



**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING of the CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL held via MS  
Teams, on FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2021 at 2.30 PM**

**PRESENT**

Provost Tina Murphy (In the Chair)  
Councillor Donald Balsillie  
Councillor Martha Benny  
Councillor Dave Clark  
Councillor Denis Coyne  
Councillor Chris Dixon  
Councillor Kenneth Earle  
Councillor Ellen Forson  
Councillor Darren Lee  
Councillor Graham Lindsay  
Councillor George Matchett QPM  
Councillor Jane McTaggart  
Councillor Les Sharp  
Councillor Derek Stewart

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Nikki Bridle, Chief Executive  
Stuart Crickmar, Strategic Director (Partnership & Performance)  
Lorraine Sanda, Strategic Director (People)  
Pete Leonard, Strategic Director (Place)  
Fiona Colligan, Strategic Director (Transformation)  
Lindsay Sim, Chief Finance Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Annmargaret Black, Chief Officer (Health and Social Care Partnership)  
Ewan Murray, Chief Finance Officer (Health and Social Care Partnership)  
Chris Alliston, Senior Manager, HR and Workforce Development (Partnership & Performance)  
Murray Sharp, Senior Manager, Housing (Place)  
Fiona Grinly, Senior Manager (Transformation)  
Elizabeth Hutcheon, Management Accountancy Team Leader (Partnership & Performance)  
Alastair Hair, Team Leader, Workforce Development & Learning (Partnership & Performance)  
Vikki Tibbit, Communications Officer (Partnership & Performance)  
Karen Payton, Team Leader: Communications & Community; Performance & Change (Partnership & Performance)  
Lee Robertson, Senior Manager, Legal and Governance (Partnership & Performance) (Clerk to the Council)  
Gillian White, Committee Services (Partnership & Performance)

The Provost intimated that an item of urgent business had been submitted by the Council Leader, Councillor Ellen Forson in support of the people of Ukraine. In terms of Standing Order 11.6, the Provost agreed to accept this item onto the agenda as the first item of business.

#### **CC.478 URGENT BUSINESS: UKRAINE**

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 11.6 was submitted by Councillor Ellen Forson. This motion had been accepted as urgent by the Provost.

#### **Motion**

That Council:

- Records its grave concern about the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and believes the suffering caused to local communities across Ukraine cannot be ignored;
- Expresses its full support to and solidarity with the Ukrainian people;
- Supports calls on the UK Government to lift visa requirements for all Ukrainians seeking to enter the UK as other countries are doing;
- Stands ready to assist in all appropriate ways with humanitarian support and refuge to the people of Ukraine; and
- Commends the efforts of communities across Clackmannanshire who have already begun to collect donations of essential items to send to those who have been affected by the conflict, and will offer practical assistance to support these efforts.

Moved by Councillor Ellen Forson. Seconded by Councillor Dave Clark.

#### **Decision**

The Council unanimously agreed to support the motion.

#### **Action**

Chief Executive

#### **CC.479 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Helen Lewis, Councillor Craig Holden, Councillor Kathleen Martin and Councillor Mike Watson.

#### **CC.480 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CC.481 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23**

The purpose of the report, submitted by the Chief Finance Officer, presented the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 to 2024/25.

#### **Motion**

To agree the recommendation as set out in the report.

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

## **Decision**

The Council agreed to:

1. approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 and Prudential Indicators for the years 2022/23 to 2024/25, attached as Appendix A, in compliance with the Prudential Code requirements;
2. note the continuation of the Borrowing Strategy to support additional capital investment (paragraph 5.6);
3. note that a loans fund payment holiday is proposed as part of the General Revenue and Capital Budget 2022/23 report also on this agenda;
4. note that as part of the Council's commitment to Wellbeing Economy and Community Wealth Building, future investment decisions will consider ethical investment opportunities. (Appendix A, paragraph 5.1); and
5. note the investment portfolio position as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 (Appendix B).

## **Action**

Chief Finance Officer

## **CC.482            GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2022/23**

The report, submitted by the Administration and introduced by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ellen Forson, presented the General Services Budget for 2022/23. The report built on the regular update reports and briefings presented to Council and Audit and Service Committees throughout the year, including those covering the Be the Future Transformation Programme.

## **Motion**

To agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

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

## **Amendment No. 1**

"That Council agree to add a new recommendation as follows:

Include within the Transformation Discovery Fund list of priorities as detailed in the Exhibit 3 Discovery Fund Priorities for 2022/2023, as detailed in Item 4 of the Agenda dated 4 March 2022 paragraph [4.15]:

- Commissioning of a feasibility study to explore options and opportunities around the proposed use of broadcasting and social media (including You Tube) to raise the profile of the Council, Clackmannanshire Communities Groups and Third Sector organisations which could include alerts on what is going on in the community of Clackmannanshire, the workings of the Council, broadcasting meetings of the Council and its Committees.
- The Transformation Discovery Fund is proposed to be delegated to the Chief Executive for administration, in consultation with the Be the Future Board. Therefore, a proposal will be brought forward to the Board, along with those for the priorities already detailed in Exhibit 3, with a recommendation from the Chief Executive for consideration."

Moved by Councillor Dave Clark. Seconded by Councillor Kenneth Earle.

The Council unanimously agreed to support Amendment 1.

## **Amendment No. 2**

“That Council agree to:

1. Amend recommendation 2.12 and Exhibit 2 as follows:-

Recommendation 2.12:

£0.437m of investment from uncommitted Transformation Fund balance to increase capacity for priority projects (Exhibit 2)

Exhibit 2:

Add an additional £10k investment of uncommitted Transformation Funds under the 'Revenue Support' category in respect of the multiagency Game On initiative which provides sport based activity to engage our most vulnerable children and young people at an early stage, preventing anti-social behaviour, and supporting their health and wellbeing. Additionally, Council is asked to note that an evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the period of support to inform future models of partnership service delivery.

2. Amend the priority detailed in Exhibit 3, 'The Promise Local Care Provision' to include within its scope the proposal to undertake a pilot to establish the role of a Wellbeing Worker for a fixed term period who will support wellbeing and mental health and connect if required to sources of support for up to 30 young people, up to the age of 26, who are moving on from care. The proposal aims to build on the supports available from the Mental Health Transformation Programme for younger age groups.

The Transformation Discovery Fund is proposed to be delegated to the Chief Executive for administration, in consultation with the Be the Future Board. Therefore, a proposal will be brought forward to the Board, along with those for the priorities already detailed in Exhibit 3, with a recommendation from the Chief Executive for consideration.”

Moved by Councillor Darren Lee. Seconded by Councillor Martha Benny.

During debate on amendment 2, Councillor Les Sharp gave notice of an Amendment (No. 2a) which sought to amend Amendment No. 2.

### **Amendment No. 2a (to amend amendment No. 2)**

‘Whilst appreciating the sentiments contained within the amendment, rather than it be subsumed into the substantive paper, I would propose to amend amendment no. 2 as follows:

That at Recommendation 2.12, Exhibit 2

1. Multi Agency “Game On” Initiative - As this programme is already funded collaboratively, the item be tabled at the forthcoming Alliance meeting (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022) for partners to discuss and hopefully provide equitable financial support thus alleviating the full financial burden on Clackmannanshire Council.
2. That at Recommendation 2.12 Exhibit 3,

Pilot to establish the role of a Wellbeing Worker for a fixed term period - The Promise is a multi-partner project where all partners have committed to the progress of the initiative. As such I recommend that the proposal be brought to the next meeting of The Promise Group (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022) where the workstream ‘Follow The Money’ can be applied and the proposal be scoped with a view to a collaborative approach across the partners, this approach is in line with The Promise and would again alleviate full financial burden on Clackmannanshire Council.

I would add that the Administration is of the mind that the proposals have validity but are not necessarily the full responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council and a more collaborative

approach be explored.

I have spoken to the Chair of the Alliance who has agreed to a paper at the next meeting and as Chair of the Promise group will accept a late agenda item on Monday's meeting."

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

*Councillor Clark asked the Provost for a brief adjournment to allow the Labour Group to consider Councillor Sharp's motion. The Provost agreed to adjourn the meeting at 3.53pm. When the meeting resumed at 4.00 pm, 14 members remained present.*

### **Voting on Amendment No. 2a (to amend Amendment No. 2)**

For Amendment No. 2a	10 votes
Against Amendment No. 2a	4 votes

There were no abstentions.

On a division of 10 votes to 4 with 0 abstentions, Amendment No, 2a was carried.

### **Decision**

#### **The Council agreed**

1. To approve the reduction of earmarked reserve to 2.4% to cover general in-year pressures as outlined at paragraph 7.8
2. The General Services Revenue Budget for 2022/23 (Appendix B), including:
  - The proposals for demand pressures (Appendix C)
  - The Policy savings set out in Appendix D
  - The 2022/23 Income and Charging Strategy (Appendix E)
  - Schedule of Funding to Voluntary Organisations (Appendix F)
3. To release the previously earmarked reserve of £1.200m (paragraph 7.10)
4. The utilisation of £3.942m of General Reserves in setting the proposed General Revenue budget (paragraph 7.11)
5. The earmarking of £0.632m Capital Receipts from the Capital Receipts Reserve to increase the Council's Transformation Fund (paragraph 7.21)
6. The utilisation of the flexibility to take a loans fund repayment holiday in 2022/23, reducing net expenditure by £0.966m (paragraph 7.23)
7. A net resource transfer of £23.073m for the Health and Social Care Partnership for 2022/23 (paragraph 8.4)
8. That the additional sum of £0.250m earmarked for HSCP transformation in 2020/21 Budget is returned to the Transformation Fund balance (paragraph 8.5)
9. The General Services Capital Programme incorporating the revisions as shown by the colour coding in Appendix J
10. The continued use of capital receipts to fund the permitted element of severance and transformation costs (paragraph 7.22)
11. Delegation of the Flexible Resourcing Fund of £400k and the Discovery Fund of £200k to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Be the Future Board (paragraphs 4.15 and 4.16)

12. £0.427m of investment from the Transformation Fund to increase capacity for priority projects (Exhibit 2); and noted the addition of Amendment 2a (a – d) below:
  - a. Under approved recommendation 12 (Exhibit 2) – consideration of the addition of the Multi Agency “Game On” Initiative - As this programme is already funded collaboratively, the item is to be tabled at the forthcoming Alliance meeting (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022) for partners to discuss and hopefully provide equitable financial support thus alleviating the full financial burden on Clackmannanshire Council.
  - b. Under approved recommendation 12 (Exhibit 3) – consideration of the addition of a Pilot to establish the role of a Wellbeing Worker for a fixed term period - The Promise is a multi-partner project where all partners have committed to the progress of the initiative. As such the proposal be brought to the next meeting of The Promise Group (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022) where the workstream ‘Follow The Money’ can be applied and the proposal be scoped with a view to a collaborative approach across the partners, this approach is in line with The Promise and would again alleviate full financial burden on Clackmannanshire Council.
  - c. The Administration were of the mind that the proposals have validity but were not necessarily the full responsibility of Clackmannanshire Council and a more collaborative approach is to be explored.
  - d. The Chair of the Alliance (Councillor Forson) and the Chair of the Promise group (Councillor Sharp) agreed to accept a paper at their next meetings.
13. the increase in the level of Council Tax for 2022/23 by 3% resulting in Band D Council tax of £1,343.77 (paragraph 6.4)
14. Arrangements for administering the allocation of the £150 cost of living award, noting the proposed increase in number of direct debit dates offered (paragraphs 6.5 and 6.6).
15. As set out in Amendment 1, include within the Transformation Discovery Fund list of priorities as detailed in the Exhibit 3 Discovery Fund Priorities for 2022/2023, as detailed in paragraph [4.15]:
  - Commissioning of a feasibility study to explore options and opportunities around the proposed use of broadcasting and social media (including You Tube) to raise the profile of the Council, Clackmannanshire Communities Groups and Third Sector organisations which could include alerts on what is going on in the community of Clackmannanshire, the workings of the Council, broadcasting meetings of the Council and its Committees.
  - The Transformation Discovery Fund is proposed to be delegated to the Chief Executive for administration, in consultation with the Be the Future Board. Therefore, a proposal will be brought forward to the Board, along with those for the priorities already detailed in Exhibit 3, with a recommendation from the Chief Executive for consideration.”

**The Council noted:**

1. The challenging context within which this Budget is presented including the unprecedented inflationary pressures (paragraph 7.2)
2. The significant progress and additional resource secured in implementing Be the Future Priority projects during 2021/22 (Appendix Ai)

3. the development of a capital implementation plan for 2022/23 (section 9 and in Appendix J)
4. the summary of recent budget engagement activity detailed in section 5
5. Anticipated level of uncommitted reserves of £7.333m by 31 March 2022, prior to setting the 2022/23 budget (paragraph 7.10)
6. That £3.942m of general reserves have been applied in setting the 2022/23 budget (paragraph 7.11)
7. The balance of £3.991m in uncommitted General Services Revenue reserves, after setting the budget, equating to 2.4% (paragraph 7.11)
8. To note that a budget strategy for returning reserves to 3% will come forward to Council in the new administrative cycle
9. The five year cumulative indicative gap of £32.995m up to 2026/27 and a funding gap of £11.311m in 2023/24 following setting this budget (Exhibit 12).

**Action**

Chief Finance Officer

Ends: 4.30 pm

