



**NORTH AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL

Cunninghame House,  
Irvine.

5 September 2013

### **Cabinet**

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the above mentioned Committee of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2013** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

**1. Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

**2. Minutes (Page 7)**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the special meeting of the Committee held on 27 August 2013 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

## **EDUCATION BUSINESS FOR DECISION**

- 3. North Ayrshire's Response to "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach" (Page 13)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) in respect of "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach" (copy enclosed).
- 4. Confucius Classroom (Page 21)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the progress made to date in respect of the Confucius Classroom (copy enclosed).
- 5. Teaching Scotland's Future: Development of a Teaching Hub (Page 25)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the progress made in the development of a teaching hub in partnership with the University of Glasgow (copy enclosed).
- 6. Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2013 (Page 29)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations of 2013 (copy enclosed).

## **EDUCATION BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION**

- 7. Flexibility of P2/P3 Class Size (Page 59)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the use of flexible arrangements in relation to P2/P3 class size (copy enclosed).

## **GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION**

### **Reports by the Corporate Director for Development and Environment**

- 8. Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Funding (Page 63)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on attempts to secure funding from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Socio Economic Fund, and of the Council's future approach to the response to decommissioning activity and the associated pursuit of funding (copy enclosed).
- 9. Consultation on the National Litter Strategy (Page 69)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on a proposed National Litter Strategy (copy enclosed).
- 10. Consultation on the Marine Litter Strategy (Page 85)**  
Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Council's proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on the proposed Marine Litter Strategy (copy enclosed).

### **Reports by the Corporate Director for Education and Skills**

**11. Fullarton Community Association - Land Transfer (Page 99)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on progress made in finalising the business plan for Fullarton Community Association, in respect of the proposed land transfer (copy enclosed).

### **Reports by the Corporate Director for Finance and Corporate Support**

**12. Procurement Overview (Page 107)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the national and local procurement issues and progress on improving the Council's procurement practices. (copy enclosed).

**13. Surplus Property - Prospect House, Whiting Bay , Isle of Arran (Page 117)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the disposal of the residential property known as Prospect House, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran (copy enclosed).

### **Reports by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Health**

**14. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 (Page 119)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the submission of the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 to the Scottish Government (copy enclosed).

**15. Housing Need and Demand Assessment: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae (Page 143)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on an overview of independent research recently undertaken to assess the Housing Need and Demand on the Isles of Arran and Cumbrae (copy enclosed).

**16. Whole Systems Approach (Page 151)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the current position relating to the locally implemented Whole System Approach to respond to young people who offend (copy enclosed).

### **GENERAL BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION**

**17. Change Programme: Progress as at 31 July 2013 (Page 157)**

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the continuing good progress of the Change Programme as at 31 July 2013 (copy enclosed).

**18. Section 10 Social Work (Scotland) Act - Small Grants (Page 169)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the recent grant awards to support the work of local and national organisations that offer a direct service in support of community development across North Ayrshire (copy enclosed).

**19. Maximising Attendance Performance – Quarter 1 Summary, April to June 2013 (Page 175)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on an analysis of sickness absence and cumulative days lost in Quarter 1 2013. (copy enclosed).

**CONTRACT APPROVAL**

**20. Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2013/14 (Page 183)**

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2013/14 (copy enclosed).

**MINUTES**

**21. Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board: Minutes of meeting held on 12 August 2013 (Page 187)**

Submit report by Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the minutes of the meeting of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 12 August 2013 (copy enclosed).

**22. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: Minutes of meeting held on 13 August 2013 (Page 195)**

Submit report by Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 13 August 2013 (copy enclosed).

**23. Urgent Items**

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

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## Cabinet

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Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)  
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)  
John Bruce  
Marie Burns  
Anthea Dickson  
Tony Gurney  
Alex McLean

Chair:

Attending:

**Church Representatives**

Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus  
Ms Elizabeth H. Higon  
Mr Mark Fraser

Apologies:

**Teaching Representative**

Mr Gordon Smith

**Youth Council Representatives**

Danielle Flynn  
Emma Mae Hawthorn

Meeting Ended:



Cabinet  
27 August 2013

**Irvine, 27 August 2013** - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine.

**Present**

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson and Alex McLean.

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive, L. Friel, Corporate Director, D. Tate, Senior Manager (Housing, Assets and Investments) Stephen Humphries, Senior Manager (Revenues and Benefits) and Thomas Reaney (Procurement Manager) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Corporate Director (Development and Environment); I. Colvin, Corporate Director, A. Adrain, Interim Head of Housing and J. McCaig, Interim Head of Community Care (Social Services and Health); K. Dyson, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Democratic and Administration Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Tony Gurney.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillors Dickson and McLean, having previously provided advice to the complainant, declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 16 (Social Work Complaints Review Committee: Complaint by Mr C) and took no part in the determination of this item.

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minute of the Special Cabinet, held on 13 August 2013, was agreed and the Minutes signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **3. Consultation on a Proposed Members' Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill**

**Note: This item is subject to the call-in procedure per the Council's Scheme of Administration and will be submitted to a meeting of the Scrutiny & Petitions Committee on 11 September 2013 for consideration.**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which set (a) out the key elements of the draft Private Member's Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill; and (b) provided a proposed consultation response from the Council, as contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposed consultation response contained in Appendix 1 to the report, to be submitted on behalf of North Ayrshire Council prior to the consultation deadline of 30 August 2013.

### **4. Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) – Second Round Funding Bid**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on the second round HEEPS funding application which has been submitted to the Scottish Government; and (b) reported on progress being made in attracting additional ECO contributions to North Ayrshire.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the availability of suitable applications for the next round of funding;
- whether double-glazing was included in the current funding criteria; and
- the extent to which the Council's housing stock includes properties with single-glazing.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note and approve the content of the second round HEEPS bid; (b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) to approve the appropriate ECO partner for project 1; and (c) approve SSE as the preferred ECO funder for project 2.

### **5. Vineburgh Regeneration Project, Irvine (Phase 4)**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval for the sale of land comprising Phase 4 of the Vineburgh Regeneration project, to Cunninghame Housing Association.

The Cabinet agreed (a) subject to Scottish Government approval, that the land forming Phase 4 of the Vineburgh project, is sold to Cunninghame Housing Association for £600,000; (b) that, following the sale of the land, approval is granted for the recompense of extra-ordinary development costs, totalling no more than as detailed in Section 2.4 of the report; and (c) the allocation of the capital receipt in respect of Vineburgh Phase 4, to the Housing Services Council House Building account.



## **6. Regulation of Social Housing in Scotland**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) provided an update on progress in implementing the Scottish Social Housing Charter; and (b) sought approval of the new framework for the involvement of tenants and other service users in the scrutiny of North Ayrshire Council's performance as a landlord.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on difficulties associated with seeking to engage all parties, including non tenants.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress to ensure compliance with the new Scottish Social Housing Charter and the new framework for the regulation of Social Housing in Scotland; (b) approve the change to the role and remit of the North Ayrshire Tenants and Residents Network; and (c) expand the opportunities for tenants and other service users to be involved in the scrutiny of their landlord's performance by introducing an Inspection Panel.

## **7. Step Change 2015 (Highlands & Islands)**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which advised on progress with the Scottish Government's Digital Future: Infrastructure Action Plan and, in particular, the Step Change 2015 (Highlands and Islands) Project, as well as the proposed Next Generation Access roll-out, coverage and timescales.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the anticipated timescale for the laying of sub-sea cabling.

Noted.

## **8. Welfare Reform Progress Report at 30 June 2013**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate) which gave information on welfare reform related matters and the progress made against the welfare reform action plan at the end of June 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- extending grant payments from the Scottish Welfare Fund to include cases assessed as medium priority;
- whether some tenants with rent arrears were able to pay but choosing not to do so and if it was possible to distinguish between them and those in genuine difficulty; and
- the provision by the DWP of 6,000 new personal computers to job centres across the UK to improve access to digital services.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to extend the criteria for grant payments under the Scottish Welfare Fund to include cases assessed as medium priority in addition to those deemed to be high priority; (b) that officers continue to monitor closely expenditure from the Scottish Welfare Fund and report back to the Cabinet should the eligibility criteria require to be revisited; and (c) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

#### **9. Flexible Intervention Service (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities)**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval to undertake a tender exercise to appoint a service provider for a flexible care and support service.

The Cabinet agreed that a tender exercise be undertaken to appoint a service provided for a flexible care and support service to individuals with mental health problems and learning disabilities.

#### **10. Appointment of a 24-hour Care Provider**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which advised of the outcome of an urgent tender exercise to provide a 24-hour care provider.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the potential for supporting other such clients in tenancies, subject to an assessment of their needs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of the tender exercise to appoint a care provider for a 24-hour support service for four adults with learning disabilities and complex needs and behaviours; and (b) approve the award of the contract to Quarriers for a 2-year period with the option to extend for a further 2 years at a cost per annum of £476,229.

#### **11. Currie Court Care Service, Ardrossan**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which advised of the outcome of a tender exercise for the provision of care and support services for individuals living in tenancies within the reconfigured ex-residential unit at Currie Court, Ardrossan.

The Cabinet agreed to award the contract for the appointment of a provider organisation for care and support services at Currie Court to Cornerstone Community Care, for a 2-year period with the option of extending for a further two 12-month periods, at an annual cost not exceeding £820,000.

## **12. Framework Agreement: Combined Central Heating and Electrical Re-Wiring Works - Tender Outcome**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) reported on the result of the tender exercise for the Framework Agreement for the provision of Combined Central Heating and Electrical Re-Wiring Work; and (b) presented a recommendation for the award of the Framework Agreement and for the first phase of the works.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the award of the Framework Agreement for the provision of Combined Central Heating and Electrical Re-Wiring work to James Frew Ltd, CCG (Scotland) Ltd and Mitie Property Services; and (b) award the first phase of the works to James Frew Ltd at a price of £380,749.94.

## **13. Framework Agreement: Surveying Services - Tender Outcome**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised of the results of the tender exercise for the Framework Agreement for the provision of Surveying Services; and (b) present a recommendation for the award of the contract.

The Cabinet agreed to award of the Framework Agreement for the provision of Surveying Services to (i) Lot 1 (Quantity Surveying Services) - Armour Consultants, Doig and Smith, Faithful & Gould and Cyril Sweett and (ii) Lot 2 (Other Surveying Services) - Keegans Ltd, Povall Worthington, Cyril Sweett and GVA Grimley Ltd.

## **14. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Cabinet resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting, the press and the public for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 8 (Agenda Item 15) and Paragraphs 1 and 3 (Agenda Items 16 and 17).

## **15. Support for Employment, Prestwick Airport**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on support for employment in respect of Prestwick Airport.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the detailed proposals set out in the report.

## **16. Social Work Complaints Review Committee: Complaint by Mr C.**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting of 19 July 2013.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to accept the Committee's recommendation to (i) not uphold parts 1, 3 and 4 of the complaint and (ii) partially uphold part 2; (b) that service users should be advised of the terms of the period of notice of the contract with the provider; and (c) that there should be provision built into contracts to allow for the period of notice to be extended.

## **20. Social Work Complaints Review Committee: Complaint by Mr P**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting of 22 July 2013.

The Cabinet agreed not to uphold any part of the complaint.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### Agenda Item 3

10 September 2013

#### Cabinet

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**Subject:** North Ayrshire's Response to "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach"

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**Purpose:** To advise the Cabinet of the position to date in respect of "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach".

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet agrees to (a) approve North Ayrshire's Response to "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach as detailed in Section 3; and (b) note further progress reports will be submitted in due course.

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In May 2012, the Scottish Government published its report Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach. The paper was the outcome of the Languages Working Group which was established to take forward the Scottish Government's manifesto commitment:

*"We will introduce a norm for language learning in schools based on the European Union 1 + 2 model - that is we will create the conditions in which every child will learn two languages in addition to their own mother tongue. This will be rolled out over two Parliaments, and will create a new model for language acquisition in Scotland." (Scottish Government manifesto commitment, 2011)*

- 1.2 The group recognised that there was much good practice in language teaching across Scotland. However, it also recognised that there had been a significant decline in the uptake of languages in SQA examinations over the last decade. There is also evidence that young people are not always sufficiently challenged and motivated by current language learning approaches. All recognised that in engaging with a globalised world, young people in Scotland will increasingly need to be able to communicate in more than one language.

- 1.3 The Languages Working Group was asked to consider:

- the implications for staff at all levels of language learning and teaching within the framework of Curriculum for Excellence;
- options for engaging with employers and parents and learners to make the case for language learning;

- the key issues for local authorities, schools, CPD providers, colleges and universities with respect to teacher supply, teacher support and education and the professional development of staff; and
- strategic advice and direction to support implementation of the Government's policy in relation to the development of languages in schools.

1.4 The Working Group addressed these areas either directly through recommendations or through highlighting areas for further detailed consideration as part of the work of a 1+2 Implementation Group.

The Language Working Group report and the Scottish Government's response is available at the link below:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/curriculum/ACE/LanguageLearning>

1.5 Two key recommendations are:

- all pupils will start learning a first foreign language in Primary one, with a further foreign language being introduced no later than in Primary five; and
- young people to continue with some form of language study up to the end of the broad general education i.e. to the end of S3.

1.6 The Government has confirmed that, within two Parliaments, every child will learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue. At the launch the Government acknowledged that taking this forward will require discussion, collaboration and partnership with local authorities, schools, parents and other key stakeholders.

1.7 The Working Group included representation from headteachers, teachers, modern language practitioners, Education Scotland, SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages), ADES, universities, STEC (Scottish Teachers Education Committee), GTCS, National Parent Forum Scotland and business. Kevin Howell, Headteacher of St Anthony's Primary School, represented North Ayrshire on the working group.

1.8 Terminology

In accordance with European practice the report used the following terms: L1 when referring to mother tongue, L2 for second language or first additional language, L3 for third language or second additional language.

- 1.9 In places the report refers to 'Modern Languages' which is the terminology used in Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) for foreign languages. In other places, it uses 'languages' in a more general way, for example, when referring to Scotland's own languages, 'community' languages and British Sign Language (BSL).

#### National Picture

- 1.10 Across Scotland there is considerable innovative practice in relation to the teaching of languages at all levels. The 2011 Modern Languages Excellence Report highlighted imaginative approaches to the teaching of modern languages in primary and secondary schools across Scotland. Schools are developing more ways of encouraging pupils to take an interest in language learning. In some areas, there is also a growth in Gaelic Medium Education.
- 1.11 However, inspection evidence indicates that practice in delivering modern languages varies in quality. In addition, there is a long-term overall decline in the numbers of pupils achieving National Qualifications in languages. In modern European languages, the uptake across all languages is declining with the exception of Spanish. In French, traditionally the first additional language for the majority of pupils, there has been a steady decline. In German, the decline has been rapid. Italian, from a low base, is in decline. In Gaelic, the number of presentations for qualifications is relatively stable, although at a low base.
- 1.12 In the primary sector, despite innovative practice in some schools in beginning language learning early, children are not expected to experience modern language learning until P6. Some primary children do not experience language learning at all, due to staffing or other difficulties. There can be issues at the point of transition from primary to secondary school in terms of continuity of language learning. Some schools still offer learners subject choices in the early part of the secondary school, with the option to give up language learning before the end of their broad general education. Furthermore, a number of schools across the country experience disappointingly low uptake in languages to certificate level with a consequent decline in the number of pupils sitting SQA examinations in modern languages.
- 1.13 The decline in language uptake is not peculiar to Scotland but also applies in other parts of the UK. It is often suggested that a contributory factor to the decline in study of languages in school is the predominance of English as the primary language for international communication, in particular through the World Wide Web and in business. This has led to a culture throughout the UK that, for those whose mother tongue is English, there is no real requirement to learn any additional language.

- 1.14 This attitude stands in the face of the reality that 75% of the world's population do not speak English, and only 6% of the world's population speak English as the mother tongue. In terms of the World Wide Web in 2000, English represented 51% of language usage on the internet; by 2011 this was down to 26.8%. In addition, there are countries whose economies will have a stronger role in future which do not use English as the first language of communication. This is particularly true of China, but also of countries such as Russia and Brazil.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Across North Ayrshire, there are 51 pupils who do not have English as their first language. These pupils are supported by staff from the Pupil Support Service who use the diversity of language to their advantage to develop language rich environments where the child's mother tongue is celebrated and used as a platform to develop fluency in English. Most commonly such pupils have a European language as their mother tongue and these pupils are in Scotland as a result of migration within the EU.
- 2.2 A small number of pupils use British Sign Language. This is taught by Peripatetic Teachers of the Deaf, who work across North Ayrshire in partnership with the Hearing Impairment Service, which is based in East Ayrshire.

### Language Learning in Primary Schools

- 2.3 Historically, the language taught in primary schools has been agreed at a local level. Consultation has taken place within clusters with a view to determining the language to be taught and to ensure continuity as pupils move into secondary schools.
- 2.4 In October 2012, an audit was undertaken to determine the languages, other than English, taught in North Ayrshire primary schools. Pupils in eight of the nine clusters experienced French in both P6 and P7. The exception being the St Matthew's cluster where pupils entering P6 experienced either French or Spanish. The language was determined by alternating French and Spanish at P6 on an annual basis. The language experienced in P6 would continue into P7 and secondary school.
- 2.5 In some schools, where staff was available, French, Spanish, Scots and Gaelic would be taught at stages other than P6 and P7. However, such pupil experience is not universal and in many cases can take the form of "taster sessions".



### Language Learning in Secondary Schools

- 2.6 The above audit also included secondary schools. French and Spanish appear to be the predominant languages taught. The exception to this being Greenwood Academy, where German is offered in addition to French and Spanish.

#### Results of Audit

Ardrossan Academy	French S1 - S6 Spanish S1 - S6
Arran High School	French S1 – S6
Auchenharvie Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S3 – S6
Garnock Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S1 – S6
Greenwood Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S1 – S6 German S1 – S6
Irvine Royal Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S1 – S4 Mandarin S1 – S4
Kilwinning Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S4 – S6
Largs Academy	French S1 - S6 Spanish S3 – S6
St Matthew's Academy	French S1 – S6 Spanish S1 – S6

- 2.7 In interpreting the results of the audit, care should be exercised in respect of the above table. Whilst the table shows the languages available in secondary school, it does not wish to imply that these are taught to all pupils from S1-S6. Pupils in S1-S3 as part of the broad general education often experience the language learned in primary school. Experience of a further language can occur as a result of an "options" process towards the end of the BGE. However, the table does provide evidence of North Ayrshire's ability to provide L2 and L3 to pupils in secondary schools.

### Language Learning in Special Schools

- 2.8 French and Spanish, where appropriate, are taught in North Ayrshire's additional support needs schools. In James Reid School, French and Spanish are taught to S2.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 Predominantly, throughout North Ayrshire, almost all primary teachers who have been trained to teach a modern language have been trained to deliver French. A few have been trained to deliver Spanish.
- 3.2 In most primary schools, the number of teachers trained to deliver a modern language is only a small proportion of the entire teaching staff.
- 3.3 Research evidence continuously suggests that, to make an impact on children's learning, modern language teaching requires to be taught by the class teacher. Where the language is taught by another class teacher for a finite period, rather than the class teacher, studies have shown pupil learning to be less effective.
- 3.4 The most cost effective way of beginning the process of training all primary teachers in a modern language would be to use the additional funding to appoint a development officer. This can be funded from funding to be made available from the Scottish Government. This would allow class teachers to deliver modern languages to their own pupils.
- 3.5 In order to support "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach", The Scottish Government has established The National Implementation Group. The purpose of The National Implementation Group is to offer advice to local authorities and schools concerning the promotion of the policy.
- 3.6 A Language Learning Steering Group will be established, consisting of appropriate professionals, to ensure local implementation of the advice offered by The National Implementation Group.
- 3.7 The Cabinet is invited to (a) approve North Ayrshire's Response to "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach as detailed above; and (b) note further progress reports will be submitted in due course.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 For financial year 2013/14, Dr Alisdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Sciences and Scotland's Languages, announced an additional £4 million to local authorities to enable them to begin for implementation of "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach".
- 4.2 North Ayrshire's share of this amount is £109,875 and will be used to fund the above proposals.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.3 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.4 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.5 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.6 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.7 This proposal supports the Single Outcome Agreement:

3a Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased;  
3b People are better skilled to get into work; and  
4c Levels of educational attainment have improved.

### 5. Consultations

- 5.1 Discussions have taken place with headteachers and teachers of Modern Languages.

### 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 In the immediate future North Ayrshire Council will plan and take forward the successful implementation of "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach".



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : MD/KH

For further information please contact Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), on telephone number 01294 324416.

### Background Papers

Source: Supporting Children's and Young People's Learning: A Report on Progress of Implementation of The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (As Amended).



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 4**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Confucius Classroom**

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**Purpose:** To inform Cabinet of the progress made to date in respect of the Confucius Classroom.

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet agrees to (a) approve the proposal to expand and deepen Scotland's educational links with China by continuing to strengthen and further develop the Confucius Classroom; and (b) note that further progress reports will be submitted in due course.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Confucius Classroom initiative is a development of the China Strategy launched by the then Scottish Executive in 2006. The aim of this Strategy is to ensure that Scotland is well placed to respond to the opportunities arising from the growth of China as an economic power.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government has continued to demonstrate commitment to this Strategy by developing a partnership with the Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International, an organisation equivalent to Education Scotland).
- 1.3 Under the Scottish Government, links with The Hanban have been strengthened. This is exemplified by the establishment of The Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS).
- 1.4 Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT) at the University of Strathclyde, is the lead body for taking forward the promotion of Chinese language and culture in Scottish schools in partnership with the Hanban and the Confucius Institute Headquarters.
- 1.5 The aims of the link between SCILT/CISS and Hanban are:
  - to develop the understanding of Chinese language and culture in Scotland; and
  - to develop and support confucius classrooms across Scotland.

- 1.6 Originally, six hubs were created across Scotland. (A hub is a location within which all schools in a local area are able to promote the above aims.) In Session 2012/13, three new hubs joined those hubs that previously existed.
- 1.7 In December 2012, Working with China: A Five Year Strategy for Engagement between Scotland and the People's Republic of China was published. This high level strategy sets out the Scottish Government's ambitions in developing Scotland's relationship with China over the next five years.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire form a Hub. A Confucius Classroom exists in North Ayrshire. This is currently located within Irvine Royal Academy.
- 2.2 The Confucius Classroom aims to:
- organise activities to stimulate the teaching of Chinese language;
  - facilitate the teaching of Chinese language and culture in primary and secondary schools;
  - organise and promote CPD related to the teaching of the Chinese language and culture for teachers and the local community;
  - host Chinese cultural activities and competitions;
  - develop and provide resources to support teaching and learning in Chinese; and
  - promote participation in a learning community with other Confucius Classrooms in Scotland, China and other countries of the world.
- 2.3 North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills supports The Confucius Classroom through the employment of a Chinese Language Assistant in partnership with the British Council. This Chinese Language Assistant is based in Irvine Royal Academy and visits cluster primary schools.
- 2.4 The Chinese Language Assistant further supports the development of the Chinese Language in Glebe Primary School, where there are a number of Chinese families.
- 2.5 SCILT/CISS supports the Confucius Classroom through placing a Chinese national teacher within the Hub. This teacher is shared throughout the session with our partner Ayrshire Authorities.
- 2.6 Like the Chinese Language Assistant, the Chinese teacher also works in Irvine Royal Academy, cluster primaries and Glebe Primary School.

- 2.7 SCILT/CISS further supports the Confucius Classroom by offering annual CPD events in China. These activities are offered to teaching staff within each Hub, again with the aim of promoting the Chinese language and culture.
- 2.8 SCILT/CISS, in conjunction with Hanban, offers summer schools to Scottish pupils. These summer schools are based in China.
- 2.9 This year, two pupils from Irvine Royal Academy participated in the above summer school.
- 2.10 SCILT/CISS, in conjunction with Hanban and The Scottish Government, allocated £10,000 to the pan Ayrshire Hub to assist in the promotion of the Chinese Language and Culture.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The proposal is to expand and deepen Scotland's educational links with China by continuing to strengthen and further develop the Confucius Classroom.
- 3.2 In Session 2012/13, a small number of S5-S6 pupils from across North Ayrshire travelled to Irvine Royal Academy to participate in a weekly after school activity. This actively promoted the learning and teaching of the Chinese language and culture up to Access 3 level. It is intended to continue this initiative in Session 2012/13 to allow pupils to achieve the Access 3 award.
- 3.3 In July 2013, a member of the Modern Languages Department from St Matthew's Academy, participated in an immersion course in Beijing. It is hoped to extend the learning of Chinese language and culture to St Matthew's Academy, beginning Session 2014/15.
- 3.4 The Cabinet is invited to (a) approve the proposal to expand and deepen Scotland's educational links with China by continuing to strengthen and further develop the Confucius Classroom; and (b) note that further progress reports will be submitted in due course.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This proposal supports the Single Outcome Agreement:

3a Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased;

3b People are better skilled to get into work; and

4c Levels of educational attainment have improved.

### 5. Consultations

- 5.1 Parents, staff and pupils are very supportive of this initiative. Participation of parents at Chinese cultural events in schools is high.

### 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 In the course of Session 2013/14, the development of the Chinese Language and Culture will continue within Irvine Royal Academy, associated primaries and Glebe Primary School.
- 6.2 During Session 2014/15, the teaching of the Chinese Language and Culture will be extended to St Matthew's Academy.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : MD

For further information please contact Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), on telephone number 01294 324416.

### Background Papers

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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 5**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Teaching Scotland's Future: Development of a Teaching Hub**

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**Purpose:** To inform Cabinet of the progress made in the development of a teaching hub in partnership with the University of Glasgow.

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet agrees to (a) note the report; and (b) receive further reports in due course.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On 12 April 2011, the former Education Executive approved a report "Teaching Scotland's Future: Report on a Review of Teacher Education in Scotland", (Donaldson Report), with regard to a pilot of the teaching hub approach in Irvine Royal Academy cluster.
- 1.2 The aim of the teaching hub approach is to create an innovative, integrated and rounded approach to the theory and practice of teaching, breaking with the tradition of classroom study within the University followed by blocks of time on secondment at different schools.
- 1.3 Both staff in North Ayrshire schools and students benefit from this approach. Staff work collaboratively with staff from the University of Glasgow on all aspects of the students' experiences, and have a wider role in directly enhancing the skills and shaping the teaching profession of the future in line with the aims of the Donaldson Report "All teachers should see themselves as teacher educators" (Donaldson 2010).
- 1.4 The clinical model provides opportunities for staff to participate across early years, primary and secondary sectors with the potential to enhance the transition process for our young people.
- 1.5 Irvine Royal Academy was officially unveiled as a University of Glasgow Partner School on 21 February 2012 by the Cabinet Secretary, Michael Russell, The Principal of Glasgow University, Professor Anton Muscatelli and Councillor Peter McNamara.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Scottish Government established the National Implementation Board to take forward work on implementing proposals outlined in the report from the National Partnership Group and Teaching Scotland's Future to improve teacher education.
- 2.2 In line with the teaching hub approach developed in North Ayrshire and Glasgow City, The National Implementation Board for Teacher Education is focussed on ensuring that all local authorities and universities now take steps to enter into formal partnerships and establish new and sustainable methods of working. The Scottish Government has indicated that some limited funding may be available to support these developments. It is anticipated that these will involve groups of local authorities. The funding is for one year, 2013/14.
- 2.3 A National Conference will take place on 1 October 2013 to provide opportunities to share practice, chaired by Dr Petra Wend, Independent Chair and Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queen Margaret University.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The clinical model partnership with the University of Glasgow is continuing to develop in North Ayrshire. Last session, the model was expanded to include St Matthew's Academy along with three associated primary schools in the Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston areas.
- 3.2 For Session 2013/14, Irvine Royal Academy and St Matthew's Academy will support 13 students and the following primary schools will support 12 students:  
  
St Anthony's Primary School  
St John's Primary School  
St Peter's primary School  
Annick Primary School  
Castlepark Primary School  
Woodlands Primary School
- 3.3 North Ayrshire will contribute to a partnership bid with a group of neighbouring authorities and universities.
- 3.4 The Cabinet is invited to (a) note the report; and (b) receive further reports in due course.

## **4. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 The initiative has the potential to increase the aspirations of pupils through contact with university staff and student teachers.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 Students from across Central Scotland will have the opportunity to observe aspects of life and work in North Ayrshire and may be attracted to work here in the future.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 3a Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased.  
3b People are better skilled to get into work.  
4c Levels of educational attainment and achievement have improved.

### 5. Consultations

- 5.1 There have been extensive consultations with staff from the Irvine Royal cluster and the St Matthew's cluster. There will be ongoing consultation with the LNCT as this approach develops further.

### 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 North Ayrshire Council is seeking to develop formal partnerships with universities to better support student teachers and teachers' professional development.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : MD

For further information please contact Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), on telephone number 01294 324416.

#### Background Papers

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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 6**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA)  
Examination Results 2013**

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**Purpose:** To update Cabinet on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations of 2013.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of the pupils in this year's SQA examinations; and (b) that a further report will be submitted, in due course, concerning performance in the 2014 diet of SQA examinations.

---

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Each year, Standard Tables and Charts (STACS) are published which give a detailed analysis of the national Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examination results, pre-appeal. This report outlines the average figures for five or more awards at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels three, four and five, a range of level six awards and level seven awards.
- 1.2 The Authority has carried out a preliminary analysis of these Tables and Charts which looks at trends over the past five years and makes comparisons with other similar education authorities, national performance, and past performance in North Ayrshire. The analysis contains data for 2009 to 2013, so for most of the performance measures the baseline for the report has been taken as 2009 (Appendix 1).
- 1.3 This comparison attempts to take account of background social factors such as the levels of poverty and affluence which are recognised as having an effect on examination performance. The Scottish Government has identified the comparator Councils for each education authority and the five education authorities considered similar to North Ayrshire Council are Clackmannanshire, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian.

- 1.4 The second comparison is with national performance. The levels of poverty in North Ayrshire are significantly greater than the national average and here it is best to compare trends in performance within the authority with national trends in similar measures.
- 1.5 The third comparison examines how current performance compares with past performance within North Ayrshire (Appendix 1).
- 1.6 Lastly, individual school performances across the measures are detailed (Appendix 2).

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Awards in S4 (Compared to the S4 roll - see Appendix 2). All percentages are expressed as a percentage of the pupil roll at the beginning of S4.
  - The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving awards at Level 3 in both English and Mathematics improved between 2009 and 2013 from 95% to 99% and is above the average for the family of authorities and the national average. In the same period, the average for the family of authorities remained at 94%. The national percentage for this measure has increased from 93% to 94%.
  - The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving five or more awards at Level 3 improved between 2009 and 2013, from 92% to 98% and is above the average for the family of authorities and the national average. In the same period, the average for the family of authorities increased from 93% to 95%. The national percentage for this measure has increased from 92% to 95%.
  - The percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at Level 4 improved from 73% to 79% between 2009 and 2013. In the same period 2009 to 2013, the average for the family of authorities increased from 77% to 82%. The national percentage increased from 78% to 82%.
  - The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving five or more Awards at Level 5 improved from 29% to 34% between 2009 and 2013. The average for the family of authorities increased from 33% to 36%. The national percentage for this measure has increased from 35% to 38%.

2.2 National Qualifications S5 (Compared to the S4 roll of this year group - see Appendix 2)

- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving one or more awards at Higher improved from 32% to 40% between 2009 and 2013. In the same period the average for the family of authorities increased from 38% to 47%. The national percentage for this measure increased from 41% to 48%.
- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving three or more awards at Higher improved from 18% in 2009 to 20% in 2013. In the same period the average for the family of authorities has increased from 20% to 26%. The national percentage for this measure has increased from 23% to 28%.
- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving five or more awards at Higher improved from 8% in 2009 to 9% in 2013. Within that period this figure increased to 11% 2012. In the same period the average for the family of authorities has increased from 8% to 11%. The national percentage for this measure has increased from 11% to 13%.

2.3 National Qualifications S6 (compared to the S4 roll of this year group - see Appendix 2)

- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving three or more awards at Higher by the end of S6 improved from 26% in 2009 to 33% in 2013. In the same period, the average for the family of authorities has increased from 26% to 35%. The national percentage for this measure increased from 31% to 38%.
- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving five or more awards at Higher by the end of S6 improved from 17% in 2009 to 24% in 2013. In the same period, the average for the family of authorities increased from 17% to 23%. The national percentage for this measure increased from 21% to 26%.
- The percentage of pupils in North Ayrshire achieving Advanced Higher, by the end of S6 improved from 10% in 2009 to 14% in 2013 and is in line with the average for the family of authorities. In the same period, the average for the family of authorities also increased from 10% to 14%. The national percentage for this measure increased from 13% to 17%.

2.4 This is the last year of Standard Grade and the last year of the Standard Tables and Charts (STACS) benchmarking tool.

Session 2013/14 sees the start of new National Qualifications. A Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool is currently being developed nationally to help local authorities and secondary schools to analyse compare and improve the performance of pupils in the senior phase.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of the pupils in this year's SQA examinations; and (b) that a further report will be submitted, in due course, concerning performance in the 2014 diet of SQA examinations.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This proposal will support the Single Outcome Agreement, 4a levels of educational attainment have improved.

### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The Corporate Director (Education and Skills) and senior officers will visit secondary schools to meet with headteachers and their senior management teams to discuss SQA result for 2013 to help and support all young people to meet their potential. More importantly, discussion will take place on how they are using the analysis of their exam results as a mechanism to inform their priorities for the session ahead.
- 5.2 Where appropriate and if necessary, support will be offered to ensure robust tracking and monitoring procedures are in place.



## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Across all measures in S4 the rate of improvement is greater in North Ayrshire than with comparator authority and national averages. Attainment in S4 and S6 is the best performance yet.
- 6.2 Although S5 results dipped slightly this year, the performance still remains strong as a comparator with all previous years. This dip is a direct consequence of slightly poorer results at Credit in S4 in 2012.
- 6.3 There requires to be focused effort to ensure that we build on the improved performance at Credit level and with boys in particular, so that we have a good base for presentations at Higher. This will include:
- closer examination of benchmarking information with comparator schools
  - school and faculty action plans that are modified where appropriate after analysis of exam results
  - ensuring that the Quality Improvement team has an proportionate focus on challenging performance
  - ensuring that staff embrace opportunities through effective CPD to improve their own performance
  - ensuring that raising attainment is a key focus for subject network meetings;
  - opportunities for staff to learn from effective practitioners within and beyond the Council ensuring a focus on confidence, leadership and aspiration with staff and learners
- 6.3 In addition to school, it is important that families and communities support high aspirations and achievement for young people. Ongoing work with Parent Councils, CLD and learning community partners support this.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : MD/EMcW

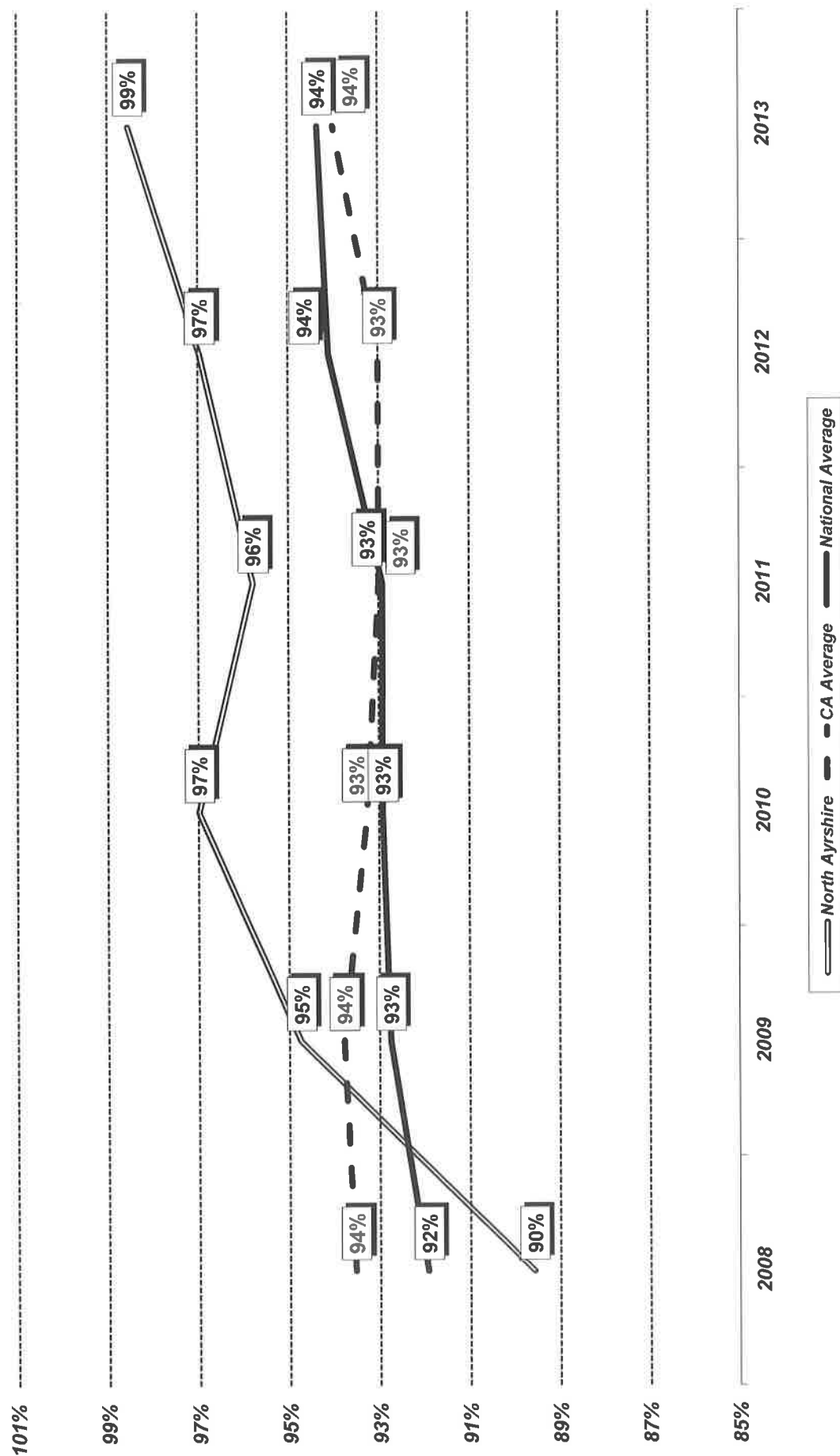
For further information please contact Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), on telephone number 01294 324416.

### **Background Papers**

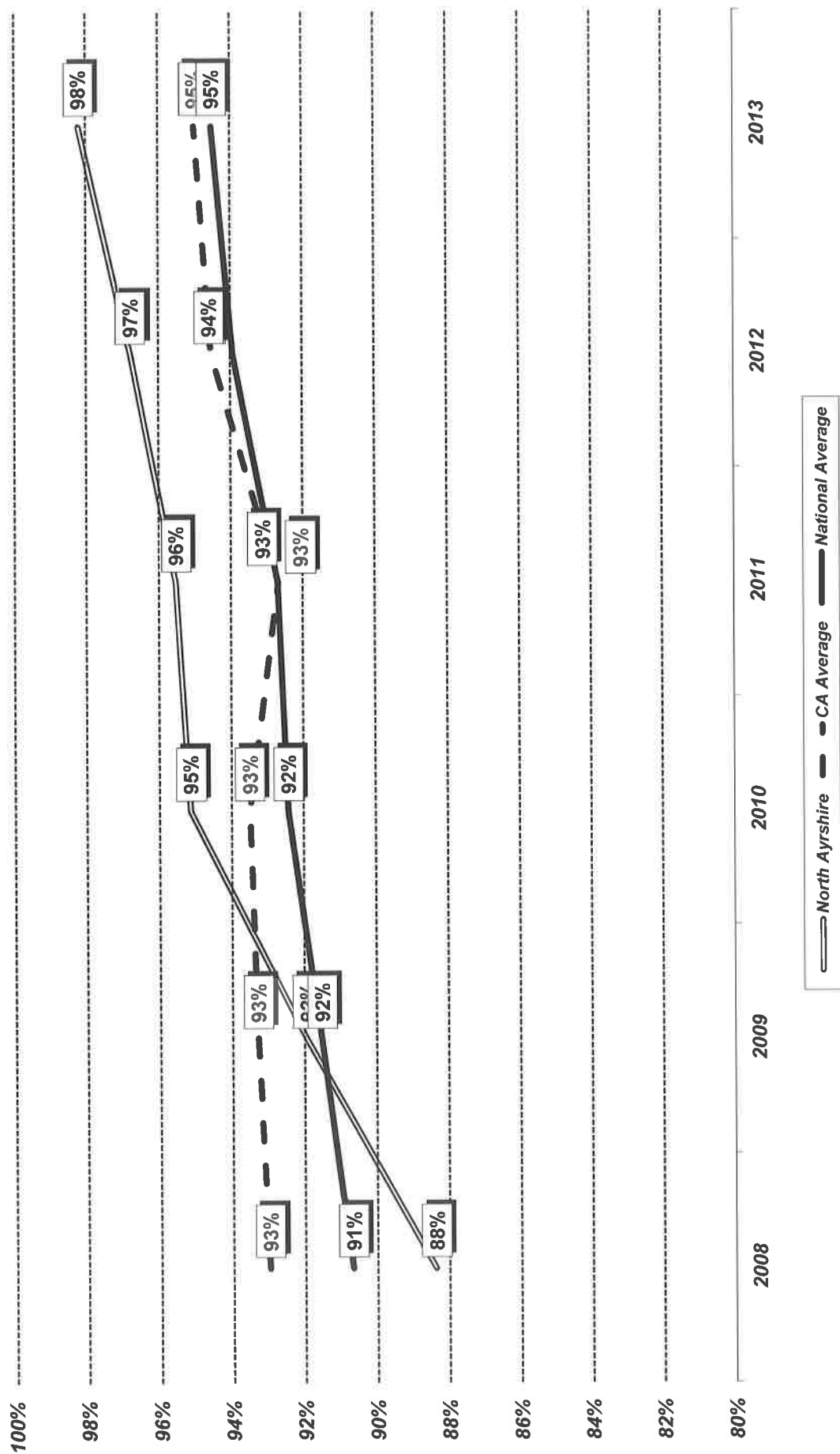
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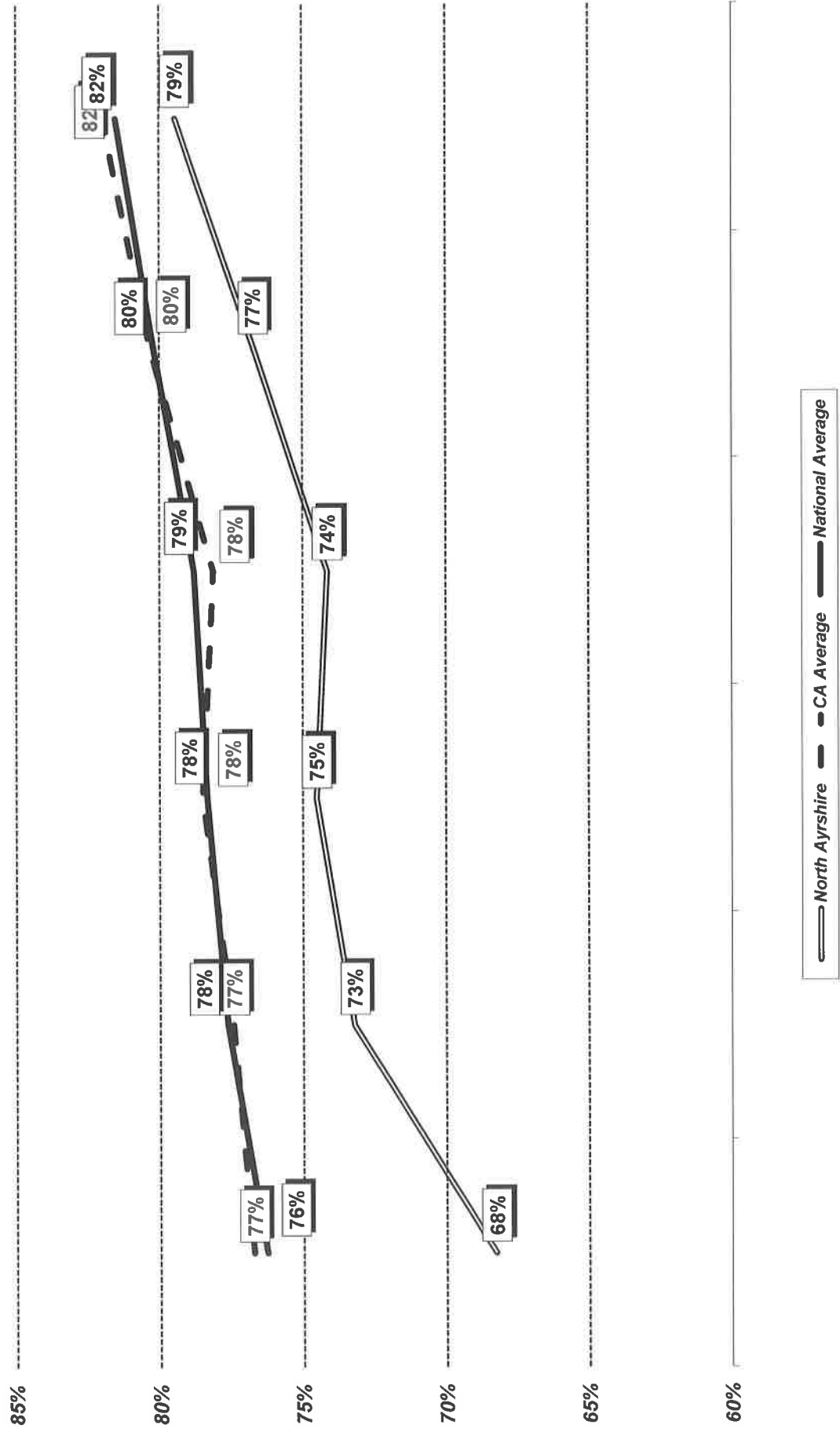
## English and maths @ SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4



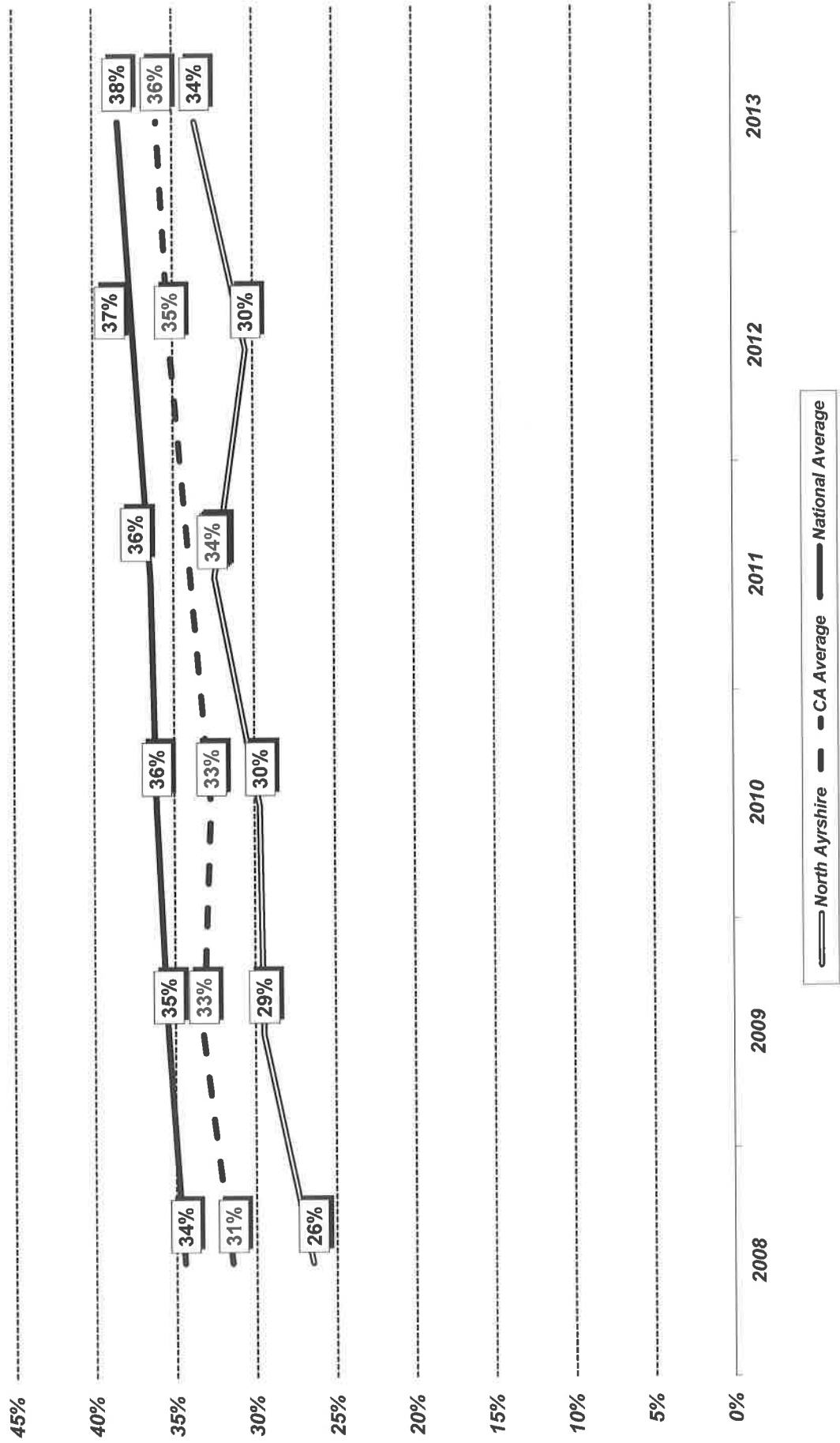
## 5+ @ SCQF level 3 or better by the end of S4



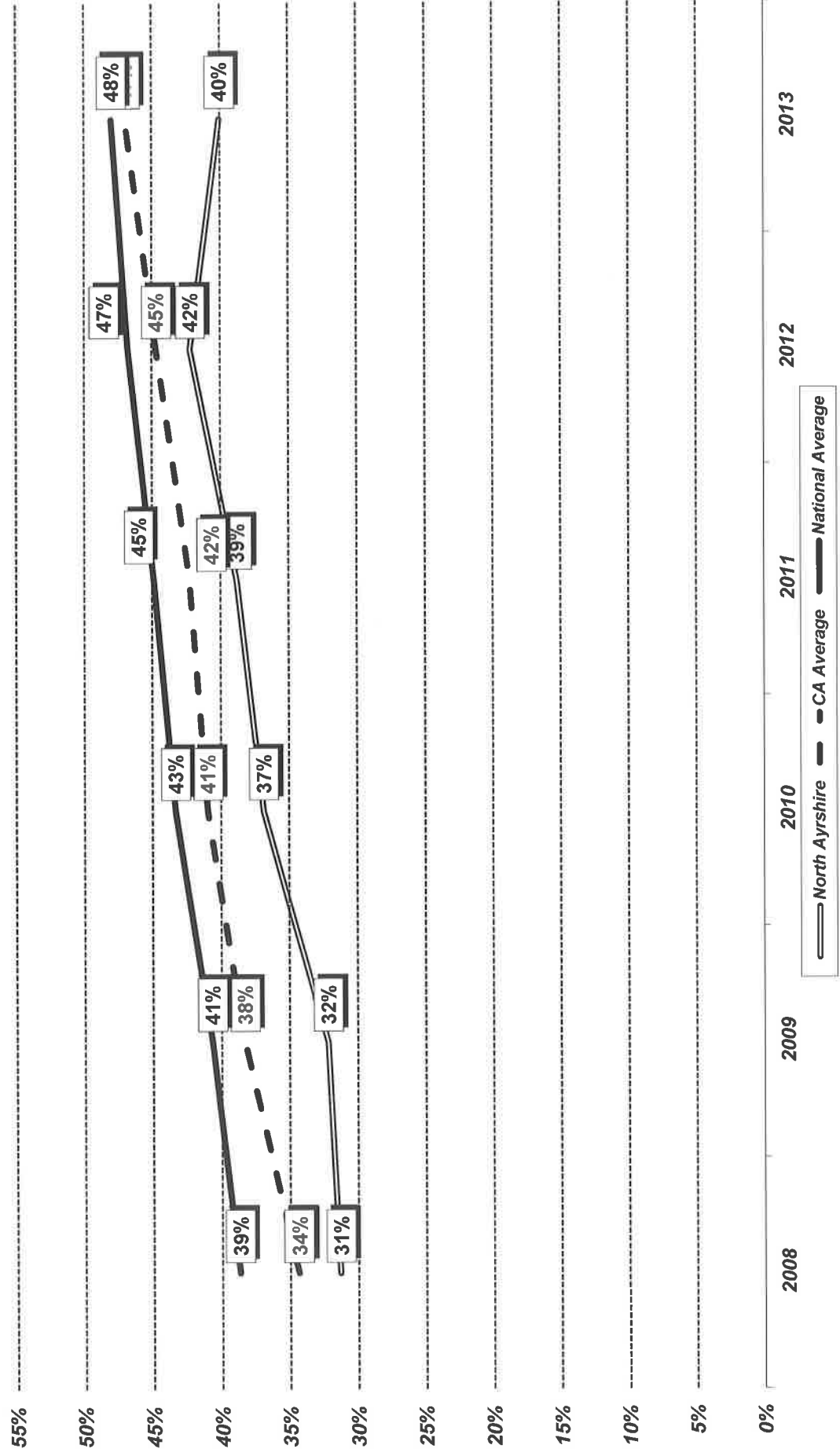
## 5+ @ SCQF level 4 or better by the end of S4



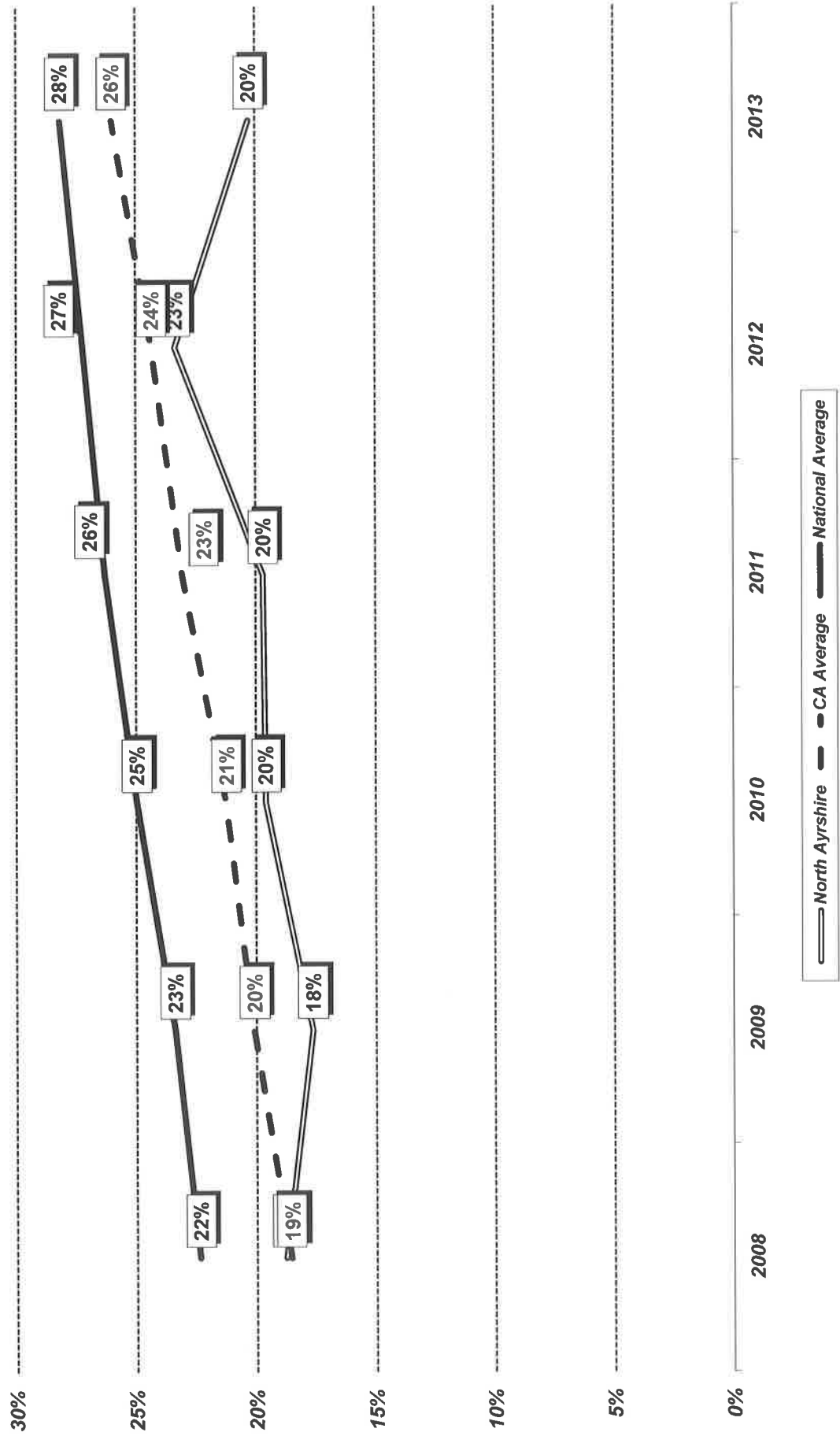
## 5+ @ SCQF level 5 or better by the end of S4



## 1+ @ SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5

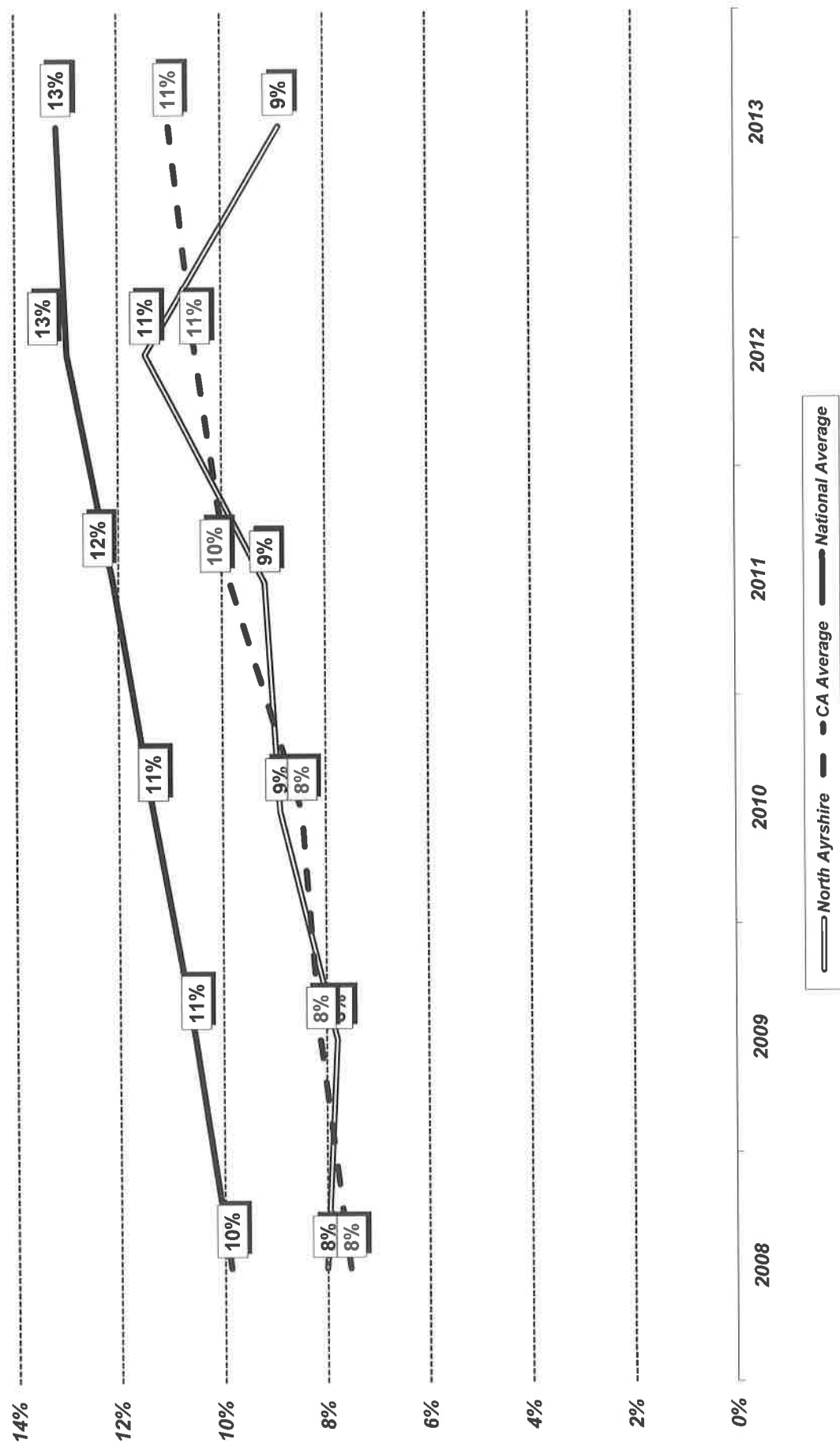


### 3+ @ SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5

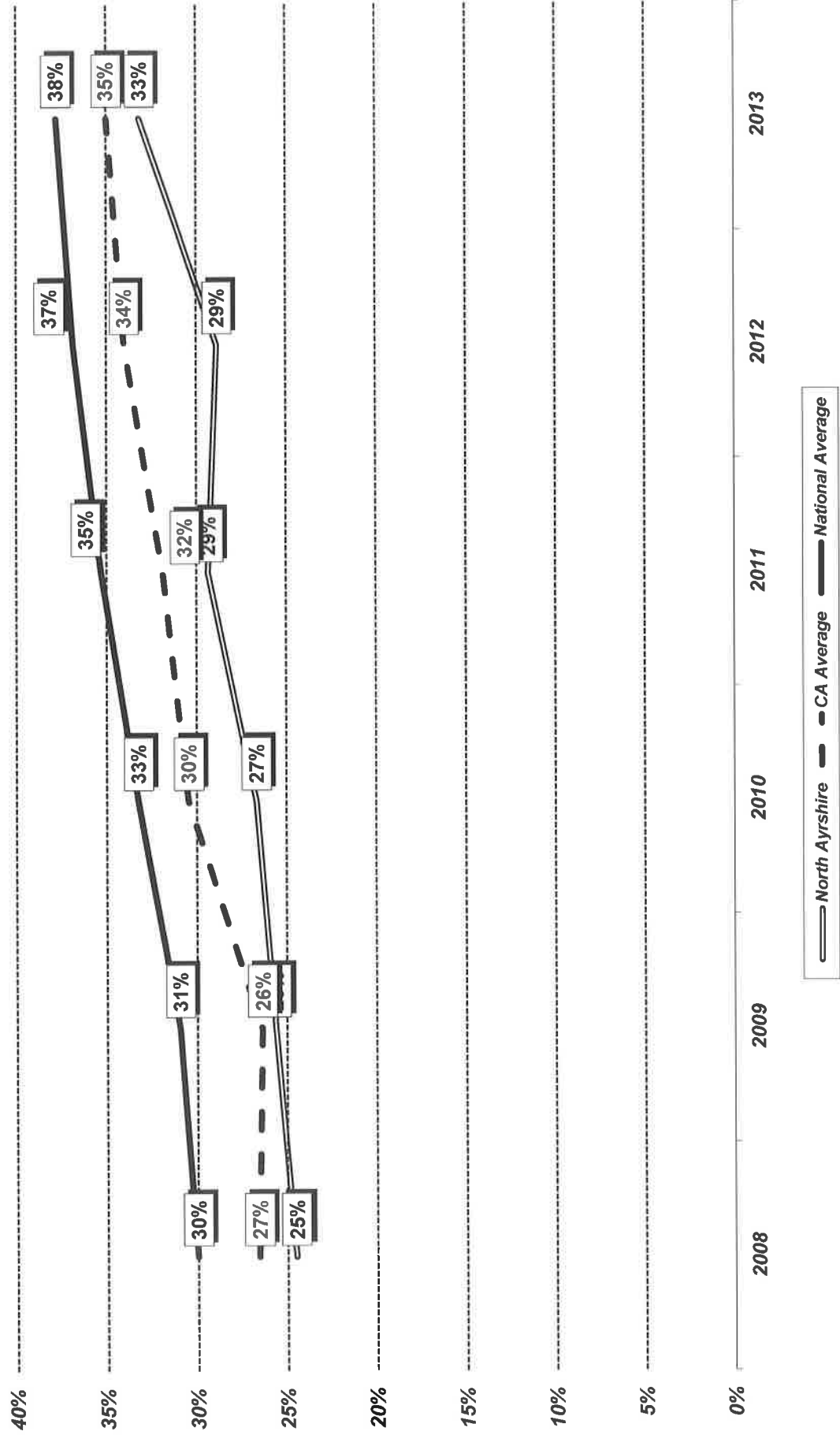




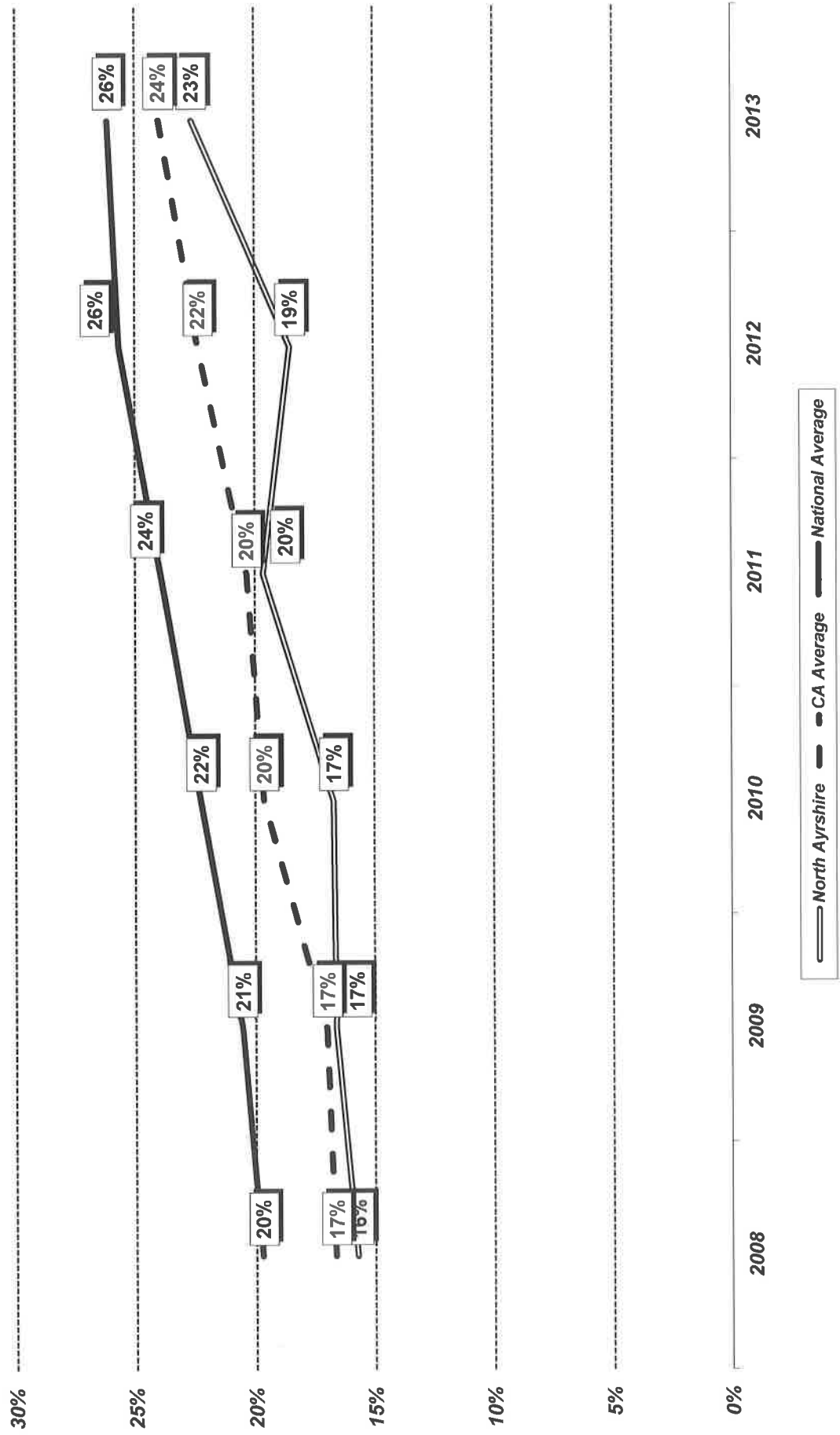
## 5+ @ SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S5



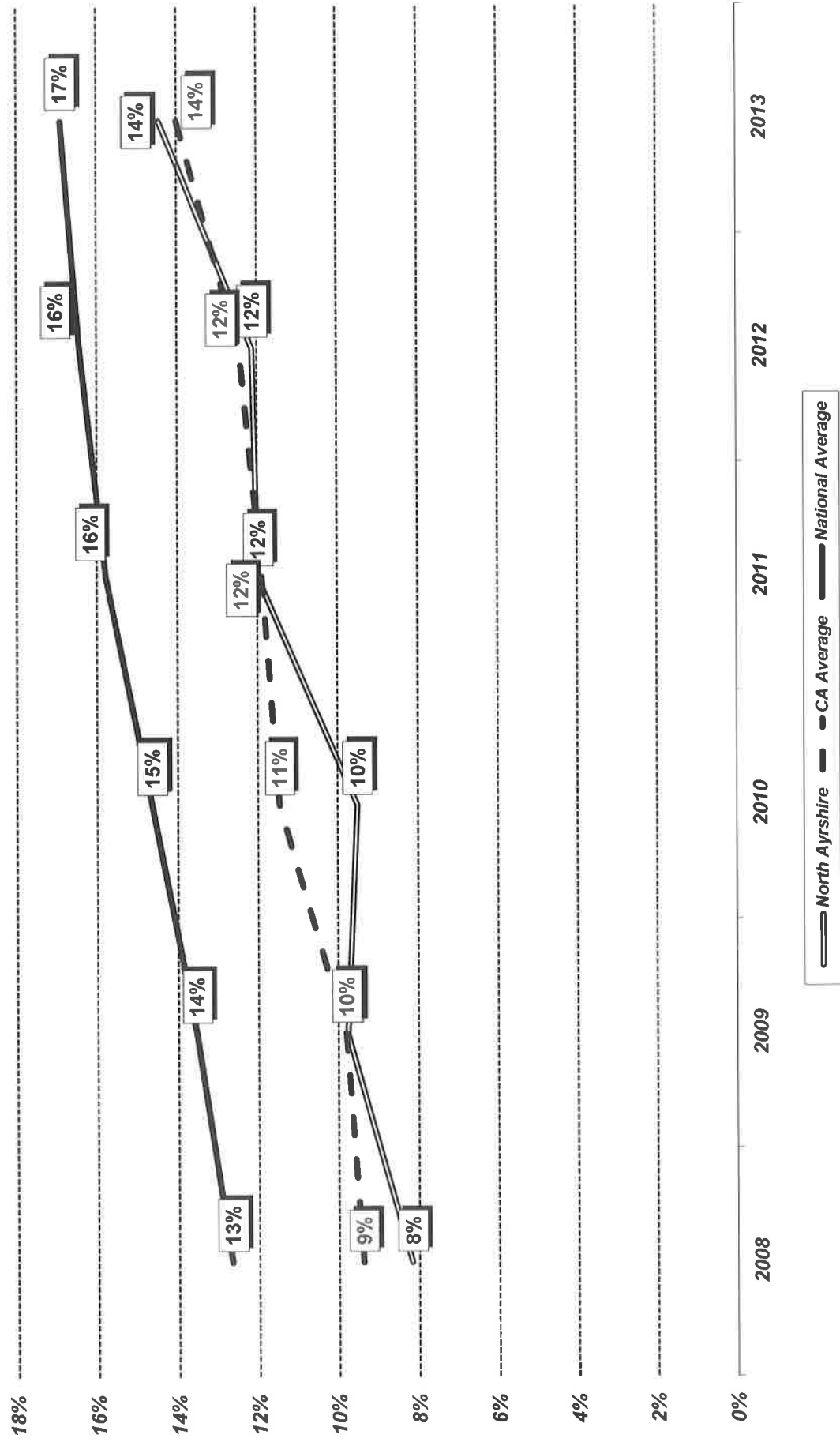
### 3+ @ SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6



## 5+ @ SCQF level 6 or better by the end of S6



## 1+ @ SCQF level 7 or better by the end of S6



**Pupils achieving English & maths at SCQF level 3 or above by the end of S4 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	92	95	95	97	92
Arran High	95	98	98	96	94
Auchenharvie Academy	90	97	96	93	98
Garnock Academy	98	99	98	97	97
Greenwood Academy	97	97	98	100	99
Irvine Royal	98	98	95	97	98
Kilwinning Academy	92	97	92	100	104
Largs Academy	97	97	98	96	100
St Matthew's Academy	94	97	94	97	100
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>99</b>
National	93	93	93	94	94

**Pupils achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF level 3 or above by the end of S4 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	90	96	98	98	100
Arran High	97	98	98	98	92
Auchenharvie Academy	84	95	94	95	99
Garnock Academy	98	101	97	96	94
Greenwood Academy	93	91	97	99	100
Irvine Royal	93	96	93	90	97
Kilwinning Academy	89	89	92	98	99
Largs Academy	93	97	97	96	100
St Matthew's Academy	91	97	94	97	97
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>98</b>
National	92	92	93	94	95

**Pupils achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or above by the end of S4 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	63	69	68	66	82
Arran High	85	95	93	94	91
Auchenharvie Academy	66	79	71	72	70
Garnock Academy	73	68	78	77	76
Greenwood Academy	76	74	74	77	77
Irvine Royal	62	69	64	62	64
Kilwinning Academy	74	69	68	74	83
Largs Academy	88	84	89	89	92
St Matthew's Academy	73	76	72	83	81
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>
National	78	78	78	80	82

**Pupils achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or above by the end of S4 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	18	32	35	29	36
Arran High	40	41	48	29	47
Auchenharvie Academy	25	26	24	26	19
Garnock Academy	29	25	30	29	33
Greenwood Academy	31	22	28	23	31
Irvine Royal	16	16	17	18	10
Kilwinning Academy	31	37	29	33	35
Largs Academy	46	45	53	48	51
St Matthew's Academy	30	31	33	35	37
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>
National	35	36	36	37	38

**Pupils achieving 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	26	28	35	42	34
Arran High	51	50	59	67	39
Auchenharvie Academy	21	32	35	37	41
Garnock Academy	33	36	39	43	41
Greenwood Academy	33	37	33	37	35
Irvine Royal	15	22	20	27	29
Kilwinning Academy	34	34	40	35	37
Largs Academy	56	59	64	64	54
St Matthew's Academy	30	38	36	43	47
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>
National	41	43	45	46	48

**Pupils achieving 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	17	14	19	26	19
Arran High	25	27	29	43	16
Auchenharvie Academy	11	14	22	21	16
Garnock Academy	18	15	14	22	20
Greenwood Academy	16	16	13	19	17
Irvine Royal	8	10	6	10	8
Kilwinning Academy	14	20	17	21	19
Largs Academy	39	40	41	41	36
St Matthew's Academy	15	21	23	21	23
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>
National	23	25	26	27	28

**Pupils achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 (percentages of entries)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	9	6	10	14	7
Arran High	9	13	14	19	10
Auchenharvie Academy	2	8	8	7	4
Garnock Academy	7	5	3	8	6
Greenwood Academy	6	5	5	8	8
Irvine Royal	3	2	2	4	4
Kilwinning Academy	6	8	5	9	8
Largs Academy	22	26	25	26	22
St Matthew's Academy	5	9	11	12	10
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>
National	11	11	12	13	13

### S6 3+ @ Level 6

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	19	22	21	26	34
Arran High	49	42	47	39	52
Auchenharvie Academy	10	17	25	27	30
Garnock Academy	26	28	28	27	32
Greenwood Academy	22	24	28	22	29
Irvine Royal	16	14	14	13	17
Kilwinning Academy	23	28	27	31	30
Largs Academy	56	47	48	52	55
St Matthew's Academy	24	26	31	29	31
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>
National	31	33	35	37	38

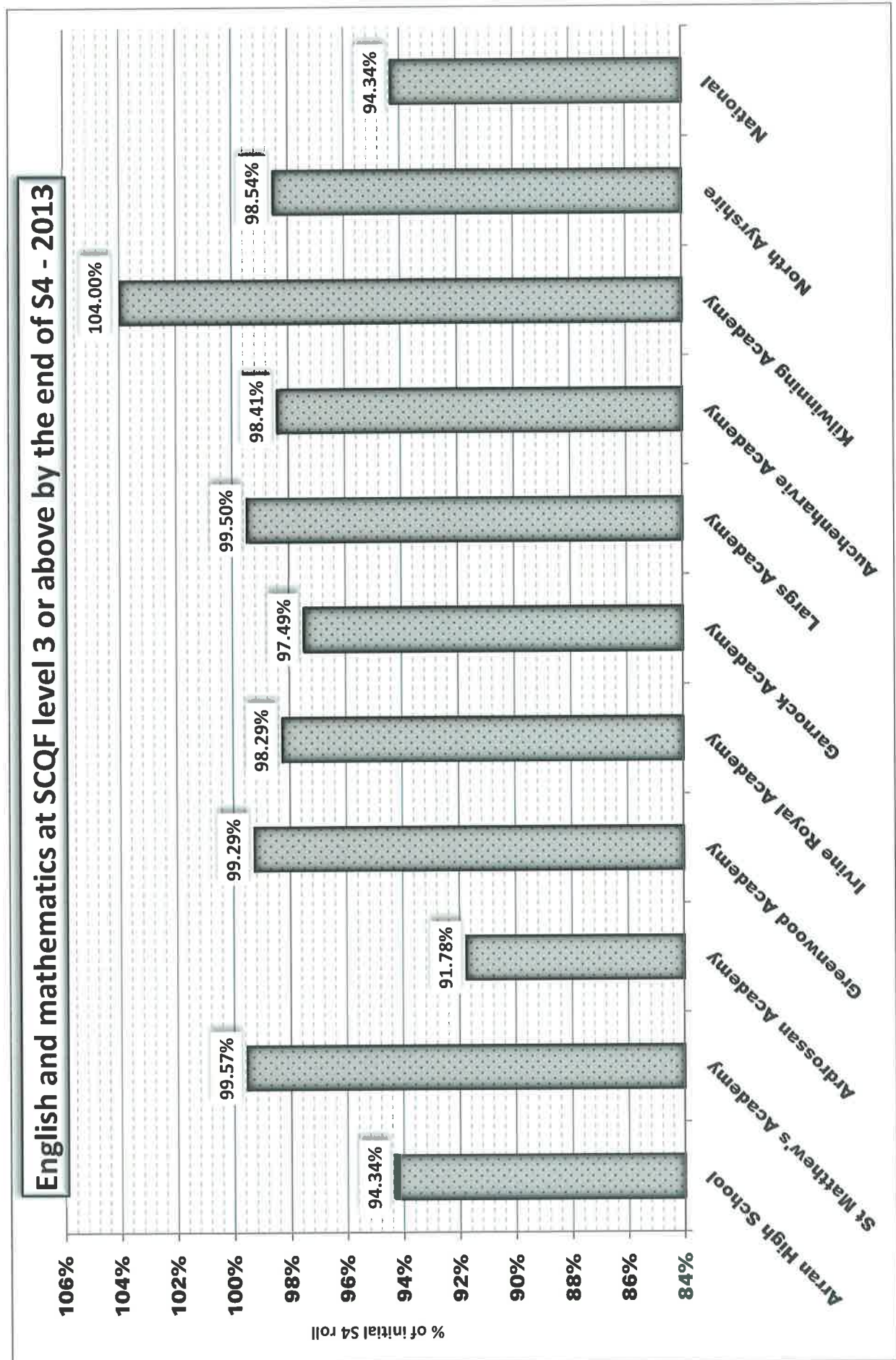
### S6 5+ @ Level 6 or above

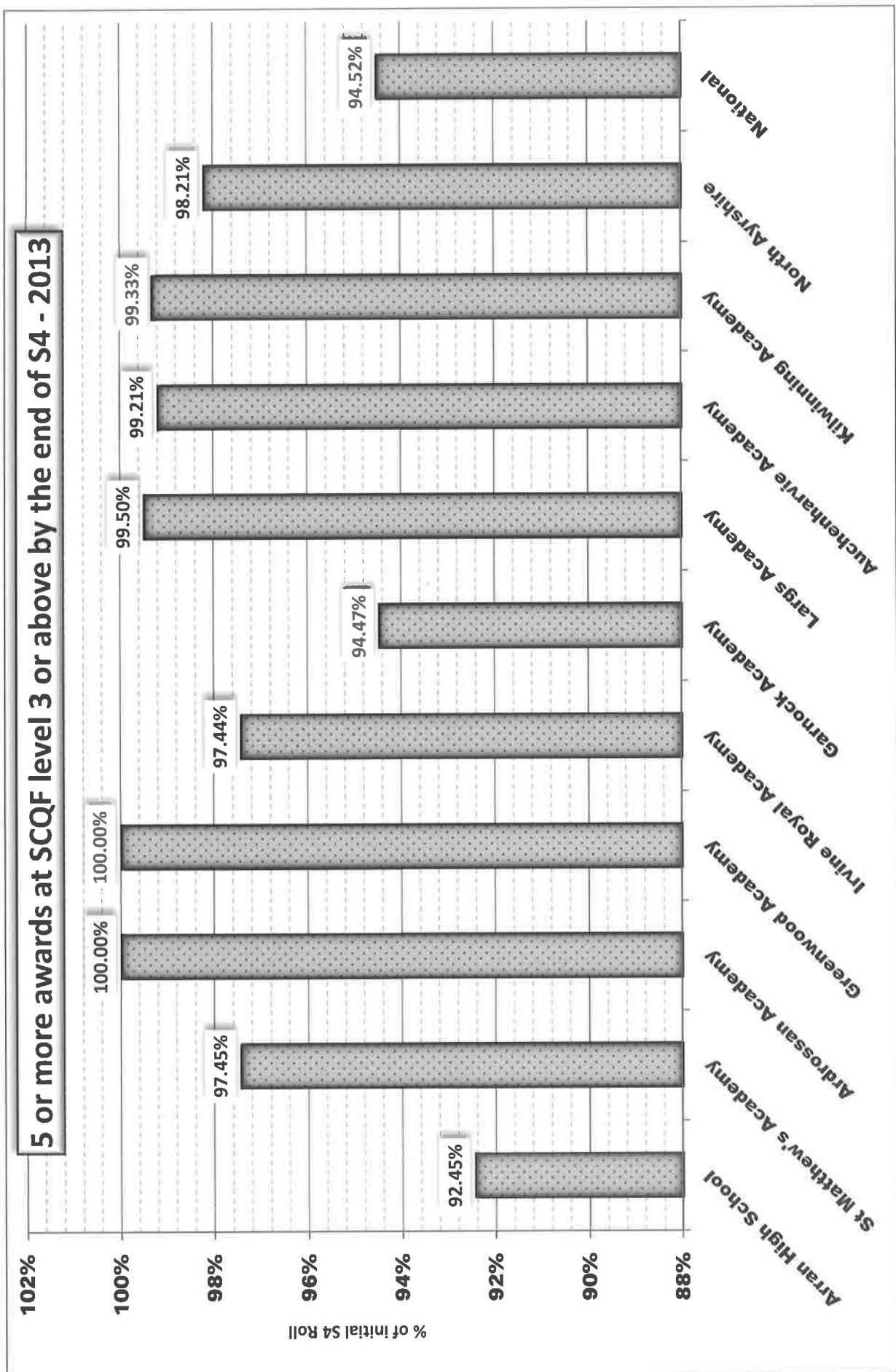
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	11	15	12	17	24
Arran High	36	24	31	23	37
Auchenharvie Academy	5	10	17	19	16
Garnock Academy	19	17	16	15	24
Greenwood Academy	14	14	16	13	19
Irvine Royal	10	9	9	6	11
Kilwinning Academy	16	14	21	19	23
Largs Academy	40	35	38	36	38
St Matthew's Academy	13	16	20	21	21
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>
National	20	22	23	25	26

### S6 Advanced Highers

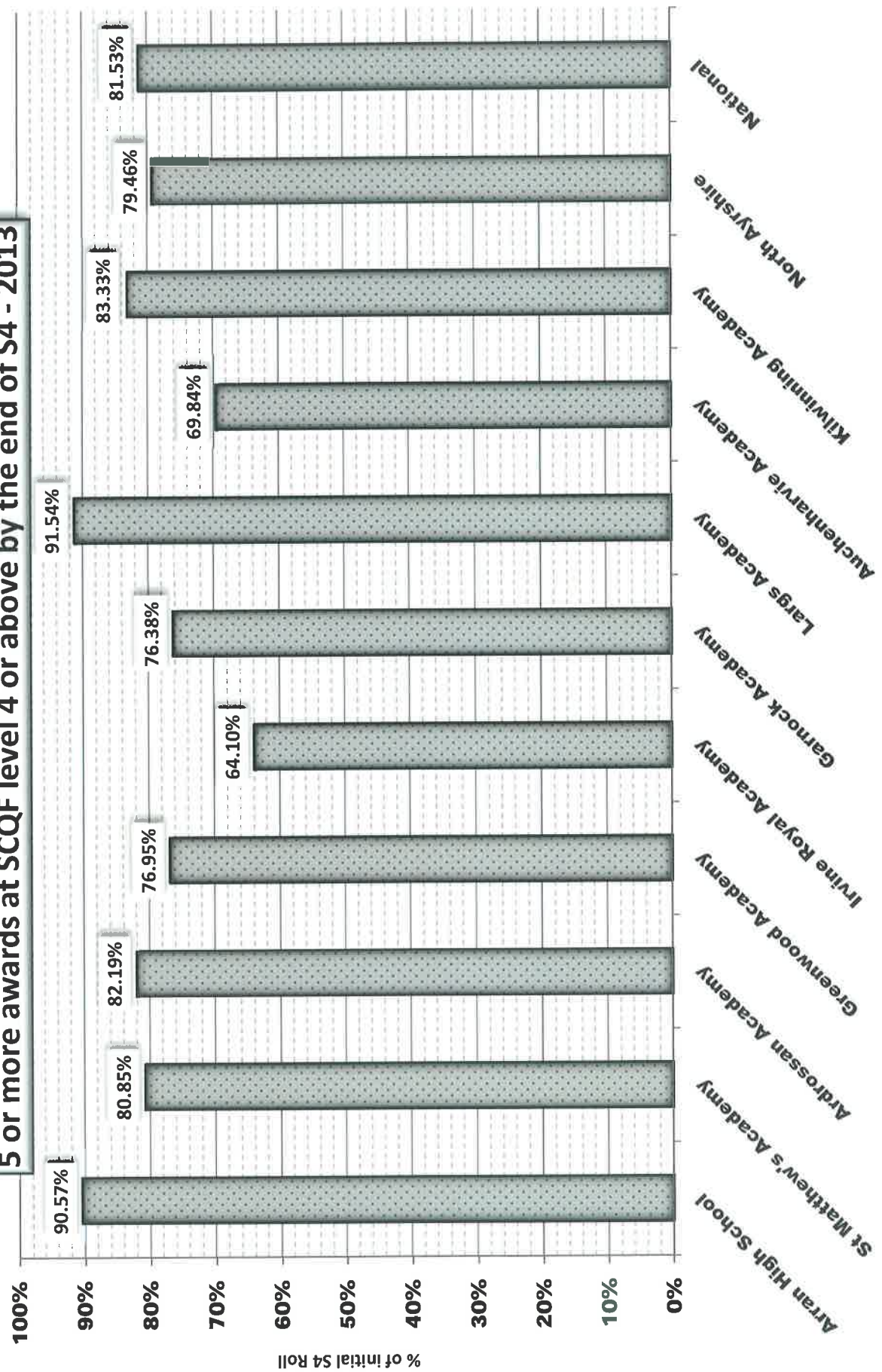
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ardrossan Academy	6	6	5	8	16
Arran High	13	13	13	16	30
Auchenharvie Academy	1	5	11	13	14
Garnock Academy	12	11	13	12	16
Greenwood Academy	8	6	6	6	7
Irvine Royal	7	8	7	8	12
Kilwinning Academy	8	11	12	14	9
Largs Academy	27	22	30	24	31
St Matthew's Academy	8	8	13	14	10
<b>North Ayrshire</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
National	13	15	16	16	17





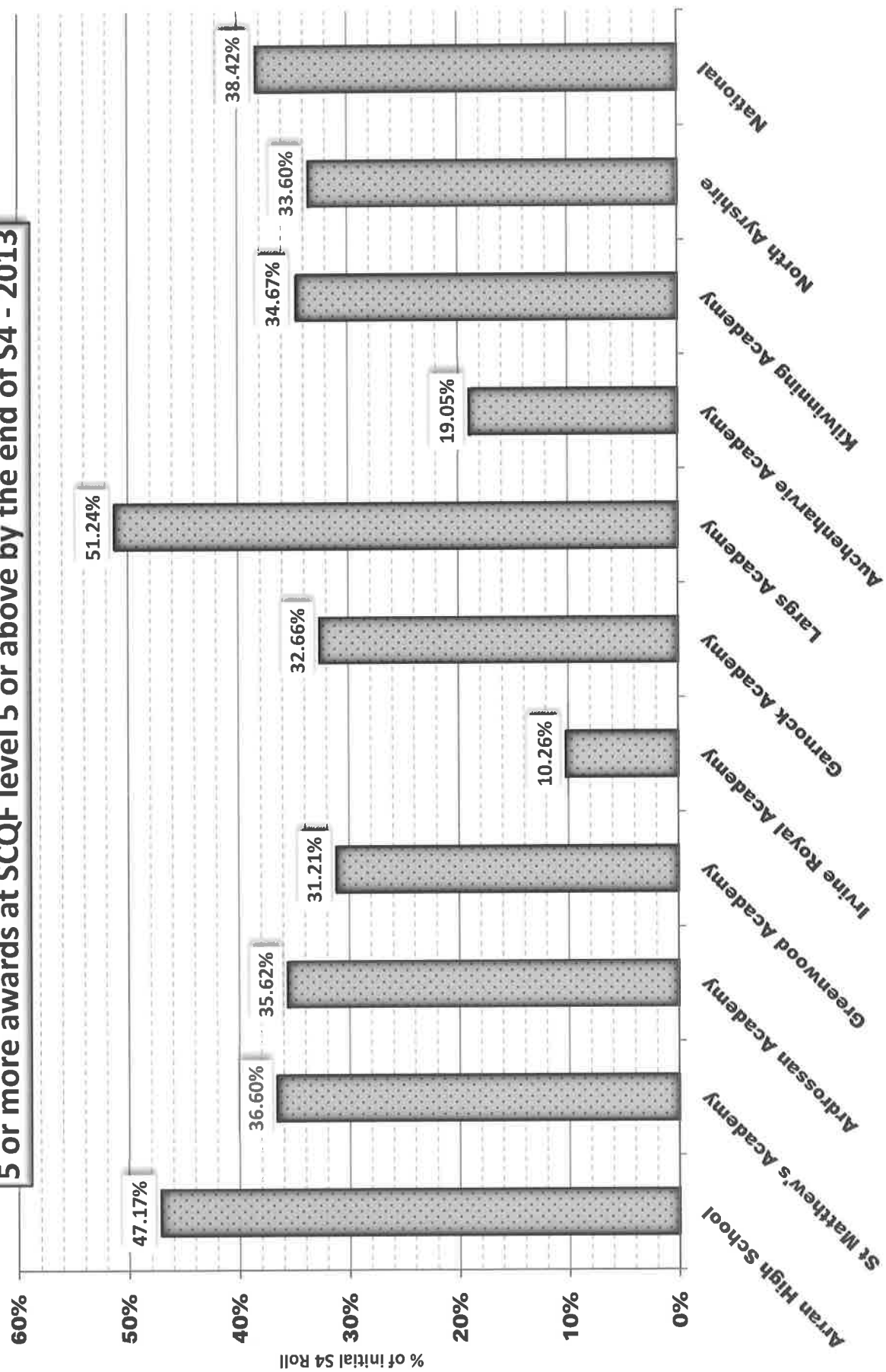


### 5 or more awards at SCQF level 4 or above by the end of S4 - 2013

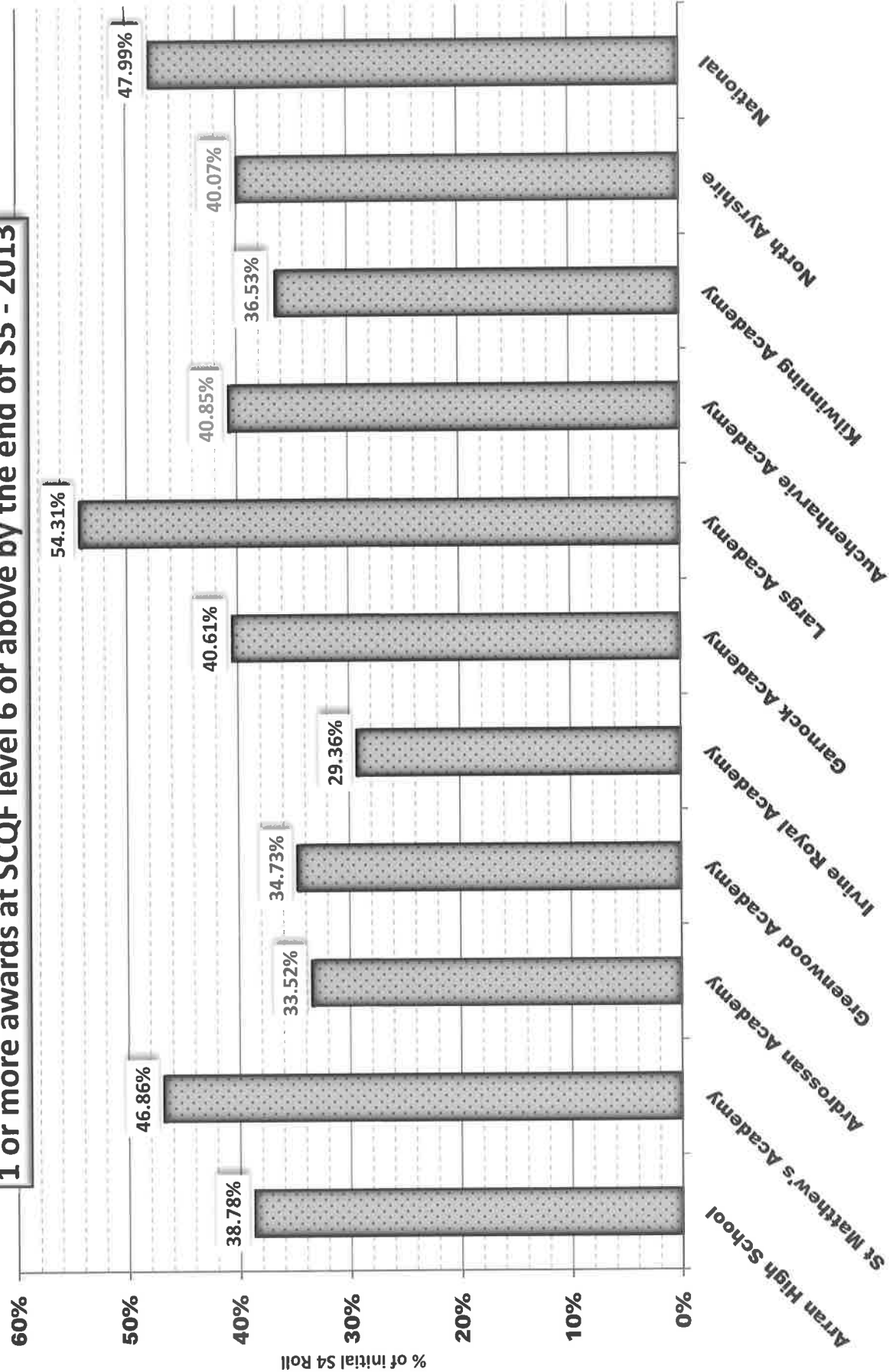




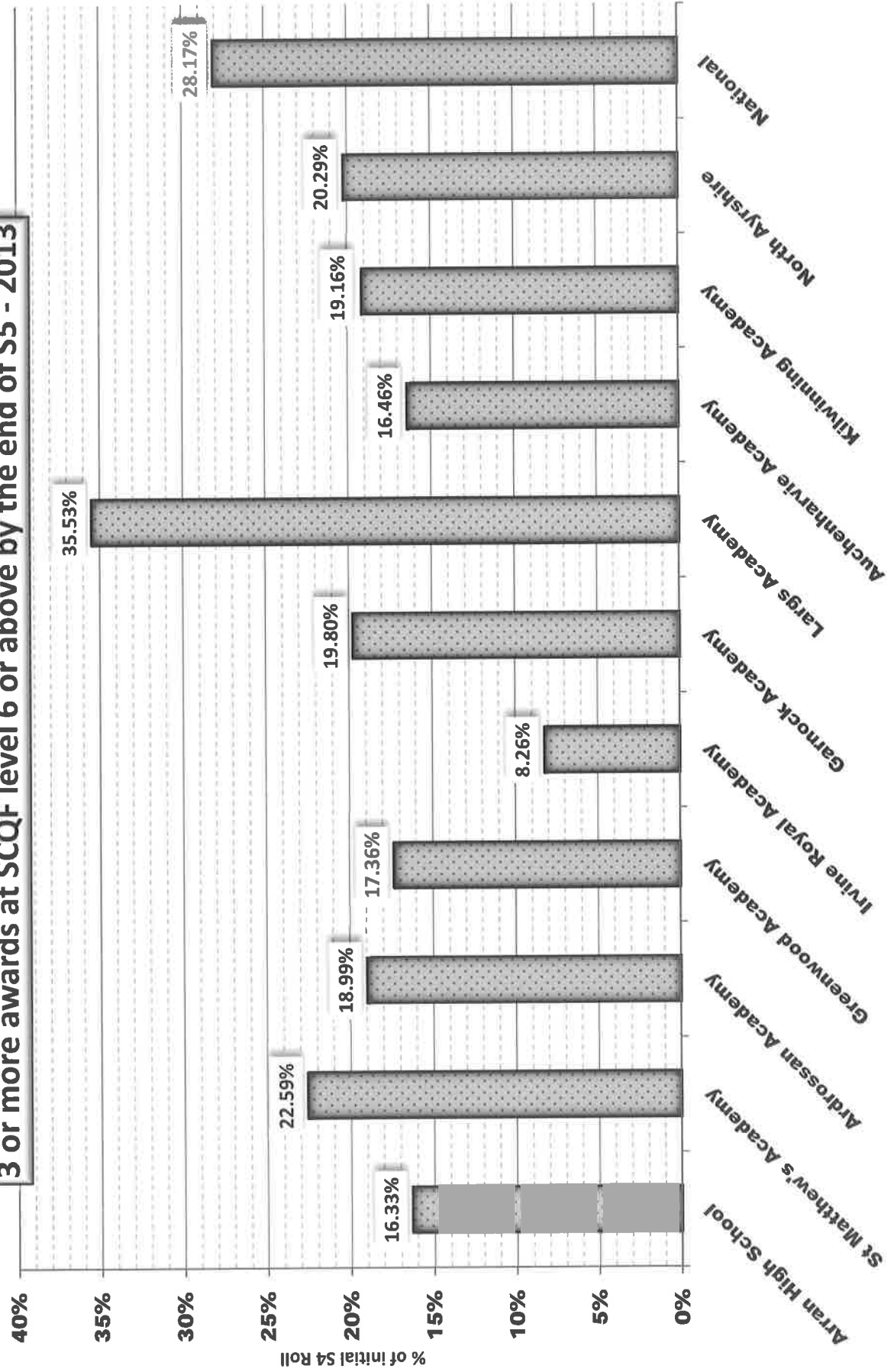
### 5 or more awards at SCQF level 5 or above by the end of S4 - 2013



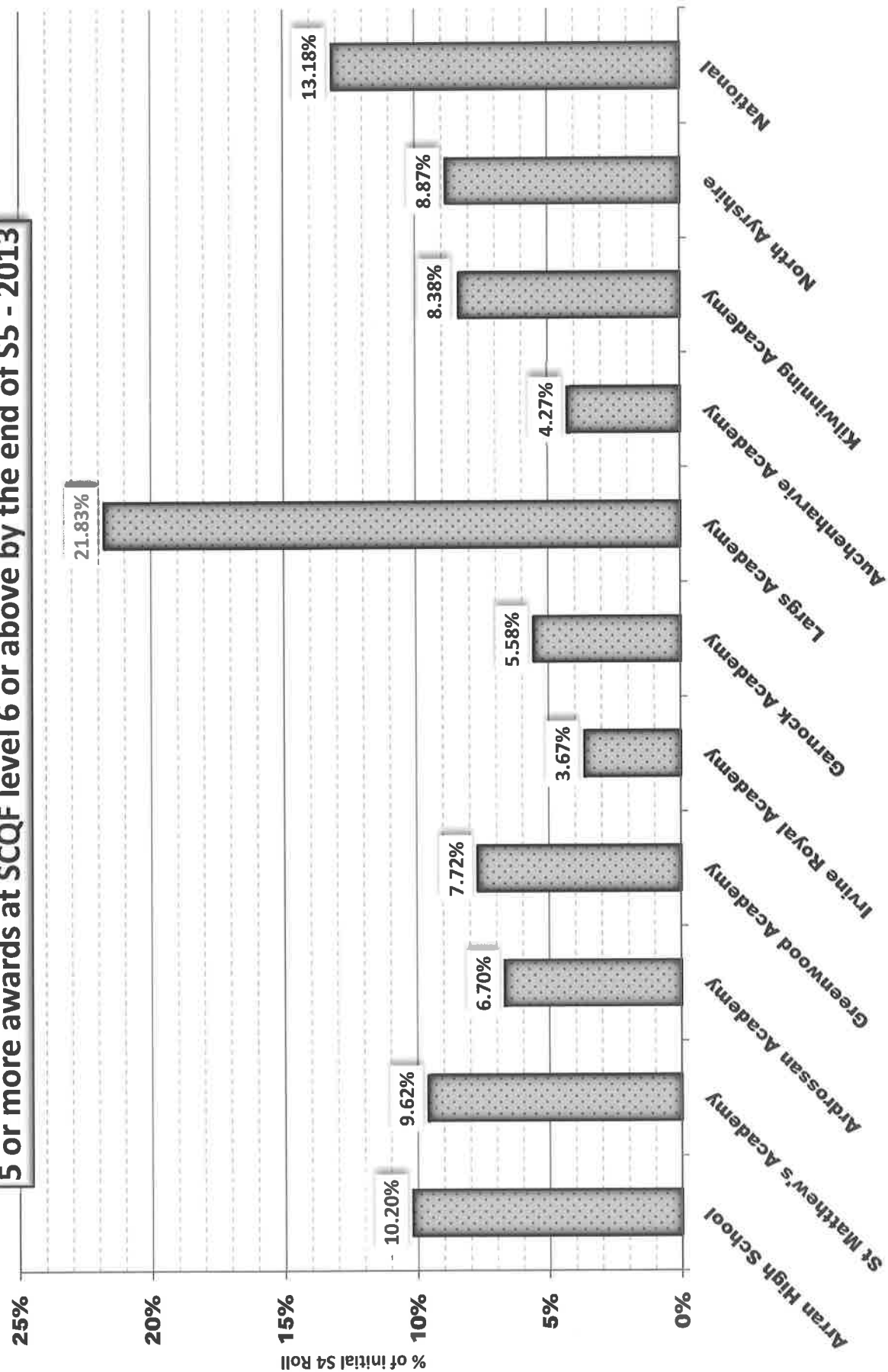
# 1 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 - 2013



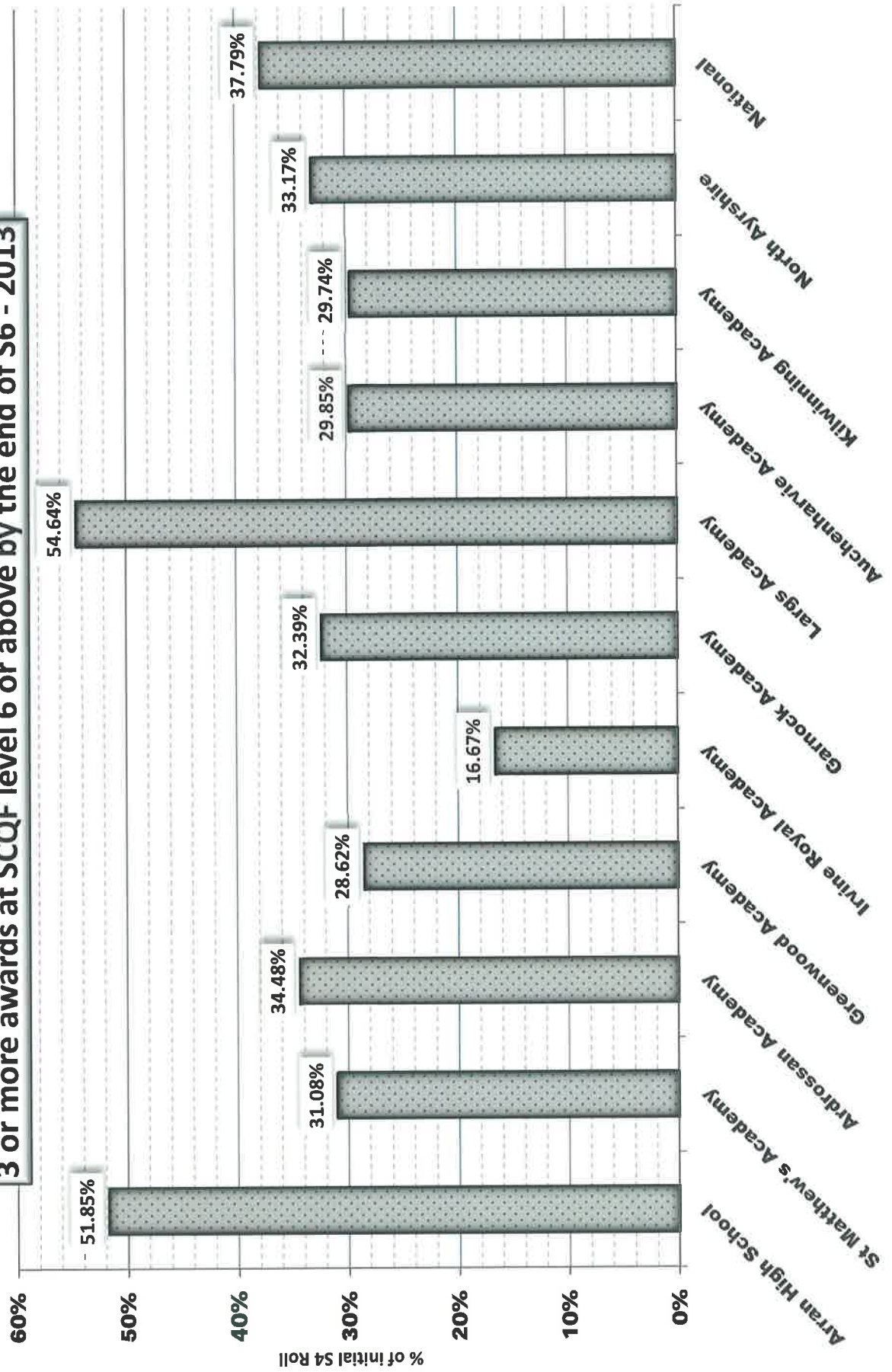
**3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 - 2013**



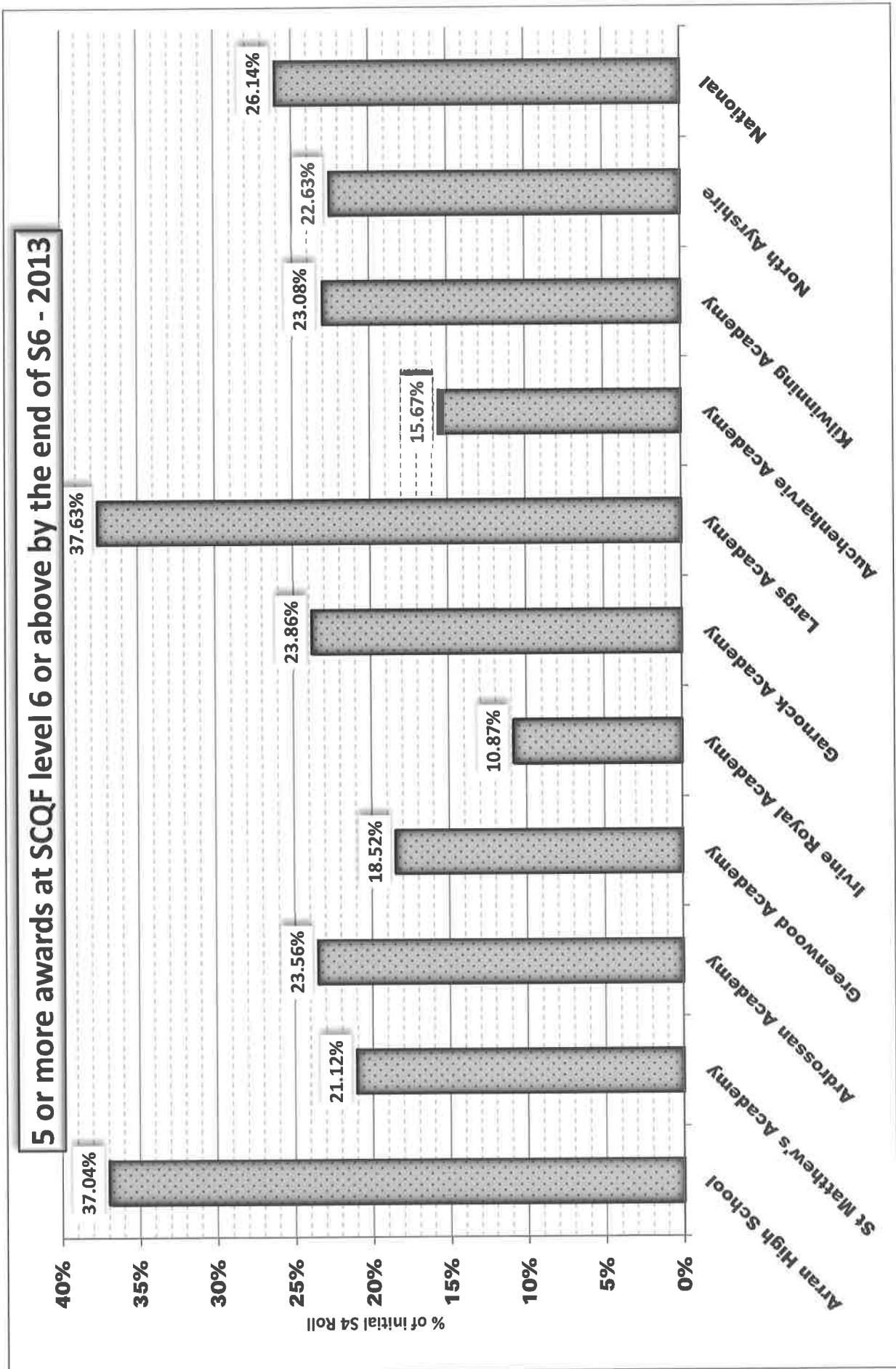
# 5 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S5 - 2013



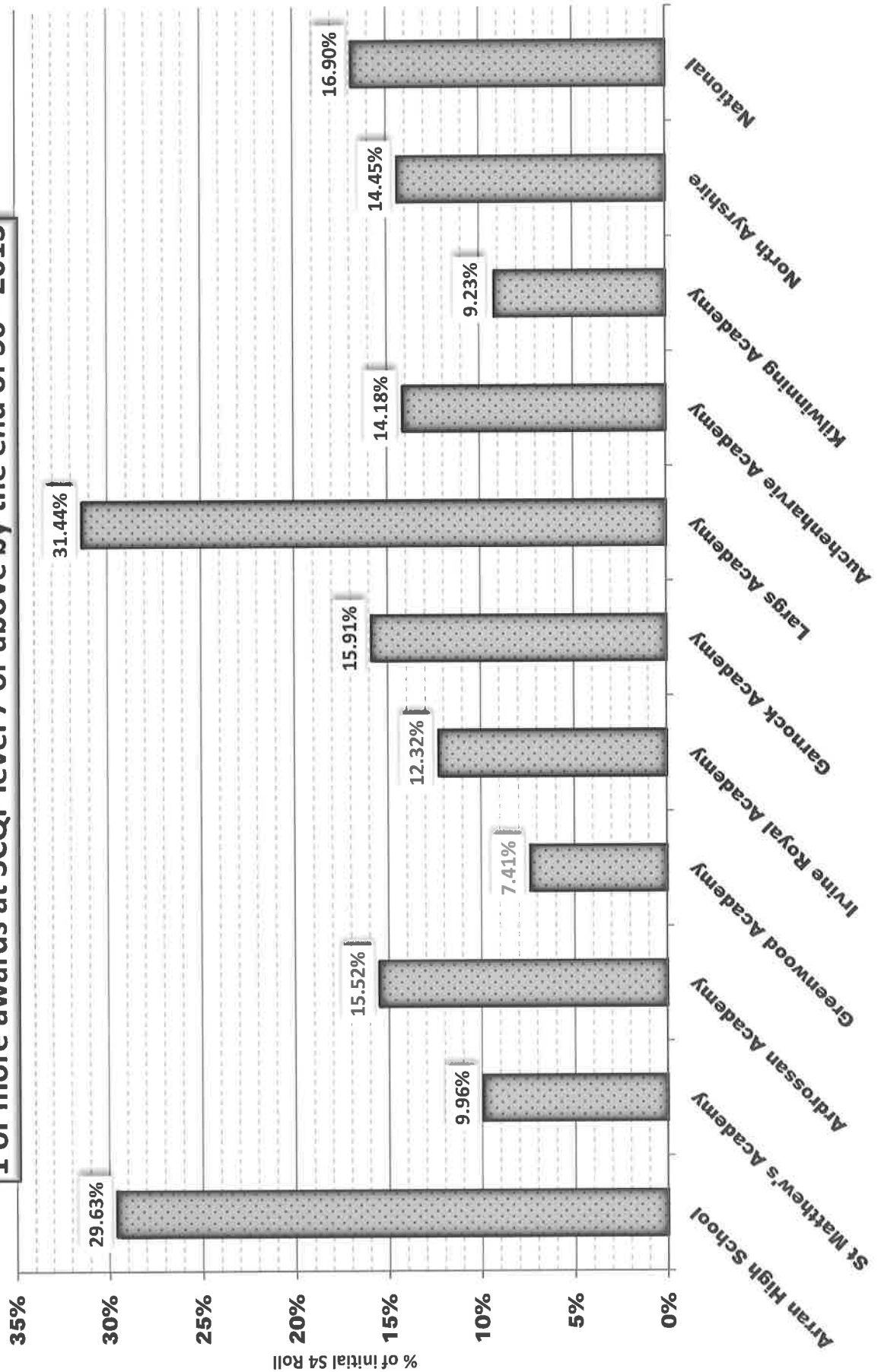
### 3 or more awards at SCQF level 6 or above by the end of S6 - 2013







# 1 or more awards at SCQF level 7 or above by the end of S6 - 2013



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 7**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Flexibility of P2/P3 Class Size**

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**Purpose:** To report on the use of flexible arrangements in relation to P2/P3 class size.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet notes the content of the report.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Current Scottish Government legislation relating to lower primary school class sizes is The Education (Lower Primary Class Sizes) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010. This Act amends 1999 Regulations and provides for statutory class size maxima as follows:

Primary 1: 25 pupils maximum

Primary 2: 30 pupils maximum

Primary 3: 30 pupils maximum

- 1.2 In line with the Scottish Government's intention to reduce class sizes in the early years of primary schools, the Council has built upon the foundations of this legislation and adopted a policy limiting the maximum pupil numbers in Primary 2 and 3 classes to 25, bringing it into line with the statutory limit for Primary 1 class sizes.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet agreed on 26 February 2013 to a proposal that the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) should have delegated authority to exceed the class size maxima set by Council on a temporary basis for certain Primary 2 and or Primary 3 classes at particular schools.
- 2.2 The Cabinet requested that a report should be brought at the beginning of the school session detailing the occasions where these flexible arrangements have been used.

- 2.3 The table below details the five primary schools, out of a total of 53 primary schools in North Ayrshire, where class sizes at Primary 2 and Primary 3 exceeded the class size maxima set by Council.

<b>P1/2/3 Classes with Over 25</b>		
Mayfield PS	P2	26
St Anthony's PS	P2	26
Stanley PS	P3	26
	P3	26
West Kilbride PS	P3	26
	P3	26
Woodlands PS	P3	26
	P3	27

- 2.4 Across the five primary schools and eight classes which exceeded the class size maxima set by Council, the greatest number of children in one class was 27 children. The remaining seven classes had 26 children. Detailed discussions with the Head of Service took place to ensure there were extenuating circumstances that applied in every situation.

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 This proportionate and pragmatic use by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) of the delegated authority to determine that the class size maxima for certain Primary 2 and or Primary 3 classes could be exceeded on a temporary basis has helped schools and families.
- 3.2 It has avoided accommodation pressures on library and general purpose spaces. Families moving into the area have been able to have their children educated in one establishment.
- 3.3 For the start of session 2013/14 there is one class at Primary 2 with 26 pupils and seven classes at Primary 3 with 26 pupils and one class at Primary 3 with 27 pupils.

Mayfield PS	P3	26		
St Anthony's PS	P2	26	P3	25, 25, 25
Stanley PS	P3	26		
	P3	26		
West Kilbride PS	P3	26		
	P3	26		
Woodlands PS	P3	26		
	P3	27		

## **4. Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly connected to the implementation of the proposal within this report. The flexibility sought through delegated authority could reduce capital and revenue financial pressures.

### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from the adoption of the proposal contained in this report.

### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from the adoption of the proposal within this report. The proposed delegated authority would be exercised within statutory requirements.

### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from the adoption of the proposal within this report.

### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications arising from the adoption of the proposal within this report.

### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposal to support SOA Outcome 15c, "public services are more efficient and effective".

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 There has been consultation with headteachers in respect of the issues contained within this report.
- 5.2 This matter has also been considered at the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board where it was supported.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The proposal contained within this report will, if adopted, provide an effective and pragmatic method of managing some school capacity issues on a temporary basis. This solution is a low/no cost option which provides a commensurate response to those limited occasions where other available resolutions are inappropriate.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : MD

For further information please contact Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), on telephone number 01294 324416.

### **Background Papers**

The Education (Lower Primary Class Sizes) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010

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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 8**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Funding**

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**Purpose:** To advise the Cabinet of attempts to secure funding from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Socio Economic Fund, and of the Council's future approach to the response to decommissioning activity and the associated pursuit of funding.

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**Recommendation:** The Cabinet (a) notes the outcome of applications to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Socio Economic Fund; and (b) agrees to the Council chairing a 'Response to Nuclear Decommissioning Steering Group'.

---

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 North Ayrshire contains an active Nuclear Power Station in Hunterston B, while the Hunterston A Station is currently in the process of decommissioning. The terms of the Energy Act 2004 require the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) to consider the socio-economic impact of its activities, both in the operation of its sites and in subsequent decommissioning. One way in which it addresses this issue is through its Socio-Economic Fund.
- 1.2 The report seeks to provide an update on applications submitted to the NDA Socio Economic Fund. It also seeks to confirm the means by which the Council will in future seek to respond to the socio economic impacts of decommissioning and consider funding applications to the NDA Socio Economic Fund through a steering group.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Hunterston A Power Station is currently in the process of decommissioning, with around 220 staff currently employed at the site. These are high value skilled jobs, the eventual loss of which will have a major impact on the local economy. Employment levels are projected to decline from around 2017-18, and by 2022 the station will enter a care and maintenance phase with employment limited to fewer than 25 staff.

- 2.2 In its Socio-Economic Policy, the NDA states that its vision is to 'support the creation of dynamic, sustainable local economies for communities living near our sites'. Its objective is to minimise the impact of decommissioning through:
- enhancing the opportunity for local people to be involved in decommissioning work;
  - supporting the diversification of local economies into other sectors; and
  - increasing the attractiveness of areas near NDA sites as places to live, work and invest.
- 2.3 Representatives of Magnox (operators of Hunterston A who administer the socio economic fund) met with the Chief Executive and Council Leader in March 2010 to discuss issues around decommissioning and future opportunities for inward investment, recognising that North Ayrshire had to that date not benefitted from any major awards from the Socio-Economic Fund. This led to the preparation of an independent socio-economic impact assessment of decommissioning by Hall Aitken in 2010 and, thereafter, the development of an 'Investment Framework in Response to Hunterston A Decommissioning' by the Council and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company (IBRC) during 2011. IBRC has been heavily involved in the pursuit of NDA funding alongside the Council given the concentration of employment at Hunterston A within the Three Towns in particular, and the opportunity available to access funding for regeneration projects.
- 2.4 The Investment Framework had two primary functions. Firstly, it sought to make the case that North Ayrshire should be a high priority area in line with the criteria set out by the NDA. Secondly, it suggested a range of project interventions to mitigate against the decommissioning. It sought to secure up to £2m in investment per annum from the NDA to support a planned programme of projects within key areas of North Ayrshire affected by the result of decommissioning for an initial period of five years. The Investment Framework was presented to the Council in September 2011.

#### Funding Applications to Date

- 2.5 In November 2011 and on the basis of this framework, the Hunterston Site Stakeholders Group, along with a representative from the NDA, considered which of the projects constituted priorities and this led to the submission of four applications in February 2012 (Youth Employment Support, Tourism Growth Programme, Key Fund and Ardrossan Quayside Offices).



- 2.6 The NDA confirmed in May 2013 that the application for Youth Employment Support had been successful, which will lead to investment from the NDA of £250,000 over a three year period from 2013/14. While discussions continue in relation to potential support for the Ardrossan Quayside Offices, the remaining two applications were rejected. Feedback on the rejected applications suggested insufficient focus or demonstrable impact on employment.
- 2.7 A separate application for the Millport Marine Biological Station (MMBS) for capital funding of £300,000 had been approved by the NDA in 2012; however, given that this was towards the proposal led by the University of London, this award was later returned in the light of the announcement by University that their proposals would not be implemented and that the station was to close in late 2013. Given the positive developments reported to Cabinet in the proposed operation of the MMBS by the Field Studies Council (FSC) and the capital investment package being developed, the Chief Executive wrote to the NDA on 19 June 2013 to seek that these funds be redirected to support the delivery of the proposal by the FSC. This remains under consideration.

#### Future Approach

- 2.8 The NDA has advised that Hunterston A will in the short to medium term represent a medium priority for funding intervention given the extension of time associated with both decommissioning activity at Hunterston A to 2022, and the extension of production at Hunterston B to 2023. While in employment terms this represents good news, the view of the NDA is that there is less of a justification for immediate funding support as a result. There is, therefore, a need to manage expectations in line with the funding available.
- 2.9 The NDA also wishes to see greater involvement of local partners and evidence that funding applications have emerged from a wider response to the longer term loss of employment associated with decommissioning. Reference has been made to similar to approaches elsewhere, such as 'Beyond Chapelcross' in Dumfries and Galloway. This could take the form of a group led by the Council to specifically deal with the response to decommissioning in supporting economic development and employment.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet (a) notes the outcome of applications to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Socio Economic Fund; and (b) agrees to the Council chairing a Response to Nuclear Decommissioning Steering Group, comprising:
- Portfolio Holder for Economy & Employment;
  - The local MP and MSP;
  - A representative from Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company;
  - A representative from the Hunterston Site Stakeholders Group;
  - The Site Director at Hunterston A; and
  - Representatives from the NDA.
- 3.2 This group will consider not only the submission of applications for funding, but the wider response to the future loss of employment through a reduction in decommissioning activity in the long term.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no Financial Implications.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no Human Resource Implications.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no Legal Implications.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no Equality Implications.

#### Environmental Implications.

- 4.5 There are no Environmental Implications.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Council's Core Objective 1: Regenerating our communities and increasing employment is supported.

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 Officers from the Council and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company meet regularly with representatives from the NDA and Magnox.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The formation of a Response to Nuclear Decommissioning Steering Group will allow examination of the impact of reduced employment associated with decommissioning activity in the long term, and how funding applications to the NDA may be submitted in response.



**CRAIG HATTON**  
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : CH/AL/LB

For further information please contact Alasdair Laurenson, Team Leader (Regeneration), Planning Services on telephone number 01294 324758

## **Background Papers**

N/A



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 9**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Consultation on the National Litter Strategy**

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**Purpose:** To seek approval from the Cabinet on the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on a proposed National Litter Strategy.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to (a) note the key proposals from the Scottish Government's consultation; (b) approve the proposed response as detailed in Appendix 1.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In June 2013, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment launched the National Litter Strategy for consultation. The proposed strategy is designed to take forward the Scottish Government commitment to tackling litter and fly-tipping.
- 1.2 The aim of the National Litter Strategy is to put forward a package of measures which complement and reinforce each other. The proposed actions have been identified to challenge individuals who litter and fly tip, and support those who already dispose of their waste responsibly whilst also encouraging increased recycling. The approach is also to encourage personal responsibility and provide businesses and other organisations with new enhanced tools to help influence people to dispose of their waste properly.
- 1.3 The contents of the draft strategy are wide ranging and the Scottish Government has identified a number of proposed actions for consideration and comment which are detailed at paragraph 2.3.
- 1.4 North Ayrshire Council's proposed response to the questions posed in the consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The consultation on the strategy runs to the 27 September 2013. There will be an analysis of responses on the National Litter Strategy in Autumn 2013 with publication and implementation of the strategy due to take place during Spring/Summer 2014.

2.2 Discussion themes in the consultation paper include:

- Information – improve existing anti-litter and fly-tipping communications and education measures;
- Infrastructure – look at how packaging and product design can help reduce litter;
- Enforcement- looking to strengthen the Fixed Penalty system and extend the available enforcement powers.

2.3 The following proposed actions are being consulted on for potential incorporation into the National Litter Strategy:

- The Scottish Government will develop strategic vision, mission, values and objectives to guide the National Litter Strategy development;
- Communicative positive behaviours throughout Scotland;
- To raise awareness of litter-related issues through education resources for 3-18 year olds;
- Explore the potential to update or develop online training materials to help businesses, and other organisations, to reduce litter associated with their activity;
- Pilot a recognition scheme which provides support to businesses and other employers to ensure that their staff set a good example and are aware of the consequences of littering. It should enable employers to take the credit for participating;
- Look at how product design can help reduce litter;
- Help people when they are out and about to recycle more, through Zero Waste Scotland support for local authorities and others with litter control responsibilities;
- Work to reduce accidental littering/wind-blown material from household and commercial waste bins, recycling containers waiting to be collected and waste collection vehicles;
- Review guidance to help organisations with clean up responsibilities to do so effectively and efficiently;
- Develop a robust monitoring system, working with stakeholders, to measure the impact and progress of the final strategy;
- Support community action;
- Focus future spending on projects that support strategic directions and consistency of delivery;
- Produce further evidence to inform our future approach to fly-tipping;

- A proposal to identify suitable legislative opportunities to strengthen the Fixed Penalty system in Scotland;
- Increase the Fixed Penalties for litter to £80 and for fly-tipping to £200;
- Review training for litter enforcement officers;
- Work with organisations that have enforcement powers to identify whether future changes to the enforcement system would support them in requiring individuals and businesses to take responsibility for the disposal of their waste.

2.4 The strategic directions identified by the Scottish Government within the draft strategy mirror the three strands of North Ayrshire's approach to litter and fly tipping, namely Educate, Enable and Enforce. This approach is currently being developed into a North Ayrshire Litter Strategy which will be presented to Cabinet for consideration at a future date and will include the following 3 strands:

- Educate – programme of educational visits to community groups and schools to encourage responsible behaviour;
- Enable – support community clean up campaigns and ensure the provision of well designed and appropriately positioned bins;
- Enforcement – Streetscene services will work with the Police, the multi-agency task force and Community Wardens to tackle issues of environmental crime, including littering and fly tipping with a view to strengthening existing enforcement activities where appropriate.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to (a) note the key proposals from the Scottish Government's consultation report; (b) approve the draft response to the questions posed in the paper as detailed in Appendix 1.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

4.1 At this stage the financial implications are not quantifiable. It is unclear what options will be taken forward and how they will be resourced.

#### Human Resource Implications

4.2 There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 At this stage the legal implications are not quantifiable. It is unclear how many of the options identified will be taken forward and in what form. Key legal implications would emerge in relation to enforcement.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 The proposals contained within the consultation are being considered as measures to secure environmental improvements through reduced incidences of litter and fly tipping.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposals contained within the draft Strategy could assist in achieving the following Council objectives:

- Regeneration
- People & Communities Services
- Improving Services

#### Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 The proposals contained within the consultation are designed to strengthen community participation.

### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The proposed response has been developed in consultation with officers within Waste Services and Streetscene Services.



## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Scottish Government are consulting a number of stakeholders on a proposed National Litter Strategy which contains a number of positive actions designed to reduce the impact of litter and fly tipping. Many of the measures contained within the draft National Litter Strategy reflect activities which are on-going within North Ayrshire and which are being developed for inclusion in a Litter Strategy for North Ayrshire.



CRAIG HATTON  
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : RM/JA

For further information please contact Russell McCutcheon, Head of Environment and Related Services on telephone number 01294 541514

### **Background Papers**

Consultation document





# TOWARDS A LITTER-FREE SCOTLAND

Consultation on a strategy to tackle and prevent litter and flytipping

## Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

### 1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

North Ayrshire Council

Title Mr ☒ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Please tick as appropriate

Surname

McCutcheon

Forename

Russell

### 2. Postal Address

Environment & Related Services

Montgomerie House

2A Byrehill Drive

Irvine

Postcode KA13 6HN

Phone 01294 541514

Email

russellmccutcheon@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

### 3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

☐

/

Group/Organisation

☒

Please tick as appropriate

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate ☐ Yes ☐ No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis  
Please tick **ONE** of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☐

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address ☐

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☐

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes ☐ No

- (d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

☒ Yes

☐ No

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Strategic approach

**Q1. Do you agree that the strategic approach proposed (Action 1) should form the basis of the National Litter Strategy's overall vision, mission, values and objectives?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*The proposals to develop the strategic vision are sound and address a significant number of requirements to enable a litter and fly-tipping free environment.*

### Information strategic direction

**Q2. Do you agree that improved communications (Action 2), education resources (Action 3) and business engagement (Actions 4 and 5) should be the National Litter Strategy's information focus for preventing litter?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*These approaches are similar to measures undertaken by North Ayrshire Council to Educate, Enable and Enforce as part of our efforts to reduce or eliminate litter within our area. Currently North Ayrshire Council is developing a strategy which will incorporate these 3 strands and which will also review what messages we communicate and the communication channels available to us. A national support mechanism similar to what is described for educational establishments, businesses and community groups would be most welcomed.*

*A national campaign which meets local needs is to be welcomed however it will require to have the flexibility to ensure that it is deliverable locally.*

**Q3. If you are responding on behalf of a group/organisation: as a business or organisation (including litter duty bodies) would you find it valuable to have a national recognition scheme which supports you in encouraging positive behaviour (Action 5)?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Partially ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*North Ayrshire has recently undertaken a piece of work as a result of our*

*Streetscene review which goes some way to supporting the need for a scheme/s to support, enable and encourage positive behaviour. Whilst North Ayrshire is doing some work at a local level it would be good to have national recognised scheme which promotes positive behaviour with regards to litter and fly-tipping. Communities could receive awards similar to those which recognise good standards achieved with open spaces, parks and beaches i.e. Green and Blue Flag awards.*

#### **Infrastructure strategic direction**

**Q4. Do you agree that businesses and other organisations have a key role to play in the design of products and packaging to reduce litter and that those with litter control responsibilities should be encouraged to recycle more (Actions 6 and 7)?**

Agree x ☐ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*The design of both products and packaging can play a significant role in reducing litter and improving the opportunities for recycling. Whilst a number of actions can be taken at a local level to eliminate packaging a national strategy or scheme to encourage manufacturers and retailers could have significantly more impact in the reduction of litter which would also have the benefit of reducing materials going to landfill.*

*There appears to be suggestion from the question that the lack of recycling activity encourages or causes litter however the act of littering is anti-social behaviour and often associated with complying with the social norm that people are presented with i.e. if an area is littered there is a mind-set that it's acceptable to litter.*

**Q5. Are you able to provide details of good practice in reducing accidental litter arising from waste and recycling collections (Action 8)?**

Yes x ☐ No ☐

Please provide any details and/or evidence of good practice.

*North Ayrshire's current practice to deal with accidental litter arising from waste and recycling collection involves our waste collection operatives clearing spillages as they arise, at the time of delivering the service. We have also recently installed in-cab devices which enable the monitoring and reporting of spillages. In cases of significant spills a team from Streetscene are deployed to clean up. Notwithstanding the operation in place for significant spills the review of our Cleansing and Waste Operations led to*

the reduction in accidental litter arising from waste and recycling collections by:

- Specially designed street cleansing programmes to follow on from bin collection;
- Use of wheeled bins – containers suitable for windy conditions
- Vehicle design – use of dust curtain and material deflector which reduces the incidence of accidental waste spillage

At present our Waste Policy is being refreshed to take cognisance of managing litter that arises as a consequence of waste not being presented correctly and which leads to it being spilled from bins. We have a team of Waste Awareness Officers who engage with our communities and individuals to promote recycling who are also utilised to respond to issues associated with waste not being properly presented for uplift to offer advice and guidance in accordance with our Waste Policy.

**Q6. Do you agree the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 should be revised (Action 9) to reflect the National Litter Strategy?**

Agree x ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer and, if applicable, any details of how you believe the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse should be improved.

*The development of a National Litter Strategy would be strengthened by being aligned to a refreshed Code of Practice which clearly defines the roles of each body involved and the powers available to each.*

Q6a. Are there aspects of the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (either those mentioned at Action 9 or additional areas) that you believe should be improved. If so how?

Yes x ☒ No ☐

Please provide any reasons for your answer and details of any suggested improvements.

*By developing a process map which identifies each stage of enforcement, possible actions and powers available and responsibilities of each body involved in delivering on the new litter strategy.*

*A review of the grades of cleanliness contained within the Code of Practice and the LEAMS methodology used to generate a numerical cleanliness score could be undertaken. This review could potentially devise a more user friendly scoring system which would clearly indicate acceptable and unacceptable standards of cleanliness to members of the public, rather than a numerical cleanliness score.*

**Q7. Do you agree that robust measures are needed to monitor National Litter Strategy progress and to measure success (Action 10) including requiring additional litter duty bodies to demonstrate how they are meeting their responsibilities (Action 9)?**

Agree ☐ Partially agree ☒ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*The current means of measuring performance in terms of litter management is through the use of LEAMS which relies on a series of audits carried out internally and externally and measures the cleanliness of areas. The proposal to measure the success of the National Litter Strategy and measures undertaken to achieve improved cleanliness will complement the existing LEAMS monitoring system. The proposal to monitor the success and impact of measures being carried out to reduce littering and fly tipping will allow for best practice to be highlighted, benchmarked and replicated. The monitoring of the National Litter Strategy should ideally be enabled by a combination of self-monitoring and external monitoring.*

**Q8. Do you agree that the National Litter Strategy should support communities in developing local initiatives to prevent litter (Action 11)?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*Yes, local initiatives should be encouraged as this is one of the best ways of monitoring and policing cleanliness of areas. Any initiatives which are supported locally or nationally will help develop or increase ownership of areas which will help instil local pride.*

*A successful pilot project funded by Zero Waste Scotland saw North Ayrshire Council Streetscene successfully engage the pupils of Kilwinning Academy which resulted in the reduction of litter within their school and the surrounding area and actively encouraged them to recycle. The school pupils were introduced to the Local Environment Audit Management System (LEAMS) methodology which they used to measure the cleanliness within the school. The pilot initiative contributed to the school achieving its Green Flag. We hope to introduce a similar scheme to each of the secondary schools.*

*This initiative is also being developed to introduce the LEAMS methodology to all Primary 6 & 7 pupils within schools through their Eco-committee who in turn will deliver a presentation to all pupils in their school on litter, dog fouling and recycling. Each school will have a litter audit carried out by pupils accompanied by a Streetscene Officer and each area of the school will be graded and an action plan created to improve litter and recycling.*

*Local initiatives, such as the one described above, are fundamental to the*

*success of any Litter Strategy.*

**Q9. Do you agree that future Zero Waste Scotland funding should focus on activity which supports the strategy's objectives, including requiring publication of approaches to litter delivery (Action 12)?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*To ensure the success of any strategy it needs to be supported both by financial and non- financial means and both at local and national levels. Central funding of initiatives or part funding should be managed through a robust framework which allows a flexible approach to deliver on the objectives of the National Litter Strategy at a local level.*

**Q10. Do you agree that that the strategy should recognise the specific interventions that will be required for tackling fly-tipping (Action 13)?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*Fly-tipping is a premeditated act and requires a sustained change in behaviours. Fly tipping tends to be driven more by potential cost or time taken to dispose of waste in the correct manner rather than simple carelessness. The Fly-tipping process needs supported with a more robust mechanism from those bodies who can investigate and penalise those responsible in order to achieve the required behavioural change.*

### **Enforcement strategic direction**

**Q11. Do you agree National Parks Authorities should have the power to issue Fixed Penalties (Action 14)?**

Agree ☒ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*National Parks Authorities are responsible for managing their site or sites and should have the powers not only to issue Fixed Penalties but to collect the money directly from the issued fines.*

**Q11a. Are there other public bodies you believe the power to issue Fixed Penalties should be extended to, and why (Action 14)?**



Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*The power to issue Fixed Penalties could be extended to all public bodies for enforcing the legislation on any land they are responsible for.*

**Q12. Do you believe it would be valuable to have the option to offer a discount to encourage prompt payment of Fixed Penalties for littering (Action 14)?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer. We would also welcome views on what level of discounts should be permitted.

*There should be a discount for early payment to encourage prompt payment. Non-payment or late payment of Fixed Penalties should see an increase in the Fixed Penalty to cover additional cost encountered when managing the process including any subsequent court action.*

**Q13. Do you agree that the level of Fixed Penalties should be increased to £80 for litter and £200 for flytipping (Action 15)?**

Agree ☐ Partially agree ☒ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer. If you do not agree, what level should the Fixed Penalties for litter and flytipping be set at, and why?

*Given that there has been no increase in the Fixed Penalties for litter and for fly-tipping since their introduction the existing fines are set at a level which no longer acts as a deterrent. Whilst the suggested increased level of fine for littering is reasonable the sum of £200 for fly-tipping does not recognise the amount of work involved in investigating and resolving the issues associated with fly-tipping. A further increased level of fine greater than £200 for fly tipping offences is also appropriate to recognise the mind-set and pre meditated circumstances which generally lead to fly tipping. A number of fly-tipping incidents are related to commercial waste and cause significant environmental damage and an increase in the fine would discourage this criminal activity.*

**Q14. Do you agree that the effectiveness of enforcement can be improved by reviewing training and guidance (Action 16)?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer.

*Given the development of a national strategy on litter that will/should identify different ways and more bodies involved in enforcement, more training and guidance on enforcement will be needed to ensure consistency. Reviewed guidance could be developed to highlight areas of good practice.*

Q14a. What other training and guidance issues, if any, do you believe the review should address? Please provide details.

*Any training given should be accredited with refresher courses taking place at regular intervals e.g. every 3 or 5 years. It may be possible to train local authority staff as trainers to enable them to carry out training at a local level.*

**Q15. Do you agree there is a case for future improvements in the enforcement system to make it more effective in preventing littering and flytipping (Action 17)?**

Agree ☒ Partially agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please provide reasons and/or evidence for your answer.

*The proposed improvements will have a positive impact by complementing and strengthening powers available.*

Q15a. What priority do you attach to improving prevention through enforcement in the examples summarised below and referenced in Action 17?

1. High
2. Medium
3. Low
4. None

Potential improvements	Priority	Reason
Include litter under the anti-social behaviour Fixed Penalties regime	Low	Benefits unclear, other than aligning littering and fly tipping with other anti-social behaviour.
Overcome barriers to enforcement in cases of littering from vehicles	High	Vehicle litter is currently difficult to enforce due to difficulties with the identification of the perpetrators, however does pose a significant impact on the appearance of areas. Any strengthening of powers would be welcomed.
Improvements to the waste	High	This will potentially reduce

carrier licensing system and duty of care compliance for businesses		fly tipping and ensure responsible waste disposal practices within businesses.
Extend the list of categories to which a Street Litter Control Notices applies	Medium	
Explore whether there might be an effective mechanism for litter practitioners to intervene when printed materials create litter problems	Low	Certain powers already exist which are reactive, the development of more proactive approach with perpetrators could be of benefit.

Q15b. What additional areas, if any, could make the enforcement system more effective in preventing litter and flytipping?

Please provide details, reasons for these and what level of priority you would attach to these.

The Procurator Fiscal, Crown Office and Scottish Courts have a key role in ensuring the effectiveness of the enforcement process by penalising the non-payment of fixed penalty notices. Guidance for these bodies on the National Litter Strategy and the importance of enforcing appropriate penalties for non-payment of fixed penalty notices to support the Strategy and effect the behavioural change required will be fundamental to the success of the proposed Strategy. This should be afforded the highest priority.

### **General comments**

**Q16. Do you have any further comments on or ideas for the National Litter Strategy?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide any details with reasons and evidence for these.

*A National Litter Strategy will enable a clear and consistent message and approach to the management of litter and fly-tipping which through time should enable the development of a mind-set that litter and fly-tipping is not acceptable.*

*The National Strategy should address the area of enforcement with all the relevant existing and potential new bodies to ensure a consistent approach which will be enabled by developing a rapport with the Crown Office, Procurator Fiscal and the Scottish Court Service.*

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Q17. Do you have feedback on the findings of the assessment?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide details of any feedback.

*Option 2 is not only the preferred option but is the only option which will have the desired effect of improving environmental conditions by reducing litter and fly tipping, thereby securing enhanced environmental cleanliness.*

## **Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)**

**Q18. Are there particular issues you want to highlight with regard to the partial BRIA and the potential impacts on the third sector, business and the economy?**

Yes ☐ No ☒ Partially ☐

Please provide details.

## **Equalities**

**Q19. Are there any equalities issues that you wish to highlight so that these can be factored into the Equalities Impact Assessment for the National Litter Strategy?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Partially ☐

Please provide reasons for your answer. We welcome views on potential impacts, either positive or negative, which you feel the actions in this consultation document may have on any particular groups of people.

Guidance on how children under the age of 16 should be dealt with when they are responsible for littering and/or fly-tipping.

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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 10**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Consultation on the Marine Litter Strategy**

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**Purpose:** To seek approval from the Cabinet on the Council's proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on the proposed Marine Litter Strategy.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to (a) note the key proposals from the Scottish Government's consultation; (b) and approve the proposed response as detailed in Appendix 1.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In June 2013, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment launched the Marine Litter Strategy for consultation on a range of ideas to enable Scotland to reduce marine litter by 2020 in order that it does not pose a significant risk to the environment or its communities.
- 1.2 The aim of the Marine Litter Strategy is to contribute to Marine Scotland's vision of a clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment that meets the long term needs of people and nature.
- 1.3 The contents of the proposals are wide ranging and the Scottish Government has identified a number of options for consideration.
- 1.4 North Ayrshire Council's proposed response to the questions posed in the consultation document is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The consultation on the strategy runs to 27 September 2013.

- 2.2 Discussion themes within the consultation paper centre around the Scottish Government's vision and how it will be achieved through the following five Strategic Directions:
- i. Improved public and business awareness of, and behaviour changes around, marine litter;
  - ii. Reduction of land-sourced marine litter entering the marine environment in parallel with the National Litter Strategy;
  - iii. Contribute to a low carbon economy by treating 'waste as a resource' and seizing the economic and environmental opportunities associated with the Zero Waste Plan;
  - iv. Improvement of monitoring of marine litter and its sources at a Scottish scale;
  - v. Improved stakeholder engagement within the UK, European Union and on an international scale.
- 2.3 The consultation paper outlines a number of existing actions in place to control marine and coastal litter and suggests a number of additional 'possible' actions under the five Strategic Directions detailed above, designed to complement existing activities. The attached consultation response outlines each 'possible' action together with a proposed response to each question posed. The proposed responses to a number of the suggestions contained within the consultation paper reflect North Ayrshires position as having significant coastal areas which attract large numbers of visitors. It is recognised that robust and coordinated mechanisms for controlling marine and coastal litter are fundamental to securing the positive impact that clean and well maintained beaches can have on our tourism economy.
- 2.4 In ensuring the North Ayrshire coastline is maintained to a high standard, Streetscene services carry out a beach cleaning regime in accordance with guidance issued by Keep Scotland Beautiful. These cleaning regimes were reviewed by Scottish Natural Heritage who were undertaking a review in partnership with the Firth of Clyde Forum. This group has developed a local strategy on Marine Litter and has undertaken a significant amount of work to identify the main sources of marine litter and to develop appropriate approaches to beach cleaning and maintenance.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet (a) notes the key proposals from the Scottish Government's consultation report; (b) and approves the response from the Council to the questions posed in the paper as detailed in Appendix 1.

## **4. Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 4.1 At this stage the financial implications are not quantifiable. It is unclear what options will be taken forward and how they will be resourced.

### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.

### Legal Implications

- 4.3 At this stage the legal implications are not quantifiable. It is unclear how many of the options identified will be taken forward and in what form.

### Equality Implications

- 4.4 No implications

### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 The proposals of the Strategy to advise marine and coastal litter will improve the local and marine environment.

### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposals contained within the Strategy could assist in achieving the following Council priorities:

- Regeneration
- People & Communities
- Improving Services

### Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no community benefits arising directly from this report, however, the proposals contained within the consultation paper, if implemented will secure enhanced beach and coastal areas for communities.

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on the National Marine Litter Strategy was discussed by Officers within Waste Management and Streetscene.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Scottish Government are consulting a number of stakeholders on a proposed Marine Litter Strategy which contains a number of positive actions designed to reduce the impact of marine litter. Given that this area has a significant coastline and has 3 coastal SSSI sites and a beach of Blue Flag status North Ayrshire Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation.



**CRAIG HATTON**  
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : RM/JA

For further information please contact Russell McCutcheon, Head of Environment & Related Services on telephone number 01294 541514

### **Background Papers**

N/A



## APPENDIX B: Draft Scottish Marine Litter Strategy

### RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

#### 1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

North Ayrshire Council

Title Mr ☒ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Please tick as appropriate

Surname

McCutcheon

Forename

Russell

#### 2. Postal Address

Environment & Related Services

Montgomerie House

2A Byrehill Drive

Kilwinning

Postcode KA13 6HN

Phone 01294 541514

Email russellmccutcheon@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

#### 3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

☐

/

Group/Organisation

☒

Please tick as appropriate

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate ☐ Yes ☐ No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☐

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address ☐

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☐

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes ☐ No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Structure

#### **Q1. Do you agree with the timescales outlined?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

*The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is a key driver for addressing problems with marine and coastal litter. As part of the Directive Members States are required to prepare national strategies to manage their seas to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020, it is felt this should be achievable.*

*North Ayrshire Council believes it makes good sense for the implementation of the Scottish Marine Litter Strategy to be aligned with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MFSD).*

### Vision

#### **Q2. Do you agree with this vision?**

*The vision of having reduced marine litter in Scotland so that it does not pose significant risks to the environment or communities is sound and one which North Ayrshire Council agrees with.*

Yes ☒ No ☐

#### **Q3. Does the draft vision have the right level of ambition? If not, please offer alternative text or suggestions.**

*North Ayrshire believes that the vision to reduce marine litter by 2020 so that it does not pose significant risks to the environment or communities shows the right level of ambition.*

### Marine Strategy Framework Directive

#### **Q4. Do you think implementation to achieve Good Environmental Status under Descriptor 10 will be sufficient or do you think additional action in Scotland is also necessary?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

*The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to prepare national strategies to manage their seas to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) by 2020.*

*North Ayrshire Council agrees with the characteristics of the GES Descriptor relating to the amount of litter and its degradation products on coastlines and in the marine environment being reduced over time so that levels do not pose a significant risk to the coastal and marine environment.*

*The indicators and targets set to achieve a reduction in marine litter are a positive move however, these need to be monitored in a uniform way. In order to achieve the monitoring of the indicators and targets set under GES Descriptor 10 a standard method of monitoring needs to be developed and implemented.*

*Further consideration could be given to measures and targets that identify litter items into categories/types of litter e.g. Primary sources such as Fishing and Recreational litter. By developing effective indicators it may enable better management of litter and use of resources.*

### **Strategic Directions**

The Marine Litter Strategy vision is operationalized by five strategic directions in the areas of education, reducing inputs, seizing opportunities and economic growth, monitoring and engagement. The five strategic directions are as follows:

Direction 1: Improve public and business awareness of, and behaviour changes around, marine litter.

Direction 2: Reduction of land-sourced marine litter entering the marine environment, in parallel to the National Litter Strategy.

Direction 3: Contribute to a low carbon economy by treating 'waste as a resource' and seizing the economic and environmental opportunities associated with Zero Waste Plan.

Direction 4: Improvement on monitoring at a Scottish scale.

Direction 5: Stakeholder engagement at the UK, EU and international scales.

**Q5. Do you agree that Strategic Directions are a suitable way of outlining action under the Strategy?**

Yes x ☐ No ☐

**Q6. Do you agree with the list of Strategic Directions?**

Yes x ☐ No ☐

If not, how would you reword them or what would you add?

## **Actions**

### **Strategic Direction 1:**

#### **Q7. What are your views on the possible actions?**

*The main strands of the actions to educate the public and raise awareness of litter and to change manufacturing design to be more environmentally friendly are correct. Consideration could also be given to options for enforcement.*

#### **Q8. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*Both actions, (1) to improve public and business awareness of marine litter and (2) to encourage behaviour changes around marine litter are equally important. In order to add a bit of weight to this action it should be aligned with the 'Information' strand of the three strands of the proposed National Litter Strategy which are:*

- Information: communication, education and support business*
- Infrastructure: providing/servicing bins, product design, guidance and future funding*
- Enforcement: improving the effectiveness of legislation and training*

#### **Q9. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*Currently Local Authorities work with Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful on a number of clean up and recycling initiatives. By developing these initiatives further they could easily accommodate education on marine litter. These initiatives would further be complemented by enforcement activities where appropriate.*

### **Strategic Direction 2:**

#### **Q10. What are your views on the possible actions?**

Of the following two 'possible' actions:

- Expand 'Fishing for Litter' initiative to significantly increase awareness and impact of, and contribute to a reduction in marine waste litter*
- Incorporate marine litter reduction into regional marine plans under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010*

*The use of the existing initiative of Fishing for Litter to increase the awareness and impact that marine litter can have appears sensible and the correct channel to communicate this message. In order to get the message across consideration should be given to how and by what means this message is delivered to create the necessary impact on the target audience.*

*The incorporation of any actions for the reduction of litter in a plan needs to identify how performance against these actions will be measured and reported.*

*The actions both existing and suggested are important for reducing marine litter overall. More detail is required re-specific actions and these should be taken forward as part of the national litter strategy co-ordinated by Zero Waste Scotland.*

**Q11. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*Both 'possible' actions identified under Direction 2 above seem equally important.*

**Q12. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*The 'possible' actions identified above could be delivered under the existing activities.*

**Q13. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.**

*The proposed addition of the 'possible' actions to the existing ones will complement the overall actions to address marine litter*

**Strategic Direction 3:**

**Q14. What are your views on the possible actions?**

The 'possible' actions under Direction 3 are:

- Look for additional opportunities to incentivise recycling and correct disposal – market instruments to support waste as resource initiative, e.g. 'Recycle and Reward' pilot.
- Seek investment for environmental monitoring in coastal and maritime industries

*The addition of the 'possible' actions will help improve the overall actions needed to address marine litter.*

*The existing actions are:*

- *Marine Scotland working with Zero Waste Scotland to produce waste as a resource toolkit targeted at coastal and maritime resource managers, and minimum standards for recycled materials*
- *Encourage port and harbour reception facilities to drive separate collection*
- *Deliver project to establish free fishing net disposal at a network of fishing ports across Scotland, to include the infrastructure to recover and recycle the nets and other plastics recovered from fishing operations*
- *Engage with the Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (March 2011) in particular building opportunities for resource efficiency (energy, water, waste materials) and sustainable business practices across the economy.*

**Q15. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*Both 'possible' actions under Direction 3 would play a significant contribution towards reducing marine litter.*

**Q16. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*It may be possible to deliver the 'possible' actions under the existing actions.*

**Q17. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.**

*The addition of the 'possible' actions with the existing ones will, if employed, enable recycling and reuse of materials and by doing so align it with the broader move towards resource and waste efficiency and recovery.*

Strategic Direction 4:

**Q18. What are your views on the possible actions?**

*The 'possible' actions for consideration under Strategic Direction 4 are:*

- *Alignment of Non-Governmental Organisations, Scottish, UK and international monitoring programs with UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy; Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment National database; International Council for the exploration of the Sea and OSPAR*
- *Develop a baseline for coastal litter, seabed and water column, which can be used for Marine Strategy Framework Directive reporting purposes*

- *Prioritise an initial evaluation on the current state of research to give a scientific and technical basis for monitoring, knowledge gaps and priority areas for research*
- *Develop/test standardised monitoring approaches, to allow comparisons at the National and EU scales*
- *Better use of fisheries research vessels to undertake seabed monitoring of marine litter during scientific trawls.*

*North Ayrshire Council is responsible for the management of litter and waste within its area and as such welcome any action to reduce waste. The possible actions identified are about developing monitoring systems and processes and identifying who is responsible for them. This approach appears appropriate.*

**Q19. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?**

Each possible action identified is integral to support Direction 4. .

**Q20. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*An integrated approach to the monitoring of activities undertaken by the key delivery organisations will enable a better understanding of the extent of the marine litter problem and identify whether the actions adopted to improve it are working. This integrated approach should be co-ordinated by Marine Scotland.*

**Q21. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.**

*A standardised method/s of monitoring and recording would be beneficial.*

Strategic Direction 5:

**Q22. What are your views on the possible actions?**

The possible actions to be considered are:

- National steering group on marine litter, led by Marine Scotland, to co-ordinate approach and share best practice amongst Scottish Government departments, directorates, agencies and non-governmental organisations including resource sharing and prioritising actions
- Marine Scotland to more actively engage with, and share best practice with other competent authorities on a regular basis
- Ensure that regional marine plans consider scope to reduce marine litter

*The possible actions identified to co-ordinate and share best practice to enable the reduction in marine waste appear sound.*

**Q23. Which do you believe is the most important possible action in helping to deliver the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*All possible actions appear to be of equal importance however, a national steering group on marine litter should be set up and led by Marine Scotland.*

**Q24. Can one or more of these possible actions be delivered under existing activities or do you think more action is needed under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

*Yes with an integrated delivery approach co-ordinated by Marine Scotland.*

**Q25. Do you think any of the existing actions need to be improved? If so, please provide details.**

*No comment*

#### **Option for delivery**

**Q26. Do you think that Option 4 is the most appropriate mechanism for developing and improving policies under the Marine Litter Strategy?**

Yes x ☐ No ☐

**Any other views on the options outlined or other options not identified are also invited.**

*Option 4 to introduce the strategy through a medium cost and networked approach is preferred as a more balanced approach when compared to other 3 options re (1) Do nothing; (2) Low cost network approach; (3) High cost centralised approach.*

#### **Equalities**

**Q27. Are there any equalities issues that should be factored into the Equalities Impact Assessment for the Marine Litter Strategy?**

Yes ☐ No x ☐

*No*

#### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**



**Q28. Do you have any feedback on the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment?**

Yes ☐ No ☒

No

**Partial Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)**

**Q29. Are there any particular issues that you wish to highlight with regard to the partial BRIA, and the potential impacts on the third sector, business and the economy?**

Yes ☐ No ☒

The impacts of reducing marine litter will be of benefit to both local and national economies in Scotland and will add to/improve the experience of our local communities and tourist interested in marine activities and sports( e.g. observing marine life and sailing) and improvement in amenity value of our beaches.

**General**

**Q30. Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?**

Yes ☒ No ☐

As a Local Authority with significant coastal areas and beaches, we recognise the importance of robust mechanisms and the need for a coordinated approach for controlling marine litter and coastal litter. The suggested controls, through securing clean beaches and coastal areas, will have a direct and positive impact on our tourism economy.

With this in mind, North Ayrshire Council carries out a beach cleaning regime in accordance with the guidance issued by Keep Scotland Beautiful. The cleaning regimes were reviewed by Scottish Natural Heritage who were undertaking a review in partnership with the Firth of Clyde Forum. This group has developed a strategy on Marine Litter and has done a significant amount of work around identifying the main source of marine litter and beach cleaning activities.



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 11**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Fullarton Community Association - Land Transfer**

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**Purpose:** To advise the Cabinet of the progress made in finalising the business plan for Fullarton Community Association, to enable a final determination to be made in respect of the proposed land transfer.

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet agrees (a) to transfer the community centre and the land to Fullarton Community Association; and (b) that Small Town and Rural Development Group (STAR) be commissioned to continue with the local action planning process in the Fullarton area.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2 November 2010, the former Executive agreed that the Council's Estates Department enter into negotiations with Fullarton Community Association to determine whether an appropriate arrangement could be achieved for the transfer of the land shown at Appendix 1 to the report. This followed a request from the Association to purchase the land.
- 1.2 The land in question is held in the Housing Account and currently leased at a rent of £400 per annum to Fullarton Community Association for the operation of its community centre. The current lease expired in November 2011 and continues on a year-on-year basis by way of Tacit Relocation.
- 1.3. Representatives of Fullarton Community Association addressed the former Executive on 14 February 2012 in relation to the background to the Association, its track record in delivering benefits to a local community which suffers significant social deprivation, and its aspirations in terms of securing external funding for future development. Mrs Fitzpatrick requested that the Executive give consideration to approving Option 4 within the report, namely disposal of the land to the Association for £1.00. Councillors Brown and Clarkson addressed the meeting in support of the Community Association's request.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 At the Executive meeting on 14 February 2012, it was agreed to approve the transfer of the land shown at Appendix 1 to the report to Fullarton Community Association at a cost of £1.00, subject to (i) approval from Scottish Ministers under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987; (ii) the "clawback" provision set out at Section 3.3 of the report; and (iii) the production of a business plan prepared with support from appropriate Officers from the Council's Education and Skills Service.
- 2.2 Following the publication of the report entitled "A Sustainable Future for Fullarton Community Centre" prepared by the Small Town and Rural Development Group (available in the Members' Lounge and on request) and subsequent support given by the Council's Community Development Team and Officers from Corporate Finance, the Community Association have now completed an action plan which fulfils the requirement for the production of a robust business plan.
- 2.3 Moreover, in preparation for the Asset Transfer, Community and Culture Services are funding a demonstration project which involves a "whole community" consultation in partnership with the Council and other anchor community organisations, to determine the priorities for community development. This extensive community engagement process is being conducted by "Fullarton Community Futures Action Group" and its partners will prepare an action plan, designed to deliver community benefit and lift the community from its declining position as one of Scotland's most impoverished areas.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 Subsequent to the recent development of a business plan and development brief prepared with support from appropriate officers from the Council's Education and Skills Service and the Small Towns Rural Development Group it is proposed that the Cabinet instruct officers to proceed with the transfer of the land subject to the additional two clauses being approved, namely: (i) approval from Scottish Ministers under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987; and (ii) the "clawback" provision set out at Section 3.3 of the former Executive report dated 14 February 2012.
- 3.2 The transfer of land will not only give the Community Association ownership, independence and control of the community centre site, it will also build the confidence and aspiration of the community to do more themselves, to improve the range and reach of key community services and deliver an effective community plan.

- 3.3 It is also proposed that the Small Towns Rural Development Group be commissioned to continue with the local action planning process in the Fullarton area, which is at present successfully engaging a range of partners from Fullarton, Harbourside and the wider Irvine area, in a local action plan for the area. The proposals for the process were agreed in April 2013.

#### **4. Implications**

##### Financial Implications

- 4.1 Agreement from Scottish Ministers under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 is required prior to transfer of land.
- 4.2 The Council's Asset Manager is of the opinion that the market value of the area of land which extends to 1,230 sq m in its existing use is fairly stated at £8,500 (Eight Thousand and Five Hundred Pounds) Sterling. The land has been valued on the basis of being used for the purposes of a Community facility and specifically excludes any higher value development opportunities. The Council has been advised to include a clawback arrangement in the disposal to safeguard its interest in the event that an alternative, higher value planning consent should be obtained in the future. He would advise that £8,500 with clawback is the best consideration that could reasonably be obtained. As this value is less than the threshold amount of £10,000 specified in terms of Section 74 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 the Council is permitted to sell this land on the terms recommended.

##### Human Resource Implications

- 4.3 There are no human resource implications.

##### Legal Implications

- 4.4 Authorisation and permissions require to be sought, including the approval of Scottish Government to dispose of the land below market value.

##### Equality Implications

- 4.5 There are no equality implications.

##### Environmental Implications

- 4.6 There are no environmental implications.

## Implications for Key Priorities

### 4.7 Supporting the Fullarton Community Association will assist in achieving the following outcomes:

- 2a More people are in work or training.
- 3b People are better skilled to get into work.
- 5a Opportunities to support the positive development of vulnerable young children have increased.
- 6a Health and well-being throughout life have improved.
- 6d More vulnerable people are support within their own communities.
- 6e People are more active more often.
- 7b Fewer people are living in poverty.
- 8a More children and young people live in a safe and supportive environment.
- 9a Fear of crime and antisocial behaviour has reduced.
- 9b Levels of crime and antisocial behaviour has reduced.
- 9c Road safety has improved.
- 11a Levels of voluntary action and community involvement have increased.

## 5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place between the applicant bodies, partners in the local action planning process, elected members and appropriate Officers of the Council.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is crucial that the Association and its partners in the Fullarton Community Futures Action group continue to work closely with other organisations in the area - in particular Loudon Montgomery Primary School, Fullarton Parish Church, Fullarton Community Health House, Irvine Sports Club, individual community members and other stakeholders and engage at a strategic level with the local authority and its Community Planning partners, to bring the community's expressed need to fruition through a series of short term deliverable outcomes.

- 6.2 The "whole community" consultation and demonstration project when completed later this year, will deliver the evidence that will build an action plan and deliver the community outcomes envisaged by the people of the Fullarton community. The transfer of the land to the ownership of the community will become a catalyst for local regeneration and sustainable growth and help lift the community from the worst 15% of most impoverished areas in Scotland.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : JMCH/BA

For further information please contact Dr. Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Education and Skills on telephone number 01294 324414.

**Background Papers**

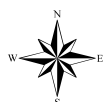
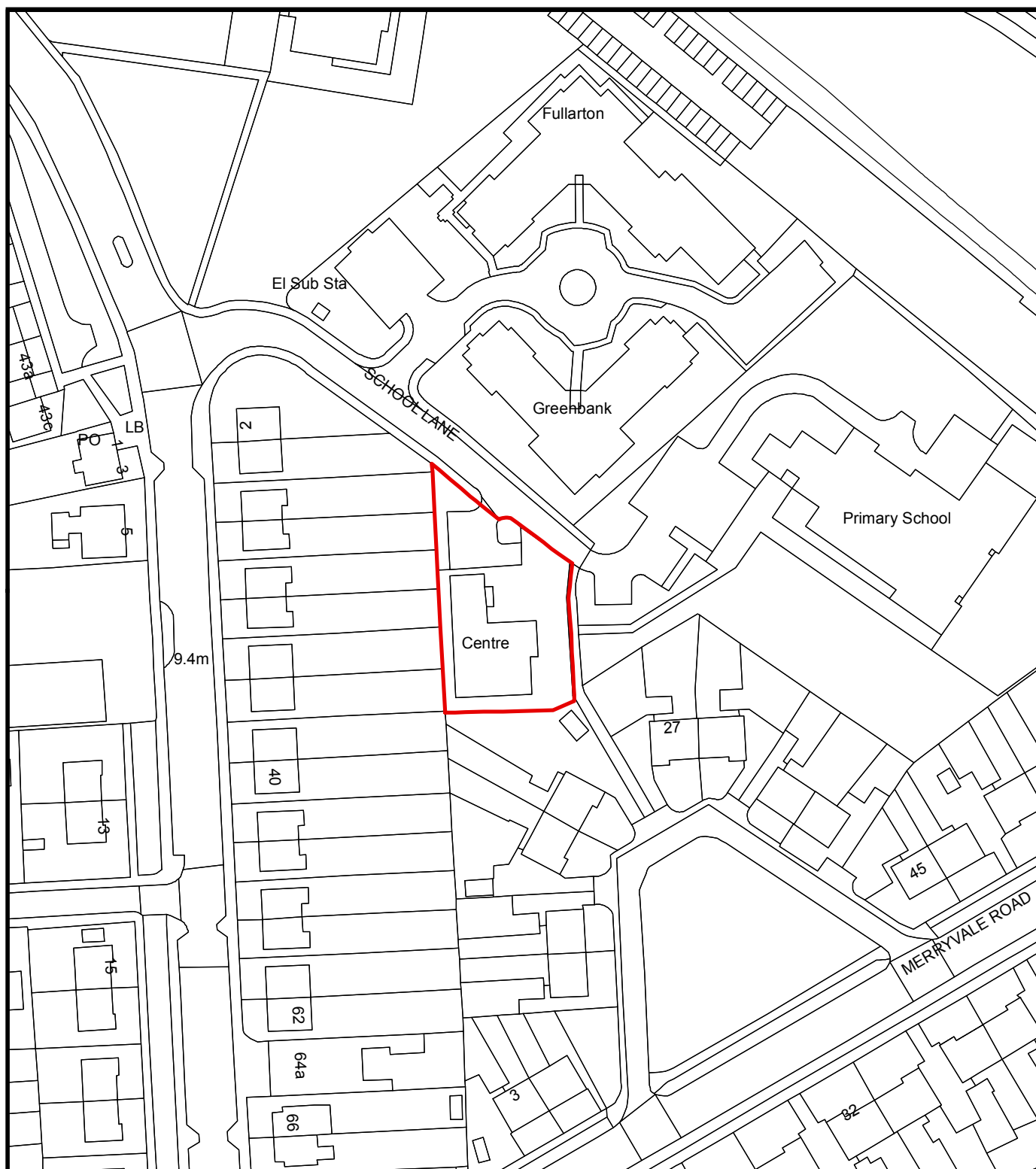
"A Sustainable Future for Fullarton Community Centre" prepared by the  
Small Town and Rural Development Group  
Fullarton Community Futures Report; Fullarton Community Futures Survey  
Form







**NORTH AYRSHIRE**  
COUNCIL



1:1,250

0 5 10 20 Metres

#### LOCATION PLAN

**ADDRESS: Fullarton Community Association**  
**2 Ayr Road**  
**Irvine**  
**KA12 8DF**

Drawing No: Irv\_00128

**Site Area: 1238 Sq. Metres**  
**or thereby**

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### Agenda Item 12

10 September 2013

#### Cabinet

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**Subject:** Procurement Overview

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**Purpose:** To update the Cabinet on national and local procurement issues and to report progress on improving the Council's procurement practices.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to (a) note the report; and (b) receive a further report in six months.

---

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Since August 2011, regular reports on procurement activity have been submitted to Cabinet
- 1.2 This report provides a further update on progress and information on other relevant procurement issues, including the National Procurement agenda and the annual Procurement Capability Assessment within the Council.

#### 2. Current Position

##### Scottish Procurement/Category A update

##### Review of construction procurement

- 2.1 In October 2012, the Scottish Government launched an independent review into how Scotland's £2 billion of public construction contracts are awarded. The review will consider how public bodies involved in construction-related procurement can adopt practices which are streamlined and lead to improvements in efficiency, delivery and sustainability. The review will also consider recommendations for improvement on the construction industry's side. The review is being led by Robin Crawford, a former partner in KPMG, and Robert Lewandowski, a former chairman of Clydesdale Bank Financial Solutions, and is expected to be published in late 2013.

### Procurement Reform Bill

- 2.2 The Scottish Government has deferred the introduction of the Procurement Reform Bill until after the summer recess to ensure consistency with EU procurement legislation which is currently under review. The European Commission had planned to finalise the new EU public procurement directives by December 2012 but this has now slipped until Autumn 2013.

### Scottish Procurement/Category A update

- 2.3 The Scottish Government has awarded one contract since the last report, which the Council participates in: Supply of Electricity. The contract promotes greener power and is designed to assist public bodies to address emissions from energy use through a range of efficiency measures, access to renewable generation sources and opportunities to sell green electricity back to the grid. Scottish Government estimate savings of £40m in the initial 3 year period, but as yet there are no figures available to the Council on actual savings since the contract started in April 2013.

### Scotland Excel/Category B Update

- 2.4 Scotland Excel is the Local Authorities' Centre of Expertise and responsible for procuring commodities commonly used across all local authorities.
- 2.5 Since the last procurement report on 26 March 2013, six new contracts have been awarded. They are:
- Foster Care Services
  - Domestic Furniture, Furnishings and White Goods
  - Collection, treatment and disposal of Household Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)
  - Supply and delivery of Secure Care
  - Supply and delivery of Frozen Foods
  - Supply and delivery of Cars and Light commercial vehicles
- 2.6 North Ayrshire Council is participating in all of the contracts. Estimated savings for the Council are approximately £12,886 per annum across all of these contracts. This represents approximately 0.6% of the estimated total spend.





2.7 For the remainder of financial year 2013/14 Scotland Excel expect to have commenced tendering for:

- Children's Residential Care Services
- Building Consultancy
- Roadstone
- Residual Waste
- Trade Materials
- Library Books and Textbooks
- Supply of Tyres
- Heavy Vehicles
- Supply and Delivery of Milk
- Recycle and Refuse Containers
- Road Maintenance Services
- Void Property Estate Management Services

#### Procurement Capability Assessment (PCA)

2.8 To ensure and demonstrate procurement practices are improving, all public sector bodies are audited annually to assess their procurement capability. The Council's fifth annual PCA will take place on 4 October 2013.

2.9 In 2012, the Council achieved a score of 51% which was 3% above the national average and an improvement of 17% on the score achieved for 2011. This placed the Council in the 'improved performance' level of assessment. The Council's scores for the last four years are detailed in the table below:

Year	North Ayrshire Council Score (%)	Level	Local Authority Average Score (%)	Below/above average
2009	17	Non conformance	22	
2010	27	Conformance	32	
2011	34	Conformance	40	
2012	51	Improved	48	

2.10 The target for 2013 is 60% and an improvement plan is in place to help deliver this target. An analysis of the results of the PCA 2013 will be provided in the next Procurement Overview report to the Cabinet.

#### North Ayrshire Council Category C Update

##### Performance Indicators

Performance Indicators are set annually to measure procurement activity within the Council in with information provided in support of local suppliers and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in spend profile, community benefits and prompt payment of invoices.

	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Out-turn	Comments	2013/14 Target
Spend with local suppliers (value)	£24.0m	£24.65m	Above target.	£25m
Spend with local suppliers (% of local spend)	16.5%	17.0%	Above target.	17.25%
Spend with SMEs (value)	£80.5m	£87m	Above target.	£88m
Spend with SMEs (% of total spend)	55%	60%	Above target.	61%
Number of apprenticeships/jobs created through community benefit clauses	14	14	On target.	16
Procurement savings (Gen. Services revenue)	£0.583m	£0.766m	Above target.	£0.8m
Procurement savings (Gen. Services capital)	£1.188m	£1.400m	Above target.	£1.5m
Procurement savings (HRA)	£0.011m	£0.004m	Below target.	£0.011m
Spend through PECOS	£40m	£35m	Below target, See paragraph 2.16	£33m
% payments made within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice	90%	82%	Below target, see paragraph 2.18 & 2.19	90%
% payments made by electronic means	86%	81%	Below target, see paragraph 2.20	86%
% spend through contracts/frameworks against non-contract/maverick spend	80%	90%	Above target.	90%

## Local Suppliers

- 2.11 An Ayrshire Meet the Buyer event is being held in the Menzies Hotel, Irvine on 29 October 2013. The Corporate Procurement Team will have an exhibitor's stand at this event and the Corporate Procurement Manager is delivering a presentation on 'How to do Business with the Council'. Other partners such as East Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and James Watt College will also be in attendance.
- 2.12 The North Ayrshire Council Construction Forum will hold its next meeting on 12 September at Greenwood Training Centre. Feedback from local construction firms following the first forum was very positive.
- 2.13 On 19 December 2012, the Council approved changes to the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, one of which was a change to the thresholds for inviting tenders. The thresholds for inviting supplies and services tenders was increased to £50,000 from £30,000 and works increased to £100,000 from £30,000. The reason for this change was to reduce the burden on suppliers as a quotation exercise is much less onerous than a tender exercise. This would also increase local suppliers' opportunities to win business. Analysis of the results for the first six months of 2013 are as follows:

Total number of quick quotes.	Total number of suppliers submitting a quick quote.	Total number of local suppliers submitting a quick quote.	Total number of quick quotes awarded to local suppliers.	Total number of quick quotes awarded to local suppliers as a %.	Total value of quick quotes.	Total value awarded to local suppliers.	Total value awarded to local suppliers as a %.
43	145	50	14	32.56%	£867,414	£286,204	33%

- 2.14 Given that the targeted spend with local suppliers is 16.5%, it is encouraging to note the level of spend with local suppliers through quick quotes. Further analysis will be carried out on these results to ascertain if anything else can be done to increase the potential for local suppliers to win business.

## Procurement Savings

- 2.15 The overall target savings for 2012/13 exceeded the target set. The Corporate Procurement Unit has developed a benefits tracking tool to ensure savings and other benefits are recorded which will form part of the budget monitoring process. The procurement savings achieved help fund the Corporate Procurement Team and the achievement of service efficiency targets.

## PECOS

- 2.16 The amount of spend through PECOS increased between 2011/12 and 2012/13 but was still short of the target set. In hindsight the target set for 2012/13 was too ambitious and along with the introduction of procurement cards this resulted in less spend through PECOS.
- 2.17 The Scottish Government is implementing a Content Catalogue Management (CCM) system this year which will help improve functionality by providing more catalogues within PECOS.

## Payments to Suppliers

- 2.18 During 2012/13 only 82% of payments were made to suppliers within the Council's 30 day standard payment terms. An action plan is in place to address this issue, with significant improvements made in the latter half of 2012/13.
- 2.19 In Quarter 1 2013/14, the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days was 91%, which is above the target of 90% and 9% above the out-turn figure for 2012/13.

## Payments made by electronic means

- 2.20 This indicator reflects the amount of payments made by electronic means, such as BACS, against the total amount of payments made. An action plan is in place to improve this and for Quarter 1 2013/14, a figure of 91.33% was achieved which is above the target and 10% higher than the out turn figure for 2012/13.

## Procurement Cards

- 2.21 The Council is currently piloting the use of procurement cards in Catering. The Greenwood Academy and Irvine Royal Academy Hubs will commence pilots in August 2013.

## Procurement Strategy

- 2.22 The Corporate Procurement Strategy 2013-16 was approved by the Cabinet on 26 March 2013 and is being implemented across the Council. An update on progress against the strategy will be provided in 6 months' time.



## Training

- 2.23 Officers from Corporate Procurement, Social Services & Health and Legal Services received EU Procurement Legislation on-site training from law firm Dundas and Wilson, who have expertise in the field of public procurement, on 18 June 2013. This helps contribute to the continuous professional development of staff involved in the procurement process.

## Social Services and Health

- 2.24 Social Services & Health (SS&H) continue to work with Scotland Excel on national contracting opportunities. Opportunities for collaboration have resulted in contract awards for Foster Care, the National Care Home Contract and a further extension to both Telecare and Secure Care contracts. Further exploratory work is currently being undertaken in Children's Residential care and Adult Residential care. North Ayrshire Council is represented on all of the workstreams and has made a positive contribution to the commissioning process.
- 2.25 An early intervention service for children and families has been created; this contract is in line with the Integrated Children's Services Partnership aims and will support families with children through difficult periods of crisis. A contract has also been awarded for the provision of community support for adults with a learning disability and high complex needs.
- 2.26 SS&H to develop the Provider Fora to build relationships and to facilitate and develop the independent and third sector. Communication is delivered via each forum in various formats and evidence suggests this has resulted in improved relationships between the Council and the Third and Independent sector. The Fora have increased awareness and understanding by providers on national policies and legislation.
- 2.27 A key priority for SS&H is to create the independent Community Portal that will be central to providing online information to services users, carers and providers. It will provide an understanding of the range of services, support and activities available across North Ayrshire and give providers and organisations the opportunity to market their services. Care and Support North Ayrshire, or CareNA, was launched on 24 July 2013.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to (a) note the report and (b) agree to receive a further update in six months.

## **4. Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications. Procurement savings achieved through improved performance contribute to service efficiencies.

### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None

### Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

### Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None

### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 Improvement in the Council's procurement practices will help achieve the Council Plan Core Objective 4 'operating more efficiently and effectively'.

### Community Benefit Implications

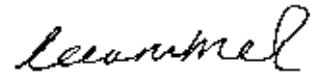
- 4.7 None directly from the report, but procurement will continue to contribute to this policy and pursue community benefits wherever possible.

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The Corporate Management Team receives quarterly reports on procurement activity.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Continuous improvement in our procurement practices will help ensure best value is being achieved and will contribute to the Council's efficiency targets.



LAURA FRIEL  
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

### **Reference :**

For further information please contact Thomas Reaney, Procurement Manager on telephone number 01294 324097.

### **Background Papers**

Nil



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 13**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:**                   **Surplus Property - Prospect House, Whiting Bay ,  
Isle of Arran**

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**Purpose:**                   To seek authority to proceed with the disposal of the  
residential property known as Prospect House,  
Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran.

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**Recommendation:**   That the Cabinet approves the disposal of Prospect  
House for the consideration of £120,000 (One  
Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds).

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#### **1.     Introduction**

- 1.1   Prospect House is a traditional detached period villa occupying an elevated site overlooking the seafront at Whiting Bay. The accommodation extends to three public rooms, two double bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and detached garage to the rear.
- 1.2   The property was declared surplus by the Education Executive in November 2009 and has been actively marketed through locally based Estate Agents, Arran Property, for 3 years with very little interest. During that time, the fabric of the property, particularly internally, has deteriorated significantly, further reducing marketability. Over the last 6 months, the estate agents have had only two serious expressions of interest, one of which has resulted in a formal offer to purchase the property.

#### **2.     Current Position**

- 2.1   Following dialogue with the Estate Agent in May 2013, indications were that the best the Council could expect would be in the range of £100,000-£150,000, bearing in mind the condition of the property and challenging times in the current property market. An offer was subsequently received on 2 August 2013 for the sum of £120,000 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds).

#### **3.     Proposals**

- 3.1   It is proposed that the offer of £120,000 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds) is accepted.

#### **4. Implications**

##### Financial Implications

- 4.1 The disposal will generate a capital receipt for the Council's General Services Capital Account of £120,000. The Estate Agents fee will be 1% of the selling price i.e. £1,200 plus VAT at the prevailing rate.

##### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no known human resource implications arising from this report.

##### Legal Implications

- 4.3 The disposal complies with the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities Regulations 2010 and meets our best value duties under the Local Government Scotland Act 2003.

##### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no known equality implications arising from this report.

##### Implications for Key Priorities

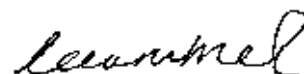
- 4.5 This will contribute to the Council Plan Core Objective 4 'operating more effectively and efficiently.

#### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 The Corporate Director (Education and Skills) has been consulted and is in agreement with the recommendation.

#### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 That the Cabinet approve the disposal of Prospect House for £120,000 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds).



LAURA FRIEL

Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

#### Reference :

For further information please contact Tom Burns, Asset Manager on telephone number 01294 225136.

#### **Background Papers**

Copy of the Offer dated 2 August 2013

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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 14**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018**

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**Purpose:** To seek approval for submitting the draft Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 to the Scottish Government.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet approves the submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 (Appendix 1) to the Scottish Government.

---

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Scottish Ministers recognise the importance of long term planning for affordable housing delivery, and as such have asked that Local Authorities prepare annual Strategic Housing Investment Plans (SHIP), which details key housing investment priorities in the area. The SHIP is part of the Local Housing Strategy process and is used to assist the Government in fulfilling its commitment to deliver at least 30,000 new affordable homes during the course of the current Parliament, and to extend delivery beyond that time period.
- 1.2 Historically, the Government also required Local Authorities to submit a Strategic Local Programme (SLP) which matched affordable housing projects to available levels of funding. Local Authorities are instructed to use Resource Planning Assumptions or 'RPAs' (ie. minimum affordable housing funding allocations) to inform this process.
- 1.3 To eliminate elements of duplication, the Government have now amended these requirements. From 2013 onward the SLP must be incorporated into the SHIP. Furthermore, the Government ask that the SHIP document is abridged to show key information only, removing the requirement to reiterate much of what was previously detailed in the Local Housing Strategy.
- 1.4 The SHIP 2013-2018 (set out at Appendix 1) includes a revised SLP 2012-2015, showing outstanding projects and subsidy changes. The SLP 2012-2015 was previously approved by Cabinet on 30 April 2013.

## 2. Current Position

- 2.1 On 5 March 2013, the Scottish Government notified North Ayrshire Council that the submission of the SHIP 2013-2018 was required by end June 2013, and that Cabinet approval must be sought prior to submission. To account for the summer recess period, Housing Services secured an extension to this time frame to mid August 2013.
- 2.2 At this time, the Scottish Government advised North Ayrshire Council of the RPA for the 3-year period 2015-2018 is as follows:
- £2.970 million for 2015/2016
  - £2.417 million for 2016/2017
  - £1.737 million for 2017/2018
- 2.3 The Government stressed that these figures are indicative, but nonetheless Local Authorities should use them as the basis for their SHIP 2013-2018.
- 2.4 Housing Services met with corporate stakeholders, local RSLs and the Scottish Government over the course of Spring 2013 in order to prepare the SHIP document.
- 2.5 The draft SHIP was duly completed. However, prior to it being submitted to the Cabinet, the Government announced that the maximum subsidy benchmark levels should now be increased on all development projects by £16k per unit. This announcement, on 8 July 2013, was made in response to the findings of a national working group. Table A illustrates the effect the announcement had on per unit subsidy benchmark levels.

*Table A: Increase in Subsidy Benchmark Levels per unit*

	Previous Maximum Subsidy Per Unit	Revised Maximum Subsidy per unit
Local Authorities	£30k per unit	£46k per unit
City and Urban RSLs	£42k per unit	£58k per unit

- 2.6 The benchmark level is the highest subsidy which can be awarded, per unit, to a development project by the Council before a value for money appraisal by the Scottish Government becomes necessary. The Government expect the majority of projects with the SHIP to fall within the appropriate subsidy level.



- 2.7 As was the case previously, the revised figure can be further increased by up to £4k per unit where 'greener' units, which meet the Section 7 Silver Level of the 2011 Building Regulations in respect of both Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Energy for Space Heating, are being proposed.
- 2.8 Housing Services were advised that the subsidy uplift was effective immediately, and should be applied retrospectively to any project within the SLP 2012-2015, where an offer of grant letter had not been issued. This impacted all projects with the exception of the Courtyard 'off the shelf' purchases, where Irvine Housing Association had already bought 6 units in March 2013. To facilitate the subsidy uplift in the SLP 2012-2015, the Scottish Government increased the 2012-2015 RPA by £1.265m; however, the cost of applying this uplift is £4.238m.
- 2.9 In addition to the above, the Council was also advised that the uplift would apply to projects in the SLP 2015-2018.
- 2.10 The announcement meant that the draft SHIP now required to be amended. As previously reported to Cabinet, some local RSLs had indicated they were unable to deliver new supply affordable developments at the lower rate of subsidy. The subsidy increase altered this situation, and all developing RSLs in the area required time to review their position in terms of the SLP 2015-2018.
- 2.11 Housing Services also required time to review the Council's financial commitments to understand the impact of the increased subsidy on future financial planning.
- 2.12 This level of consultation and detailed analysis resulted in a requirement to approach the Scottish Government for an extension to the SHIP submission date. The Scottish Government have agreed that the SHIP can be submitted on 10 September 2013, subject to Cabinet approval. The Government are aware that there is a 5-working-day call in period for Scrutiny following the Cabinet meeting.
- 2.13 The announcement also raised a series of questions which required Scottish Government clarification:
- The 2012-2015 programme had been deemed deliverable at the original, lower subsidy rates, by all partners in North Ayrshire. By increasing the subsidy, no additional units would be realised. Clarification was sought in terms of establishing how rigid the requirement to uplift subsidy levels was. Housing Services were advised by Government officers that all subsidy levels must be increased for RSL developments, the Council could decide whether its own projects should secure additional subsidy.

- The additional income awarded by the Government did not meet the additional cost of uplifting subsidy levels across the programme, and the Government has confirmed it was not meant to. What was not clear was where the shortfall of funding (£2.973m) to support the uplift would come from. The Government have confirmed that the additional funding must be taken from the RPA allocation for 2015-2018. This has a significant effect on the 2015-2018 programme; not only has the per unit subsidy increased, meaning fewer units can be delivered through the RPA, the actual available RPA will reduce to support the 2012-2015 programme, meaning even less units are deliverable.
- The 2012-2015 SLP includes provision for subsidised 'buy-backs' (properties purchased from the second hand homes market). These were already highly subsidised even at the original lower rate. Officers asked for clarity in terms of uplifting the subsidy rates on these projects, where the situation could potentially arise that subsidy levels were at 100% of the purchase costs, particularly as the Council's focus is the purchase of small 1 bedroom properties to mitigate some of the effects of Welfare Reform (under-occupancy penalty). The Government noted that, in order to demonstrate greater value for money, the uplift should not apply to these units, and that the subsidy levels already indicated should stay the same.

2.14 The outcome of the RSL and Council review indicated that those organisations who could develop at the lower rate (North Ayrshire Council and Irvine Housing Association), would continue to deliver development at the higher subsidy rate.

2.15 Cunninghame Housing Association had previously indicated it would be likely to develop if there was an increase to the subsidy; however, having taken time to review its financial plans following the increase announcement, it has advised that this is no longer the case. The Association has indicated that they can continue to develop but it would need to be at a significantly higher rate of subsidy than the new benchmark level of £58k. Cunninghame Housing Association has, therefore, not been included in the SLP 2015-2018.

2.16 Trust Housing Association did offer an indicative development proposal, but this was again dependant on a significantly higher rate of subsidy than the new benchmark subsidy level £58k. Trust Housing Association has, therefore, not been included in the SLP 2015-2018.

- 2.17 The SHIP has now been revised in light of the latest financial information, and the reduced RPA for 2015-2018 has meant that the forward development programme is very small. However, we have been able to include deliverable development opportunities in the slippage programme, in order that they may commence if additional subsidy becomes available in the fullness of time.
- 2.18 The slippage programme includes 4 sites in the Three Towns Sub Housing Market Area which are currently in the ownership of Cunninghame Housing Association (Sharphill, Saltcoats; Stanley Rd, Ardrossan; Ardrossan Harbour, Ardrossan; New St, Stevenston). Housing Services are in discussion with both the Association and the Scottish Government, as how best to release these sites for development, should the Association remain unable to deliver new projects within the new benchmark subsidy level.
- 2.19 For the projects included in the SLP 2015-2018, densities and costs have been identified for each development opportunity to give a basis on which to plan. However, it should be noted that these figures are indicative. Actual densities can only be finalised following the appointment of a Design Team who must consider site constraints, statutory and other requirements, the appropriate scale of development for the site, housing mix, and so on. At this point, more realistic indicative costs can be forecast but, again, actual costs can only be identified following the tendering process.
- 2.20 In preparing the SHIP, Housing Services firstly reviewed our investment priority areas. Areas are prioritised based on the shortfall of affordable housing as a % of all households in the area. The highest shortfall equates to the highest demand.
- 2.21 Existing priorities in the Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016 are based on Year 1 figures from the mainland Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) and the most up to date figures available for Arran and Cumbrae at the time the Strategy was prepared.
- 2.22 However, as the future SLP runs from 2015-2018, it was appropriate to update the figures to reflect the changing HNDA figures over time. Housing shortfall figures have been updated to show the HNDA Mainland figure for 2013/14 (as opposed to the 2008/2009 baseline figure used in the LHS). The HNDA Isle of Arran & Cumbrae figure has been amended in response to the recent Housing Needs and Demand Assessment carried out for the islands. The 2015 housing need figure has been used for the islands.
- 2.23 All households figures have been updated to reflect the 2013 Council Tax register.

- 2.24 Attention is drawn to the changes in area prioritisation detailed in the SHIP (Table B), most notably the lower priority for Arran. This is due to significant investment on the island over the last few years reducing the affordable housing shortfall figure.

*Table B: Investment Priority Comparisons*

<b>2013-2018 SHIP Geographical Investment Priorities</b>	<b>LHS 2011-2016 Investment Priorities</b>
North Coast (mainland) - High	North Coast (Largs Only) - Priority A
Three Towns - Medium	Arran - Priority A
Irvine/Kilwinning - Medium	North Coast (exclud. Largs and Cumbrae) - Priority A
Arran - Medium	Irvine/Kilwinning (Priority B)
Cumbrae - Low	Three Towns (Priority B)
Garnock Valley - No priority	Cumbrae (Priority B)
	Garnock Valley (Priority B)

- 2.25 In addition to these priorities, Housing Services have a further high investment priority, that of reprovisioning low demand sheltered housing complexes in order to meet the housing needs of an aging population. This is both a Council commitment through the Older People Housing Strategy and a national commitment outlined in the Scottish Government's strategy "Age, Home and Community".
- 2.26 In planning the SHIP, key consideration was given to investing in areas of highest priority; however, Housing Services has endeavoured to ensure that a range of development projects is identified across various sub housing market areas, rather than all development being concentrated in a single priority area.
- 2.27 Taking the above into account, and due to the reduced funding within the 2015-2018 SLP, there are only two deliverable projects. Pending Cabinet approval, Irvine Housing Association will take forward the Lawhill Farm, West Kilbride development. This delivers much needed housing to the highest priority investment area of the North Coast. The Council will deliver new housing at the site of the former Fencedyke Primary School, Irvine, which, of the sites available to the Council, has the least forecast development constraints. Irvine/Kilwinning has a medium priority for housing investment.
- 2.28 Provision is made within the HRA 30 year business plan for 500 new build homes over a ten year period. When the 2012-2015 SLP is completed, the number of new build completions will be 197, which is 3 units below the anticipated 200 units. The future project proposed for development and completion by March 2018 is the former primary school site at Fencedyke, Irvine which would deliver approximately 34 units.

2.29 The breakdown of indicative funding is shown below:

Fencedyke, Irvine indicative budget requirement of £4.25 million:

Indicative Unit Cost	HRA - Capital from Current Revenue (CFCR)	Scottish Government Grant (£46,000 per unit)	Prudential Borrowing	Affordable Housing a/c
£0.125 million	£1.16 million	£1.56 million	£1.12 million	£0.40 million

2.30 Historically, additional funding has been allocated after the initial RPA awards have been issued to Local Authorities and indeed, the wording on the allocation for 2015-18 states that the funding "will be at least...". The SHIP has been collated using the figure stated in our award allocation of £7.124 million. A slippage programme has been incorporated into the SHIP (table 3a) which will allow projects to be advanced should further subsidy become available or if any of the proposed developments do not proceed due to unforeseen circumstances. All projects within the SHIP are deemed by Housing Services and RSL partners to be deliverable within the requisite time frame.

2.31 All projects within the SHIP are deemed by Housing Services and RSL partners to be deliverable within the requisite time frame.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to approve the submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 (set out at Appendix 1) to the Scottish Government.

### **4. Implications**

#### **Financial Implications**

4.1 It should be noted that all financial information pertaining to these developments is indicative and based on an average unit cost of historical projects (excluding island developments). The budget estimates will be refined when the tendering process concludes and the market is fully tested.

4.2 The financial information contained within this report indicates how the proposed projects could be funded. Finance and Property: Financial Management have confirmed that all of the proposed projects are within the parameters of the HRA 30 year business plan.

4.3 North Ayrshire Council projects may also be subject to external professional fees, which are excluded from the project costs detailed in this report.

4.4 In order to qualify for the Scottish Government subsidy, all projects must reach practical completion by March 2018.

4.5 It should be noted that all future development investment is subject to further analysis of the Welfare Reforms impact on resources.

#### Human Resource Implications

4.6 There are no Human Resource implications arising from this proposal.

#### Legal Implications

4.7 There are no legal implications arising from this proposal.

#### Equality Implications

4.8 By increasing the supply of affordable social rented housing, we are maximising our potential to meet the housing needs of those from whom social rented housing is a viable housing solution.

#### Environmental Implications

4.9 The environmental implications of this proposal have been considered as part of the Local Development Plan and Local Housing Strategy. There are no further implications arising from this report.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

4.10 The project supports the Single Outcome Agreement between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government, specifically National Outcome 10 - "We live in well-defined, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need" and Local Outcome 10b - "Availability of affordable housing has improved".

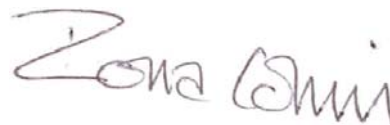
## 5. Consultations

5.1 A range of stakeholders has been involved in preparing the SHIP 2013-2018, namely:

- ANCHO
- Cunninghame Housing Association
- Irvine Housing Association
- NAC Chief Executive (Legal)
- NAC Development and Environment (Planning)
- NAC Development and Environment (Roads Services)
- NAC Finance and Corporate Services (Finance & Property)
- NAC Social Services & Health (Community Care & Housing)
- Trust Housing Association
- Scottish Government

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 This report details the process undertaken to prepare the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018. The plan also incorporates changes resulting from additional funding provided by the Scottish Government in relation to the Strategic Local Programme 2012-2015.
- 6.2 The Cabinet is asked to consider the content of the report and approve the proposal shown in Section 3.



IONA COLVIN

Corporate Director (Social Services and Health)

### **Reference :**

For further information please contact Alex Adrain, Interim Head of Service on telephone number 01294 324641

### **Background Papers**

None.





# North Ayrshire Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018



NORTH AYRSHIRE  
**Local Housing Strategy**  
2011-2016

Comments or questions about this strategy, including requests for supporting information or documentation, should be made to:

Principal Officer, Strategy  
'Strategic Housing Investment Plan'  
North Ayrshire Council  
Community Care & Housing  
FREEPOST SCO2742  
Irvine  
KA12 8BR

Telephone: 01294 324031

Fax: 01294 324624

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ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ, ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ, ਬੋਲ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ।  
ਮੰਗ ਆਉਣ 'ਤੇ ਇਹ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

یہ دستاویز دیگر شکلوں میں بھی دستیاب ہے، جیسے آڈیو ٹیپ، سی ڈی، بریل اور بڑے حروف کی  
چھپائی میں۔ درخواست کرنے پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں بھی مہیا کی جا سکتی ہے۔

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request.

## Introduction

1. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2013-2018 (SHIP) details affordable housing development priorities in North Ayrshire over a five year period, and will guide the application of funding from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Investment Programme.
2. All affordable development projects included in the SHIP are understood by the Council and its partners to be deliverable within the five year time frame.
3. Within the wider policy context, the SHIP is part of the North Ayrshire Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016. The Plan also supports the Single Outcome Agreement between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government.
4. The Plan reinforces North Ayrshire Council's role as the strategic housing body for the area, and is recognised as both an important corporate activity and a partnership endeavour.
5. A range of stakeholders have been involved in preparing the Plan, namely:
  - ANCHO
  - Cunninghame Housing Association
  - Irvine Housing Association
  - NAC Chief Executive (Legal)
  - NAC Development and Environment (Planning)
  - NAC Development and Environment (Roads Services)
  - NAC Finance and Corporate Services (Finance & Property)
  - NAC Social Services & Health (Community Care & Housing)
  - Trust Housing Association
6. In planning the SHIP, key consideration was also given to investing in areas of highest priority, however the Council has endeavoured to ensure that a range of development projects are identified across various sub housing market areas, rather than all development being concentrated in a single priority area.
7. North Ayrshire Council is also required to meet the duties placed upon it by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016 identifies a range of mechanisms which are applicable to new provision of affordable housing in terms of complying with the terms of the Act.

8. Working with partners, we will seek to ensure new homes in North Ayrshire have a low environmental impact. A range of methods can assist in achieving this, for example:
  - the introduction of renewable technologies (particularly those which reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions whilst improving energy performance);
  - improving thermal efficiency of housing;
  - the promotion and sharing of sustainable housing principles and good housing management; and
  - the co-ordination of a local education programme for North Ayrshire residents, with key partners, to highlight the benefits of low carbon lifestyles with regard to energy consumption.
9. The Council and local Registered Social Landlords in North Ayrshire have 'Design Guides' which inform the development of new social housing. These guides promote the sourcing of local materials, maximising solar gain, recycling of construction waste, etc. The guides aim to achieve a sustainability standard that exceeds that required by Scottish Building Regulations.
10. The Council will seek to ensure that sustainability principles are delivered through existing new build programmes, will share good practice on sustainable housing among partners and review all current social rented sector Design Guides to ensure that sustainable outcomes are maximised.
11. The Equalities and Environmental Impacts of the SHIP are assessed as part of the wider Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016.

## Investment Priorities

12. The Mainland Housing Need and Demand Assessment, carried out to inform the Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016, identified four Sub Housing Market Areas within North Ayrshire. The Isle of Arran is recognised as the fifth. The sub housing market areas are:
  - Arran
  - Garnock Valley
  - Irvine/Kilwinning
  - North Coast
  - Three Towns

13. The same Assessment identified a North Ayrshire affordable housing shortfall of 2,635. Whilst policy interventions will address the majority of the shortfall, the SHIP seeks to increase access to the supply of affordable housing through provision, replacement, rehabilitation and re-modelling.
14. Table 1 compares the shortfall in housing in each sub housing market area as a percentage of the households living there, thus identifying areas of highest affordable housing pressure.

*Table 1: Shortfall in Affordable Housing Supply in North Ayrshire, by sub housing market*

Sub Housing Market Area	No of Households	Identified Shortfall in Supply	Shortfall in supply as a % of h'holds
North Coast (mainland)	10,189	-939	9%
Three Towns	16,161	-837	5%
Irvine/Kilwinning	25,987	-777	3%
Arran	2,788	-66	2%
Cumbrae	1,326	-3	0%
Garnock Valley	10,560	78	0%

15. Table 1 differs from the information shown in the Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016. This is due to the updating of figures relating to number of households, from the 2013 Council Tax database.
16. Housing need figures have been updated to show the HNDA Mainland figure for 2013/14 (as opposed to the 2008/2009 baseline figure used in the LHS). The HNDA Isle of Arran & Cumbrae figure has been amended following recent assessment, to show the 2015 housing need figure.
17. The reason for these updates is to ensure that accurate information is used to identify demand for the 2015-2018 development programme.
18. Highest investment priority will be given to the sub housing market area with the highest shortfall supply as a % of all households. Sub markets are ranked for investment priority in order of preference in Table 2.

*Table 2: Investment Priority by Sub Housing Market Area*

<b>High Investment Priority</b>	North Coast Sub Housing Market Area (mainland only)
<b>Medium Investment Priority</b>	Three Towns Sub Housing Market Area Irvine/Kilwinning Sub Housing Market Area Arran Sub Housing Market Area
<b>Low Investment Priority</b>	Cumbrae Sub Housing Market Area
<b>No Investment Priority</b>	Garnock Valley Sub Housing Market Area

19. A recent Housing Needs and Demand Assessment carried out in relation to the Isle of Arran indicated a shortfall on 64 units. This is a significant reclassification in relation to Arran's investment priority, and can be attributed to the work done in recent years to address the housing shortfall on the island. The development projects at Benlister, Corrie and the 'off the shelf' buy backs in Lamlash has increased the affordable housing supply on the island by 86 new affordable homes.
20. In addition to these geographical investment priorities, the Council is also committed to the re-provisioning of low demand sheltered housing complexes, in order to meet the housing needs of an ageing population.
21. This is a rolling programme which seeks to address one or two sheltered complexes at a time. Due to funding constraints, this commitment is reflected in the slippage programme within the attached SLP tables. We do not name which complexes will be programmed for future development as it is not deemed appropriate to submit this information into the public domain before consultation has been undertaken with residents.

22. Analysis of the North Ayrshire Common Housing Register demonstrates demand for housing by size (see Table 3).

*Table 3: Demand by House Size (North Ayrshire Common Housing Register)*

No of Beds	3T SHMA	Arran SHMA	GV SHMA	Irv/ Kil SHMA	NC SHMA	Average all areas
1	13%	18%	16%	11%	15%	12%
2	76%	67%	70%	77%	70%	76%
3	9%	14%	12%	10%	13%	11%
4+	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	1%

*NB percentages may be higher than 100% as applicants may choose multiple locations*

23. The Council, and its partners, will seek to ensure (where sites allow) that the composition of investment projects reflects the North Ayrshire “average all areas” figure, shown in Table 3.
24. In a further update to the Local Housing Strategy, and as agreed by the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council on 30 April 2013, the Council, and its partners, will seek to increase the provision of one-bedroom properties. This is in response to increasing demand for this size of home following the introduction of the under-occupation penalty introduced as part of the Welfare Reform Act 2012.
25. Feedback from consultation with local people indicates a preference for houses rather than flats. The Council and its partners will seek, where possible, to meet this local aspiration, however, in some instances (eg. constrained sites or funding availability) it may be more beneficial to develop flatted properties.
26. The Local Housing Strategy seeks to ensure that not only the correct size and type of house is available, but that housing also meets ‘particular’ needs. Analysis of the Housing Register indicates that 3% of applicants require fully wheelchair compliant housing. The vast majority of whom require either one-bedroom or two-bedroom accommodation (see Table 4).

Table 4: Demand for Housing Suitable for Wheelchair Users

No of Bedrooms	No of Applications indicating the need for 'wheelchair user' housing	% of Applications indicating the need for wheelchair accessible housing in relation to total no of applications
1 bed	71	1%
2 bed	130	2%
3 bed	31	0%
4+ bed	9	0%
Total No of Applications	193	5586

*NB percentages may be higher than 100% as applicants may choose multiple house-sizes*

27. The Council, and its partners, will aspire to develop housing suitable for wheelchair users at a rate of 3% for all new one and two-bedroom properties built in North Ayrshire. The inclusion of such housing will, however, be dependent on the suitability of the site in relation to wheelchair usage.

## Council Resources

28. North Ayrshire Council is contributing Housing Revenue Account surpluses towards funding the delivery of new council houses.
29. The local authority also contributes to the affordable housing investment programme by selling its land assets at less than market value to Registered Social Landlord developers.
30. The local authority will continue to contribute monies secured through the reduction of discount for second homes council tax. This amounts to approximately £900k per annum (at current collection rates).
31. The Council has introduced an Affordable Housing Policy on the Isle of Arran which will seek to secure (as a preference) completed units from private developers. Monies secured as developer contributions, in the form of commuted sums, will be utilised to increase affordable housing on the island. The Council will introduce a mainland Affordable Housing Policy following adoption of the forthcoming Local Development Plan.
32. To date no contributions have been realised for Arran.



33. Since our current £25m development programme commenced in 2010, North Ayrshire Council has successfully delivered 80 new homes. Furthermore, the Council has delivered a value for money programme where the average Scottish Government subsidy contribution towards these homes is £20,500 per unit, well under the Local Authority benchmark subsidy figure of £30,000 a unit and the RSL maximum subsidy figure of £42,000 per home. By March 2015, the Council will have directly delivered 237 new homes.
34. The Council will remain committed to maximising the return from the Scottish Government's subsidy allocation.
35. The Council is currently reviewing its Housing Revenue Account Business Plan to assess the viability of a future development programme, following the introduction of Welfare Reform.
36. The Council and its partners will continue to ensure that effective procurement takes place by working with pre-approved contractors, who have been selected following an assessment of their quality/cost parameters. This ensures a cost effectiveness responsive mechanism for development opportunities.



# **DRAFT STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2013/14 - 2017/18: North Ayrshire Council**

**TABLE 1: Years 1 & 2 (2013/14 & 2014/15)**

Resource Planning Assumption				£ 12.339		New money for Local Programmes				£ 7.641															
Project Address	Sub-Area	Priority (A/B)	Developer	Units by Tenure					Units By Built Form			Units by Type				Greener Sinds	Est/Act Approval Date	Unit Site Starts			Unit Completions				
				Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO: Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improv't for Sale	Total Units	Rehab	Off the Shelf	New Build	Total Units	Gen Needs	Part. Needs			Type of Part. Needs	Total Units by Type	PRE 2013 /14	2013 /14	2014 /15	2013 /14	2014 /15	2015 /16
Benlister South, Isle of Arran	Arran	A	Irvine Housing Association	40	-	16	-	-	56	-	-	56	56	56	-	-	56	✗	2011/12	-	56	-	-	56	-
Flatt Farm, Largs	North Coast	A	Cunninghamhe Hsg Association	26	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	26	26	16	10	Amenity	26	✗	2011/12	26	-	-	26	-	-
Copeland Cres, Millport (St Beya Gdns)	North Coast	B	North Ayrshire Council	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	12	12	-	12	Amenity/ W'Chair	12	✓	2011/12	12	-	-	12	-	-
Dickson Drive, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	B	North Ayrshire Council	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8	8	6	2	Amenity/ W'Chair	8	✗	2012/13	-	8			8	
John Galt, Irvine #1	Irv/Kilw	B	North Ayrshire Council	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	40	40	34	6	Amenity/ W'Chair	40	✗	2012/13	-		40		40	
John Galt, Irvine #2	Irv/Kilw	B	North Ayrshire Council	40	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	40	40	34	6	Amenity/ W'Chair	40	✗	2012/13			40		40	
Kelburn Hotel, Fairlie	North Coast	A	Cunninghamhe Hsg Association	13	-	-	-	-	13			13	13	11	2	Amenity	13	✗	2012/13		13			13	
Redstone Avenue, Kilwinning	Irv/Kilw	B	North Ayrshire Council	46	-	-	-	-	46	-	-	46	46	37	9	Amenity/ W'Chair	46	✗	2011/12	-	46	-	-	46	-
Stevenson Institute, Largs	North Coast	A	North Ayrshire Council	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	11	11	-	11	Amenity	11	✗	2012/13			11		11	
Vineburgh # 4, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Regen **	Cunninghamhe Hsg Association	48	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	48	48	46	2	Amenity	48	✗	2012/13		48				48
Kiln Ct, Irvine *	Irv/Kilw	Shelt Prog ***	North Ayrshire Council	16	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	16	16	-	16	Sheltered	16	✗	2012/13	-	-	16	-	-	16
Montgomery Ct, Kilbirnie *	Garnock Valley	Shelt Prog ***	North Ayrshire Council	24	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	24	24	-	24	Amenity	24	✗	2012/13	-	-	24	-	-	24
2nd Hand Market Purchases, Mainland NA	Irv/Kilw	B	Irvine Housing Association	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	8	8	-	-	8	✗	2012/13		8			8	
2nd Hand Market Purchases, Mainland NA	North Coast	A	North Ayrshire Council	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	5	5	-	-	5	✗	2012/13		5			5	
Total				78	-	16	-	-	94	-	-	94	94	72	22		94			38	184	131	51	262	40

Red text denotes projects funded via IIF not RPA. Furthermore, they pre-date the geographical 3P benchmark.

\* These projects have been agreed with the Scottish Government as part of the 2012-2015 RPA, despite completing in 2016

\*\* This project pre-dates the priorities in the existing LHS. The project has a historic high priority.

\*\*\* These projects are outwith the LHS priorities. They are part of North Ayrshire Council's commitment to meet the housing needs of an ageing population.

Geographic Benchmark Code	Geographic Benchmark 3p Equiv	Grant per Unit Project	TOTAL SG Grant
6	n/a	£ 0.044	£ 2.440
6	n/a	£ -	
6	n/a	£ 0.029	£ 0.348
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 0.368
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 1.840
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 1.840
6	£ 0.058	£ 0.058	£ 0.754
10	n/a	£ -	
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 0.506
6	£ 0.058	£ 0.058	£ 2.784
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 0.736
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 1.104
6	£ 0.058	£ 0.040	£ 0.320
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.030	£ 0.148
			£ 13.188

**TABLE 2: Year 3 (2015/16)**

[illegible]

Geographic Benchmark Code	Geographic Benchmark 3p Equiv	Grant per Unit Project	TOTAL SG Grant
			£ -

**TABLE 3: Years 4 & 5 (2016/17 & 2017/18)**

Resource Planning Assumption				£	4.154 ****																			
Project Address	Sub-Area	Priority (High / Med / Low)	Developer	Units by Tenure						Units By Built Form				Units by Type				Greener Sinds	Est/Act Approval Date	Unit Starts			Unit Completion	
				Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownership	LCHO - Improv't for Sale	Total Units	Rehab	Off the Shelf	New Build	Total Units	Gen Needs	Part. Needs	Type of Part. Needs	Total Units by Type			PRE 2016 /17	2016 /17	2017 /18	2016 /17	2017 /18
Fencedyke PS, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Med	North Ayrshire Council	34	-	-	-	-	34	-	-	34	34	30	4	Amenity	34	✗	2013/14		34			34
Lawhill Farm, West Kilbride	North Coast	High	Irvine Housing Association	30	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	30	30	30	-	-	30	✗	2015/16	30			30	
Total				64	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	64	64	60	4	-	64		-	30	34	-	30	34

Geographic Benchmark Code	Geographic Benchmark 3p Equiv	Grant per Unit Project	TOTAL SG Grant
10	£ 0.046	£ 0.046	£ 1.564
6	£ 0.058	£ 0.058	£ 1.740
			£ 3.304

\*\*\*\* North Ayrshire Council have assumed that RPA allocations will be able to carry forward been years during 2015/2018 - so long as units are completed by March 2018, as this mirroring the current guidance relating to the RPA 2012/2015.

**TABLE 3a: Slippage Programme for Years 4 & 5 (2016/17 & 2017/18)**

Resource Planning Assumption				£ -																				
Project Address	Sub-Area	Priority (High / Med / Low)	Developer	Units by Tenure						Units By Built Form				Units by Type				Greener Strds	Est/Act Approval Date	Unit Starts			Unit Completo	
				Social Rent	Mid Market Rent	LCHO - Shared Equity	LCHO - Shared Ownship	LCHO - Improv't for Sale	Total Units	Rehab	Off the Shelf	New Build	Total Units	Gen Needs	Part Needs	Type of Part. Needs	Total Units by Type			PRE 2016 /17	2016 /17	2017 /18	2016 /17	2017 /18
Towerland PS, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Med	North Ayrshire Council	48	-	-	-	-	48	-	-	-	48	45	3	Amenity/ W/Chair	48	✗						
Dreghorn PS, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Med	North Ayrshire Council	17	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	17	14	3	Amenity/ W/Chair	17	✗						
Sheltered Housing Unit	Three Towns	High	North Ayrshire Council	tbv	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amenity	-	✗						
Montrose House, Isle of Arran	North Coast	Med	Irvine Housing Association	20	-	10	-	-	30	-	-	-	30	30	-	-	30	✓	2015/16	30			30	
Sharpill Phase 3, Saltcoats	Three Towns	Med	tbv	24	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	24	22	2	Amenity/ W/Chair	24	✗						
Stanley Road, Ardrossan	Three Towns	Med	tbv	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	25	23	2	Amenity/ W/Chair	25	✗						
Ardrossan Harbour	Three Towns	Med	tbv	52	-	-	-	-	52	-	-	-	52	49	3	Amenity/ W/Chair	52	✗						
New Street Stevenston	Three Towns	Med	tbv	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8	8	-	-	8	✗						
Total				194	-	10	-	-	204	-	-	-	204	204	191	13	-	204	-	-	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

**TABLE 4: Affordable Housing Priorities (not funded through the AHSP)**

Project Address	Sub-Area	riority	Developer	Programme	Est. or Act. Approval Date - Fin. Year	Unit Site Starts						Total Unit Start s	Unit Completions					Total Units Complete	Total SG		
						Pri 2013/14	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18				
Pennyburn Regeneration	Irv/Kilw	Med	Irvine Housing Association	Demolition of 48 flats - replaced with 22 new build houses	2012/13		22				-	22		22					22	£	-
Tarryholme, Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Med	Irvine Housing Association	Development of 56 new homes	2016/17				56			56		-					-	£	-
Harbourside (Health House), Irvine	Irv/Kilw	Med	Irvine Housing Association	2 units to be delivered with subsidy from the Greener Homes Innovation Fund	2013/14		2						2						2	£	0.150
Total							24	-	56	-	-	78	2	22	-	-	-	-	24	£	0.150



# Draft Strategy Housing Investment Plan 2013/14 - 2017/18

## Local Authority: North Ayrshire Council

**TABLE 5.1: Council Tax on Second and Empty Homes**

Council Tax on Second/Empty Homes	£ Raised	£ Used to Assist Housing	No of Units Assisted	C/F (£)
2011/12	£ 0.928	£ -	-	£ 4.055
2012/13	£ 0.949	£ 0.144	147	£ 3.560
	£ 1.877	£ 0.144	147	£ 7.615

**TABLE 5.2: Projects Assisted by Council Tax on Second and Empty Homes**

Project	2011/12		2012/13	
	Contribution £	No of Units	Contribution £	No of Units
Redstone Avenue, Kilwinning	£ -	-	£ 0.528	46
Copeland Crescent, Millport	£ -	-	£ 0.144	12
Vineburgh #3, Irvine	£ -	-	£ 0.504	63
Flatt Farm, Largs	£ -	-	£ 0.268	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ 1.444</b>	<b>147</b>

**TABLE 6.1: Developer Contributions**

Developer Contributions	£ Raised	£ Used to Assist Housing	No of Units Assisted	C/F (£)
2011/12	£ -	£ -	-	£ -
2012/13	£ -	£ -	-	£ -

**TABLE 6.2: Projects assisted by Developer Contributions**

Project	2011/12		2012/13		Contribution Type
	Contribution £	No of Units	Contribution £	No of Units	
None	£ -	-	£ -	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**TABLE 7: Adaptations**

Financial Year	Council Housing Stock		Private Housing Stock		Total	
	Number of Adaptations	Funding Requirement	Number of Adaptations	Funding Requirement	Number of Adaptations	Funding Requirement
2013/14	1,250	£ 1,454,857	300	£ 824,517	1,550	£ 2,279,374
2014/15	1,235	£ 1,463,161	250	£ 700,000	1,485	£ 2,163,161
2015/16	1,235	£ 1,507,056	250	£ 700,000	1,485	£ 2,207,056
2016/17	1,235	£ 1,552,268	250	£ 700,000	1,485	£ 2,252,268
2017/18	1,235	£ 1,598,836	250	£ 700,000	1,485	£ 2,298,836
	<b>6,190</b>	<b>7,576,178</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>3,624,517</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>11,200,695</b>



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 15**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Housing Need and Demand Assessment: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae**

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**Purpose:** To provide the Cabinet with an overview of independent research recently undertaken to assess the Housing Need and Demand on the Isles of Arran and Cumbrae and seek approval to use the research findings for strategic planning purposes.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet approves the findings of the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae for strategic planning purposes.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government's national policy agenda requires housing authorities to be more strategic in developing preventative approaches to tackle housing related problems.
- 1.2 Over the past 12 months, an independent assessment led by Craigforth Consultancy has reviewed and updated the housing needs and demand for Arran and Cumbrae. The study was commissioned by Housing Services and replaces the previous assessments dated June 2007 (Arran), and November 2008 (Cumbrae). A copy of the study is available for inspection in the Members' Lounge.
- 1.3 In the current operating environment, prioritising housing outcomes is becoming ever more difficult. Evidencing which housing needs and demands should be our priority, where resources should be targeted, and how efficiency savings can be delivered, is increasingly important.
- 1.4 The Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA) complies with Scottish Government guidance and, if approved, the findings of the study will support the Council and its partners in their strategic approach to addressing island housing issues.

- 1.5 It should be noted, that unlike the existing Mainland Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, the island assessment has not been designated as 'robust and credible' by the Scottish Government's Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA). The reason for this is that the CHMA have advised that the data samples used in the study are too small to allow the 'robust and credible' test to be applied. Data samples are small as the geographical locations covered by the Assessment are small.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The consultancy team was asked to assess local housing systems and the housing related needs and demand of people living in or looking to return to Arran and Cumbrae. It was also asked to make recommendations on policy interventions which:
- may improve the operation of the local housing system and minimise the local imbalances;
  - would meet the changing expectations of older people; and
  - would assist in utilising the potential to expand the role of the private sector in the provision of affordable housing.

### Key Findings

- 2.2 There are 2,969 residential properties on Arran and a further 1,317 on Cumbrae. Approximately 87% of properties on both islands are in private ownership, with social renting accounting for 12.5%.
- 2.3 The most common property type on Arran are traditional built houses. This is consistent with the stock profile in other rural areas. Cumbrae, however, has a very distinctive stock profile, with over 50% flatted dwellings.
- 2.4 The stock profile suggests that there are some imbalances in the housing systems of each island:
- On Arran a scarcity of one and two bedroom properties across all tenures adds to affordability pressures. Households in housing need often find themselves in poor quality private rented accommodation, much of which appears to be let out on an informal basis.
  - The Cumbrae housing system is skewed towards low value properties, with limited choice for family housing.
- 2.5 Second/holiday homes account for 29% of Arran stock and 35% of homes on Cumbrae.
- 2.6 All tenure vacancy rates for Arran and Cumbrae are 7% and 8% respectively. Practice suggests vacancy rates of 3-5% are typical, whilst rates of 7+% may indicate relatively weak demand.



- 2.7 In terms of private rental, affordability is measured at rental charges equal or less than 25% of gross earnings. On both islands:
- single earner households in low paid employment could struggle to find somewhere to live. The situation is severe for low paid households who require 2 or more bedrooms (unless in receipt of housing benefit);
  - single earner households earning a median wage (£23,041 on Arran and £21,308 on Cumbrae) would be able to afford 1 or 2 bedroom properties, but would struggle if 3 or more bedrooms were required; and
  - households with two adults in full time low paid work would be unlikely to experience significant affordability pressures.
- 2.8 There is a risk that the population of Arran, and more especially Cumbrae, will continue to decline slowly due to the high proportion of those aged 45 years and over. Both islands will experience a rapidly ageing demographic over the next 10 years, unless there is a significant form of intervention to reverse trends and attract younger residents.
- 2.9 Despite the risk of a declining population, it is anticipated that the numbers of households on Arran and Cumbrae will continue to increase over the next 10 years. This is due to the trend towards smaller, older households.
- 2.10 In recent years the majority of households on both islands feel that their current home is adequate for their households' needs. Nevertheless, the evidence shows that there is a trend for households having to move as their needs become more complex with age, or as a result of deterioration in health and mobility. Analysis of the survey findings indicates:
- 24% of Arran households and 42% of Cumbrae households include at least one person with a long-term illness and disability that affects their daily activities.
  - Around 1 in 20 of all Arran and Cumbrae residents have a (self assessed) un-met need for adaptations and support services. The data suggests that this is a bigger issue for Cumbrae.
- 2.11 The growth in the number of older households is likely to bring additional pressures. The pace and scale of future household growth remains very uncertain and much will depend on further economic changes and whether new employment opportunities will increase in-migration and reduce out-migration.

- 2.12 The Assessment calculated the annual levels of housing as shown in Table 1. The impact of not addressing the shortfall is shown as an accumulating figure until 2016, and would continue thereafter.

*Table 1: Net Annual Future Need 2013-2022*

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Arran	22	44	66	88
Cumbræ	1	2	3	4

Source: HNDA: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbræ (p110, Table 7.6)

- 2.13 The Assessment of 'net annual future need' complies with published Scottish Government guidance. The complex formula considers measures including 'annual supply of affordable housing', 'backlog current need' and 'newly arising need'.
- 2.14 Evidence suggests that there is a small housing shortfall on Arran, which, if left unchecked, would increase to a more significant shortfall over time. Notwithstanding this, the statistics suggest that planning and housing policies plus community efforts have led to high rates of new development relative to many other areas of Scotland. The previous HNDA carried out on the island identified Arran highly pressured market, with a severe affordable housing shortfall. The Council and its partners have worked since 2007 to address this issue. We have directed over £5.6m of subsidy (22% of all available subsidy in North Ayrshire) towards an overall development programme of £14m, and by June 2014 will have 110 new units on the island. The reduction in the current housing requirement is a reflection of the positive outcome from the investment programme.
- 2.15 The housing shortfall on Cumbræ is negligible. Here, the challenge is the mismatch between the housing which is sought and the property that is available. If the Cumbræ population continues to age as forecast, the lack of suitable property (eg. level access or adapted) is likely to become increasingly more pronounced unless ways can be found to rebalance the profile of the housing stock, particularly in the social rented sector.

#### Potential Policy Interventions

- 2.16 The report goes on to recommend a series of policy interventions.
- 2.17 Historically, increasing the supply of affordable housing on the islands has always been a difficult due to higher development costs and, in the case of Arran, a shortage of available sites for purchase. Recently, reduced Scottish Government grant rates have also made it more challenging to develop new island social housing.

- 2.18 In addition to the above, the impact of welfare reform and the resultant forecast rise in rent arrears, could inhibit organisations ability to secure private finance, resulting in a potential further reduction in new affordable development projects.
- 2.19 The issue of second homes remains a matter of some controversy and a balanced approach and well thought out strategy will be required to help resolve this issue.
- 2.20 On both islands the increase in vacancy rates suggest there may be some potential to make better use of unoccupied properties to address affordable housing needs. However much would depend on the willingness of property owners to sell or lease property, the location of such properties, and the economic viability of bringing empty units back into use.
- 2.21 On Arran high house prices, earnings and incomes and the limited supply of accessible private rented properties mean there is greater scope for the provision of intermediate housing for sale or rent on Arran.
- 2.22 Cumbrae house prices remain relatively modest and the Council and its partners may therefore wish to focus on possible financing options rather than intermediate models.
- 2.23 The economic downturn and contraction of the labour market will shape housing need and demand patterns, but the nature of these effects remains uncertain. On Cumbrae, the local economy is highly dependent on public sector investment and employment. This suggests that future prospects will depend on the extent to which a more diverse economy (including the promotion of new leisure, tourism and environmental services) can deliver greater levels of employment in the private sector.
- 2.24 On Arran, continued investment in tourism will play a part, but the growing number of older people may present new opportunities for rural businesses and community based services.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet approves the findings of the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae, as summarised in Section 2 above, for strategic planning purposes.

## **4. Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no Financial implications arising from this report.

### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### Equality Implications

- 4.4 By managing the supply of suitable and affordable housing, we are maximising our potential to meet the housing needs of those from whom social rented housing is a viable housing solution.

### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 The policy interventions considered in the Assessment seek to improve housing standards and reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions. There would be a positive impact on the environment from such measures.

### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The findings and recommendations of the Assessment support the Single Outcome Agreement between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government, specifically National Outcome 10 - "We live in well-defined, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need" and Local Outcome 10b - "Availability of affordable housing has improved".

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 A multi-agency steering group was set up to oversee the research study. Group members included representatives from:

- North Ayrshire Council Housing Services
- North Ayrshire Council Planning Services,
- Cunninghame Housing Association,
- Irvine Housing Association,
- Trust Housing Association,
- Isle of Arran Homes,
- Cumbrae Elderly Forum,
- Arran Council for Voluntary Services

- 5.2 A postal survey was issued to all residents on the edited electoral register, and this was cross-referenced with Council Tax Register and North Ayrshire Housing Register information, to ensure the survey sample provided the best possible coverage.
- 5.3 The study team also carried out 48 interviews with stakeholders in the following groups:
- Older residents and those with particular housing needs
  - Those in employment with low incomes
  - Concealed or potential households seeking to move within 5 years
  - Second home owners, in-migrants and returners
- 5.4 Focus groups were also held with Arran and Cumbrae residents to explore housing issues and problems on the islands, and to identify perceptions and preferences that will need to be taken into account in shaping future policy options.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The recent Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, carried out in relation to Arran and Cumbrae found a small element of affordable housing shortfall on Arran, and stock mismatch on Cumbrae.
- 6.2 Approval is sought from the Cabinet to allow the report findings to be adopted and used for strategic planning purposes.



IONA COLVIN

Corporate Director (Social Services and Health)

### **Reference :**

For further information please contact Alex Adrian, Interim Head of Housing Services on telephone number 01294 324641

### **Background Papers**

Housing Need and Demand Assessment: Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae – Draft Report by Craigforth Consultancy. (copy available on request and in the Members' Lounge).



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 16**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Whole Systems Approach**

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**Purpose:** To advise Cabinet of the current position relating to the locally implemented Whole System Approach to respond to young people who offend.

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet agrees to (a) note the information provided in the report; and (b) approve the continued development of this strategy as an approach to best meet the needs of young people who offend and the community within which they live.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Whole System is an approach promoted by the Scottish Government as part of the strategy to reduce re-offending by young people (under 18 years of age). It is widely acknowledged that young people with problematic offending behaviour, are often young people who have themselves been child victims in need of care and protection through the Children's Hearing. The model seeks to reflect the needs of these young people and the supports they require whilst at the same time intervening to address their offending. The approach operates within a framework consistent with a number of policy initiatives, including the Reducing Re-offending Programme; Preventing Offending By Young People: Framework For Action; United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) agenda.
- 1.2 Within North Ayrshire, partners have been working to implement and develop the aims of the Whole System Approach since early 2011. The approach is now well embedded as our key response to working with young people involved in offending behaviours.
- 1.3 In order for the approach to be effective, there requires to be commitment from, and involvement of, a range of partner agencies operating within the system of youth offending.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The local situation presents a very positive picture in relation to partner involvement. North Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporters Authority, Sheriffs, the Procurator Fiscal's office, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the Faculty of Defence Solicitors are all actively engaged in delivering a Whole System Approach to youth offending in North Ayrshire.
- 2.2 The approach is intended to reduce, wherever possible, the need for the use of formal measures through the Children's Hearing and Courts and to provide a variety of interventions that act as effective community alternatives to secure care and custody.
- 2.3 There is a wealth of research that indicates the potentially negative outcomes for young people who are sentenced to custody under the age of 18 years old. Not only are they more likely to experience homelessness and unemployment upon release, they are also at far greater risk of re-offending, and being returned to custody. The outcomes for young people who are incarcerated, and indeed the communities to which they return, are very poor, as the cycle of offending, custody, reoffending, custody, continues into adulthood.
- 2.4 The ethos of the Whole System Approach is therefore to ensure that, wherever possible, fewer young people under 18 years old are prosecuted within the adult court system and that custodial sentences are kept for those who are deemed to be of greatest risk to the community. The approach supports the effective community-based interventions to address needs as well as the deeds of young offenders, reducing the longer-term potential for re-offending.
- 2.5 Over the last few years, North Ayrshire has developed a number of key strands within the Whole Systems Approach that helps deliver on the aims.

These are as follows –

**Early and Effective Intervention Strategy** – A social worker is now based within Saltcoats Police Station and monitors all referrals relating to young people who have been arrested by police. She then accesses information via Police, Social Services, Health and Education to assess the most appropriate response. The post is managed by North Ayrshire but is a shared resource with colleagues in South Ayrshire. Responses can vary from referral to Scottish Children's Reporters Authority, to Multi-Agency Conference in order to allocate a suitable resource through to taking no further action. This approach ensures that where young people are on the cusp of offending and anti-social behaviours, a quick and proportionate response is provided without, unnecessarily drawing young people and families into more formal systems.



**Diversion From Prosecution Scheme** – North, South and East Ayrshire have been running the Diversion from Prosecution service since September 2010. The scheme exemplifies collaborative working across the three local authorities with partners, SACRO, Police Scotland and the Crown Office Procurators Fiscal Office to provide a viable alternative to prosecution for 16 and 17 year olds charged with lower tariff offences. The Diversion scheme consists of a Diversion Co-ordinator, hosted by South Ayrshire, alongside a project worker provided by SACRO, to assess for and deliver diversionary interventions with appropriate young people.

**Youth Structured Deferred Sentences** – This alternative option for the Courts, was devised in recognition of the fact that many young people previously given Probation or Unpaid Work disposals were failing to comply and complete their community sentences and were then being given custodial sentences for offences that were of a lower tariff. Youth Structured Deferred Sentences were accepted by local Sheriffs as an alternative disposal option. The approach, delivered by Social Services' Programme Approach Team, involves a much more, holistic, assertive and persistent approach to working with the young people to support engagement and completion.

**Court Action Notes** – Social Services' Programmes Approach Team completes Court Action notes on all young people under 18 years old who are appearing in Court from custody. This approach is unique to North Ayrshire and has been recognised nationally for its innovation, securing a Silver COSLA award last year. The Court note is presented to the Sheriff and defence solicitor before the young person appears in Court. The Court note details a brief history of the young person and outlines the present care plan (where one exists) as well as a proposed Care and Intervention Plan that is designed to support bail where appropriate. A member of the team is always present in Court whilst the case is being heard in order to answer questions that may be asked of the plan by the Sheriff. The provision of this type of support for young people has provided Sheriffs with community alternatives to custodial remand and over time they have developed confidence in the ability of the Programmes Approach Team to deliver on the bail plans put before the Court. This has contributed significantly to the reduction in secure remand placements that the Council have had to fund in previous years.

- 2.6 As well as the key strands outlined above, there is also work on-going around employability through Activities Agreements and a focus on particularly vulnerable 18-21 year olds involved in the Court system. Additional resource was made available last year to further this work and early indications have demonstrated better outcomes for this group of young people. In addition, for those young people who are given custodial sentences, strong links are in place with Polmont (HM Young Offenders Institution) to ensure that supports are in place upon their release. These initiatives are all delivered under the auspices of the Whole System Approach as additional approaches to reducing levels of re-offending in North Ayrshire.
- 2.7 The success of the Whole System Approach in North Ayrshire can be evidenced in a number of ways and some of the key achievements have been the following –
- A 59% reduction in young people referred to the Scottish Children's Reporters Authority on offence related grounds over the last five years.
  - 90% of young people referred through Early and Effective Intervention successfully avoid re-offending.
  - 92% of young people referred through the Diversion From Prosecution Scheme successfully avoid re-offending.
  - 62% of young people given a Youth Structured Deferred Sentence successfully avoid re-offending.
  - In 2007/08, 28 young people in North Ayrshire were made subject to secure placements. This number has been consistently reducing and in 2012/13 was two.
  - 96% of young people appearing in Court from custody are given bail with Care and Intervention Plans put in place to support this thus avoiding the use of remand.
- 2.8 All of the above has been achieved in the North Ayrshire context of high levels of deprivation and youth unemployment. In addition, all of the key research evidence in this field suggests that anything between 77% and 92% of young people who serve custodial sentences subsequently re-offend. The success rates of young people in North Ayrshire who have been provided with community supports as an alternative to custody and subsequently avoided re-offending is all the more impressive when considered in this context.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to agree to (a) note the information provided in the report; and (b) approve the continued development of the strategy as an approach to best meet the needs of young people who offend and the community within which they live.

## **4. Implications**

### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

### Legal Implications

- 4.3 The approach is in line with all legal frameworks around youth justice.

### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Whole System Approach links to all of the following National Outcomes as well as North Ayrshire's associated SOA outcomes:-

- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

### Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 The effective delivery of the Whole Systems Approach should make North Ayrshire a safer place to live and the use of community alternatives to custody should improve the employment potential of young people.

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 All key stakeholders have been consulted, and are actively involved in delivering the Whole Systems Approach including the Scottish Children's Reporters Department, Police Scotland, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Education and Skills, Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team and the relevant third sector organisations.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 The implementation of a Whole System Approach to youth justice within North Ayrshire has been evolving for the last three years. In addition to some of the key national initiatives, for example, the Early and Effective Intervention model, we have also implemented some unique elements under the Approach such as Court Notes and Youth Structured Deferred Sentences. These initiatives have been recognised nationally and, reflecting Scottish Government support, are beginning to be considered for implementation elsewhere.
- 6.2 Our managers in youth justice and criminal justice are regularly asked to give presentations at national conferences and North Ayrshire is currently viewed as being sector-leading in working to reduce the re-offending rates of young people. This has been evidenced by the recognition of COSLA as well as the Scottish Government officials involved in the youth justice agenda.
- 6.3 The local statistics suggest that the approach to youth justice in North Ayrshire is delivering significant results and the recidivism rates of young people are consistently reducing.
- 6.4 All key partners required to deliver effectively on the Whole Systems Approach have embraced the agenda locally and worked hard to ensure that its implementation and delivery has been a success.



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Corporate Director (Social Services and Health)

Reference : SB/LH

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**Background Papers**

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### Agenda Item 17

10 September 2013

#### Cabinet

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**Subject:** Change Programme: Progress as at 31 July 2013

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**Purpose:** To provide an update in relation to the Change Programme.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to note the continuing good progress of the Change Programme as at 31 July 2013.

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#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Change Programme seeks to effect Council-wide transformational change to address unavoidable demographic and financial pressures. This mirrors the national public service reform programme established by the Scottish Government.

1.2 This report provides an update on progress as at 31 July 2013.

#### 2. Current Position

##### Social Services and Health

2.1.1 Social Services and Health committed to undertake a Change Programme outlined in a report to the former Executive of North Ayrshire Council on 21 June 2011. These changes will transform the way in which social work services are delivered and act as a catalyst to take the service forward to integration with the NHS. The key drivers for change are:

- Increasing demand for services which can't be met through the traditional approach to provision, given current financial pressures;
- A move to more community based services;
- The Self Directed Support Bill, requiring that service users are provided with choice and control over the services they receive;
- The integration of health and social care.

2.1.2 The new Service User Journey Model addresses these drivers for change and implementation is on track with activity on-going in a number of areas; the workforce model; training; performance management; CareFirst and the development of a Carers Strategy.

## Workforce Model

- 2.1.3 The realignment of staff resources is being undertaken without the need for compulsory redundancies. This has been achieved through a combination of Voluntary Early Retirement (VER), temporarily holding vacant posts, offering alternative roles and natural turnover.

## Training

- 2.1.4 An extensive training programme has been undertaken, covering Personalisation, Enablement, Self Directed Support and “Talking Points”, an outcomes focused method of working. The training was designed and delivered on three levels, covering the skills, knowledge, and competencies that will enable different staff to carry out their jobs:

- Level 1 - Front line social services staff.
- Level 2 - Operational staff with responsibility for direct provision of care at home or day care.
- Level 3 - Staff with managerial or operational responsibility.

- 2.1.5 The training has so far been attended by 548 staff, with additional sessions being run for the 245 staff that were unable to attend the original training.

## Performance Management

- 2.1.6 A new performance management framework is being developed to ensure that a range of metrics are recorded to provide evidence of progress towards achieving the individual service user’s stated outcomes and improved management information.

## Care First

- 2.1.7 Workshops have taken place to process map the Service User Journey and these maps are being used to develop and refine the system. New forms have also been developed to simplify and streamline the process.

## Carers Strategy

- 2.1.8 The draft North Ayrshire Carers Strategy 2013/18 has been developed, in partnership with the Community Health Partnership (CHP) Carers Sub Group, with a clear focus on positive outcomes for carers. Public consultation of the draft strategy was undertaken between 2 May and 16 June 2013. Feedback was received from 165 respondents, of whom 50 were carers, and will be incorporated into the final draft, which will accompany a report made to Cabinet on 30 August 2013.

## Education and Skills

2.2.1 The Education Business Case was approved by the former Education Executive of North Ayrshire Council on 25 October 2011. The work streams within the programme are:-

- Effective use of the Education and Skills Estate
- Budget Devolution and Cluster+
- Review of Early Years Provision
- Review of Senior Phase and Post 16 Education
- Schools Budgets
- Support Services

### Effective Use of the Education and Skills Estate

2.2.2 A public consultation period in relation to the 3 Towns Campus ended on 14 June 2013. Responses have been collated and will form part of the Consultation Outcome Report which will be published for comments before being presented to Elected Members later in the year. Thereafter, the Scottish Government will consider the proposal and return their decision by the end of December 2013.

2.2.3 A paper was submitted to Cabinet in relation to the Garnock Campus on 11 June 2013. It was agreed that Moorpark Primary School would remain open, and that the catchment areas for Moorpark and Glengarnock Primary Schools would be rezoned

### Budget Devolution and Cluster +

2.2.4 A series of meetings has been held with Headteachers to explore options for achieving the savings to schools' budgets, looking at opportunities to share resources within localities. These options will be prioritised and discussed fully at the first Joint Headteachers Meeting in the new term.

### Review of early years provision

2.2.5 Efficiencies of £62,000 were made from the existing Early Years budget for 2013-14. A paper was presented to Cabinet on 30 April 2013 detailing Early Years Developments. The Cabinet agreed to:-

- Increase payment to partner providers from £1625 to £1650 per child.
- Inclusion of month of birth to existing admissions criteria.
- Continue with plans to hold a series of meetings to plan for delivery of 600 hours from August 2014.
- Review the use of available accommodation in schools and community facilities.
- Extending and funding the strategic management and support for the sector from The Ayrshire Community Trust.

## Review of Senior Phase and Post 16 Education

- 2.2.6 The Senior Phase strategy paper has been completed and, following consultation, the final action plan should be ready to share with secondary and special schools in August 2013.
- 2.2.7 Local consortium arrangements are in place to ensure the availability of Advanced Highers in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths and English across the authority. A number of other subjects will be available through the North Ayrshire VLE and the consortium arrangements will improve access to college courses in session 2013-14.
- 2.2.8 A school/college engineering partnership has been established to consider the provision of flexible pathways into the STEM subject NCs, HNCs etc. Priorities in session 2013-14 include improving opportunities for vocational education on Arran, through engagement with local employers and further developing the partnership with Argyll College, and widening of access to university courses, through a virtual link with the University of the Highlands and Islands.
- 2.2.9 James Watt College is piloting its Essential Skills programme, "YOU", in two secondary schools, with pupils undertaking the Skills for Work (SfW) courses in construction.
- 2.2.10 An employer engagement initiative is being planned, focusing on further developing the skills centres and providing progression into employment and a sustained positive post- school destination for young people who do not wish to go onto further education.
- 2.2.11 45 Nominees have been identified to be trained by SQA as verifiers for the new qualifications. The nominees will provide support to subject specialists and SQA coordinators through regular liaison at subject network meetings and SQA coordinators meetings in 2013-14.

## Support Services

- 2.2.14 Work is on-going to profile Support Services within the localities. Focus groups were held in May and a report will be presented to Cabinet in October detailing proposals.



### Bridgegate House

- 2.3.1 Work continues on the project to make Bridgegate House the main public face of the Council, relocating front facing functions to a customer service one-stop-shop. The Bridgegate programme represents a £9.3m investment, which will deliver significant benefits to customers and staff whilst contributing to the local economy and regeneration of Irvine town centre. First phase decants are now complete, including the Customer Service Centre & Municipal bank. Analysis of attendance data has shown that the agile working environment has sufficient capacity to satisfy operational requirements.
- 2.3.2 Contract completion is expected by the end of October, with second phase decants running from November to January, scheduled around Service requirements.

### Early Intervention and Prevention

- 2.4.1 The early intervention and prevention programme sets out to improve outcomes for vulnerable young children in North Ayrshire. The main elements of the programme are:-
- Parenting Programmes
  - Early Years Centres
  - Family Support Service
  - Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Response Team
  - Permanent Care for Children
  - Family Nurse Partnership
  - Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Project
- 2.4.2 A marketplace event, showcasing early intervention projects, was held for the CPP Board and elected members. This event included consultation on the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy 2013/17: Early Years which was subsequently approved by the CPP Board and by the Cabinet.
- 2.4.3 The funding of early intervention activity was collated in a return submitted to the Early Years Taskforce, indicating that £2,506,874 was allocated in North Ayrshire by the Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran for 2013/14. It has been agreed that the Early Intervention Strategy be expanded to include early intervention activity for 8-18 year olds.
- 2.4.4 The Family Support Service, being delivered by Quarriers, commenced in May 2013.
- 2.4.5 The CPP has been successful in its expression of interest in a Family Support public social partnership and has been offered £250,000 by the Scottish Government to introduce this service over the next two years.

- 2.4.6 The use of technology to improve the early identification of vulnerable families is being explored. A business case is being developed, for the Ayrshire Data Sharing Partnership, to extend the use of Ayrshare, a new system for sharing information on vulnerable children, for this purpose.

#### Transport

- 2.5.1 The Transport Business Case set out the benefits of having a centralised transport hub, including enhanced planning, budgeting, scheduling, procurement, regulation compliance, and health and safety compliance.
- 2.5.2 The Corporate Transport Facility went live on 01 April 2013 and is budgeted to deliver revenue cost savings of £830k per year by 2014/15, along with a significantly reduced capital plan over the same period. A final report has been drafted and provided to the project sponsor, following completion of the second of the two agreed phases of work. Further support from the Business Change Team is under review, to assist with the bedding in process, benefits realisation, and further opportunities.

#### Supporting Services

- 2.6.1 The Council expects to spend over £22m per annum on “supporting services”, i.e., ICT, Human Resources, Risk and Audit, Payroll, Procurement, Communications, Facilities Management, Asset Management, and Revenues and Benefits. This project sets out to evaluate which model of service delivery offers North Ayrshire best value.
- 2.6.2 The final report, output specifications, financial baselines, and other key outputs are with the project sponsor and a recommendation will be made to the Cabinet in due course.

#### Path to Purchase

- 2.7.1 This project was initiated to identify how the process of paying suppliers could be sped up, addressing new targets set by the Scottish Government and benefitting the many local business which the Council transacts with.
- 2.7.2 The Scottish Government have rescinded the proposed targets, however a number of initiatives are still being taken forward, by the Service, to improve performance against existing targets. These include:
- Developing a good practise guide and associated training.
  - Increased use of Government Procurement Cards (GPC).

### HR Process Review

- 2.8.1 A review of transactional processes is now underway across HR and Payroll. This is a process optimisation exercise, applying LEAN principles to improve the speed, efficiency, and reliability of the in scope processes.
- 2.8.2 The Corporate Management Team has approved a proposal to procure a corporate e-forms solution, rather than to develop on a Service by Service basis. This will provide a greater return on investment and result in a more highly featured and resilient solution.
- 2.8.3 Processes have been identified for the pilot and draft e-forms generated. This pilot will now tie in with the wider Corporate exercise.

### Corporate E-forms Solution

- 2.9.1 Procurement of a corporate e-form solution is underway, this will enable:
- Reduced administration overheads: No re-keying, paper handling, printing, copying, internal mail, and easier to complete, reduced chasing/checking, fewer forms, simpler storage/archiving, etc.
  - Faster processes: No delay to print, post, key, open, sort, copy, or sign.
  - Reduced cost of quality: Fewer errors, earlier detection, & less rework.
  - Improved data security and protection.
  - Better user experience.
- 2.9.2 The solution will be administered by Business Support with systems and development support from Information Technology.
- 2.9.3 An exercise is underway to identify forms and processes that would benefit from this solution, for inclusion in the pilot or subsequent role out.

### Print Management

- 2.10.1 This project sets out to reduce the Council's printing costs and to support mobile and flexible working by implementing a print management solution.
- 2.10.2 The Council's print management solution has now been rolled out to Bridgegate House and to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Cunninghame House, with the remaining scheduled by the year end. Preliminary management info shows that the targets for duplex and black & white printing, as set out in initial proposal, are being achieved. Financial model to administer shared print estate to be in place for start of 2014/15.

### Sustainable North Ayrshire

2.11.1 The Council has a major interest in and impact upon the sustainability of North Ayrshire. Although sustainability is a priority for all Services, there is no over-arching strategy setting out the Council's approach or position.

2.11.2 A draft report and associated materials are with the project Sponsor.

### Community Asset Transfer

2.12.1 The Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill is intended to make it easier for communities to use buildings, land, or resources that are being under utilised and to help people get involved in decisions about the services in their community. In support of this, the Council is reviewing its approach to handling applications to take over responsibility for community assets, to make this process faster and more effective. Consultation has taken place and an updated process agreed. This is set-out in a report which has been circulated for sign-off, along with an accompanying Guidance Pack.

### Economic Development Portal

2.13.1 The Economic Development and Regeneration Board has agreed to develop a shared web portal, providing all partners with a hub to promote North Ayrshire as the place for businesses to invest, grow, and start-up, and to provide a central point of information about the business support services that North Ayrshire has to offer. This portal will be supported and administered by the Council's Web team and the Business Change Team are providing support to complete the design, build, and launch of the portal, in November 2013.

### Streetscene Management Information

2.14.1 The Service's Environmental Crime review revealed improved management information as the key enabler to sustain improvements to effectiveness and efficiency. Consistent with this, the Council has already invested in the required technology: a management information system, Powersuite, and handheld devices to provide staff with remote access. A project is now underway to implement Powersuite and to develop business processes around this solution. Admin resource has been secured to clean and migrate historic data, which is well underway, and a plan had been developed to complete the configuration and testing of Powersuite and to implement the solution.

### Streetscene Communication & Engagement

- 2.15.1 The Environmental Crime review also identified the development of a comprehensive strategy for proactive communication and engagement, with our communities, as the key enabler to achieve improved outcomes through demand management. A project has now been initiated to develop the new strategy, and to carry out controlled trials which demonstrate the impact of pilot communication and community engagement initiatives.

### Customer Services

- 2.16.1 The Council's refreshed website, [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk), went live on 23 April with positive feedback from staff and customers. Work is ongoing to incorporate content from and replace Council micro-sites, including the Community & Culture and Registration sites. A set of KPIs covering quality, customer satisfaction, and service delivery have been implemented, to monitor service levels and drive continuous improvement of the site.
- 2.16.2 An interim review of the website, by SOCITM, rated the site as 3\* (previously 1\*) and an action plan is in place to gain a 4\* rating. A plan to encourage customers to use the most appropriate channel, face to face, telephone, or online, is in place and this is expected to increase use of the Council website.
- 2.16.3 The Council introduced a new single and easy to remember telephone number (01294 310 000) for accessing the contact centre, and is gradually phasing out the existing 0845 numbers. The new number will be more cost effective for both the Council and the vast majority of customers.

### Initiatives under review

- 2.17.1 The Business Change Team helps Services across the Council to identify, design, and execute transformational change. As well as being directly involved in much of the activity above, the team is currently supporting evaluation of a number of potential opportunities, including the following:-
- 2.17.2 Door entry & time recording system: The Council has a number of door entry and time recording systems and contracts in place across the organisation. This acts as a barrier to mobile and flexible working and carries a significant admin overhead. The intention is to undertake an exercise, in the second half of the year, to evaluate options to adopt a more unified approach that takes advantage of current technology and better meets the future needs of the Council.

2.17.3 LEAN Six Sigma is a methodology which brings together two proven approaches to process optimisation. Responding to demand within the organisation, the Business Change Team is incorporating this methodology in its offer. Training is currently being sourced and the HR Process Review is intended to incorporate a pilot of this approach.

2.17.4 The Council's strategic partnership with Impower successfully concludes in October 2013, having provided support to the Council's Change Programme and senior management for three years.

2.17.5 A report is being prepared, for consideration by the Corporate Management Team, proposing how to best meet the strategic support requirements for the next phase of the Council's transformation programme. This will take account of learnings from the Strategic Partnership, including the knowledge and skills transfer achieved, the Council's enhanced capabilities and competence to execute change, and the anticipated demand for these services.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note the continuing good progress of the Change Programme as at 31 July 2013.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

4.1 Efficiencies generated from the Change Programme are considered as part of the Council's budget process. As business cases are reviewed at key stages in projects, changes to anticipated savings and costs will be agreed with Finance and outlined in subsequent programme updates.

#### Human Resource Implications

4.2 There are no Human Resource Implications at this stage.

#### Legal Implications

4.3 There are no legal implications at this stage.

#### Equality Implications

4.4 There are no equality implications at this stage.

#### Environmental Implications

4.5 There are no environmental implications at this stage.

## Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Change Programme is designed to support all four objectives of the Council Plan.

## Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no community benefit implications at this stage.

## 5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Corporate Management Team continues to review and monitor overall progress, providing necessary sign-off, and resolving strategic issues.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Council continues to deliver extensive change, against a backdrop of increasing workloads and reducing availability of management resource. Although the business's capability to deliver change continues to increase, there is a limit to organisational capacity and in particular the levels of change that can be sustained continuously.
- 6.2 It is vital that, at the centre of its transformational change, the Council maintains a genuine aspiration to achieve improved outcomes and not just lower cost or improve value. This will require doing things differently than in the past and challenging prior decisions and assumptions.
- 6.3 For the Council to fulfil its aspirations to deliver improved outcomes, in the current context, it is essential that we find a way not only to harness the creativity of all staff but to empower individuals to act upon the opportunities they see, small and large.



ELMA MURRAY  
Chief Executive

## Reference :

For further information please contact Colin O'Kane, Change Programme Manager on telephone number 01294 324231.

## Background Papers

None





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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 18**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Section 10 Social Work (Scotland) Act - Small Grants**

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**Purpose:** To advise the Cabinet of the recent grant awards to support the work of local and national organisations that offer a direct service in support of community development across North Ayrshire.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet note the report detailing the award of Section 10 Social Works grants.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.2 Section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act enables local authorities to make small grant awards to organisations that provide services which reduce the impact upon front line social work services and staff. £22,000 is available for disbursement in 2013/14. These grants are available to third sector and community organisations whose aims support social welfare and reduce the impact upon front line social work services as a result of their intervention. These grants are determined by Community Development as part of the wider grants process and all recipients of awards are required to complete an evaluation and monitoring report. The key priorities for small development grants are:

Category A: Community Care  
Category B: Children and Families  
Category C: Promotion of Social Justice  
Category D: Promotion of Social Inclusion  
Category E: Community Development/Community Capacity Building

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Applications were received from a number of national and local charities to seek support for their activities within North Ayrshire and each application detailed the specific benefit which would accrue to the community of North Ayrshire.

Details of these applications are summarised at Appendix 1.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the applications as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 Awards will be met from the available balances.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 Supporting the organisations listed in Appendix 1 will assist in achieving SOA outcomes:

- 2a More people are in work and training.
- 3b People are better skilled to get into work.
- 5a Opportunities to support the positive development of vulnerable young children have increased.
- 6a Health and well-being throughout life have improved.
- 6d More vulnerable people are supported within their own communities.
- 6e People are more active more often.
- 7b Fewer people are living in poverty.
- 8a More children and young people live in a safe and supportive environment.
- 9a Fear of crime and antisocial behaviour has reduced.
- 9b Levels of crime and antisocial behaviour has reduced.
- 9c Road safety has improved.
- 11a Levels of voluntary action and community involvement have increased.

**5. Consultations**

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place between the applicant bodies and appropriate Officers of the Council.

**6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Awards from the Social Work (Scotland) Action 1968, Section 10 grants budget support social welfare organisations, reduce the front line pressure on Social Services and Health and deliver direct benefit for many vulnerable individuals and groups across North Ayrshire.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : JMCH/BA

For further information please contact Dr. Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Education and Skills on telephone number 01294 324414.

**Background Papers**

None



Name of Organisation	Address	Town	Award £
Fullarton Community Association	1 School Lane	Irvine	300
The IHCG Agency	70b Ardoch Crescent	Stevenston	500
The Scottish Child Law Centre	54 East Crosscauseway	Edinburgh	2,000
NSPCC Scotland	62 Templeton Street	Glasgow	1,700
Irvine Beat FM	Portland Place, Heatherhouse Ind Est	Irvine	500
AMECA	17a Bank St	Irvine	1,500
Drop-in Centre	7 Lower Vennel, Bourtreehill	Irvine	650
Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland	134 Douglas St	Glasgow	500
West Kilbride Village Hall	1 Arthur St	West Kilbride	500
Family Mediation West	28-30 Grange St	Kilmarnock	1,000
The Girdle Girls	16 Gateside, Girdle Toll	Irvine	200
Church of the Nazarene	150a Glasgow St	Ardrossan	500
Phil Scot Trust	16 Ailsa Road	Saltcoats	500
Three Town Carers Group	4 Linn Road	Ardrossan	425
Ayrshire Sikh Association	28 Bank St	Irvine	500
Chinese Info & Advice Centre	Parterre Hall, 19 High St	Irvine	500
Kat o Lok Fu Chinese Elderly	Parterre Hall, 19 High St	Irvine	500
Touched by Suicide	102 Kingsway, Scotstoun	Glasgow	1,000
Deafblind, Scotland	21 Alexandra Avenue, Lenzie	Glasgow	1,000
The Art Class	131 Muir Drive	Irvine	500
Drybridge Hall	Main Street	Drybridge	500
Largs & District Carers Group	9 Fernside, 65 Brisbane Street	Largs	300
SHOUT Kinship Cares	101 Dalry Rd	Saltcoats	300
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,875</b>



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 19**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Maximising Attendance Performance – Quarter 1 Summary, April to June 2013**

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**Purpose:** This report provides an analysis of sickness absence and cumulative days lost in Quarter 1 2013.

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**Recommendation:** That Cabinet notes the information contained in the report

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the sickness absence data and cumulative days lost data for Quarter 1, April to June 2013.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Council target for maximising attendance performance has been set at 8.1 average days lost per employee for 2013/14. This target represents a reduction of just under 14% of the 2012/13 actual average lost of 9.4 days.
- 2.2 There is continuing effort to get all work patterns on to the core management information system. Work is on-going to finalise Education and Facilities Management work patterns. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of August. Where work patterns are not present, days lost are based on the employee working Monday – Friday.
- 2.3 HR Advisers continue to work closely with their Services providing advice and guidance on an on-going basis.
- 2.4 The table below shows the cumulative performance against target by Services for Quarter 1.

<b>Year to Date (Quarter 1) - Absence FTE Summary</b>			
		Days Lost per FTE	Year to date target
Chief Executive	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Finance & Corporate Support	Finance	1.9	1.8
	Property	1.0	1.8
	HR	4.3	1.8
	ICT	2.1	1.8
	Customer Services	1.4	1.8
	Business Support	2.0	1.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Development & Environment	Planning	1.2	2.1
	Roads	3.0	2.4
	Economic Development	2.4	2.1
	CGMT	3.2	2.4
	Facilities Management	3.4	2.4
	Building Services	1.9	2.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Education & Skills	<b>Total</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Social Services & Health	Social Services	3.7	2.4
	Housing	1.4	1.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Whole Council</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>

2.5 The performance data for the Quarter 1 shows the outcome against the year to date target.

- Chief Executive, Property, Customer Services, Planning, Building Services, Education & Skills and Housing have absence rates that are better than the year to date target.
- Finance, HR, ICT, Business Support, Roads, Economic Development, CGMT, Facilities Management and Social Services have absence rates in excess of the year to date target.

2.6 The actual days lost per FTE of 2.5 shows a slight increase of 0.2 days per FTE compared to the same period in 2012/13.

#### **Cost of Sickness Absence – by Service**

2.7 The following table shows the pay costs of sickness absence as at the end of June excluding employer's on-costs and replacement costs.



<b>Cost of Absence</b>	
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>YTD Cost</b>
Chief Executive	£5,697.41
Finance & Corporate Support	£101,187.55
Development & Environment	£386,083.67
Education & Skills	£604,537.16
Social Services & Health	£486,221.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,583,727.04</b>

### **Occupational Health Support- by Service**

- 2.8 The Council continues to take a proactive approach to support employees back to work. The table below provides a breakdown of the type and number of referrals by Service during Q1.

	<b>No of Referrals &amp; Mgt Reviews</b>	<b>No of Physio</b>	<b>No of Counselling Appts.</b>	<b>Health Surveillance</b>	<b>Pre-employment/ Calms</b>
<b>Directorate</b>					
<b>Chief Executive</b>	3	3	2	0	2
<b>Development &amp; Environment</b>	109	175	24	754	46
<b>Education &amp; Skills</b>	71	111	61	2	168
<b>Finance &amp; Corporate Support</b>	16	30	12	9	27
<b>Social Services and Health</b>	82	226	94	17	230
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>473</b>

### **Comparison of Q1 2013/14 to Q1 2012/13**

- 2.9 Due to the restructure within the Council it is not possible to produce easily a comparison for all Services. The table below includes Services which were not affected by the restructure.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Q1 2012/13 Days Lost per FTE</b>	<b>Q1 2013/14 Days Lost per FTE</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Chief Executive	1.4	0.53	-0.87
Economic Development	6.7	2.4	-4.3
Human Resources	2.9	4.3	+1.4
Education & Skills	2.6	1.7	-0.9
Social Services	2.8	3.7	+0.9
Housing	2.4	1.4	-1.0
Finance	1.7	1.9	+0.2
Building Services	2.6	1.9	-0.7
Environment & Related	2.7	3.9	+1.2

2.10 Analysis of the comparative duration of absence is summarised below:

	Quarter 1 2012/13		Quarter 1 2013/14	
	Total Days Lost	% of Total Absence	Total Days Lost	% of Total Absence
Short Term Absence 1 - 9 days	2704	17.7%	2651	16.3%
Medium Term Absence 10 - 39 days	6647	43.5%	6011	37.1%
Long Term Absence 40+ days	5921	38.8%	7553	46.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15272</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16215</b>	<b>100%</b>

2.11 This shows that there was an increase on the previous year Q1 figures in the number of days lost for long term absence of 27.5% and a decrease in short and medium term absences of 1.96% and 9.6% respectively. Overall absence days are up from 15,272 to 16,215 days, an increase of 6.2%.

### Causal factors by duration

2.12 The table below provides a comparison between Q1 2013 and 2012 short, medium and long term absence by reason.

	Quarter 1 2012/13		Quarter 1 2013/14	
	Total Days Lost	% of Total Absence	Total Days Lost	% of Total Absence
Psychological	3962	25.9%	4016	24.8%
Musculo-skeletal	2498	16.4%	3325	20.5%
Surgical Procedures	1747	11.4%	2050	12.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8207</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>9391</b>	<b>57.9%</b>

	Quarter 1 2012/13			Quarter 1 2013/14	
<b>Short Term Absence 1 - 9 days</b>	<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>		<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>
Gastro Intestinal	549	20.3%	Gastro Intestinal	632	24.8%
Psychologic al	442	16.3%	Viral	328	20.5%
Viral	311	11.5%	ENT/Eyes	292	12.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>48.1%</b>		<b>1252</b>	<b>47.2%</b>

	Quarter 1 2012/13			Quarter 1 2013/14	
<b>Medium Term Absence 10 - 39 days</b>	<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>		<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>
Psychologic al	2357	35.5%	Psychologic al	1797	29.9%
Musculo-sk eletal	1128	17.0%	Surgical Procedures	1032	17.2%
Surgical Procedures	605	9.1%	Musculo-sk eletal	1019	17.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4090</b>	<b>61.6%</b>		<b>3848</b>	<b>64.1%</b>
	Quarter 1 2012/13			Quarter 1 2013/14	
<b>Long Term Absence 40+ days</b>	<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>		<b>Total Days Lost</b>	<b>% of Total Absence</b>
Psychologic al	1163	19.6%	Musculo-sk eletal	2012	26.6%
Musculo-sk eletal	1076	18.2%	Psychologic al	1995	26.4%
Surgical Procedures	1039	17.5%	Surgical Procedures	924	12.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3278</b>	<b>55.3%</b>		<b>4931</b>	<b>65.2%</b>

2.13 This analysis shows:

- Gastro intestinal continues to have the most number of days in short term absence increasing from Q1 last year by 1.4%

- Psychological (includes all stress/anxiety, depression, work related stress and other psychological related absences as reported/recorded) has decreased overall in percentage terms to 24.8% of total days lost (from 25.9% in Q1 2012/13). However, whilst the overall comparative % total has reduced, long-term related absence due to psychological related absence has increased from 19.6% to 26.6% of total long term related absence. Stress management support is currently being reviewed and includes in addition to occupational health support and risk assessment controls, further planned stress management training and guidance.
- Medium term absences resulting from surgical procedures have increased by 71%, whilst long term have reduced by 11%.
- Long term Musculo-skeletal absences have increased by 87% to 936 days. Manual handling training and risk assessment controls are currently being reviewed in services with statistical 'spikes' in related absences.

### **Maximising Attendance actions**

- 2.14 A working group of Service Managers, HR support and Trade Union representatives completed a review of the maximising Attendance procedure in June 2013 and the revised procedure will be launched and supported from September 2013. The Corporate Health and Safety team are also reviewing absence information by causal factors to support services with improved controls and training in service areas which have seen significant increases in specific causes, e.g. manual-handling or stress related absences. In addition, during the recent restructure of HR and Organisational Development, changes to posts have resulted in a new post to support and develop use of insight and intelligence around maximising attendance data/information in order to further support services in being able to manage attendance effectively.

## **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to note the content of this report and the actions being taken to improve performance.

## **4. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Sickness absence presents a cost to the Council, both in terms of the direct costs of providing cover for those absent and in terms of lost work days resulting in reduced or delayed service delivery.

Human Resource Implications

4.2 None

Legal Implications

4.3 None

Equality Implications

4.4 None

Environmental Implications

4.5 None

Implications for Key Priorities

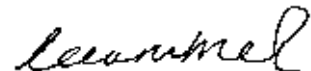
4.6 Maximising Attendance remains a key priority for the Council with supportive, fair and consistent management of sickness absence issues an important factor in maintaining service standards and operational delivery levels.

**5. Consultations**

5.1 There is no requirement for consultation in respect of the content of this report.

**6. Conclusion**

6.1 Despite having sound procedures, sickness absence has increased in Q1 from the previous year's quarter. Psychological, Musculo- skeletal and Surgical procedures continue to be the main causes for absence, Services ensure that employees are fully aware of the employee counselling service and that occupational health is being fully utilised.



LAURA FRIEL

Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Jackie Hamilton, Employment Services Manager on telephone number 01294 324694.

**Background Papers**

None



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 20**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2013/14

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**Purpose:** To advise Cabinet of the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2013/14.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed in the plan at Appendix 1.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts that all tender requirements over the EU procurement threshold receive approval from Cabinet prior to being advertised.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Reports requesting approval to invite tenders are presented to Cabinet throughout the year. Since April 2013 seven individual reports have been presented to Cabinet requesting approval to invite tenders.

#### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 To create a more efficient process, it is proposed that the EU procurement tender plan be reported to the Cabinet annually. This report covers the remainder of financial year 2013/14 for tenders not yet approved. A further report will be presented to Cabinet early 2014 for the EU procurement tender plan 2014/15.
- 3.2 For Financial Year 2013/14 approval is required for the fifteen requirements listed in the Appendix. Of the fifteen requirements, one is for works and fourteen for services. The total value of these contracts is estimated at £10.26m.
- 3.3 The Cabinet is asked to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed at Appendix 1 to the report.

#### **4. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 All future requirements have been budgeted for through General Services Revenue, General Services Capital and Property Maintenance. This is annotated on the appendix.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The Council is bound by the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 Nil

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 Nil

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This will contribute to the Council Plan Core Objective 4 'operating more effectively and efficiently.'

Community Benefit Implications

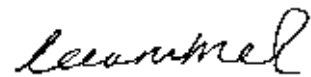
- 4.7 Procurement will continue to pursue community benefits wherever possible. The requirements listed are not suitable due to their value and type of contract.

**5. Consultations**

- 5.1 All Services have been consulted on their future requirements.

**6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 Cabinet is asked to approve inviting tenders for the requirements listed in the attached tender plan.



LAURA FRIEL  
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Thomas Reaney, Procurement Manager on telephone number 01294 324097

**Background Papers**

Nil



**CORPORATE PROCUREMENT EU TENDER PROGRAMME 2013-14**

Contract Reference No.	Contract	Service	Type of Contract	Type of Expenditure	Estimated Value	Contract Start Date	Contract Expiry Date (excl extensions)	Contract Expiry Date (incl extensions)	Comments
NAC/2014	Maintenance of Fire Alarms	Property Management & Investment	Service	Property Maintenance	£680k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2019	
NAC/2011	Maintenance of Intruder Alarms	Property Management & Investment	Service	Property Maintenance	£320k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2019	
NAC/2015	Maintenance of CCTV	Property Management & Investment	Service	Property Maintenance	£160k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2019	
NAC/2016	Maintenance of Fire Fighting Equipment	Property Management & Investment	Service	Property Maintenance	£240k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2019	
NAC/2017	Asbestos Survey and Removal (Framework)	Property Management & Investment	Service	Property Maintenance	£240k	03/09/2014	02/09/2017	02/09/2018	
NAC/2003	Inspection & Testing of Fixed Electrical Installations (Domestic Properties) (MTC)	Property Management & Investment	Service	Revenue	£500k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2019	
NAC/2019	Painting & Decoration (non domestic Properties) (Framework)	Property Management & Investment	Works	Property Maintenance	£1.5m	13/05/2014	12/05/2017	12/05/2018	
NAC/3005	Lanfill Engineer Advisors	Environment	Service	Revenue	£350k	06/01/2014	05/01/2017	05/01/2019	
NAC/1009	Sheriff Officer Legal Services	Legal	Service	Revenue	£220k	01/04/2014	31/03/2016	31/03/2018	
NAC/1010	Provision of Furnishings into Temporary Accommodation	Housing	Service	Revenue	£1.75m	01/04/2011	31/03/2014	31/03/2016	Subject to contract extension review
NAC/1011	Communications Cabling & Trunking Framework	ICT	Service	Revenue	£240k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	
NAC/1012	Provision of an Emergency Call Out Service	Corporate	Service	Revenue	£200k	01/03/2011	28/02/2014	28/02/2016	Subject to contract extension review
NAC/1013	Storage & Removal for Temporary Accommodation	Housing	Service	Revenue	£400k	01/04/2014	31/03/2017	31/03/2018	
NAC/1014	Provision of a Job Readiness programme	Economic Development	Service	Revenue / EU funding	£260k	01/02/2014	31/01/2016	31/01/2017	
NAC/3002	Mixed Bulky Waste	Environment	Service	Revenue	£3.2m	01/09/2014	01/09/2017	01/09/2019	Retender of Lot 1 of Bulky Mixed Waste Tender



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 21**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board: Minutes of meeting held on 12 August 2013.**

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**Purpose:** To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 12 August 2013.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet agrees to note the Minutes set out at Appendix 1.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The meeting of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board took place on Monday 12 August 2013.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Education Attainment and Achievement Policy Board held on 12 August 2013 are attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The key issues were:
- Mathematics and Numeracy. This presentation covered detail on the 2009 National Survey for Adults and the Scottish Survey on Literacy and Numeracy. (Also included was a "test paper" for the Policy Board). Copies of the Mathematics Action Plan were circulated for information.

#### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the Minutes.

#### **4. Implications**

##### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

##### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 There are no key priorities arising from this report.

### 5. Consultations

- 5.1 None required.

### 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 A copy of the Minutes of the meeting is attached for information.



CAROL KIRK  
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

Reference : CK

For further information please contact Carol Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills), on telephone number 01294 324411.

### Background Papers

N/A

## **Education Attainment & Achievement Policy Board**

**12 August 2013 at 2.00 pm**

At a meeting of the **Education Attainment & Achievement Policy Board** of North Ayrshire Council held on **12 August 2013 at 2.00 pm** in the **Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine.**

### **Members Present:**

Councillor John Bruce  
Councillor Catherine McMillan  
Councillor Alan Munro

### **In Attendance:**

Carol Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills)  
Mary Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18)  
Elizabeth Higton  
Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus

### **Chair:**

Councillor Anthony Gurney

### **Apologies:**

Councillor John Bell  
Councillor Tom Marshall  
Billy Gibson, Parent Council Chair/Parent Forum Scotland representative  
John Corr, Parent Council Chair, Largs Academy

### **1. Previous minutes Matters arising**

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 13 May 2013 was accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

### **2. Mathematics and Numeracy : Presentation by Anne MacMahon**

Anne MacMahon, Senior Manager, has been working on numeracy across the Authority. Representatives from primary, secondary and special schools have worked together to look at the existing numeracy strategy in depth and consider options for the future.

Anne provided a general background to the subject of mathematics and numeracy and advised that in the 2009 national survey for adults, 75% of the population had adequate skills in numeracy with 1 in 28 facing serious challenges. There are proven statistical links between literacy and poor numeracy with these also linked to poverty. The aim is to reduce numbers of working age population with numeracy problems and this fits in with the single outcome and the ongoing implementation of Curriculum for Excellence.

Findings from the 2011 Scottish Survey on Literacy and Numeracy have indicated that at early stages pupils tend to do better ie 76% of P4 attain well or very well with 72% at P7 and falling to 32% in S2. Questions were raised regarding the secondary result as to whether the secondary pupils had been prepared for this assessment. However, the key areas which young people find difficult have been highlighted to all teachers – fractions, decimal fractions and percentages. From the survey boys tended to outperform girls at P4 and P7 but difference is negligible at S2

There has been a lot of publicity lately regarding standards and to highlight this and show that the experience of young people nowadays is quite different a “test” paper was passed round for members to try and assess the level of attainment which would be expected in the questions posed. .

Third year in secondary school is now the end of broad general education with National 3 equating to foundation, National 4 to General and National 5 to Credit.

81% of pupils are deemed to be secure at end of P1. It was pointed out that maths is the only subject that gets a test at level 4. New and unfamiliar situations are more likely to be tested with a project or other practical experience. Work is still being undertaken nationally on this.

There will be challenges around National 5 and Higher. (Those pupils who take Higher maths perform very well, an improving picture overall.)

The Authority priority is that all pupils leave school with as high a level qualification in Maths/Numeracy as possible. Assessments on the new courses in Secondary will be internal and headteachers will have to work with parents to make sure this is understood.

Copies of the Maths Action Plan which has been put together by the Strategy Group were handed out and it was pointed out.

There is a need to have confident and skilled teachers across all sectors. This will be achieved through ongoing professional development for staff as teachers need to be confident in their own numeracy skills. Good work is being done at cluster level in the teaching of maths (involvement of primary and secondary colleagues).

### **3. Cabinet Papers**

Councillor Gurney suggested that as members have had a chance to read these papers that they raise any questions with Carol Kirk/Mary Docherty.

#### **Language paper**

#### **(North Ayrshire’s Response to “language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach”)**

Scotland’s reputation as a bi/tri lingual nation is poor and in the last twenty years a number of initiatives have focussed on increasing literacy levels in other languages. A national steering group has made recommendations which will be taken forward in North Ayrshire.

The Scottish Government gave notification on Friday 9 August that money will be available for this and North Ayrshire Council will be receiving approximately £80,000.

There is a need to investigate how language teachers in secondaries work with colleagues in primary and to make the best use of that knowledge. Only a small percentage of teachers are trained to teach a foreign language and the aim is to have the bulk of primary staff trained conversationally in a foreign language.

It was asked whether the teachers could learn the language at the same time as the pupils and although this is possible we really want to have a better system in place.

The question was raised about the possibility of having some sort of recognition/award for multi lingual work in schools. Carol Kirk advised that this will be investigated.

### **Teaching Hubs**

#### **(Teaching Scotland's Future: Development of a Teaching Hub)**

There is a Teaching Hub already in existence at Irvine Royal Academy. This is one of only two Scottish pilots and appears to have been effective. Some interesting feedback has been received from the college in that poorer students have dropped out faster (ie by Christmas) but also that those struggling were highlighted quicker and with additional support they have made better progress.

### **Flexibility of P2/3 class sizes**

This is a follow up to previous paper. It was stated that this had saved a lot of disruption within schools and had given leeway to avoid restructuring the whole school.

The question was asked if there are any schools which are a pressure point and it was advised there are some in well-defined catchment areas eg. Fairlie Primary School.

Due to the small numbers of pupils within the Arran schools it was advised that very close attention is paid to this and that Mary Docherty has a professional conversation with the headteachers on this subject every year.

### **Confucius Classroom**

The Confucius Classroom is working really well in Irvine Royal Academy and is being extended to St Matthew's Academy.

The question was asked about how easy it is to maintain a teacher in this language and it was advised that a Foreign Assistant is employed for this and that the Scottish Government is now starting to register GTC teachers in Mandarin. The Scottish Government is going to provide funding for a teacher for the three Ayrshires.

Agreement given to proceed with all papers.

## **4. Updates**

### **Attainment**

A verbal report on exam results was given by Mary Docherty and there is an improvement on last year's attainment for S4 and S6.

15% achieved advanced higher  
34% achieved 5 or more credits (best result so far and up 6% in last 10 years)  
20% achieved 3 or more Highers in S5  
99% achieved basic maths  
100% achieved basic literacy

This is the last year for S4 standard grade results because of CfE qualifications.

S4 initial figures from SEEMIS are pretty accurate. The school by school analysis should be available mid September.

### **New headteachers**

The new headteachers appointed are as follows:

Ardrossan Academy – Lisa Fairlie (Acting)  
Auchenharvie Academy – Martin Wilson (Acting)  
Irvine Royal Academy - Tracy Stewart  
Kilwinning Academy – Angela Cruickshank will be acting headteacher during Tim Swan's medical leave  
St Matthew's Academy – Stephen Colligan

Abbey Primary School – Susan Patrick  
Cumbrae Primary School - Fiona Malloy

Due to difficulties filling the posts at St John's and St Bridget's primary schools the following interim measures have been put in place with acting headteachers:

St Bridget's Primary School – Dennis Hopkins  
St John's Primary School - Kevin Howell (along with headship of St Anthony's Primary School)

These posts along with the post of the headteacher of the new Irvine East school will be advertised at the end of August.

## **6. AOB - Briefing paper on proposed new campus**

A briefing note on emerging issues from the consultation had been circulated to members. Councillor Gurney advised of a meeting being held by the Memorial Fields Trust to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20 August.

The next stage is that a consultation is published including HMle response to this.



It was asked whether the Ardrossan Academy site was too small and response was given that it only looks so because of the configuration of the current academy. It was advised that Autism Scotland has been involved in discussions regarding previous builds in relation to ASN facilities.

Councillor Gurney stressed that it is important that members advise in advance of any items which they wish to be included on the agenda.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 3.40 pm.



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## **NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Agenda Item 22**

**10 September 2013**

#### **Cabinet**

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**Subject:** **Housing Revenue Account Business Plan  
Implementation Group: Minutes of meeting held  
on 13th August 2013.**

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**Purpose:** To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 13 August 2013.

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**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet notes the Minutes attached at Appendix 1.

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#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group was set up in 2010, with the first meeting of that Group being held in June that year.
- 1.2 The Group consists of Elected Members, tenant representatives, staff from Social Services and Health and Finance and Corporate Services.
- 1.3 The remit of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group is:
  - To make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet and other bodies as appropriate;
  - To carry out an annual review and report progress on the Business Plan;
  - To assume responsibility for performance monitoring and reporting;
  - To advise and provide recommendation on the setting and use of budgets and resources;
  - To ensure the appropriate consultation is undertaken at key stages, and;
  - To agree and drive forward any key activities within the final work plan.

#### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 13 August 2013 are attached at Appendix 1.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet notes the Minutes attached at Appendix 1

### **4. Implications**

#### Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 There are no implications arising from this report.

#### Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There are no implications arising from this report.

### **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 None required.

**6. Conclusion**

6.1 The attached Minutes are submitted for information.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Iona Colvin', is positioned above the printed name.

IONA COLVIN

Corporate Director (Social Services and Health)

**Reference :**

For further information please contact Alex Adrain, Interim Head of Housing Services on telephone number 01294 324641

**Background Papers**

None



	<b>STATUS REPORT</b>	
	<b>Business Plan Implementation Group</b>	

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**Venue:** Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House, Irvine

<b>Attendees:</b>	Councillor A Dickson Councillor J Hunter Councillor C McMillan Councillor R McNicol Councillor T Marshall Alex Adrain Carolyn Hope Keith MacDonald Marianne McManus David Tate Gordon Taylor Cate Weir Tracey Wilson Alex Younger	Elected Member (Chair) Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Housing Services Housing Services Finance and Property Housing Services Finance and Property Tenant Representative Tenant Representative Housing Services Tenant Representative
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<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor I Clarkson Councillor J Easdale Councillor J Ferguson Yvonne Baulk Ian Cathcart	Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Financial and Property Finance and Property
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<b>Minuted by:</b>	Claire McCartney Housing Services
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Agenda Item	Notes and Actions	Who	Date
1. Welcome	Cllr Dickson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked for apologies.		
2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising	<p>Cllr Dickson advised the group that Alex Adrain (AA) would be the new Interim Head of Service for Housing.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson asked David Tate (DT) for an update on the concerns raised by Cllr Marshall regarding the quality of the doors currently being installed. DT advised that a Building Components Specification Working Group would be taking place in August and the doors would be discussed at this time.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson also advised the group that Housing Services was unsuccessful at the Scottish Homes award for the development at St Michaels Wynd, Kilwinning.</p>		

<b>3. Welfare Reform Update</b>	<p>Marianne McManus (MM) took the group through the report (Appendix 2). She highlighted the key points regarding Under occupation, Universal Credit and the Benefit Cap. MM also distributed an additional hand-out to the group detailing the Welfare Reform statistics as at 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013.</p> <p>AA then advised the Group of the estimated financial impact of the welfare reforms highlighting the potential implications for both mainstream housing and homelessness accommodation.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter asked AA if we still offered properties to tenants which would lead to under occupancy penalties. AA confirmed that this was correct however, tenants were made aware of the penalty when the offer of tenancy was made.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall advised that he felt the group and the public were only being given the “worst case” scenario. He pointed out that the arrears figures in MM’S report (£1.4 million) did not tie in with the information given and the actual figure was closer to £750,000. It was confirmed that the £1.4 million figure was based on the original modelling work undertaken on the impact of welfare reform and did not take account of the housing benefit claims which may be awarded through discretionary housing payment applications.</p>		
<b>4.HRA Budget setting &amp; Consultation</b>	<p>This item was originally noted as item 6 on the agenda.</p> <p>AA delivered the presentation (Appendix 5) detailing the timescales for the budget setting process. The rent increase options will be presented for discussion at the next meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September. AA highlighted to the group that the biggest challenge facing the budgeting process was the lack of information regarding implementation dates for Universal Credit and Local Housing Allowance.</p>		
<b>5. Demand Led Repairs Consultation – Action Plan</b>	<p>DT delivered a presentation reporting on the progress made following the report from Impower Consulting (Appendix 3).</p> <p>DT requested the group’s comments on the recommendations.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter asked how much the report from Impower cost, Carolyn Hope (CH) confirmed it was around £60,000; DT added that the report had identified potential savings in excess of £60,000.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter queried new tenant repairs for kitchens and bathrooms. DT advised that if a kitchen or bathroom was not fit for purpose, an installation was completed at the void stage. If the kitchen or bathroom passes an initial inspection it may be added to a future installation programme.</p> <p>Cllrs McNicol and McMillan raised the issue of “right first time”. DT confirmed that they were working closely with Building Services and were working on improving this area of service delivery.</p> <p>Alex Younger (AY) raised the issue of communication regarding timescales for urgent repairs, he advised that the Service Standards booklet gave the urgent repairs timescale as 7 days, but it has been agreed that the repairs timeline has now been reduced.</p> <p>MM advised that the Service Standards Booklet was issued in 2007 and has not been updated since then, a new booklet will be issued in the new year taking account of policy changes. MM pointed out that any</p>		



	<p>changes to policy were mentioned in Tenancy Matters and tenants were notified. It was also confirmed that some jobs may be “made safe” upon a first visit and completed on a follow up appointment.</p> <p>Cllr Dickson noted the issue of generating pride and responsibility in the home and suggested some form of reward scheme such as vouchers or an ad hoc prize allocation.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter raised the issue with mixed tenure areas, tenants of private landlords would have no incentive to participate.</p> <p>Tracey Wilson advised that garden competitions and Good Neighbourhood awards had been implemented in other Councils.</p>		
<b>6. Housing Repairs Revised Schedule of Rates (SOR)</b>	<p>DT took the group through the presentation regarding the SOR review (Appendix 4). DT advised that the changes identified were implemented on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013; he then detailed the changes made and the expected benefits this would bring to the customer and the HRA.</p> <p>Cllr Hunter asked DT what the level of day works was per 100,000 jobs, he advised that this was between 10% and 15%. With the new codes now being used, it is anticipated that this percentage will decline.</p> <p>Cllr Marshall raised the issue that a private contractor will take 2 days to fit a kitchen and Building Services take 5 days. Gordon Taylor and Cate Weir advised Cllr Marshall that it took Building Services 1 day to fit their kitchen. Alex Younger advised it took 1 day to fit this bathroom and central heating.</p> <p>There then followed a general discussion regarding repairs carried out by Building Services and the various issues tenants had raised.</p>		
<b>7. 2015-18 Strategic Local Programme &amp; Strategic Housing Investment Plan</b>	<p>AA gave the group an update on the Strategic Local Programme (SLP) (hand-out distributed at meeting).</p> <p>The Scottish Government has awarded £7.124 million in funding for RSL and Council developments for the 2015-18 programme. Following a Cross Service Working Group changes in subsidy levels were agreed by the Scottish Government resulting in an increase of £16,000 per unit for RSLs and local authorities.</p> <p>To fund this increase, a further £1.265 million has been awarded, however, this presents a considerable shortfall in the required funding if the increase has to be applied to all of the agreed projects. The Scottish Government Housing Investment Division has advised that the £16,000 increase should be backdated to all projects on the 2012-15 SLP which have not yet received a formal offer of grant letter.</p> <p>We are currently awaiting clarification from the Scottish Government regarding the overall funding position. This will then allow completion of the 2013-18 Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP).</p>		
<b>8. Right To Buy – policy Update</b>	<p>AA took the group through the Update on Right to Buy Entitlement presentation (Appendix 6). He advised the group that the Scottish Government has announced the end of the Right to Buy Entitlement. This will be introduced in 3 years following the Bill becoming law (approx. July 2017).</p> <p>AA advised that the Council supports this decision and highlighted the</p>		

	various implications of this for Housing Services including the reduction in capital receipts, business plan assumptions and the future housing supply programme.		
<b>10. Next Meeting</b>	Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2013, Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House at 10am.		