

Minute of Meeting Local Partnership - Johnstone & Linwood

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 21 November 2019	18:00	Tweedie Hall, Ardlamont Square, Linwood, PA3 3DE

Present

Councillor Bill Binks; Councillor Andy Doig; Adele Fraser (Linstone Housing Association); Margaret Johnston (Johnstone Business Consortium); George MacDonald (Corseford Tenants' and Residents' Association); James McLeod (Linwood Community Council); Iain McMillan (Johnstone Community Sports Complex); Tom Wallace (Johnstone Community Council); and Lorraine Wark (Active Communities).

Chair

Councillor Andy Steel, Chair, presided.

In Attendance

D Gillies, Head of Facilities Management (Hard & Soft) (Lead Officer); S Graham, Partnerships Planning and Development Manager and S Kraft, Planning and Policy Development Officer (all Chief Executive's); and T Slater, Senior Committee Services Officer and N O'Brien, Assistant Committee Services Officer (Finance & Resources).

Community Planning Partners

Inspector Jim Cast (Police Scotland); Heather Cunningham (Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership); and Iain Cunningham (Engage Renfrewshire).

Apologies

Councillor Derek Bibby; Councillor Jacqueline Cameron; Councillor Audrey Doig; Councillor Alison Jean Dowling; Councillor John Hood; Councillor Scott Kerr; Councillor Alistair Mackay; Councillor Emma Rodden; Councillor James Sheridan; and Gavin Stewart (Youth Voice).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Councillor Steel welcomed those present to the meeting and paid tribute Mr Albert McBain of Johnstone Elderly Forum, who had recently passed away.

1 Minute of Previous Meeting

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of this Local Partnership held on 4 June 2019.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 Membership of Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Membership of Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership.

The report advised that, as previously agreed, a representative from Active Communities would now take up the membership place previously held by Jackie Armour, KAIROS. Lorraine Wark had now been appointed as the Active Communities representative.

Due to the resignation of Laura Graham, Linwood Scouts from the Local Partnership, there was now a vacancy and applications for a new Community Representative would be sought for consideration at the next meeting of the Local Partnership.

A vacancy now also existed for the position of Vice-chair. The Chair proposed that James McLeod, Linwood Community Council be appointed as Vice-chair. There being no other nominations, this appointment was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the appointment of Lorraine Wark, Active Communities to the Local Partnership be noted;

(b) That applications for a new Community Representative be sought for consideration at the next meeting of the Local Partnership in April 2020; and

(c) That James McLeod be appointed as the new Vice-chair of the Local Partnership.

Sederunt

M Johnstone entered the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

Declaration of Interest

I McMillan declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 3 of the agenda – Celebrating Renfrewshire Youth Participatory Budgeting Exercise - as he was a representative on the Linwood, Johnstone and Gryffe Community Sports Hub, however, as the item was for noting only, he remained in the meeting.

3 Celebrating Renfrewshire Youth Participatory Budgeting Exercise

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Celebrating Renfrewshire Youth Participatory Budgeting exercise.

The report intimated that the Youth Challenge Fund component, renamed Celebrating Renfrewshire: by young people for young people, of the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership budget had been allocated during September 2019 through a participatory budgeting exercise for young people aged 12 to 25 years. Young people co-produced the process of voting and 594 young people from the Johnstone & Linwood areas voted.

The results of the Celebrating Renfrewshire Participatory Budgeting exercise for September 2019 was appended to the report.

Emma Feeney, a member of the Youth Steering Group, gave a presentation to members on the outcome of the youth participatory budgeting process. There followed a question and answer session.

DECIDED:

(a) That the outcome of the youth participatory budgeting exercise for this Local Partnership be noted; and

(b) That the presentation be noted.

4 Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Priorities

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the local priorities agreed at the meeting of this Local Partnership held on 26 March 2019.

The report intimated that the local priorities should help develop the agenda and workplan for the Local Partnership moving forward and recommended that members discuss the local priorities and agree how they wished to progress their agenda.

It had been anticipated that the Local Partnership might want to refine their local priorities as the Local Partnership developed and this was the opportunity to review and refine the local priorities prior to the allocation of grant funding in 2020/21.

Members worked in groups to review the local priorities for the area. After discussion, and following feedback from groups, the Local Partnership priorities remained as Taking pride in the look and feel of our towns; What's on in Johnstone and Linwood; Roads and Transport; Community Safety; and Focus on young people. The Partnerships Planning and Development Manager then summarised the emerging key themes within those priorities that the Local Partnership wished to concentrate on.

The Local Partnership requested information on how to access funding for historic buildings; highlighted anti-social behaviour issues that impacted on local businesses; looked at how the two towns could be better connected, giving easier access to facilities; highlighted issues with the A737 and public transport costs between the towns; and emphasised the importance of available activities for young and older people. To take these priorities forward, it was proposed that representatives from the Council's Planning Service and Transport Scotland be invited to a future meeting of the Local Partnership. This was agreed.

It was further proposed that Engage Renfrewshire provide information to members on how groups could be assisted to access information on funding available to them. This was also agreed.

Members also highlighted the importance of linking the local priorities to the 2020 funding applications.

DECIDED:

- (a) That it be agreed that the local priorities for Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership remain the same as previously agreed;
- (b) That officers from the Council's Planning Service and Transport Scotland be invited to a future meeting of the Local Partnership to provide further information and address issues relating to key priorities; and
- (c) That Engage Renfrewshire provide information to members on how groups could be assisted to access information on funding available to them.

Declaration of Interest

I McMillan declared a non-financial interest in respect of item 5(a) of the agenda – Johnstone & Linwood Grant Funding Update - as he was a representative on the Linwood, Johnstone and Gryffe Community Sports Hub. I McMillan remained in the meeting, however, took no part on the discussion.

5(a) Johnstone and Linwood Grant Funding Update

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive advising that, at the meeting of the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership held on 4 June 2019, £45,126 had been awarded to 10 local projects.

An infographic highlighting some of the key projects funded and indicating how those projects related to local priorities for the Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership was appended to the report.

The report advised that Corseford Tenants' and Residents' Association were not able to progress their Christmas Lights project and, therefore, did not take up the £2,000 grant awarded to them. The Chair further advised that Johnstone Community Council had returned £649.23 of the grant awarded to them to fund a gala day. Therefore, there remained funds of £2,567.23 for disbursement by the Local Partnership.

The Chair proposed that the remaining funds of £2,567.23 be awarded to Linwood, Johnstone and Gryffe Community Sports Hub, as the next eligible group within the Celebrating Renfrewshire participatory budgeting exercise to receive a grant award. This was agreed.

In response to a member's question, J McLeod provided an update on the current position on the Linwood Christmas lights event, advising that, although there had been difficulties, every effort was being made to ensure that the event would take place.

DECIDED:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That the remaining grant fund balance of £2,567.23 be awarded to Linwood, Johnstone and Gryffe Community Sports Hub.

5(b) Budget Monitoring Report

There was submitted a budget monitoring report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership 2019/20.

DECIDED: That the budget monitoring report be noted.

6 Review of Local Partnerships

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to a review of Local Partnerships.

The report intimated that, following the establishment of the Local Partnerships in September 2018, it had been agreed that there would be a review of arrangements after one year of operation and it was anticipated that the review would begin in January 2020.

Since January 2019, Local Partnerships had agreed their membership, identified some initial local priorities and distributed their grant funding. In addition, the Youth Challenge Fund had been distributed across all seven Local Partnerships using a participatory budgeting approach.

The report proposed that the Local Partnership review cover the key areas used throughout the consultation and development of the Local Partnership model. This allowed for consistency and comparison with previous engagement and consultation exercises as well as fair consideration of the proposals implemented which included function; membership; boundaries; meetings; and grants.

It was important that a wide range of views could be heard as part of the review and the report suggested that the following methods be used in order to gather feedback: a review of all correspondence and feedback received since the establishment of the Local Partnerships; a further invitation for all Local Partnership members to input to the review on all topics, with the opportunity to do this online, on paper or face-to-face; and an opportunity for wider community members to feedback online or on paper.

Local Partnership members were asked to contribute their views on the scope of the review to make sure it covered all the necessary areas. In addition, members were asked to provide views on how the review should be carried out.

DECIDED: That members of the Local Partnership provide views, to Community Planning, on both the proposed scope and approach for the Local Partnership review, as outlined in section 3 of the report.

7 Johnstone and Linwood Local Partnership Future Meeting Dates

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to meetings of Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership in 2020.

The report intimated that, when formed, it was agreed that Local Partnerships would meet three times per year. In 2019, Local Partnerships met four times, in recognition that there was additional business required to get Local Partnerships up and running.

The report proposed that meetings in 2020 be held around the months of April, August and November; that grant funding allocations for the 2020/21 financial year be made at the April meeting; that wider engagement events be held in early 2020; and that an event be carried out in each Local Partnership area which would be open to the wider community to attend.

DECIDED:

(a) That meetings of Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership be held around April, August and November and that members be advised of the date, time and venue for these meetings; and

(b) That members of Johnstone & Linwood Local Partnership provide feedback to Community Planning on the proposed approach for the engagement events in early 2020 and, where appropriate, express an interest in the development of these events.