

# SLLC

# insight

Issue 1

February 2026

## Introduction

This newsletter is designed to inform you about key information and good news stories happening across SLLC.

SLLC Insight will be distributed every second month, so if you have important information or good news stories you would like to be included in the brief please contact

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GOOD NEWS IN

2026

## An insight into SLLC - Nick Lansdell

Welcome to the first edition of the new South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture newsletter.

The first edition of our staff newsletter. Throughout the year, we will use this form to share updates, highlight achievements, and keep you informed about what's happening across the organisation.

We have a clear plan in place, focused on growth and on building the opportunities created through investment in our facilities as a result of SLC's development fund. The year ahead will bring challenges and meeting them successfully will require us all to work together.

We will do this by leveraging growth potential, continuing our transformation journey, and adapting the way we work as digital change continues at pace. Central to this is one of our greatest strengths, you, our people.

This newsletter is just the beginning, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you over time.

While the road ahead may not be without obstacles, our long-term outlook is positive, and together we can achieve great things.



Nick

Nick Lansdell Chief Executive



## Stakeholder Event

The annual SLLC Stakeholder Event took place at The Town House, Hamilton on Tuesday 28 October.

Over 50 attendees from various partner organisations were treated to an informative afternoon of presentations from speakers from SLLC which covered the following subjects:

- Learn Something New in SLLC
- Organisational Sustainability
- Health and Wellbeing
- Connected and Engaged
- Equality and Inclusion
- Employee Recognition



Following the presentations there was an opportunity for those in attendance to visit individual stations, manned by SLLC employees, to find out more about different areas of the organisation.

Patrick Murphy, Communities and Education Manager said **"The event was a fantastic success, and we were delighted to welcome so many attendees from across our wide community of stakeholders."**

**"Each year this event allows us to reflect on the fantastic work that we do across South Lanarkshire and celebrates the effort and dedication that our fantastic colleagues put in across local communities."**

**"We look forward now to the 2026 event and continuing to make our stakeholder gathering a great day for everyone involved".**

## Employee Recognition Scheme

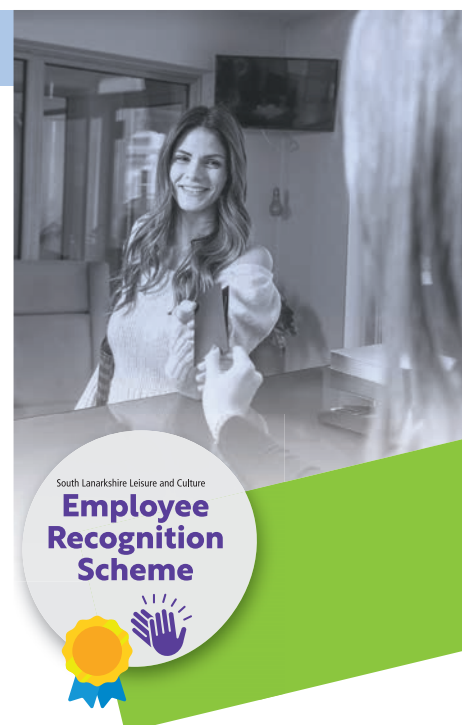
Catherine Cook, Projects Officer has been working on updating the Employee Recognition Scheme to ensure it better reflects SLLC's organisational values and engages staff and customers in a modern and accessible way.

The new approach allows nominations to be made via a QR code link to an online form, there will also be a paper form for nominations to allow for full accessibility.

This project has been in collaboration with the IT team to introduce a more automated nomination and voting process to streamline administration and improve efficiency.

The promotional materials have been given a fresh look, thanks to the creative work of Steven Webb, Graphic Designer from our Marketing team to make them look more visually engaging and contemporary.

The Projects Team hope that this refreshed scheme will encourage greater participation, boost staff morale, and strengthen SLLC's culture of recognising and celebrating the hard work and dedication of all our staff.



## Gym and Studio Refurbishment Project

SLLC's gym and studio refurbishment programme is now well underway, launching last summer with upgrades at Biggar Sports Centre and Strathaven Leisure Centre, both now reopened with modern facilities and state-of-the-art equipment. Work is now also completed at John Wright, Carluke Leisure Centre, Lanark Leisure Centre and Hamilton Water Palace.

The £2.74m project, funded through the South Lanarkshire Council Transformation Fund, includes new flooring, decoration and a full suite of cardio, resistance, accessible and group cycle equipment. Pulse Fitness will supply most equipment, with BOX12 installing tech-led boxing and functional fitness pods in five locations.

This major investment reinforces SLLC's commitment to accessible, innovative and community-focused fitness facilities, with upcoming upgrades due to begin early next year at the Dollan Aqua Centre, Eastfield and Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill Gym.



**Over 1,359,607**  
visitors to our  
website



**Over 10,000**  
active users  
of our app

## Completed work at Hamilton Palace Sports Ground

Recent investment has delivered a range of improvements across Hamilton Palace Sports Ground and surrounding sites. LED floodlights have been upgraded at the 7-a-side and 5-a-side pitches and the tennis courts, through a £42,000 Transformational Change Fund investment. The Property Investment Fund has also supported a new pavilion roof at Carnwath Recreation Area, securing the future of the facility ahead of its mid-October reopening.

Further Transformational Fund work included removing the former play park and refurbishing foyer toilets with LED lighting, modern accessible facilities and radar-key access. The McKirdy Pitch refurbishment, funded through the Shared Prosperity and Renewable Energy Funds was completed three weeks early, representing a £130,000 investment. Feedback from both customers and staff has been highly positive.



## Team spotlight: Marketing Team

Each edition of the Employee Newsletter will include a Team Spotlight, beginning with the Marketing Team.

Their current focus is supporting communications around the ongoing gym and studio refurbishments across South Lanarkshire, working closely with Customer Engagement Officer to ensure timely updates across multiple platforms.

A major component has been designing work, creating a consistent visual identity for digital and physical materials that communicates the modernisation and keeps customers engaged throughout the process.

The team is also enhancing social media messaging through targeted advertising, improved content and faster response times, while strengthening press relations to increase positive coverage. In addition, they continue to develop the SLLC website and app to improve user experience and streamline information for both customers and staff.

## Some highlights to kick-start the New Year!

2026 brings a lively and diverse line-up across South Lanarkshire, with something for everyone, from theatre lovers to families, music fans to outdoor-activity enthusiasts.

Make this year one to remember with a vibrant programme celebrating creativity, community, and culture across our five cultural venues. Enjoy a wide range of family-friendly performances and events - right on your doorstep.

Grab your skates and your sweetheart (or your best pals!) for a night of music, lights, and feel-good fun at the **East Kilbride Ice Rink Valentine's Disco**.

Our **Young at Heart Festival** hosted in various venues across South Lanarkshire offers an inspiring mix of music, culture, wellbeing, and creative arts - there's something for every vibrant soul aged 50+.

And finally, make **Mother's Day** unforgettable - create moments she will cherish with thoughtful experiences and delightful surprises at Chatelherault Country Park and Low Parks Museum.

Together, this mix of culture, entertainment, and outdoor activity ensures 2026 will be a year of broad appeal and high engagement. Look out for more highlights on how to create memorable experiences for family and friends alike whether you're after the buzz of live theatre or the fun and camaraderie of getting active outdoors.

Find further information on what's on offer on our website  
[www.slleisureandculture.co.uk](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk)

