackmannanshire, with the debt charity StepChange reporting that Clackmannanshire has an average budget deficit of -£29.21<sup>13</sup>. Debt is also disproportionate across Clackmannanshire, with Alva residents experiencing more than twice the level of debt as people living in other parts of the authority<sup>14</sup>. Indeed, the statistics included here are from before 2020, and the picture in Clackmannanshire is likely to have worsened: in the wake of the pandemic, StepChange have reported a personal debt “tsunami” of £6 billion is being stored up among 4.6 million households in the UK<sup>15</sup>.

During stakeholder interviews it was reported that there is also a history of doorstep loans from companies in Clackmannanshire, as well as “under the counter” money lending. People “living in a circle of week to week or day to day” is widespread in Clackmannanshire and indicates that the people of Clackmannanshire have an insecure stake in the economy.

It was also reported that there is very limited physical access to banks in Clackmannanshire, with just one TSB branch and one The Bank of Scotland.

As this shows, there are issues regarding access to credit, especially for those most in need of it: SMEs and many people living in Clackmannanshire, including those in full-time employment. Addressing these issues head on will be crucial in creating a wellbeing economy in which all citizens of Clackmannanshire share in its flourishing.

## What Clackmannanshire Council are doing

As part of the Housing Service Organisational Redesign Clackmannanshire Council is looking to strengthen links between the Third Sector and its own resource on money advice and income benefit maximisation

Safeguarding through Rapid Intervention (STRIVE) is a pilot project delivered by the partners of the Clackmannanshire Alliance to test the concept that a multi-agency, public sector team will deliver better outcomes for the most vulnerable citizens of Clackmannanshire through integrated ways of working. It was reported that all the people that STRIVE work with have limited financial security, in the

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<sup>12</sup> <https://smallbusiness.co.uk/sme-lending-falls-2547173/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.stepchange.org/Portals/0/assets/pdf/stepchange-scotland-in-the-red-2019-report.pdf>  
This is where an individual is in debt after their essential costs have been covered

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.alloaAdvertiser.com/news/16393470.alva-residents-coping-twice-much-debt/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.stepchange.org/policy-and-research/debt-research/post-covid-personal-debt.aspx>



form of limited access to decent financial advice and products and personal debt and illegal lending.

£15m of funding is coming from Falkirk (Forth Valley) Pension Fund to deliver 207 new social rent homes in the Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Falkirk areas. This is an encouraging use of local financing. However, it was reported that there was reticence around this with “ten reasons why they couldn’t do it rather than one reason why they could.” Furthermore, there have been lessons learned from this scheme due to the fact that the request of the return was greater than could have been obtained by anyone else. As such, the Housing Association building the homes could have got a cheaper rate from other lenders and required higher grant funding to deliver on the homes. This effectively meant that less units were built than could have been from another lender.

There is a well-established Credit Union in Clackmannanshire, though concerns were raised around its proactivity in expanding. It was reported that there was limited capacity at the Credit Union in terms of acting as a financial anchor, with Clackmannanshire Council potentially also supporting/promoting other credit unions.

There is also due to be significant resource coming into Clackmannanshire from the City Region Deal. Around half of the £90.2 million investment from both Scottish and UK Governments will be spent in the County. Most of it in the form of capital projects. In addition to the establishment of elements of the SIEC, further projects are being developed collaboratively with Clackmannanshire Council and other local partners including active travel, digital and culture, heritage and tourism. Clackmannanshire will also benefit from the £1.9 million Scottish Government revenue funding supporting Skills and Inclusion. A further £100,000 is being invested from the UK Government to build on the LOIP and work with 100 lone parents through delivery of targeted pre-employability support in Alloa South & East.

## Recommendations

Clackmannanshire is small council. Where other larger localities have long term aspirations for a community bank as part of community wealth building, at this stage this would be an unnecessary distraction for Clackmannanshire. Nevertheless there are key signature elements it could work on, and it is imperative that it maintains alert to the work of the newly formed Scottish National Investment Bank (SNIB), and how it could realise opportunities for Clackmannanshire.

**12) Support and promote Clackmannanshire Credit Union to become a financial anchor (see case study below)**

Clackmannanshire Council could support and promote the Clackmannanshire Credit Union, helping it to grow and develop. To do this, the Council could encourage/incentivise more council staff to open savings accounts by working with the Credit Union and build on the existing workplace saving scheme. This

could help ensure the financial wellbeing of the Clackmannanshire Council workforce, by fostering a savings habit that helps build employee's financial resilience. Clackmannanshire Council could also investigate the feasibility of signing up as an Employer Partner.

As immediate first steps, the Council could convene a meeting between themselves, the Credit Union, Association of British Credit Unions, and other credit unions to see what opportunities there are for credit union development in Clackmannanshire.



## Chorus Workplace Saving Scheme and Employer Partners

Brighton and Hove and East Sussex

The Financial Inclusion Centre has recently published its new Interim Report 'Getting Workforces Saving' that has found that there is a positive relationship between credit union membership within workforces and more frequent and persistent (or disciplined) saving habits compared to their non-credit union member colleagues.

Payroll deduction schemes with credit unions appear almost universally popular amongst existing users – 96% stated that they would recommend this method to their co-workers.

Ease and simplicity are the principal drivers for participating in a payroll deduction scheme – 79% stated it was the main reason for saving via this method with the credit union.<sup>16</sup>

The East Sussex Credit Union has a Workplace Saving Scheme and Employer Partner programme<sup>17</sup> which supports the capitalisation of the Credit Union, in turn reducing the cost of borrowing for lenders. For every £1,000 invested in the credit union they can reduce the amount of interest payments made to higher cost lenders by £500.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> <https://savewithchorus.org.uk/workplace-saving-schemes-benefits/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://savewithchorus.org.uk/employer-partners/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.eastsussexcu.org.uk/savings>

13) Work with Falkirk Pension Fund to achieve more local investment (see case study below)

Clackmannanshire should use the significant weight that being the first community wealth building council in the Forth Valley to encourage and cajole other members of the Pension Fund to look for more local investment opportunities. This is especially important in the context of the pandemic: the pension fund investing in local businesses could not only see dividends for pension holders, but act in the interest of the place in the long term, in terms of supporting development activity at a time of crisis. The lessons learned from the investment in social housing should be built upon, with Clackmannanshire Council encouraging the Pension Fund to support activities that cannot access traditional funding sources, while ensuring a good rate of return to protect Pensions of people across the Forth Valley.



## Local pension fund investments

### Lancashire and Preston

In much the same way that Clackmannanshire's local government pension fund is managed by Falkirk Council, Preston's pension fund is managed by Lancashire County Council. As part of the "Preston Model" of community wealth building, these two organisations worked together to localise pension investment in Preston. Since 2013, £100m has been allocated in Preston and South Ribble, with investments in student housing and hotel redevelopment. This strategy ensures stable returns also benefit local people and the local economy.

## 5. Socially productive use of land and assets

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Land and assets form a key element of community wealth building. Whilst a traditional economic development approach might only measure the value of these assets in economic terms, developing a community wealth building approach in Clackmannanshire would see these assets harnessed to serve the common good.

### Context

Many stakeholders, from officers and councillors to anchors from the third and private sector expressed a good understanding of the need to use land and assets in a more productive way. It was generally appreciated that land and assets should be viewed as a key pillar in Clackmannanshire.

However, a desire to take a more holistic approach to community wealth building through the socially productive use of land and assets has been historically limited by pressing demands to maximise capital receipts as well as internal capacity issues.

Though budget crises are of course of great concern and should be treated as such, it is important that the realisation of the broader long term local economic, social, cultural and environmental use value of land and property assets happens and doesn't play second fiddle to short term sell off for capital receipts.

### What Clackmannanshire Council are doing

There is a recognised need to deliver a Strategic Asset Register. Once this first 'quick-win' is completed, there are numerous opportunities which could be unlocked and cascade, offering more solid foundations of a wellbeing economy could be established.

The history of Community Asset Transfer in Clackmannanshire has been somewhat difficult, with the experience of the Alva Swimming Pool given as an example of an asset transfer which did not end well for any party. There is also a culture of "the council always coming in and picking up the pieces" meaning that community economic development and empowerment may have been inadequately nurtured. However, this is getting better, especially in Alloa and Alva where communities are "feeling more empowered and aware that they can do things that they didn't think they could a few years ago." Other positive

examples include a former civic building which is successfully ran on a lease by a community group.

While Clackmannanshire Council have a business land audit, which covers “how much land is available, what’s it allocated for, and what type of business we would want to encourage there”, there is less coherent linkage of this to planning and estates. Clackmannanshire Council seem less focussed on questions of land ownership, and considerations of wider use value. It was reported that “there was a time where it was almost development at all costs” in terms of new development, but that “now place is more important and we are realising that communities need to be looked at and built up and planned properly to survive.”

Central to this is the need for a strategic asset management plan, as mentioned above. While there used to be a Joint Venture Company and a member of staff who dealt with council property, it has been more than a decade since the council had any resource in this area. There have also been issues around council with various asset registers (of operational, non-operational, commercial, and learning estate property and land) not being updated and thus stalling. Though work is now ongoing to reorganise this, it has been difficult with a lack of strategic line up and communication.

Officers reported that “from a strategic view, we need to look at Clackmannanshire at a whole, but there isn’t an overall plan at the moment”. There was clear awareness within the Council of a whole life approach to costing an asset in order to drive more value from a community wealth building perspective. Though this awareness is thwarted as regards follow through due to a lack of resource. While there is a transactional estates manager working two days a week, unlocking resource to provide a full-time strategic asset manager would be welcome.

The knowledge gaps that exist because of lost resource and the lack of a strategic asset register, means that in many places other opportunities that exist have not been unlocked. For example, one participant referenced a piece of derelict land in a town centre; another mentioned the Wimpy Park garages which are council owned; another drew CLES’s attention to the former Scottish Water site of Gartmorn Dam; and another said that “there are lots of empty and half empty buildings that are not being utilised property.” Recommendations 15 and 16 explores these examples in more detail. Each of these examples demonstrate that building a wellbeing economy through the principles of community wealth building is possible for Clackmannanshire: the opportunities are there and there is a desire to do so from officers and councillors. The central task is how to unlock these, albeit the feasibility and ongoing viability of all these need to be closely assessed.

In terms of other anchors, it was reported that Clackmannanshire is “well behind” in terms of land assets. Officers expressed the desire to expand the whole life value approach to other partners, in order to ensure social and environmental benefit from assets, but there was doubt as to whether conversations around productive use had started in the Clackmannanshire Alliance. Developer

Contributions meetings have recently started, and while there “has been an appetite from some quarters to tie all this together” in the past, it has not happened. As such, the Council is “starting from a zero base in getting the right parties around the table.” It was also reported that there have been times in the past where economic development and regeneration have made planning decisions with “no input” from the strategic land and assets team. However, it is encouraging that this progress is beginning, and officers were positive about more recent links with Economic Development and Regeneration, feeling that all departments are now “in a good place” with the Developer Contribution Group.

## Recommendations

### 14) Create a Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan

Clackmannanshire Council needs to think about assets in terms of their wider social, cultural, and environmental use. The first stage of this is understanding what assets the Council owns, and as such a Strategic Asset Register should be created. This can then be sifted for sites that could be used productively from a community wealth building frame and could include engaging with communities around vacant and derelict land use. Work could also be done in conjunction with the Alliance and their own estate portfolios.

As part of this work, Clackmannanshire should explore the funding available as part of Be the Future in terms of hiring another member of staff to take responsibility of the strategic asset register and management plan moving forward. If resource is not available, the ongoing discussions with HubCo around expertise on feasibility and option appraisal should be progressed.

Efforts should be made to identify space or facilities through this register, and through work with other public, private and third sector anchors, to establish community enterprise hubs as part of a wider strategy to support an architecture amenable to the development of locally and socially owned businesses. This links to the next recommendation.

### 15) Unlock space for small business and social enterprise

The major challenge for SMEs, social enterprises, and other forms of business in Clackmannanshire is access to space, particularly small workshop type space. This recommendation also relies on Recommendation 14 around the developing of a Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan, but could serve as a relatively quick, yet hugely impactful win for the Council and wider Clackmannanshire economy. By identifying space or facilities through this Register, and through work with other public, private and third sector anchors, community enterprise hubs could be established. These would be places where those interested in starting a new business can find the space, networking opportunities, and access to materials and support.

## 16) Advance key sites as community wealth building exemplars

Several sites and activities are identified as key aspects of progressive and productive use of land and property which could unleash significant community wealth building outcomes and need to be advanced. These include:

- The planned food farm at Forthbank, which offers great potential for community wealth building in Clackmannanshire. Funding has been applied for to use the heat from old mine works to create growing power for food which could be sold, as well as powering tanks for prawns and halibut. It was expressed that involving the community in this project was central, and the Forth Valley College are involved in creating training courses. This project is an exemplar of a wellbeing economy and is demonstrative of community wealth building acting as a golden thread to achieve strategic outcomes.
- The Scottish Government Heat Sabs programme, which Clackmannanshire Council lead on. This project was described as going beyond simply making home energy efficient, to focusing on how to “create a social environment and a community.” Work is underway to try and connect with Forth Valley College around this initiative to provide training and the Community Benefits in procurement (alongside creation of local jobs) had been considered.
- Re-establishing of Ash trees to tackle the challenge of die back. Part of this involves establishing a tree canopy in the area with neighbouring councils and meetings have happened to figure out how best to join up together. The ambition is to plant two trees for every person in the community, and ideas are fomenting around a “My Two Trees” project which would help children have ownership over the project, and in turn, Clackmannanshire more generally. It was also reported that Rangers are looking at a Woodland Strategy.
- The Primrose Street housing development for dementia friendly design aimed at older households in Alloa town centre was regularly referenced. This forms part of wider regeneration activity in Alloa which is being conducting using the place standard. A Masterplan for Alloa town centre is being developed, which could become part of a Development Plan of which other projects could flow from. Ensuring this has a community wealth building frame will be important.
- The redevelopment of the former Glentana Mill site in Alva – The Council are currently working in partnership with Architecture and Design Scotland to develop plans, influenced again by the Place Standard tool, which can help support the design and delivery of successful places. Opportunities to design in community wealth building opportunities for the site should be explored.

## MIDSTEEPLE QUARTER

### Midsteeple Quarter

Dumfries

Midsteeple Quarter is a community benefit society currently redeveloping empty High Street properties in Dumfries town centre to create a new neighbourhood with a mix of uses built on principles of local prosperity and wellbeing.<sup>19</sup> Two “abandoned” shops have been bought and the street level spaces of the buildings are to be used in the medium term as “meanwhile spaces” for start up businesses and social enterprise whilst the detailed preparations are carried out for the full development work.

The key principle behind Midsteeple Quarter is to bring an area of the High Street back under the control of the local community – this is why those involved chose a Community Benefit Society – as it aligned best with the Scottish Govt community empowerment legislation to help the group gain ownership of the underused buildings on the High Street to ‘Buy Back the High Street’, similarly like the community buy-outs of highland islands and estates.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.midsteeplequarter.org/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.midsteeplequarter.org/our-story>



## 6. Fair employment and just labour markets

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Employment and skills are key elements in developing an inclusive local economy. Both in terms of equipping people with the commensurate skills that an economy needs, but also for developing self-worth and growth of people, and supporting all people to reach their full potential.

### Context

In Scotland, the Fair Work agenda is central in driving elements of this pillar. The Scottish Government's commitment to promoting Fair Work is set out in Scotland's Economic Strategy, National Performance Framework, Economic Action Plan and Labour Market Strategy.

The actions the Scottish Government is taking through the Fair Work Action Plan<sup>21</sup> cover three broad themes aiming to:

- Support employers to adopt fair work practices
- Deliver fair work to a diverse and inclusive workforce
- Embed fair work across the Scottish government.

The employment and skills challenges in Clackmannanshire reflect the economic geography of the area. A major challenge relates to the low-skill levels of the population, which undermine their ability to service the skills-needs of the kinds of higher-value economic activities the council seeks to attract. However, as officers note, local education attainment is improving, which suggests movement in the right direction. Clackmannanshire schools were among the worst performing schools in Scotland around four years ago, with the lowest positive destinations in the country. However, they are now at the national average of 95.5%.

However, a more deep-seated issue pertains to the economic makeup of Clackmannanshire. Jobs density is low, at 0.48 jobs per person, compared with 0.81 across Scotland<sup>22</sup>. Alloa has the second lowest job density in Scotland. Moreover, many of the jobs, including retail jobs, are only offered as part-time

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<sup>21</sup> <https://economicactionplan.mygov.scot/fair-work/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fair-start-scotland-evaluation-report-2-local-area-case-studies-year-1-november-2019/pages/3/#:~:text=The%20labour%20market%20in%20Clackmannanshire,compared%20with%200.81%20across%20Scotland>

opportunities. Interview participants regularly referred to Clackmannanshire as “supermarket capital of Scotland”, and this view is backed up by Fair Start Scotland report that some of the only large employers left in Clackmannanshire are supermarkets<sup>23</sup>. Thus, a key challenge in Clackmannanshire pertains to growing the economy as much as it does up-skilling the workforce.

Economic development, a service crucial to creating a flourishing economy in Clackmannanshire, has suffered through the effects of austerity. As mentioned previously, compared to other Scottish Local Authorities, Clackmannanshire has very low expenditure on economic development, with spend at just under £2 million. Where there used to be a team of five focusing on business support and tourism, amongst other areas, this no longer exists. As such, the capacity to do business development is limited mainly to the support offered for recruitment through the employability team. This is reflected in the lack of an Economic Strategy, which is being addressed post haste and is covered in Recommendation 2.

This pillar is particular important for the women and girls agenda in Clackmannanshire. Economic inequality is stark in Clackmannanshire. There is a significant gender pay gap, with men earning on average £215.40 a week more than women<sup>24</sup>. Many women are also out of work, or in low-paid and insecure forms of social and care work. The reasons for this are numerous – from caring responsibilities to low skills. However, taking a community wealth building approach to gender justice will require thinking differently and holistically about how to address these problems.

The emerging findings from the wellbeing economy work Clackmannanshire Council is undertaking with the Scottish Government demonstrate a similar picture to what is outlined here, with low employment rates and low pay significant, especially among women. These high rates of inactivity are largely due to care responsibilities, which particularly impact women. There is also a low rate of workforce in highly skilled occupations.

## What Clackmannanshire Council is doing

Clackmannanshire Council employ over 2,500 staff. These include school teachers, social workers and staff responsible for a wide range of services benefitting the local community. As such, they are a major employer in the area. The Council aims to be a good employer, demonstrated in its implementation of the Scottish Living Wage in 2013 (while not being Living Wage Accredited). The Council also work closely with Trade Unions on all aspects of employment and have adopted and promoted flexible working practices.

A range of learning and development opportunities are provided for staff through departmental training plans which facilitate the required support, training, and continuous development.

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<sup>23</sup> IBID

<sup>24</sup> IBID

Wider action on employment and labour markets are required. Existing employability activities are working hard. However, a fundamental issue remains regarding the extent to which there is focus upon developing the economy through which jobs emerge (this is a key issue for the Economic Strategy in Recommendation 2, and the development of a Community Wealth Building Hub in Recommendation 19).

## Recommendations

### 17) Undertake an employee mapping and diversity exercise

There is fertile ground for progressive action when it comes to ensuring senior leaders reflect the diversity of Clackmannanshire's residents. Targeted recruitment and apprenticeship strategies aimed at particular wards – especially those suffering from deprivation – coupled with clearer paths to progression for graduate and apprentice employees are strategies that have been successful in other places. But it is vital to have this information to start with, and work should be undertaken to better understand Clackmannanshire Council's workforce and gain a sense of whether it adequately reflects the vibrancy of Clackmannanshire.

This activity could also be completed across all anchors, with Clackmannanshire Council encouraging this through the Alliance, and perhaps the working group in Recommendation 4.

### 18) Adopt a “Clackmannanshire Leader” good employment charter (see case studies below)

Businesses, anchors, and the council are all partners – their co-operation is what will either make or break the project to build community wealth in Clackmannanshire. A useful way of pushing these agendas and allowing anchors to practically demonstrate their commitment to them is through the development of a good employment charter. This could take the form of an accreditation, awarded to businesses and anchors who meet specific criteria, such as on paying the Scottish Living Wage, offering flexible working criteria, or engaging in targeted hiring from deprived areas in Clackmannanshire.

Such a system creates a virtuous circle, whereby employers and anchors can demonstrate their commitment to Clackmannanshire, whilst simultaneously pushing up employment conditions for the people of Clackmannanshire.

As well as celebrating the work of local employers there is also a need to challenge those who are not playing their part. Help and guidance should be offered to firms who want to pay the Scottish Living Wage – but there should also be a willingness to make clear when other firms who could afford to do so are choosing not to.

An aspect of this is also that Clackmannanshire Council should discontinue the use of the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices and explore any flexibility where rates are set by an Industry Board to ensure that, as far as possible,

apprentices receive at least the minimum rates agreed by Council for their employees. In doing so, all Council employment opportunities would represent best practice in fair employment and could become a leader for other anchors and a standard for the wider Clackmannanshire place.



## Good Employment Charter

Greater Manchester

Leaders across Greater Manchester have agreed a Good Employment Charter to encourage and support employers to identify and provide good jobs, deliver opportunities for people to progress and develop, and help the city region become more productive.

The model for the Charter has been co-designed and put together with input from business owners, employers, and employees across the city region, and involved two public consultations to develop and agree the proposals. The Charter will have a tiered approach to help support and encourage employers to share excellent practice, access support to progress to higher standards, and help them become more successful as a result.

The three tiers identified through the consultation process are:

- **Tier 1:** Supporters – for those employers who support the aims of the Charter and Greater Manchester Strategy, but are not yet able to meet the requirements of accreditation.
- **Tier 2:** Membership – requiring employers to demonstrate excellent practice in key characteristics of employment practice, these are: secure work; flexible work; a Real Living Wage; workplace engagement & voice; excellent recruitment practices & progression; excellent people management; a productive & healthy workplace.
- **Tier 3:** Advocates – employers who meet high standards in all the key employment characteristics to be members, and then go out to other employers to encourage them to raise employment standards and join the Charter process.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-s-good-employment-charter-model-revealed/>



## Living Wage place

Dundee

An alliance of employers in Dundee have an Action Plan setting out how they will work together on “Making Dundee a Living Wage City” in partnership with Living Wage Scotland.

The alliance includes major local employers such as Dundee City Council, Dundee Voluntary Action, Dundee & Angus College, Xplore Dundee and Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce.

Over 50 Dundee employers have already voluntarily committed to ensure all their staff and subcontracted staff receive a Scottish Living Wage of £9.00 an hour, significantly higher than the government minimum of £7.83.

The 50 Living Wage employers already accredited in Dundee cover the equivalent to a quarter of all workers in the city. The Action Plan launched today sets out how the alliance intends to double the number of workers covered by Living Wage accreditation in Dundee over the next three years.

The Action Plan includes commitments to:

- Sign up other major employers in the city
- Encourage employers in retail and hospitality to commit to the Scottish Living Wage
- Support and celebrate small businesses who join the Living Wage employer movement

## 7. Plural ownership of the economy

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Plural ownership of the economy refers to the element of community wealth building concerned with the governance, ownership and management of the businesses and enterprises which make up the everyday economy. This means creating an economy where there are more SMEs, municipally owned companies, and other forms of ownership such as co-operatives, community businesses and mutually owned businesses.

The idea of moving the economy towards more plural models of ownership is to make the overall economy less “extractive” (wealth is taken out of the economy and more “generative” (wealth is broadly held by all). The purpose of this work is to rebalance the economy so that it becomes more generative of wealth for all.

### Context

For a small place, there emerges a rather complicated picture when considering plural ownership in Clackmannanshire. As previously discussed, economic development has been underpowered, though this is being addressed to some degree. Business support is delivered by Ceteris (through the Business Gateway contract) and the Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) provide support for social enterprises and other forms of business.

The Business Gateway contract is one of the smallest in Scotland, with funding covering three people part-time. This means that staff at Business Gateway have to be very reactive, with “enquiries coming out of our ears”, and report that with just one more member of full time staff they could be more proactive in “helping with what businesses need.” As it stands, Business Gateway largely work to “do signposting, bring in funding and tell people about webinars.” Despite this, there are around 8 to 10 start-ups a month in Clackmannanshire, and this has remained steady over the course of the last few months of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns.

CTSI are described as “a real strength for Clackmannanshire” not only for their work around the five development trusts which emerged from Local Community Plans, but for their support of the community asset transfer agenda and social enterprise support. Work undertaken by CTSI in supporting new social businesses to emerge, has been beneficial locally with local, social businesses and enterprises “increasing massively in last three years.” 4.8% of businesses in Clackmannanshire are social businesses, and this is increasing, with CTSI aiming

for this figure to be at 8% within 5 years with outcomes attached. Alongside this, CTSI are part of the Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network. All this activity is impressive, especially considering that until around four years ago there was not a social enterprise co-ordinator in Clackmannanshire.

## What Clackmannanshire Council are doing

The relationship between CTSI and Business Gateway (Ceteris) was reported as being “perhaps the best in the country, especially in the response to the pandemic.” These strong links are encouraging and indicate opportunity for great growth in this sector within Clackmannanshire. However, representatives from Business Gateway described the third sector as in need of skilling up, with many of the social enterprises and third sector businesses in Clackmannanshire described as “not good performing businesses” and demand from the third sector being low as “many do not think they are businesses and don’t need to make money” being largely grant focused and in social enterprise for other reasons.

Further, while it was reported that the Business Gateway contract is delivered well locally, in the fact that it is “well established, respected and does a good job”, the fact that it is a national programme (with match funding from ERDF to enhance the standard offer), means that local specificity in Clackmannanshire can sometimes be missed. There is a need for a more bespoke offer which is reflective of the nuance of Clackmannanshire.

This pillar represents real opportunity for thinking about women and girls. 40% of business start-ups are women and several exemplary projects had been undertaken in recent years. ClacksWiSE engaged with 25 women and saw 12 business start-ups emerge. On the success of this, around £90,000 of funding was secured from the Hunter Foundation to deliver a project aimed at getting harder to reach women to a new project focused on confidence building and entrepreneurship: women could be involved with as much or as little as they wanted, and the project would act as a stepping stone for them to then go on to the ClacksWiSE course. However, it was reported that the funding to deliver this project “has never seemed to emerge”, impeding fantastic activity that could have a real impact in terms of women and girls having a stake in the ownership of the economy in Clackmannanshire.

A common theme which emerged through stakeholder consultation is that Clackmannanshire Council can be risk averse. This impacts upon all elements of community wealth building but is perhaps most pertinent in this pillar. It was reported that in Clackmannanshire “we’re too much like oh X breaks that rule, we can’t use that building because of Y.” This is demonstrated in the five buildings which were to be transferred to the community in January 2019. During this process, CTSI helped build capacity in communities – providing business training and setting up charities – for them to receive the asset. Now communities are requesting a full asset transfer, having got money to support the transfer from the Scottish Land Fund, and then having agreement from Councillors. However, this has not been advanced swiftly due to risk aversion or perhaps confusion over legality.

From this, it was felt that the clear political buy in does not filter all the way through the Council, and other officers reported that there is an inflexibility and lack of creativeness which can be apparent at times, driven in part by capacity issues. This will hopefully be addressed through the implementation of training, as part of Recommendation 3.

In order to build a wellbeing economy, a flourishing economic base has to be established. This would be a base in which communities are stakeholders in the economy, by having ownership of it through things like community asset transfers. As such, any existing roadblocks, such as the ones mentioned above, must be identified and removed.

## Sectors for development

A range of stakeholders identified some key sectors which could be explored further as a starting point for developing a social economy in Clackmannanshire. These include:

### Food and Drink

There is heritage in brewing and bottling in Clackmannanshire. Stakeholders also reported that food production units have emerged as a response to the pandemic and brought in a lot of funding. Many SMEs are in food and drink, and the case study previously outlined in Recommendation 15 demonstrates an example of a number of successful food and catering co-ops, which could be drawn from in Clackmannanshire. The new 'Forth Valley Food & Drink' organisation would be useful in supporting this.

### Craft and textile

One of the key themes of the Dollar Development Trust is to support local businesses, and stakeholders reported desire for a "Made in Clacks" shop. Again, there were reports of many small craft and textile businesses and supporting this sector could help some social enterprises view themselves as businesses "rather than just knitting clubs."

### Green business

The council are trying to get a recycling / maker project going with their waste department, which is an excellent example of municipal ownership and creativity. Further, there are massive resources around alternative energy generation – from geothermal energy, wastewater, and the river – which could be unlocked with collaboration from other anchors, such as Diageo. It was reported that "the hope is that having the SIEC based in Clacks will unlock this and generate innovative businesses out of it", but Clackmannanshire should be more proactive in identifying sites – such as the Forthbank Food Farm, or other projects – and writing these into the City Deal early on in order to flex funding.

### Municipal ownership

It was also reported that the Council are looking into the potential of a council bus company with Falkirk, which could be explored further as a long-term ambition.



Clearly, many of these sectors are interlinked, and could all support each other if combined in a project such as the Forthbank Food Farm. All would also go some way in terms of the tourism opportunities outlined in earlier sections as well.

## Recommendations

### 19) Develop a Clackmannanshire Community Wealth Building Hub

One positive which has emerged from the pandemic in Clackmannanshire is that the relationship with business intermediaries has matured. The Clackmannanshire Business Support Partnership was created, formed of Clackmannanshire Council, both Business Improvement Districts, Discover Clackmannanshire, Business Gateway, Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce and CTSI, and all groups worked collectively to tackle the crisis of the pandemic head on. This is a potentially powerful resource, and momentum built in this should be capitalised on going forward by adapting this group into a Community Wealth Building Hub.

This would be a genuine 'one stop shop' for finance and support for all those involved from the spark of initial desire to set up a business, through to traditional business support offered to larger firms. The Hub could also help tackle issues regarding the need for more granular understanding of business needs and drive forward key sectors for development - with focus on community wealth building. This could emerge in the form of a national pilot. Further discussions would need to take place with Business Gateway, Ceteris and Scottish government to ensure alignment to what Clackmannanshire needs now, through economic recovery and into the future.

### 20) Women into business programme

The success of ClacksWiSE as detailed in this section indicates a proven track record for this type of project, which is central to the Strategic Outcome of the Council as regards women and girls. As such, the £90,000 of funding from the Hunter Foundation should be unlocked swiftly to deliver the programme described earlier in this section. The project is exactly the type of bespoke activity that addresses a Strategic Outcome of the LOIP and is a tried and tested format. Removing the roadblocks to accessing this funding could deliver impact quickly and generate real momentum for community wealth building in Clackmannanshire.

### 21) Undertake business analysis to pinpoint potential firms for co-operative conversion (see case study below)

Across the UK, there are around 120,000 family-run SMEs likely to face a change of ownership in the next five years.<sup>26</sup> Research has shown that these firms are likely to face issues around succession, and that there is a danger that a lack of planning can mean companies closing and local jobs being lost. We heard from a number of stakeholders that Clackmannanshire has a number of family-run

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<sup>26</sup> <https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/co-ops-unleashed.pdf>

SMEs. These could represent potential inception points for co-operative conversion.

As part of the work to create an Economic Strategy for Community Wealth (Recommendation 2) business analysis should be undertaken so as to understand if this could be a viable strategy in Clackmannanshire. If so, targeted intervention with viable firms could be undertaken by the Council. This analysis more generally will be useful in developing a sense of the business base in Clackmannanshire.

Support, guidance and funding (see the anchor SME investment funding recommendation) could be placed on the agenda of Alliance meetings, so as to help bring about these changes collaboratively – further expertise should be sought from organisations such as the Employee Ownership Association. A target could also be set to increase the number of local co-operatives and/or local employment proportion within co-operatives as part of the economic strategy.



## Employment, ownership and co-operative development

### Scotland and North Ayrshire

The Scottish Government has been one of the most active administrations in the UK in advancing an agenda of employee ownership and co-operative development. Scottish Enterprise<sup>27</sup> provides information on both succession planning and employee ownership, whilst the Scottish Government has formed an industry group – Scotland for EO (Employee Ownership) – to help further develop this agenda.<sup>28</sup>

This work is advancing too at the local authority level, particularly in North Ayrshire Council, where CLES has undertaken work on community wealth building. The Council is keen to push forward on this strategy, helping to keep firms active, the local economy resilient, and money flowing in local areas – through developing an agenda of employee ownership and conversion for viable local SMEs without succession plans.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/support-for-businesses/business-development-and-advice/employee-ownership>

<sup>28</sup> <https://cando.scot/places/united-kingdom/glasgow-city/glasgow/scottish-enterprise-business-gateway/scotland-employee-ownership/>

## 8. Action plan

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While CLES has sought to recommend actions which should not require major resource in the first instance, it is important to note that resource and capacity issues could impact upon some of the recommended next steps in this Action Plan. This has, where possible, been addressed in terms of flexing other types of resource, but additional resource may also be required. Clackmannanshire Council is also listed as the lead organisation for all of these actions, however this could change in the short term if other partners on the Alliance or wider Clackmannanshire area are identified (as part of Recommendations 4, 5 and 19) as willing and able to take the lead, while still remaining true to the community wealth building aspirations of the Council.

### Clackmannanshire as a community wealth place

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
1) Community wealth building for gender justice	Clackmannanshire Council	Short to Medium-term	<p>Progressing Recommendations 5, 6, 9 and 10 will be key initial actions to community wealth building for gender justice. As will the action recommended for the first meeting of the working group (Recommendation 4) to sift through Be the Future and the LOIP against this action plan.</p> <p>The Leader and key figures responsible for commissioning and procurement should begin to communicate that Clackmannanshire is</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
			particularly keen to do business with organisations that will help it fulfil its Strategic Outcomes and support the Council's priorities.
2) An Economic Strategy for Community Wealth	Economic Development at Clackmannanshire Council	Short-Term	<p>A good portion of this report should form the baseline for the Economic Strategy for Community Wealth. The identification of key sectors and themes in this report could be the first step for action around; exploring the viability of these themes in more detail, generating baseline data, and identifying partner organisations with expertise to lead on them.</p> <p>Business analysis around co-operative conversion (Recommendation 21) should also be progressed as part of the Economic Strategy.</p>
3) Community wealth building culture building	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>The CLES Community Wealth Building Centre for Excellence has materials which could be used as resources on staff intranet to bring all staff at the Council up to speed on the community wealth building journey.</p> <p>Workshops or training should be developed to be delivered from Spring 2021. In the first instance, these workshops should be for all commissioners and buyers within the Council, before filtering through and across wider staff.</p> <p>These resources and workshops should be shared across the Alliance too.</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
4) Community wealth building working group	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>Identify Councillors and Officers from across the Council who will be responsible for progressing actions. This group should meet for the first time early in 2021 to begin to take actions forward. The Leader should Chair this group and be the Lead Member for Community Wealth.</p> <p>In the first meeting, the group could examine the Be the Future and LOIP agendas, highlighting the linkages between these and the pillars of community wealth building to begin the process of sifting outcomes to generate action. This group should also begin to progress short-term actions, and where Clackmannanshire Council are not the lead organisation responsible, think about who could be.</p>
5) Publish an annual community wealth building progress report	Clackmannanshire Council	Medium to Long-term	<p>The Communications Department should put a call out through the intranet for examples of community wealth building activity, or use the examples from this report, to begin the process of celebrating and promoting community wealth building in Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>A brief initial report could come from this action plan and the first meetings of the working group (Recommendation 4) to set the short-term actions. This should then be updated annually as a way to monitor progress. In time, other anchors or members of the Alliance could feed into this report.</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
6) Deepen and formalise collaboration on community wealth building through the Clackmannanshire Alliance	Clackmannanshire Council as first among equals	Short-term	The Leader should convene a meeting of the Alliance early in 2021 to discuss the recommendations of this Action Plan, to find out where other anchors have good practice or could take the lead on some actions.
7) All City Region Deal projects should follow the principles of community wealth building	Clackmannanshire Council	Short to Medium-term	<p>The SIEC and Sustainable Aging projects should be viewed as key elements for community wealth building through the City Region Deal. Recommendation 9 should be progressed to ensure a robust Community Benefit Framework can be applied to these projects.</p> <p>Conversations with Scottish Government may need to be had around this.</p>

### Progressive procurement of goods and services

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
8) Develop the corporate culture of procurement and commissioning	Clackmannanshire Council Leader, Chief Executive and Economic Development	Short to Medium-term	The next steps outlined in Recommendation 3, around resources and workshops for commissioners should be progressed as quickly as possible. A steering group needs to assess how this would be undertaken, focusing on how procurement and commissioning is a strategic place-based economic development function just as much as a technical or regulatory one.
9) Develop a robust and bespoke Community Benefit Procurement	Clackmannanshire Council Economic Development	Short-term	Economic Development should work with Procurement to develop a robust Framework.

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
Framework	and Procurement		<p>Work should begin to identify the types of Community Benefits actually needed by the Council and communities of Clackmannanshire, to begin to create the 'Factory' mentioned in consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>This Framework should include a monitoring tool to enable the outputs of suppliers to be tracked and impact measured.</p> <p>Advice could be sought here from CLES or their associate procurement experts. CLES's Making Spend Matter tool developed with the European Union's URBACT Network could also be useful here.</p>
10) Provide Community Benefit Capacity Building for suppliers	Clackmannanshire Council, led by Economic Development	Medium-term	<p>As outlined in the next steps for Recommendation 1, the Leader and key figures responsible for commissioning and procurement should begin to communicate that Clackmannanshire is particularly keen to do business with organisations that will help it fulfil its Strategic Outcomes and support the Council's priorities. This could be done through a statement on the website, letters to suppliers, and even through local press.</p> <p>Meet the Buyer style events should include a brief explanation of what Clackmannanshire Council mean by Community Benefits and how organisations (especially smaller enterprises and</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
			other forms of inclusive ownership) can effectively respond.
11) Foster a deeper relationship between procurement and economic development	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	If Economic Development work with Procurement as per the next steps identified in this action plan, a deeper relationship would be fostered. Further, if funding from the City Region Deal can be flexed for community wealth building, some should be allocated as a shared resource between procurement and economic development.

### Making financial power work for local places

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
12) Support and promote Clackmannanshire Credit Union to become a financial anchor	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>In the immediate term, Clackmannanshire Council should convene a meeting with Clackmannanshire Credit Union, the Association of British Credit Unions, and Capital (or other) Credit Union. In this meeting, opportunities for Credit Union development should be explored, whether that is through Workplace Savings or Employer Partner schemes or other forms of joint working or strategy with the larger Credit Union.</p> <p>The action that stems from this may become a longer-term priority, but in the short term this meeting should be the key action. This could then become a recommendation another organisation could take the lead on.</p>



Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
13) Work with Falkirk Pension Fund to achieve more local investment.	Clackmannanshire Council	Medium to Long-term	Clackmannanshire Council should use the significant weight of weight being the first community wealth building council in the Forth Valley to encourage and cajole other members of the Pension Fund to look for more local investment opportunities.

### Socially productive use of land and property

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
14) Create a Strategic Asset Register and Management Plan	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>Developing the Register and Plan is central to all community wealth building activity underneath the land and property pillar. As such, it should be viewed as a top priority for the Council.</p> <p>In the immediate term, Clackmannanshire Council should explore the funding available as part of Be the Future to hire another member of staff to take responsibility of the strategic asset register and management plan moving forward. If resource is not available, the ongoing discussions with HubCo around expertise on feasibility and option appraisal should be progressed. If funding is not available, whatever resource is must be flexed as much as possible to allow for the development of this Register.</p> <p>The Management Plan must also be developed from a community wealth building frame to</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
			<p>ensure that Register can be sifted for sites that could be used for social, ecological and economic benefit.</p> <p>A meeting could be convened with other anchors – through the Alliance (Recommendation 6) or the Community Wealth Building Hub (Recommendation 19) – around their estate portfolio, and a call for action could be put to the wider Clackmannanshire community around vacant and derelict land.</p>
15) Unlock space for small business and social enterprise	Clackmannanshire Council	Short to Medium-term	<p>This action relies upon Recommendation 14. However once this is complete, any available space should be unlocked in conjunction with partners to be used by small businesses and social enterprise.</p>
16) Advance key sites as community wealth building exemplars	Clackmannanshire Council	Medium to Long-term	<p>The example projects listed in this recommendation should be supported in whichever means necessary by the Council and other partners.</p> <p>If funding is not successful around the Forthbank Food Farm, other sources should be identified, as this is a crucial exemplar with the possibility of deep and sustained opportunity and reward for community wealth building in Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>These projects could also form the baseline of the</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
			Strategic Asset Management Plan (Recommendation 14), Economic Strategy for Community Wealth (Recommendation 2) and as part of the training and culture building in Recommendations 3, 6 and 10. They could also be included in the report suggested in Recommendation 5.

### Fair employment and just labour markets

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
17) Undertake an employee mapping and diversity exercise	Clackmannanshire Council	Short to Medium-term	The Council should convene a meeting with the Alliance to explain its ambitions around this Recommendation and the broader Action Plan. Partners could be invited to share good practice they already may be doing in this area, to join the Council on their journey. This Recommendation could then become one which another organisation leads on, after this initial inception meeting.
18) Adopt a "Clackmannanshire Leader" good employment charter	Clackmannanshire Council	Medium-term	<p>A meeting should be convened with the Alliance (or the Leaders of the broader Forth Valley region as part of the City Region Deal) to discuss the implementation of a Good Employment Charter.</p> <p>The model for the Charter could be co-designed with input from business owners, employers and</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
			<p>employees across the city region, and public consultations to develop and agree the proposals could be progressed.</p> <p>CLES could make links with Greater Manchester to share expertise on their Employment Charter with Clackmannanshire. This could then become a Recommendation which another organisation leads on.</p>

### Plural ownership of the economy

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
19) Develop a Clackmannanshire Community Wealth Building Hub	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>Momentum built through the Business Support Partnership should be seized upon to turn this into the Community Wealth Building Hub.</p> <p>A meeting should be convened early 2021 with relevant parties, with Scottish Government brought into the conversation, as regards setting up of a national pilot.</p>
20) Women into business programme	Clackmannanshire Council	Short-term	<p>The reported Hunter Foundation funding what has not materialised should be identified and unlocked swiftly. Once this has happened, the lead organisation for this recommendation will likely change, as the programme is ran by the third sector.</p>
21) Undertake business analysis to	Clackmannanshire Council	Medium-term	<p>This action will partly rely on Recommendation 2,</p>

Recommendation	Lead organisation(s)	Time horizon	Next steps
pinpoint potential firms for co-operative conversion			<p>in which business analysis should be undertaken to understand if this is a viable strategy in Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>If viable, a meeting should be convened with the Alliance, Community Wealth Building Hub (Recommendation 19) and relevant external parties. A meeting could be convened between the Leaders and other key players of Clackmannanshire and North Ayrshire to share best practice and support Clackmannanshire on their journey.</p> <p>This could become a recommendation for another organisation to take the lead on after initial scoping work.</p>

# Appendix 1

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## List of stakeholders consulted

Name	Position / Area
Cllr Ellen Forson	Clackmannanshire Council Leader
Nikki Bridle	Clackmannanshire Council Chief Executive
Emma Fyvie	Senior Manager Development at Clackmannanshire Council
Debbie Carter	
Laurence Hunter	Energy and Sustainability
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director of Place
Stuart Crickmar	Strategic Director of Partnership and Performance
Graham Finlay	Regeneration
Grant Baxter	Regeneration
Chris Alliston	Senior Manager for HR & Workforce Development
Derek Barr	Procurement
Alistair Hair	Team Leader for Workforce Development and Learning
Lindsay Sim	Chief Finance Officer
Michael Hilarion	Senior Manager for Property and Place
Murray Sharpe	Housing Service Manager
Jane Adamson	Employability Lead
Lorraine Sanda	Director of People
Anthea Coulter	Chief Executive CTSI
Cherie Jarvie	Policy, Planning and Communications
Louise Johnstone	Planning and Commissioning in Social Work, Workforce and Adults

Name	Position / Area
Scott Walker	Team Leader for Roads, Street Lights and Waste
Lesley Deans	Principle Transport Planner
John Allan	ICT Team Leader
Karen Kirkwood	Resilience Officer
Owen Munro	Team Leader for Compliance and Capital Projects in the Built Environment Team
Kate Fleming	Housing Development

### List of stakeholders at Anchor Workshop

Name	Position / Area
Anthea Coulter	Chief Executive CTSI
Audrey Marsh	Police Scotland Clackmannanshire Area Commander
Brian Connolly	Scottish Enterprise
Cherie Jarvie	Partnership and Transformation Senior Manager Clackmannanshire
Ellen Forson	Clackmannanshire Council Leader
Emma Fyvie	Senior Manager Development at Clackmannanshire Council
Hazel Meechan	NHS Forth Valley
Jean Hamilton	Chair of Ceteris
Dr John Rogers	Director of Research and Innovation at University of Sterling
Dr Ken Thomson	Principle, Forth Valley College
Margaret Torrance	Director of Paragon Housing Association
Mike Mulraney	Chairman Alloa Athletic FC & local businessman
Mandy Paterson	Partnership Superintendent of Forth Valley

Name	Position / Area
Scott Kirkpatrick	Director of Development w Kingdom Housing Association
Wendy Forrest	Head of Strategic Planning and Health Improvement at Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership
Pete Leonard	Clacks Strategic Director of People
George Kerr	Operations Director at Diageo Blackgrange

### List of Councillors at All Member Briefing

Name	Position / Area
Cllr Dave Clark	Clackmannanshire North
Cllr Jane McTaggart	Clackmannanshire Central
Cllr Ellen Forson	Leader
Cllr Kenneth Earle	Clackmannanshire South
Cllr Martha Benny	Clackmannanshire North
Cllr Graham Lindsay	Clackmannanshire East
Cllr Les Sharp	Clackmannanshire West

### List of stakeholders at Clackmannanshire Business Support Partnership Workshop

Name	Position / Area
Anthea Coulter	Chief Executive CTSI
Colin Melville	Communities Development Officer at CTSI
Lynn Blaikie	Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce
Alison Davidson	Ceteris
Jane Adamson	Employability Lead, Clackmannanshire Council
Kevin Deighan	Clacksfirst BID
Jaqueline McArthur	NHS



Name	Position / Area
Neil Christison	Regional Director for Visit Scotland

### List of stakeholders at Third Sector Workshop

Name	Position / Area
Anthea Coulter	Chief executive CTSI
Angela Barron	Chief Executive of Recycle-a-bike
Janine Rennie	Chief Executive of Wellbeing Scotland
Clara Walker	Environmental Charity working across Forth Valley
Katrina McPherson	Social Enterprise support for Forth Valley
Angela Beardsley	Resonate Together (Social Enterprise)
Colin Melville	Communities Development Officer at CTSI
Sarah	CTSI
Shumela Ahmed	Managing Director at Resilience Learning Partnership (Social Enterprise)



**Centre for Local Economic Strategies**

CLES, 52 Oak Street, Swan Square  
Manchester, United Kingdom, M4 5JA  
info@cles.org.uk | www.cles.org.uk  
@CLEStinkdo | #clestinkdo  
0161 832 7871

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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Budget Strategy Update**

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**Report by: Chief Finance Officer**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This paper provides an update on the Councils Budget strategy providing updates on the in-year forecasted financial outturn and progress on the 2021/22 budget process.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Council is asked to note:

- 2.1.1 the most recent forecasted financial outturn position for 2020/21 for the General Fund Revenue including the Clackmannanshire Locality of the Health & Social Care Partnership (HSC&P);
- 2.1.2 progress in delivering the £3.343m savings programme (for 2020/21), is currently forecast as 87%, by 31 March 2021;
- 2.1.3 the forecasted outturn on the Capital programme for 2020/21 and progress on the 2021/22 capital budget;
- 2.1.4 the update on the approved strategy to deliver financial balance for the current financial year and the requirement to maintain a balanced budget;
- 2.1.5 the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both capital and revenue outturns and the delivery of planned savings, alongside the range of continuing uncertainties in respect of localised outbreak impacts, potential additional funding and fiscal flexibilities;
- 2.1.6 an update on the 2021/22 indicative budget gap;
- 2.1.7 the impact of the UK Spending Review on the Scottish budget and timing of the 2021/22 draft Local Authority Settlement;
- 2.1.8 the progress on the 2021/22 Budget Process and Timetable for key activities, and
- 2.1.9 the underspend on both the HRA Revenue and Capital budgets and progress on the HRA budget for 2021/22.

### 3.0 Financial position for 2020/21

#### General Fund Revenue

- 3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the councils financial position; with the Council incurring increased and additional costs, loss of income, and a delay in implementation of a number of the Council's agreed savings which are only partially offset by savings incurred during the pandemic response phase.
- 3.2 This situation is compounded by continuing uncertainty over additional funding, fiscal flexibilities and/or further additional 'unknowns' that may impact the Council's finances, such as the impacts of local outbreaks, changes in national guidance or local policy. As a consequence, it is anticipated that there will be fluctuations in forecasts throughout the year as the current situation develops, with regular review of assumptions being required. Regular updates will be provided to Council within routine Budget Strategy Update reports.
- 3.3 Further details on the financial impact of COVID-19 has been reported through Directorate Committees and a summarised Council position reported to the Audit Committee most recently on 3 December 2020.
- 3.4 The latest forecasted outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year as at 31 August 2020 is that the General Fund is forecasting an overspend of £2.220m. This excludes the Clackmannanshire element of the H&SCP which is forecasting an underspend of £(0.091)m, which brings the Council's overall position to a net overspend of £2.129m for the year to March 2021.

#### 2020/21 Approved Savings

- 3.5 At its budget meeting in February 2020, Council approved savings of £3.343m. Table 1 below shows the distribution of these savings across Directorates and indicates the forecast achievement of those savings by 31 March 2021.

**Table 1: General Services Revenue Budget 2020/21 distribution of planned savings by directorate and forecasted achievement.**

Directorate	Approved Savings 2020/21 £'000	Achieved/ Likely to be achieved £'000	At risk or unlikely to be achieved £'000	Unlikely to be achieved due to COVID £'000
People	1,345	1,314	31	
Place	1,187	951	236	236
Partnership & Performance	811	653	158	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>236</b>
		<b>87%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>7%</b>

- 3.6 Despite challenging circumstances due to COVID, Table 1 shows that 87% of savings have been or are likely to be achieved, with the remaining 13% at risk

or unlikely to be achieved in 2020/21. The achievement of savings in relation to income generation has been significantly impacted by the COVID pandemic and as such £236k is forecast to be unachieved as a result.

- 3.7 Where savings are at risk or likely to be unachieved, Managers are maximising efforts to achieve the approved level of savings or identify compensatory savings to sustain a balanced budget position. During the 2021/22 budget process those savings forecast to be unachieved will be reviewed to establish of those savings not achieved, which still remain viable and can be deferred to deliver a financial benefit in future years.

### **General Fund Capital**

- 3.8 Since the Council's budget was approved in February 2020, there have been a significant number of factors which have impacted on the Council's approved capital programme. As such Council approved a revised Capital budget for 2020/21 at its meeting on 24 September 2020.
- 3.9 The Capital programme for 2020/21 is currently forecasting an underspend of £1.956m with several projects facing delays due to the impact of COVID. Where projects are delayed, these will be reviewed and prioritised into next years budget as required.
- 3.10 As part of budget preparations for 2021/22 work is underway to review and prioritise future years' capital budgets in detail, given the impacts to date and uncertainty of further future impacts of the pandemic on costs and delivery. Capital bids are also being prepared for new projects and these are being considered by the Capital group for inclusion into the draft capital programme.

### **Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP)**

- 3.11 At its Board meeting in November, the H&SCP reported a forecasted overspend of £1.7m across the Partnership including the set aside budget. This forecast excludes additional COVID expenditure which is anticipated to be met from Scottish Governments Mobilisation funding.
- 3.12 Budget planning for 2021/22 is underway across the Partnership in line with the methodology set out in the Integration Scheme with updates due to the Finance and Performance Committee later this month. Similar to the Councils processes, savings proposals and demand pressures are being identified and evaluated for consideration by the Board.

### **2020/21 Funding Strategy Update**

- 3.13 At its meeting in September Council approved a strategy to ensure that it meets its statutory requirement to maintain a balanced budget position. This paper has highlighted that, based on current information, the Council has a deficit on its current year's operations of £2.220m. This position assumes that,

as in 2019/20, the HSCP underspend of £(0.091)m is retained in the partnership as a contribution to the net operating deficit forecast for the current year.

- 3.14 This forecasted overspend is a slight movement on that reported in September. Through analysis of the overspends it has become apparent that there are costs included that relate to COVID. The Council has set aside monies to offset this both from funding received from the Scottish Government as well as earmarking £1.5m of its own revenue funds to mitigate these costs. Work is ongoing to identify and confirm the COVID related impact within this overspend and allocate funds accordingly.
- 3.15 At its meeting in September, Council also noted that spending restraint had been imposed to try and reduce expenditure within the remaining months of the year. As the forecasted overspend position has not improved significantly, it is proposed that this spending restraint remain in place and be reviewed within the next Budget Strategy Report.
- 3.16 As reported previously there still remains an unprecedented level of uncertainty over a number of elements that have the potential to positively or negatively impact the Council's financial performance and funding strategy. These include:
- ongoing discussions with Scottish Government about a range of potential fiscal flexibilities which may deliver revenue benefits in the current financial year;
  - ongoing discussion with Scottish Government about the likelihood of further additional funding to support ongoing response and recovery work, the impacts of local outbreaks and the additional costs of implementing aspects of Scottish Government and Public Health (Scotland) guidance. and
  - uncertainties over local conditions for the rest of the year, for instance the impact of any potential local outbreak(s) and the levels of restrictions that may need to be implemented.
- 3.17 As the impact of any changes in the above are known, these will be reflected in forecasted outturns as appropriate and reported in future updates to Council.

#### **4.0 Indicative Budget Gap 2021/22**

- 4.1 The indicative budget gap for 2021/22 and future years is set out in the table below. This is based on the assumptions previously set out in the 2020/21 Budget paper. As a result of the uncertainty around the assumptions contained within the gap there has been no change to these previously set out. These assumptions will be updated as information becomes known.

**Table 2: Indicative budget gap 2021/22 to 2023/24**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Net expenditure	133,727	139,657	145,727
Net Funding	125,811	125,145	124,501
Cumulative indicative Funding Gap	7,916	14,512	21,226
<b>Annual indicative Funding Gap</b>	<b>7,916</b>	<b>6,595</b>	<b>6,714</b>

### **Budget Settlement**

- 4.2 In November the Chancellor announced the UK Spending Review and confirmed that this will be a 1 year review. This announcement indicated that Scotland would receive an additional £2.4bn in funding. This is made up of an additional £1.1bn towards core services, an additional £1.3bn for COVID priorities and a reduction of £0.3bn in the Capital budget. As the Scottish Budget covers more than just funding for Local Authorities we are not able to determine how this may directly impact the Council until the Draft Local Authority Settlement is released.
- 4.3 The Draft Scottish Budget and Local Authority Settlement is due to be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This is later than in previous years but around the same time as the draft settlement for 2020/21. This gives a short window to analyse the impact of the settlement on the Councils budget gap. Due to the timing of the settlement this may also impact on the timescales as to when Council can set its budget ensuring the statutory requirement for setting Council Tax is met.

### **Budget Strategies**

#### **Long Term Financial Sustainability**

- 4.4 To ensure Long term financial sustainability overall the Council either needs to reduce its net expenditure or funding needs to increase. There is much uncertainty around funding for future years and the assumptions remain that

over the longer term, core grant funding would reduce. Therefore the Council needs to prioritise reducing its expenditure on an ongoing basis.

### **Short Term Options**

- 4.5 In the short term, reserves can be used to support the budget and close the budget gap. Reserves that can be used to support the budget are:
- Uncommitted general fund reserves above the minimum 3% level (3% of Net Expenditure)
  - Capital receipts - these can be used for Capital Expenditure and permitted elements of revenue expenditure including voluntary severance and loans fund repayments. Recent flexibility by the Scottish Government has also allowed Capital Receipts to be used to form a Transformation Fund.
- 4.6 However, the use of reserves in this way to support continued service delivery is not recommended as this position would not be sustainable over the longer term. Reserves are one-off sources of funding and would add to the gap in future years.
- 4.7 In addition the Scottish Government has announced several Financial Flexibilities that can be used to support the budget process. Similar to the use of reserves, these flexibilities are short term solutions that only delay the impact and further reductions in net expenditure would need to be made in future years.

## **5.0 2021/22 Budget Process and Timeline**

- 5.1 As described in the Budget Strategy Report to council in September, the budget process for 2021/22 is broadly similar to previous years, although activity is commencing slightly later.
- 5.2 As established in the 2020/21 budget paper, the budget process mainly focusses around the Be the Future programme and further details of this are set out in the Transformation updates reported to Council on a regular basis. In recognition of the longer term process for the Be the Future Programme, this approach is augmented by additional management efficiencies and policy proposals that arise through the year to close the gap as noted above.
- 5.3 Progress so far:
- In September an initial session was held with the Extended Strategic Leadership Group (ExSLG). This session was used to set the scene, outlining the budget gap and the process, highlighting key milestones for this group.
  - During October and November a number of meetings were held with officers to review key elements of the budget.
    - Follow up sessions were held with ExSLG to consider draft business case proposals alongside proposed management efficiencies and policy savings. Further development of proposals is now taking place.



- The first round of Budget briefings was also held with all Members and Trade Unions at the start of October. These briefings set out the budget gap and assumptions and the budget process.
- Budget Briefings for all Members and Trade Unions were held in the week commencing 23 November providing an update on the budget gap and assumptions. Information on all Officer savings proposals for both Policy and Management Efficiency savings were also shared at this briefing.
- Demand pressures were collated and reviewed by SLG. From initial submissions the level of demand pressures for 2021/22 is significantly above the £2m assumed in the budget. As such further work is required by services and finance to review and validate the pressures.
- Initial work progressed to identify new capital project bids for consideration for inclusion into the capital programme. On 23<sup>rd</sup> November a Capital Workshop was held with officers to discuss new capital bids.

5.4 An indicative budget timeline for further budget activities is set out below.

- **December** – further planned engagement with ExSLG to review the current position and strategies for closing the budget gap.

Progress on Transformation projects to be reviewed by SLG and associated savings to be identified.

Work ongoing to refine proposed savings and identify any further savings.

Work ongoing to identify and refine capital bids and review and prioritise rollforward capital programme

Demand Pressures will be further reviewed by the Section 95 Officer and SLG.

- **January** – The roll-forward budget will be completed and the Budget gap updated.

Demand pressures finalised - Budget gap will be updated with approved bids.

Work with Administration Group to refine and prioritise the Capital budget.

Further work on refining and finalising savings proposals

Proposals requiring public engagement identified and consulted upon. Outcome of engagements to be reviewed and assumptions and savings updated as required.

Draft Scottish Budget to be released on 28 January. This will be reviewed and assumptions updated to reflect proposed settlement.

- **February**

Briefings will be held with elected members and trade union representatives to provide an update on: the Settlement impact, any changes to

assumptions, approved savings and demand pressures and the resultant budget gap.

A workshop will also be held with Senior Officers and the Administration Group to finalise the Administration's Budget.

Full Council meeting to set 2021/22 Budget (subject to timing of Local Authority Settlement)

- 5.5 This timeline will be further refined and updates provided at briefings and through future Budget Strategy reports to Council.

## **6.0 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- 6.1 For 2020/21 the HRA Revenue account is forecasting a surplus of £(6.480)m which is £(1.307)m above the budgeted surplus.

- 6.2 The HRA capital programme is also forecasting an underspend which is mainly due to delays in projects due to COVID which will be reprioritised into future years.

- 6.3 Work is progressing with the development of the HRA budget for 2021/22 for approval in February 2020. The proposed rent level for 2021/22 is currently being reviewed and is due to be issued to tenants shortly for consultation.

## **7.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Resource Implications**

### **8.1 Financial Details**

- 8.2 The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ☒

- 8.3 Finance has been consulted and has agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒

### **8.4 Staffing**

- 8.5 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

## 9.0 Exempt Reports

9.1 Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

## 10.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☐  
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☐  
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☐  
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☐

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 11.0 Equalities Impact

11.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☐ No ☒

## 12.0 Legality

12.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

## 13.0 Appendices

13.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

none

## 14.0 Background Papers

14.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)


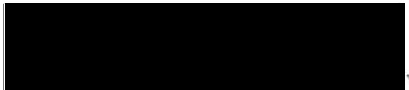
Yes

- Audit Committee report - Council Financial Performance 2020/21 – August Outturn

### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lindsay Sim	Chief Finance Officer	2022

### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lindsay Sim	Chief Finance Officer	
Stuart Crickmar	Director of Partnership & Performance	

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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Westhaugh Travelling Persons Site**

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**Report by: Strategic Director (Place)**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report follows on from consideration in the HRA budget report on 27<sup>th</sup> February (2020), for the financial and legal transfer of the Travelling Persons Site (Westhaugh), from the General Fund (GF) to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This followed Council approval for the transfer on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, with Council and committee to determine the financial value of such a transfer.
- 1.2. This report is to conclude the financial transfer and enable the ministerial approval to be requested.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council agree:

- 2.1 To an immediate transfer of Westhaugh at nil value (£0) from the GF to the HRA.

### **2.2 Background**

- 2.1. The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has the responsibility for the regulation of landlord and homeless functions of local authorities. This responsibility extends to the Travellers on council run sites, such as Westhaugh.
- 2.2. The Housing charter requires that 'sites are well maintained and managed'. In addition the Scottish Government has set out minimum standards for travelling sites to reach and maintain.
- 2.3. Although the Westhaugh site meets the minimum standards, it is fair to say the site has reached the end of its useful life and requires either significant investment for refurbishment and /or replacement. Moreover, it should be noted that although the site is meeting requirements in relation to fire safety, any significant alterations to the site will require much further work to meet current fire safety regulations, including spacing and separation standards.

### **3.0 Transfer**

- 3.1. To bring the management of the site in line with the wider tenant base the residents of the site have expressed a desire for the management of the site to be moved to the HRA. In addition, the Clackmannanshire Tenants and Residents Federation has indicated that they are happy with this proposal, in order to ensure fairness and equitableness in the delivery of housing to this protected group.
- 3.2. As the site requires significant investment to give the site a second life, and as the Council in its strategic housing role (GF) will still have responsibility for the overall assistance to travelling persons, transferring the current site at nil consideration ensures that the required investment from the HRA can all go on direct improvements on the site, for existing and future tenants.
- 3.3. Members may wish to note that, Fife Council recently concluded the transfer of three travelling persons site at (£) nil value for similar reasons.
- 3.4. If this fiscal transfer is agreed the Council will require ministerial approval for the transfer.

### **3.5 Site Improvement Works**

- 3.6. A virtual engagement session was held with residents at the end of October to discuss site improvements. This follows the allocation of £70k grant by the Scottish Government (from a total fund of £2m) to be used in conjunction for site specific improvements. This could include, but is not limited to, works such as divisional fencing, community broadband/Wi-Fi, CCTV, shared community facility and / or new replacement play park equipment.
- 3.7. The residents have requested that work is progressed to address boundary and divisional fencing and pitch security gates. A further video call will be held with residents during December updating them on this aspect of funding.
- 3.8. In terms of the future improvements to the site, this will be done utilising the PLACE standard tool and follow the practice example of participatory budgeting.
- 3.9. The service will be working towards providing a full project plan and scope of works to the March Place Committee that will include key measurable outputs and outcomes, which the committee can then follow and track progress against. This will include whether any additional land at Westhaugh might be needed to be brought in-scope to augment the current site, to meet the councils as well as the resident's aspirations and ensure full compliance with site spacing standard from the fire service.
- 3.10. This will also allow time for further certainty to be received with regards to any future government grant funding that might be awarded to Clackmannanshire Council for the improvements to the site or any additional provision.

#### 4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate.
- 4.2. HRA outline Capital Funding was agreed in February 2020 - £415,000. ☒
- 4.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒
- 4.4. *Staffing*
- 4.5. The future management arrangements of the Travelling Persons Site will be detailed in the housing service organisational redesign.

#### 5.0 Exempt Reports

- 5.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

#### 6.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses and people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☒

Our families, children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☒

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☒

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☒

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

#### 7.0 Equalities Impact

- 7.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☒ No ☐

## 8.0 Legality

- 8.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

## 9.0 Appendices

- 9.1. Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

## 10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1. Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered).

Yes ☒

No ☐

Housing Revenue Account Budget 2020-21 and Capital Programme 2020-21  
Housing Revenue Budget 19/20 HRA Capital Programme 19/20 and Mid Market Rent Considerations

### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Murray Sharp	Senior Manager (Housing)	5113

### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	



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**Report to: Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Employability Update**

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**Report by: Strategic Director (Place)**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update on the current employability programmes provided by the Economic Development service through Clackmannanshire Works;
- Highlight some of the key challenges and considerations that need to be taken into account in relation to delivery of the current programmes;
- Provide an update on the roll-out of the Scottish Government's 'No One Left Behind' programme of employability service transformation;
- Highlight new initiatives and funding opportunities that are emerging in response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Highlight some of the key challenges that will need to be considered in relation to the implementation of the new initiatives and funding opportunities which will have capacity and resource implications for the Council;
- Highlight opportunities for collaborating with Falkirk and Stirling Councils where value could be added by working regionally.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1. The Committee is invited to:

- Note the range of current employability programmes delivered through Clackmannanshire Works and some of the challenges in delivering these programmes during 2020/21;
- Agree to recommend that the Council approve the 2 year extension of the Fair Start Scotland contract (outlined in paragraph 3.8) and the associated staff resources required to deliver it;

- Note the proposed delay in the roll-out of No One Left Behind Phase 2 until April 2022;
- Agree that the Place Service will lead a review of the work and strategic relationships of the Clackmannanshire Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and make recommendations for change to the Clackmannanshire Alliance in order to fulfil Scottish Government expectations of the enhanced role of LEPs in the delivery of No One Left Behind. The LEP includes representatives from DWP, Skills Development Scotland, Forth Valley College, CTSI, NHS Forth Valley and various Council services (i.e. Education, Economic Development, Criminal Justice);
- Note the rapidly moving employability agenda and a changing set of immediate employability priorities for Local Government. In order to be able to respond to these challenges, there will be a redesign of the Economic Development service as part of the wider restructure of the Place service;
- At an appropriate time, agree to table a further employability update as an agenda item at a future Place Committee.

### **3.0 Considerations**

#### ***Current Programmes***

- 3.1. In recent years the focus of the Economic Development service has become concentrated on the delivery of a range of employability programmes. These are delivered largely through commercial contracts with the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland (SDS). The contracts are performance related and are subject to strict compliance and audit requirements.
- 3.2. The range of employability programmes managed and primarily delivered under the umbrella of Clackmannanshire Works include:
  - European Social Fund (ESF) Employability Pipeline;
  - Fair Start Scotland (FSS);
  - SDS Employability Fund Stage 3;
  - SDS Modern Apprenticeships;
  - No One Left Behind Phase 1 (includes a Fair Work Incentive and support for 16-19 year olds delivered by the Council's Education Youth Services); and
  - Parental Employability Support Fund (part of the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Strategy).

- 3.3. These programmes provide person-centred support to Clackmannanshire residents aged between 16 and 67 to help address barriers to employment and provide skills training where required. A brief description of each of these programmes/services is provided in Appendix A.
- 3.4. Last year (2019/20), Clackmannanshire Works delivered employability support to 529 individuals, of which 122 gained employment, 55 gained qualifications and 8 entered Further/Higher Education. The service generated external income of around £494,000 from our external funders (Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland.)

### ***Challenges/Considerations in relation to delivery of Current Programmes***

- 3.5. Since the middle of March when the country went into lockdown, staff have had to switch from a face-to-face delivery model to dealing with clients remotely by text, phone or email. This has been challenging for all, particularly as many of our clients lack both IT skills and equipment. All of our group sessions for IT and jobsearch have had to be paused for the foreseeable future and we have had to move some services on-line. Work experience placements have almost stopped completely due to strict social distancing measures and industry guidelines.
- 3.6. Between April and June, many of the Clackmannanshire Works staff were heavily involved in the Shielding Helpline in addition to keeping in weekly contact with their existing clients. Some of the staff were also involved in administering payments to businesses for the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund and the Bed & Breakfast Fund and these staff are currently involved in administering some of the new business grants to employers.
- 3.7. Until late June, there were no referrals or new starts on our employability programmes due to lockdown and the Scottish Government message “to stay at home”. Also, our main referral source, Alloa Jobcentre, was dealing exclusively with the huge influx of new Universal Credit claimants and was not in a position to refer any of their existing caseloads for employability support.
- 3.8. In July, the Scottish Government extended the ***Fair Start Scotland (FSS)*** service for a further 2 years from April 2021 – March 2023. FSS is the Scottish Government’s first fully devolved employability service which delivers locally targeted employment support for unemployed people who are disabled, have health conditions and are at risk of long-term unemployment and who are no more than 12 months away from being able to enter sustained employment. FSS in the Forth Valley area is delivered jointly by the three local authorities with Falkirk Council as the lead partner. In order to deliver FSS, additional staff had to be recruited to Clackmannanshire Works for the 3 year fixed term of the initial contract. This report seeks approval to agree to the 2 year extension and to extend staff contracts accordingly. The salary costs for staff will be met through the FSS contract and any potential redundancy costs will be mitigated through service redesign. There are 4 members of staff employed on the FSS contract, 2 of which are already permanent members of staff.

- 3.9. Prior to lockdown, we were in the process of implementing the **Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF)**. PESF funding has been allocated to all 32 local authorities to help deliver employability activities for parents in and out of employment. Clackmannanshire's share of PESF is £202,000 over a 3 year period from 2019/20 to 2021/22. Locally, PESF will be delivered through Clackmannanshire Works as part of our employability service. The implementation of PESF has been delayed but we now have a new member of staff, who took up post on 14 September, to take this forward.
- 3.10. Since July, we have started to generate starts again to our two biggest employability programmes, **ESF Employability Pipeline and FSS**, but it has been difficult to start new **Modern Apprentices** in the Council up until now. One Roads and eleven Childcare apprentices are starting late September and we have had to push back recruitment of the Craft apprentices until January. We have struggled to start any Business & Administration apprentices due to the current homeworking restrictions. This is of particular concern as we have had 2 young people waiting to start their Business & Administration apprenticeships since March and it will be difficult to fill our 6 Business & Administration apprenticeship places this financial year.
- 3.11. We had to delay delivery of our SDS **Employability Fund Stage 3** contract until September due to having to repurpose the programme in response to the pandemic and bring it on-line.
- 3.12. Because of delayed starts to all of our programmes, it is possible that we may not achieve some of our targets in relation to volumes and revenue from funders which could potentially lead to a loss of income. It is difficult to quantify any potential loss of income at this juncture but we are closely monitoring our performance and budgets on a monthly basis as well as liaising closely with our funders. We will also need to carry forward some funding from PESF and other new funding streams as it will be impossible to fully spend within the current operating year.

### ***Roll-out of No One Left Behind***

- 3.13. The Scottish Government and COSLA signed a 'No One Left Behind' Employability Partnership Agreement in December 2018. The Partnership Agreement is supported by a Delivery Plan that now needs to be rapidly updated to take account of the additional challenges in the labour market brought about by pandemic impacts.
- 3.14. No One Left Behind (NOLB) is the Scottish Government's vision for the future of an all age employability service in Scotland. It promotes a culture change away from programmes prescribed at a national level and promotes a strengthened partnership approach where local authorities, third and private sectors, and service users identify local needs and make informed, evidence-based decisions, flexing these to meet emerging labour market demands.
- 3.15. There was an indicative outline of three phases for transitioning of NOLB funding, grouped in current commissioned programmes. Phase 1 was implemented in April 2019 when 'Activity Agreements' and 'Scotland's Employer Recruitment Incentive (SERI)' ceased and were replaced by a local allocation of NOLB investment across local authority areas which was routed through Employability Leads.

- 3.16. In Clackmannanshire, our current annual NOLB allocation is just under £97,000, of which £65,000 is used to provide activities for 16 – 19 year olds who are at risk of becoming NEET and is delivered by the Council's Education Youth Services team. The remainder is used by Clackmannanshire Works to support a **Fair Work Incentive** which offers up to £2,000 to employers who create jobs for individuals aged 16 to 67 who experience barriers to employment. The Fair Work Incentive has been developed in conjunction with Stirling Council to ensure the same employer offer across the City Region Deal area.
- 3.17. Phase 2 of NOLB, due to start in April 2021, includes the transfer of funding currently allocated to the 'Employability Fund' programme (run by Skills Development Scotland) and 'Community Jobs Scotland' (run by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations [SCVO]) to be incorporated into NOLB. Phase 2 involves a greater shift towards user engagement, service design, partnership working, a shared measurement framework and a common approach to inclusive communications.
- 3.18. Following a readiness assessment and strategic discussion at a national level, it is now being proposed by COSLA that the implementation of NOLB Phase 2 is deferred by one year until April 2022. Transition planning is not sufficiently advanced due to the impact of COVID-19 forcing a re-consideration of priorities and timings. This delay will allow greater time for development of new locally designed programmes and management arrangements.
- 3.19. Phase 3 of NOLB will include the transfer of funding currently allocated to Fair Start Scotland (FSS). The timescale for this has not yet been confirmed but will be some time after April 2023.

### ***New Initiatives and Changes to Employability Landscape***

- 3.20. As a result of the economic impact of Covid-19, there has been a significant increase in Universal Credit claims and there is likely to be a rapid and prolonged increase in unemployment, particularly amongst young people. Local levels of unemployment have been rising at a similar rate to that which is being seen nationally but from a higher baseline. The latest Claimant Count Update for Clackmannanshire is provided in Appendix B.
- 3.21. As the UK Government tapers down existing business support and the Job Retention Scheme many workers will find themselves unemployed or under-employed. The impact of the extension to some level of wage support for businesses announced by the UK Chancellor at the end of September is not yet known. Communities will be affected differently depending on the nature of the local labour market and pandemic impact on employment sectors. A place based approach is seen as essential and Local Employability Partnerships led by Local Government have a key role to play.
- 3.22. The Scottish Government has received recommendations from both the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery and the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board. It has now published its response including an investment of an additional £100 million for employability work. The focus of that is on a Young Person Guarantee, funding to enhance support for those made redundant (through the 'PACE' initiative), and for apprenticeships.

- 3.23. The UK Government has recently announced a £2 billion investment in services to support young people, impacted by the pandemic, into work. DWP is the lead agency for 'Kickstart' which was launched on 2 September and will be delivered UK wide. Scottish Government and Local Government are in discussion with DWP on its roll-out. The three Forth Valley Councils are collaborating on a bid to this fund.
- 3.24. In addition to the new programmes coming from Government, the Council's Economic Development service is currently working on the implementation of the Flexible Skills project as part of the wider City Region Deal Skills & Inclusion programme. As part of the Wellbeing Economy Pilot, there have also been some discussions with Scottish Government about how we could improve and simplify the increasingly complex employability landscape.
- 3.25. The current European programme, which part funds our ESF Employability Pipeline programme, finishes at the end of 2022. Although a UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been proposed as replacement European funding post EU exit, there could be a reduction in funding to Scotland and Clackmannanshire and a gap in current funding and any successor programme.
- 3.26. Through the pandemic response there will be changes on focus for Local Government led employability provision with some enhanced responsibilities and a review of schedules for transitioning existing programmes and funding to No One Left Behind as highlighted in paragraphs 3.12 to 3.17 above. Key elements will be:
- A continuation of No One Left Behind Phase 1 funding for 2021/22. This is around £97,000 for Clackmannanshire;
  - An immediate boost to the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF), targeted at low income families as part of the measures to address child poverty, of £2.35 million to take funding for this year to £7.35 million. The extra funding this year is for supporting disabled families, young parents and to support early learning and childcare employment. Clackmannanshire's share of the PESF Boost funding has just been confirmed at £39,615 for 2020/21. It is anticipated that there will be a continuation of the PESF boost funding into 2021/22 to add to the base PESF funding;
  - New funding of £30 million to support Local Government led activity on the Young Person Guarantee, with an additional £6 million anticipated for new 'Developing the Young Workforce' schools based co-ordinators (in every high school). Confirmation of the Clackmannanshire allocation has just been confirmed and is £399,000 for 2020/21. A key challenge will be to spend the funding in-year, however, we will endeavour to commit the funding before the end of March 2021 and will work closely with our colleagues in Education and other strategic partners to explore how best to utilise this funding and explore links to the Clackmannanshire Deal;
  - The likelihood that most local authorities will choose to bid for a funded role as Kickstart 'intermediaries' – to provide wrap-around support for young people and engaging with local employers – and/or as 'employers' offering direct opportunities to young people. Along with Falkirk and

Stirling Councils, we have just submitted a regional bid to deliver Kickstart across the Forth Valley area;

- An immediate additional £3 million to Local Government/ PACE partners to support its local contribution to the Partnership Action on Continuous Employment (PACE), to combat rising levels of redundancy, Clackmannanshire's allocation is £71,080 for 2020/21; and
- A proposed delay in the transitioning of both the Employability Fund (currently £17.5 million per annum) and Communities Job Scotland funding (currently £5 million per annum) to No One Left Behind Phase 2 from April 2021. Clackmannanshire's share of this could be up to £235,000 per annum.

3.27. These programmes and funding streams are in addition to the range of employability programmes (see 3.2) which are currently being delivered through Clackmannanshire Works. Given that some of the allocations have only just been confirmed but the detailed requirements are not yet known, it will be very challenging to deliver these services in full by March 2021 as new staff may need to be recruited and additional services will need to be developed and possibly procured. Through SLAED, Local Government is lobbying for the additional funding to be committed and drawn down during the remainder of this year and carried forward into 2021/22.

### ***Challenges Relating to Implementation of New Initiatives/Funding Opportunities***

- 3.28. The service welcomes the additional support for employability. As previously mentioned the scale, pace, multiplicity and fluidity of the emerging new initiatives and funding opportunities will however present a significant challenge for the Economic Development service to deliver within the current operating year, given capacity limitations and the local labour market context. The Place service is undergoing a restructure and as part of this process, there will be a redesign of the Economic Development service in order to be able to respond to the new challenges and changing priorities.
- 3.29. Scottish Government recognises a place base approach is essential and Local Employability Partnerships (LEPs) led by Local Government have a key role to play. This has some significant differences for the role that the Clackmannanshire LEP currently plays and would include commissioning services for which the current LEP arrangement is not fit for purpose.
- 3.30. In driving forward a place base approach, the Council will need to work with Clackmannanshire Alliance partners to review and reshape the work and strategic relationships of the Clackmannanshire LEP in order to fulfil Scottish Government expectations. The LEP includes representatives from DWP, SDS, Forth Valley College, CTSI, NHS Forth Valley and various Council services (i.e. Education, Economic Development, Criminal Justice.) The LEP will play a key role in driving forward the shared ambitions of No One Left Behind and the response to Covid-19 to ensure that employability services are designed to best meet local and individual needs. This report recommends that the Place Service leads this review on behalf of the Council and brings recommendations for change to the Alliance.

### ***Opportunities for Regional Working***

- 3.31. Senior Economic Development Managers across the 3 Forth Valley Local Authorities are working together to explore areas of mutual interest such as employability where value could be added by working regionally.
- 3.32. There are already areas of work that are delivered regionally. The 3 Forth Valley Local Authorities deliver the Fair Start Scotland service (mentioned in 3.7) and the Business Gateway service is delivered on a regional basis. We are also working regionally across Stirling and Clackmannanshire for City Region Deal Skills & Inclusion programme (see 3.22) and the Fair Work Incentive (see 3.14).
- 3.33. A joint bid to deliver places for the UK Government Kickstart scheme with the 3 Councils acting as both intermediary organisations and employers (see 3.23) is one of the opportunities currently being explored. There is also scope for the 3 Local Authorities to consider a joint Forth Valley Local Employability Partnership (LEP) to support the roll out No One Left Behind which comes with the expectation that Local Authorities sign up to a new LEP Framework that will commission services. Officers involved in the management and delivery of employability services will not be able to participate in the commissioning process to avoid any conflict of interest. The creation of a regional joint vehicle to conduct the commissioning process and manage the subsequent contracts could be advantageous.

## **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

## **5.0 Resource Implications**

- 5.1. There are resource implications within the existing staff complement to develop and implement new initiatives and realign current services to meet changing priorities at a local level. There will be additional staff resource required to deliver new initiatives – see also *Staffing* below.
- 5.2. *Financial Details*
- 5.3. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes ✓
- 5.4. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ✓
- 5.5. *Staffing*

Subject to approval of the extension to the Fair Start Scotland contract, there will be a requirement to extend the contracts of the staff involved in the delivery of this service. There may also be a need to consider additional staff



resource in order to be able to deliver some of the new initiatives that are highlighted in this report.

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all	X
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life	X
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	X
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	X

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☐

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix A – Employability Programmes delivered by Clackmannanshire Works  
Appendix B - Claimant Count Statistics Briefing September 2020

## 11.0 Background Papers

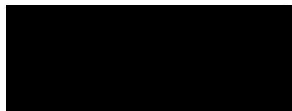
11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes ☐ (please list the documents below) No ☐

### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Jane Adamson	Policy Officer (Economic Development)	01259 452196

### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Employability Programmes**

**The following programmes/services are delivered under the banner of Clackmannanshire Works which is the Council's employability service:**

#### **ESF Employability Pipeline Programme**

Provides one-to-one Key Worker support to individuals aged 16 – 67 with multiple barriers to help address barriers to employment. Support includes confidence building, IT skills, money advice, jobsearch skills (job applications, CVs, interview techniques), access to volunteering and work taster opportunities and industry specific training. This programme is not time limited.

Progression – Employment, FE, Progression along the Employability Pipeline

#### **Fair Start Scotland (FSS)**

Delivers locally targeted employment support for unemployed people who are disabled, have health conditions and are at risk of long-term unemployment and who are no more than 12 months away from being able to enter sustained employment. The service provides 12 months pre-employment support and 12 months in-work support – a total of 2 years' support entitlement.

Progression – Employment including Self-Employment is main outcome (due to funding) but we will support, where possible, those not getting a job to progress along the employability pipeline.

#### **Employability Fund Stage 3**

This is an 8 – 10 week programme for young people aged 16 – 18 who lack skills and experience. Where possible, young people will be placed with local employers for work experience. However, due to the current pandemic more of the employability and career management skills will be delivered on-line on a one-to-one basis with a Vocational Training Officer. Training leading to an employability award or an industry specific qualification is offered. A training allowance of £55 per week plus travel expenses over £3 is paid to young people during the programme.

Progression – FE, Employment, Modern Apprenticeships

#### **Modern Apprenticeships**

A Modern Apprenticeship is a job which lets individuals earn a wage and gain an industry recognised qualification. Clackmannanshire Works offers a range of Modern Apprenticeship opportunities across the Council in Business Administration, Childcare, Construction Trades (Plumbing, Joinery, Electrical), and Civil Engineering (Roads). Modern Apprenticeship opportunities are advertised throughout the year on the Myjobscotland portal and vary in length from 1 to 4 years.

Entry Level – qualification requirements vary depending on type of Modern Apprenticeship

### **Fair Work Incentive**

This is an employer recruitment incentive targeted at supporting unemployed individuals aged 16 – 67 with a minimum of one barrier to help them into work. Employers receive up to £2,000 if they employ an eligible individual for a minimum of one year. The Fair Work Incentive can be used to progress individuals from other employability and training programmes by incentivising individuals to employers.

### **Parental Employability Support**

A new Key Worker service is being developed to support parents who are unemployed and parents who experience in-work poverty.

**The following is delivered by the Council's Youth Services CLD Team:**

### **Activity Agreements**

Provides 12 – 18 months of learning and employability support to young people aged 16 – 19 who are at risk of not being in employment, education or training. Generally targets school leavers who are at Stage 1 / 2 of the employability pipeline. An Education Maintenance Allowance of £30 per week is paid where applicable. Travel expenses, lunch and access to a digital device for online learning are provided.

Progression – FE, Employment, Modern Apprenticeships, Progression along Employability Pipeline

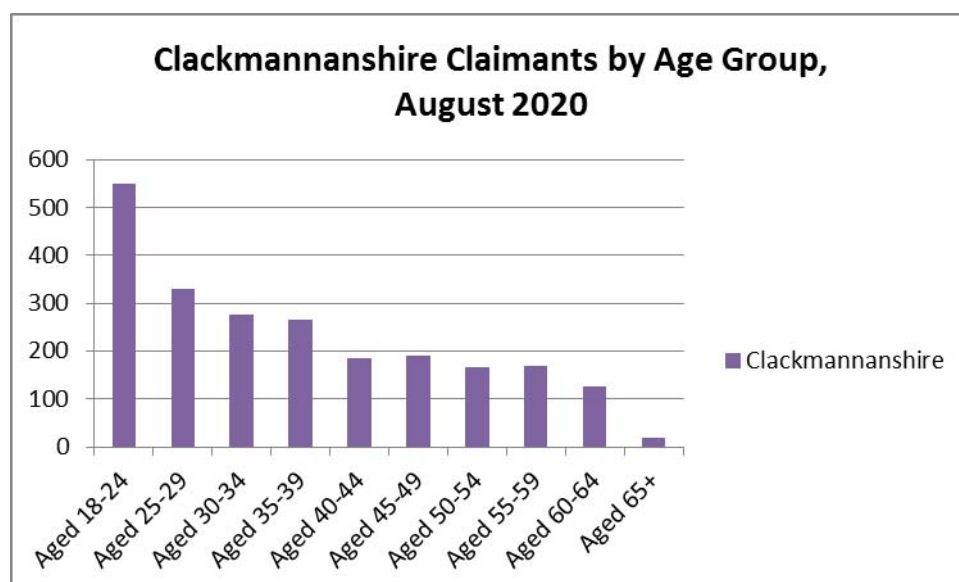
## Claimant Count Statistics Briefing September 2020

### Clackmannanshire Statistics

Figures quoted in this briefing relate to the September 2020 release of figures by ONS which refers to data up to the end of August 2020. The Claimant Count is the number of people claiming benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed.

At the end of August 2020 Clackmannanshire has 2,290 claimants; a rise of 900 since February. Of these 1,390 are male and 900 female. It has the 8<sup>th</sup> highest rate of claimant count of 32 Scottish local authorities at 7.1% with North Ayrshire being the highest at 89.0% and Orkney lowest at 3.2%.

Whilst all age groups are impacted young people aged 18 – 24 are experiencing the most significant impact. 13.7% of this age group are claimants. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate in Scotland with North Ayrshire being the highest at 15.2% and the City of Edinburgh lowest at 5.7%. Within this the situation is marginally worse for 18-21 year olds with 15.0% claiming, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate in Scotland (equal to East Ayrshire). 550 18 to 24 year olds are now claiming. It should also be noted, as illustrated in the chart below, that numbers in the age groups between 25 and 39 are also relatively high when compared to those over 40.



### Regional Comparison

Table 1 and figures 1 and 2 overleaf show the proportion of people from the total of the age group who are claiming and the rate at which this is rising compared to other areas. These suggest that whilst the rate of increase is similar Clackmannanshire starts from a higher base and tracks proportionately higher. For Clackmannanshire the key issue is proportionate impact rather than volume. This is in a context of a small business base and low jobs density even prior to the COVID pandemic.

Falkirk and Stirling have greater numbers of claimants relative to their larger populations. For young people in the 18-24 age group by proportion of population the same age Stirling (670 young people) is well below the Scottish average with a rate only higher than 2 other local authorities. Falkirk is above the Scottish average, ranked 12<sup>th</sup> worst (1,300 young people). As previously mentioned Clackmannanshire has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest rate in Scotland (550 young people).

Age	Clackmannan-shire	Falkirk	Stirling	Scotland	Great Britain
Total Age 16+	7.1	6.3	5.2	6.5	6.6
Aged 18-24	13.7	10.6	6.5	9.8	9.4
Aged 18-21	15.0	10.9	6.2	9.9	9.2
Aged 25-49	8.0	6.7	6.0	7.2	7.2
Aged 50+	4.2	4.5	3.8	4.7	4.9
Total by Volume	2,290	6,420	3,150	-	-

Table 1: Percentage Claimant Count July 2020

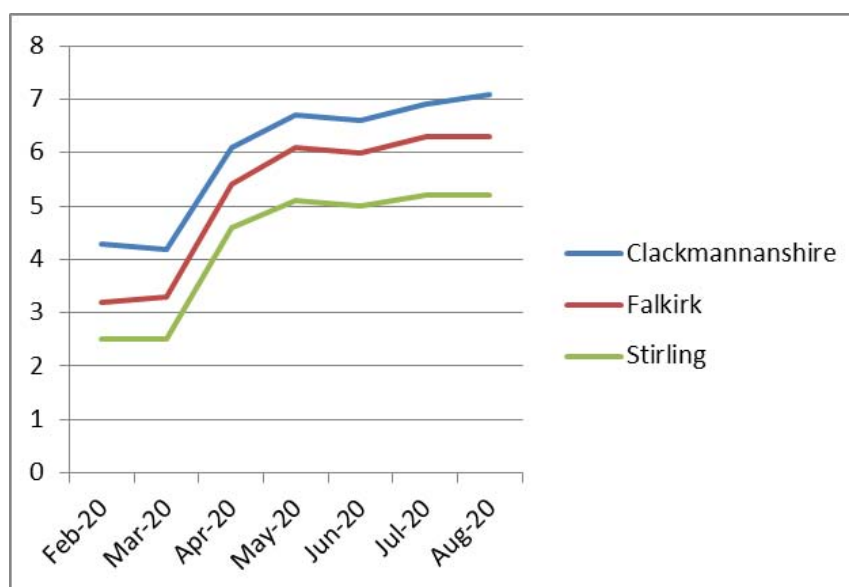


Figure 1: Claimant Count All Ages, February to August 2020

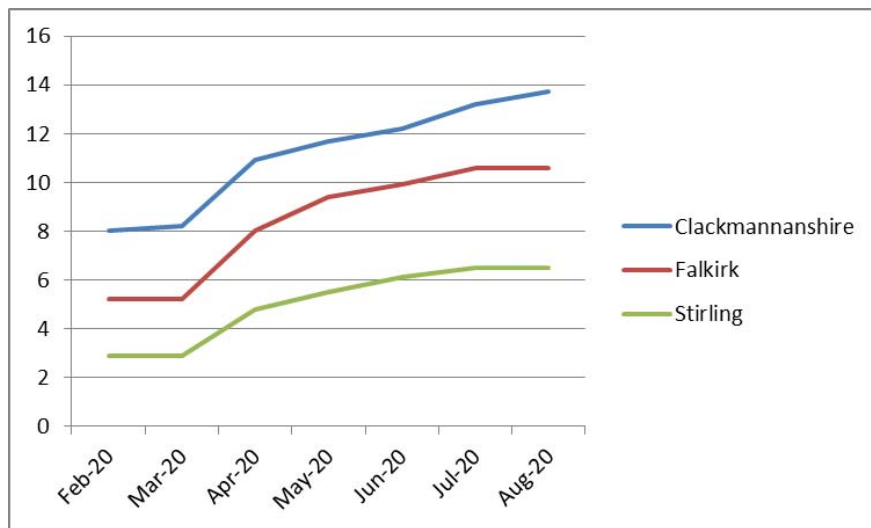


Figure 2: Claimant Count Ages 18-24, February to August 2020





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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date: 10 December 2020**

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**Subject: Alva South – Weir Multicon Non Traditional House Upgrade -  
Update Report**

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**Report by: Strategic Director (Place)**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report follows on from a report in August 2019, where it was agreed to pursue a pilot scheme, involving a revised scheme of works towards the application of an external render system on two properties (subject to Building Control approval). It was agreed that Council would consider a further report, on completion of any pilot, prior to approving the upgrade of the remaining 15 properties. This report provides that update.
- 1.2. This report also provides an update on progress and support for sharing private owners.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council agree:

- 2.1 To utilise the £750,000 agreed within the Housing Capital Programme, to undertake the upgrading of the remaining 15 council owned Weir Multicon properties within the estate.
- 2.2 To increase this capital budget by a further £100k, due to potential rises in construction costs caused by Brexit and Covid 19 implications.
- 2.3 To note the remainder of the report, including the potential for grant funding towards the HRA costs (4.17) and grant plus loan funding package for owners (5.3).

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1. In August 2019, the council agreed to undertake the upgrade of two of the 17 council owned properties, to ascertain if works could be successfully undertaken with findings and final costs to be evaluated prior to deciding to progress with the remaining 15 homes.

- 3.2. The August 2019 report included significant detailed background information and the challenges in meeting current and future Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESH), this has not been repeated in this update.

#### **4.0 Pilot Findings**

- 4.1. The two pilot houses were instructed and have been successfully completed on the 30 of September 2020, by the appointed contractor Everwarm.
- 4.2. There were delays in completing the work package due to covid19 restrictions from March to 31 of July 2020.
- 4.3. As part of the agreed pilot, a mid-terraced and an end terraced property were upgraded to fully review the feasibility and conditions of the unknown timber structures. These included tenancies at 52 & 56 Caroline Crescent Alva.
- 4.4. Following Building Warrants approval, the scope of works developed was as follows:
- Removal of existing metal cladding external facade
  - Removal of asbestos soffits and verges and renewal with UPVC
  - Full repairs undertaken to the existing timber frame to make good
  - Sheeting out of the entire wall area with osb board
  - Full replacement of windows and doors as per the councils Secure by Design specification
  - Fitting of the Wetherby Epsitec External Thermal Wall Insulation system
  - Complete Re-Roofing including soffit and fascia and downpipe upgrade
  - Fitting of Panel 2.7kW PV System, including 2.9kW battery storage
- 4.5. The work was fully undertaken successfully and completed with minimum disturbance for our tenants and sharing adjoining properties.
- 4.6. The total works to the pilot houses at 52 and 56 Caroline Crescent, cost a total of £83,932. This works out as a total unit cost being on average £41,966 per house.
- 4.7. This cost included additional contract variations, required for work within the actual timber structural of both properties. This equated on average £2,148 per house.
- 4.8. There was considerable concern, owing to the age of the properties of the timber frame condition and additional costs. However, the pilot homes, have suggested that, the condition is reasonable and the additional costs per unit were not excessive and could be absorbed within the overall agreed project budget.

- 4.9. Should the members agree with completing works to the remaining 15 properties, each house will continue to be monitored, for the condition of each timber structure. This is still a project risk, however if the timber condition is similar to the pilot homes then additional costs, should be absorbed within the existing agreed budget. However, officers are concerned with potential increase in costs due to covid and Brexit as detailed in the finance section of the report.
- 4.10. The Energy Performance rating (EPC) rating for each property has been assessed on completion of the two houses and the results were found to be very positive. Ratings for each home were as follows:
- Property at 46 Caroline Crescent Alva (Mid Terrace) – This had an Energy Performance SAP Rating (EPC) rating of D63 and following the completion of the upgrades this is now scoring B83.
  - Similarly with 52 Caroline Crescent (End Terrace) – This previously scored an EPC rating of D58 and following the completion of the work this now has an EPC SAP result of B82.
  - This is a clear and significant move from band D to band B for each property. This will bring the homes, in line with the current EEESH standards and the expected revision EEESH 2 standards expected to be implemented by April 2025 requiring a minimum of a B (EPC) Rating.
- 4.11. Energy savings for our tenants have been estimated at up to £600 per year, for each household (*ceteris paribus*). A fully post occupancy assessment has been commissioned with the Energy Saving Trust to further examine the impact of the work in each home.
- 4.12. Crucially, no decanting of existing tenants was required and this was significant, as it reduces the need for decant costs (and impact on voids) and made the work easier to be completed with minimum inconvenience for our tenants. Previously tenants reported that they were reluctant to participate in any upgrade work, if it involved a temporary decant situation.
- 4.13. The costs for sharing owners will still be substantial however Everwarm are keen to engage with adjoining owners and explore costs and grant funding packages along with the Councils Home Energy Team.
- 4.14. The marketplace is changing all the time in terms of treatment to non-traditional houses, however we have demonstrated that the external system is possible with Building Standards and BBA approvals. This has added value to the assets and safeguarded them for a further 30 years.
- 4.15. We have been patient and careful ensuring that this work can be carefully scoped out minimising risk for the council and working with our customers. We are now in a position to progress this further.
- 4.16. Following completion of the structural investigations and completion of the Pilot Houses, the council have demonstrated that these properties can be upgraded to meet modern standards and in turn, sustained and increased the overall value of the Assets.

- 4.17. The council are in the process of submitting a Grant Application to the Scottish Government for Decarbonisation Grant funding. If this is successful, it will bring in funding in the region of £277k towards this project and may offset some of the additional costs for the identified project risks. The outcome of this will be known in mid-December 2020. It should be noted that officers are recommending completing these works, regardless of the grant funding application.

## **5.0 Private Owners**

- 5.1. Everwarm see this as an opportunity to engage with sharing Private Owners within Alva South in the adjoining properties.
- 5.2. The Council energy team are assisting with these discussions, individually with each owner as to how they might wish to progress. As contractually, each owner will need to enter into a contract with either Everwarm and or another suitably qualified contractor.
- 5.3. To assist owners, Clackmannanshire Council have been awarded £118,000 additional funding to help owner occupiers tackle Energy Inefficiency and fuel poverty. The grant funding will cover the provision of external wall insulation and associated works. The Home Energy Advice Team is consulting with sharing owner occupiers, to identify those who wish to participate in the scheme. It should be noted that in addition to the grant funding available to the owners (Up to £7,500 per property), Scottish Government Interest free Loans for other associated works will also be available through Home Energy Scotland (HES)<sup>1</sup>.
- 5.4. The Councils energy team and HES can assist owners apply for a range of funding with varying cashback amounts (subject to application and award) and can provide interest free loans payable up to and including 12 years. This can include replacement heating systems, renewable energy and storage and energy efficiency measures. The Scottish Government announced that this scheme with additional funding will be publicly launched during December 2020, on a first come first served basis. This new funding scheme will be timely for those individual discussions with owners to take forward works to their home which will deliver energy savings and perhaps protect and/or appreciate the value of their homes (*ceteris paribus*).
- 5.5. Owners may of course opt to pursue a lesser scope of works, perhaps such as wall cladding upgrade only and this is also feasible. Again this can be discussed with the councils Home Energy Team and their appointed contractor.
- 5.6. It should be noted that to take forward the investment in the Council HRA stock, is not dependent on owner engagement and participation and their non engagement will not affect the HRA investment.

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<sup>1</sup> The Scheme details will be announced here <https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/find-funding-grants-and-loans/interest-free-loans/overview/>

## 6.0 Resource Implications

- 6.1. Financial Details – Unit cost identified as £41,966.10 per property following the pilot upgrades. A total of 15 properties remain to be completed with an anticipated further projected spend of £629,491.50 based on the current rates. This will deliver the upgrades within the agreed HRA Project Budget leaving a contingency of £78,544.
- 6.2. As highlighted earlier, due to covid19 and potential Brexit impact affecting construction projects, it is our duty to highlight that construction projects such as this have been impacted, with increases in costs expected between 30-40% across Scotland.
- 6.3. Following initial informal discussions with the contractor, there will be a risk for increases in terms of material supply through Brexit changes affecting transportation and Labour costs. Wetherby wall systems are manufactured in England but do include mortars and chemicals imported from Germany. In terms of Covid19, we envisage that this may potentially affect contract prelims and as stated, would recommend adding £100,000 contingency to the agreed HRA Project Budget to off set this potential risk.
- 6.4. This project can be procured with a potential Direct Award identified through the Scottish Procurement Framework - Energy Efficiency, General Refurbishment & Consultancy (N7)
- 6.5. HRA Capital Funding was agreed in February 2020 - £750,000. ☒
- 6.6. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes ☒
- 6.7. *Staffing*
- 6.8. Project is to continue being Project Managed by the Housing Investment Team, with support for the Owner Occupiers being provided by the council Corporate Energy Team.

## 7.0 Exempt Reports

- 7.1. Is this report exempt? Yes ☐ (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No ☒

## 8.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please click on the check box ☒)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses and people and ensure fair opportunities for all ☒

Our families, children and young people will have the best possible start in life ☒

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential ☐

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish ☒

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

**9.0 Equalities Impact**

9.1. Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes ☒

No ☐

**10.0 Legality**

10.1. It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes ☒

**11.0 Appendices**

11.1. Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

**12.0 Background Papers**

12.1. Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered).

Yes ☒

No ☐

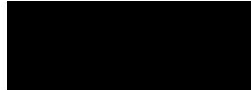
Weir Multicon Non Traditional House Upgrade - Caroline Crescent, Alva, Council Report, August 2019

(please list the documents below)

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Owen Munro	Team Leader - Planned Works and Compliance	5172
Gavin Wright	Project Coordinator - HRA	5171
Murray Sharp	Senior Manager (Housing)	5113

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director (Place)	





**Councillor Dave Clark**

Ward 2 Clackmannanshire North (Multi Member Ward)  
Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB  
Telephone: 01259 452241 Mobile: 07725 643201  
Email: daveclark@clacks.gov.uk



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Council**

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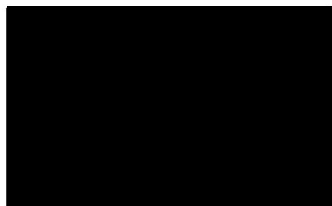
Comhairle Siorrachd  
Chlach Mhanann

**THIS PAPER RELATES TO  
ITEM 12  
ON THE AGENDA**

**Motion Clackmannanshire Council  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Circular Economy**

This Council recognises that we have stepped back from being national leaders in the green economy and missed the opportunity to appoint a Circular Economy Officer at the 2020 - 2021 budgetary process. We understand that this is critical to get right for future generations and also offers us a chance to be at the forefront and have our economy vibrant in one of the highest growth sectors in forthcoming years. Consequently, this Council will establish a working party to report back in a 6 month timeframe including the voice of our schoolchildren, environmental charities, the Chamber of Commerce and Zero Waste Scotland.



Councillor Dave Clark  
Leader of the Opposition Group  
Ward 2, Clackmannanshire North

26<sup>th</sup> August 2020