



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council Meeting

27 March 2024

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Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee
20 November 2023

At a Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Marie Burns and Anthony Gurney (North Ayrshire Council); Maureen McKay (East Ayrshire Council); and Martin Dowey, William Grant and Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, N. McIlvanney and A. Finlayson (North Ayrshire Council); R. Grieveson, D. McDowall, G. Saunders and P. Davies (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall, L. Reid and S. Yearley (South Ayrshire Council); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise); C. Stewart and H. Clancy (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillors Iain Linton, Douglas Reid (East Ayrshire Council) and William Grant (South Ayrshire Council); C. Hatton and L. Kirk (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, J. McLachlan, E. Mackay and D. Watt (East Ayrshire Council); A. Cox (Ayrshire College) and P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland).

Chair

Councillor Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors

2. Appointment of Chair

The Joint Committee agreed (a) to note the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) as Chair of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) for the period from September 2023 to 31 August 2024; and (b) to ratify the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns as Chair of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board (AEPB) for the period from September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of Special meetings of the Joint Committee held on 7 August 2023 and 18 September 2023 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23

Submitted report by the Chief Auditor (East Ayrshire Council) providing an annual report on internal audit activity in line with obligations laid out in Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance Document.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the difference in terminology, regarding the words used in the Audit report, i.e., 'general risk and control' as compared to 'general risk and compliance'.

The Joint Committee agreed to note (i) the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out at Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) note the work carried out prior to and since inception, including during 2022/23 as laid out at Appendix 2 to the report and (iii) the AGD Annual Internal Audit Opinion of continuing reasonable assurance as laid out in sections 10-11 of the report.

5. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Internal Audit Plan 2023/24

Submitted report by the Chief Auditor (East Ayrshire Council) providing an annual consolidated internal audit plan in line with obligations laid out in Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Governance document.

The Joint Committee agreed to note (i) the current arrangements for Internal Audit as laid out in Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the regulatory responsibility for each Council to approve days spent on AGD work as laid out at paragraph 7 and the subsequent annual consolidated internal audit plan for the AGD as presented at Appendix 2 to the report and (iii) (c) note the previously agreed arrangements to report the outcomes of individual internal audit assignments laid out at section 8 to the report.

6. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) - Programme Update

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) advising of the progress of the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) and the development of its component projects as at 30 October 2023. The Ayrshire Growth Deal Update of Programme and Projects and the Quarterly Communications Report, as at October 2023, were attached at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed (a) that officers be authorised to liaise with both Governments to progress the projects having regard to the updated position in line with the formal change requirements contained within the Deal protocols; and (b) to note (i) the updates provided in the report (as of 30 October 2023), (ii) the progress across the Ayrshire Growth Deal Programme, and (iii) the proposal for realignment of the reporting requirements, principally the undertaking of the Annual Performance Report, Financial Plan, Implementation Plan and Benefit Realisation Plan at the end of March 24, and onwards at the same time every year, all subject to agreement from the Government.

7. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) – Programme Risk Register Update (October 2023)

Submitted report by the Head of Economic Growth (East Ayrshire Council) providing an update on the AGD Programme Risk Register as at the end of October 2023. The updated risk register was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to approve the content of the updated Programme Risk Register dated October 2023, as referred to within the report and set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Schedule of Future Meeting Dates - 2024

The Joint Committee was invited to note that Ordinary Meetings of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) would take place at 2.00 p.m. on:

Monday 19 February 2024
Monday 20 May 2024
Monday 9 September 2024
Monday 25 November 2024

Noted.

9. Exclusion of the Public – Paras 9 & 10

The Joint Committee 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 item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraphs 9 & 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

10. Ayrshire Growth Deal Subsea Cable and Infill projects re-scoping proposal

Submitted report by the Project Lead – Digital, Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) on the above.

The Joint Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations in the report.

The meeting ended at 2.25 p.m.



North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
Minute of Integration Joint Board meeting held on
Thursday 14 December 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
involving participation by remote electronic means and physical attendance
within the Council Chambers, Irvine.

Present (Physical Participation)

Voting Members

Councillor Margaret Johnson, North Ayrshire Council (Chair)
Tom Hopkins, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Professional Advisers

Caroline Cameron, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership
Paul Doak, Head of Service (HSCP Finance and Transformation)/Section 95 Officer
Thelma Bowers, Mental Health Adviser
Darren Fullarton, Associate Nurse Director/Lead Nurse
Scott Hunter, Chief Social Work Officer
Sharon Hackney, Lead Allied Health Professional
Elaine Young, Public Health Representative

Stakeholder Representatives

Louise McDaid, Staff Representative (North Ayrshire Council)/Chair, North Coast
Locality Forum

Present (Remote Participation)

Voting Members

Councillor Timothy Billings, North Ayrshire Council
Marc Mazzucco, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Christie Fisher, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

In Attendance (Physical Participation)

Kerry Logan, Head of Service (Health and Community Care)
Elizabeth Stewart, Head of Service (Children, Families and Criminal Justice)
Joanne Inglis, Senior Manager (Children and Families)
Eleanor Currie, Principal Manager, (Finance)
Karen Andrews, Team Manager (Governance)
Shannon Wilson, Committee Services Officer
Hayley Clancy, Committee Services Officer

Apologies

Councillor Anthea Dickson, North Ayrshire Council
Joyce White, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Vice-Chair)
Pamela Jardine, Carers Representative
Iain Jamieson, Clinical Director
Wendy Van Riet, Director or Psychological Services

drug and alcohol services are in delivering on the Scottish Government's strategies;

- A group of six clients of North Ayrshire's Unpaid Work team received recognition certificates from the Koestler Awards for their original artworks, with one participant also receiving a Highly Commended certificate for this unique wooden birdhouse;
- North Ayrshire Adult Protection, Children Protection and Alcohol and Drug Partnership teams have a new joint Facebook page, to share information on the work being carried out locally to protect people and what to do if someone is at risk from harm;
- Carers Rights Day event held at West Kilbride Village Hall to launch the expanded North Ayrshire Carers Gateway service and was attended by carers, staff of the Carers Gateway and NAHSCP, representatives from Third Sector organisations, North Ayrshire Provost Anthea Dickson and North Ayrshire Carers Champion Councillor Nairn McDonald. The event offered a chance to network, hear more about the service and find out more about additional sources of support locally;
- the innovative new group for North Ayrshire's Recovery Development Workers was established and met for the first time on 8 November;
- the unannounced inspection between 24 October and 3 November 2023 of the North Ayrshire Irvine, Garnock Valley Care at Home and Community Alarm Service, the service received the following grades 4 and 5 rated Good and Very Good; and
- The Care Inspectorate also conducted an unannounced inspection of the Dementia Support Service on 22 November 2023. This was a pilot inspection to test a new way of providing assurance that better performing, lower risk services are continuing to provide good quality care and support. No grades were awarded following this inspection however, inspectors concluded that the previous evaluation of good for the service was maintained.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- the national care service bill proposals and the impact on the scheme of integration review; and
- the establishment of a National Care Service Board and the impact on the IJB.

Noted.

5. 2023 – 2024 Month 7 Financial Performance

Submitted report by Paul Doak, Head of Service (HSCP Finance and Transformation), on the IJB's financial performance as at month 7 (November). Appendix A to the report detailed the Objective Summary as at 31 October 2023, Appendix B provided the financial savings tracker and the budget position was set out at Appendix C.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to: -

- the recent Childrens Services Fostering Campaign on social media;
- financial position by the end of March 2024; and
- the financial position of the Partnership compared to other IJB's.

The Board agreed to (a) note (i) the overall integrated financial performance report for the financial year 2023-24 and the current overall projected yearend overspend of £3.858m, (ii) the progress with delivery of agreed savings and (iii) the remaining

financial risks for 2023-24; and (b) approve the budget reductions set out at section 2.10 of the report.

6. Progress update on Implementation of the National Neurodevelopment Specification, Neurodevelopment Extreme Team and North Ayrshire Implementation Group programme of Reform

Submitted report by Thelma Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health) on the National Neurodevelopment Specification, Neurodevelopment Extreme Team and North Ayrshire Implementation Group programme of Reform.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to a Single Point of Contact for the whole of Ayrshire and the reason this model was not taken forward.

Noted.

7. Whistleblowing Report Quarter 2 July – 30 September 2023

Submitted report by Karen Callaghan, Corporate Governance Co-ordinator, in relation to whistleblowing concerns raised in Quarter 2 (July – 30 September 2023).

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.

Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee
15 January 2024

At a Special Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Councillors Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane and Anthony Gurney (North Ayrshire Council); Douglas Reid and Iain Linton (East Ayrshire Council); and Martin Dowey, William Grant and Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council).

In Attendance

R. McCutcheon, N. McIlvanney, L. Kirk, E. McMullen, L. Neill and J. King (North Ayrshire Council); E. Fraser, R. Grieveson, D. McDowall and G. Saunders (East Ayrshire Council); M. Newall and L. Reid (South Ayrshire Council); J. Martin (Scottish Enterprise); P. Zealey (Skills Development Scotland); C. Stewart and S. Wilson (North Ayrshire Council).

Apologies

Councillor Maureen Mackay (East Ayrshire Council), C. Hatton (North Ayrshire Council) and A. Cox (Ayrshire College).

Chair

Councillor Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors

2. Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Community Wealth Building Change Request

Submitted report by the Executive Director, Place (North Ayrshire Council) on the summary mid-term review of the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Community Wealth Building (CWB) Programme and seeking approval to extend the programme by one year. The AGD CWB Programme Review Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Joint Committee agreed to approve the project change request proposal to extend the programme by one year, noting that the proposal had been supported by the Scottish Government and endorsed by the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board.

3. Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund (ASIF) Governance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive (North Ayrshire Council) seeking approval of the detailed governance arrangements for the Ayrshire Skills and Investment (ASIF) sub-committee of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee (AEJC) including the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders.

The Joint Committee agreed (a) to approve the Terms of Reference for the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund Sub-Committee; (b) to note that the agreed governance arrangements had been implemented, creating the AEJC, Ayrshire Skills and Investment Fund Sub-Committee, with delegated authority to award the fund; (c) to ratify the appointment of Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) as Chair and appoint Councillor Bob Pollock (South Ayrshire Council) as Vice-Chair of the Ayrshire Skills and Investment Fund Sub-Committee (ASIF sub-committee); (d) to note the grant funding approved at the meeting of the ASIF sub-committee in November 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, in accordance with the general delegation granted by the AEJC on 20 June 2022 and ratify the delegation for approval of grant funding awarded; and (e) that an update be provided to the Joint Committee every 6 months on funding awards and achievements.

The meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.

Licensing Committee
7 February 2024

IRVINE, 7 February 2024 - At a Meeting of the Licensing Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Eleanor Collier, Nairn McDonald, John Bell, Cameron Inglis, Jean McClung, Matthew McLean, Donald L. Reid, Ronnie Stalker and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

R. Lynch, Senior Manager (Legal Services), D. Grier, Solicitor (Legal Services), D. Robertson, Enforcement Officer, C. Pollock, Licensing Administration Officer, A. Toal, Administration Assistant (Licensing), S. Dalgoutte, Senior Clerical Assistant (Licensing), and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officer (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Also in Attendance

Sergeant S. Syme and D. Hastings (Police Scotland).

Chair

Councillor Collier in the Chair.

Apologies

Christina Larsen.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 10 January 2024 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Taxi Drivers Dress Code

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on the review of dress code requirements for taxi drivers.

The Committee agreed that (a) Members of the Committee would submit any individual representations to officers on the revised dress code; (b) thereafter, a revised report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration; (c) consultation would then take place with the taxi trade on such; and (d) a further report be brought to a future meeting of the Committee to determine the revised conditions to be adopted.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public, for Agenda Item 3 (Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters) on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in Section 50J of, and Schedule 7A to, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The 'Exempt Information' concerned is information of the type described in one or more of Paragraphs 3, 6, 14 and 15 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act:

3. "Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any service provided by the authority."
6. "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)."
14. "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."
15. "The identity of a Protected Informant" - where "Protected Informant" is defined in Part III as a person who informs the Local Authority about a past, present or future crime, breach of statutory duty, breach of planning control, or nuisance."

5. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing Statutes: Licensing Matters

Submitted report by the Head of Democratic Services on hearings to be determined, under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and other Licensing legislation.

5.1 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/02415 (New): Mark Monaghan

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was not present. A representative from Police Scotland was in attendance.

Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out their representation.

The Committee agreed that it had sufficient information available to allow it to make a decision in respect of this matter.

Decision

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor McDonald, moved that the application be refused on the basis that the Applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold the Licence applied for, in terms of Paragraph 5(3)(a)(ii) of Schedule 1 to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

5.2 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/02437 (New): Shaun Blakely

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was present. A representative from Police Scotland was in attendance.

Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out their representation.

The applicant then addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

The applicant and representative from Police Scotland then withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate. Thereafter the applicant and representative from Police Scotland re-joined the meeting, with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance, to hear the Committee's decision.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to continue consideration of this matter to the March meeting to allow the applicant to submit a character reference, including any appropriate further supporting information, to assist the Committee in making its decision.

5.3 Taxi Licence: TL/459 (New): Kirsten Stahly and Piotr Stachowski

The applicants, having been duly cited to attend, were present.

The applicants then addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

Decision

The Committee agreed that the proposed vehicle should be treated in the circumstances of the case as justifying an exception to Paragraph 12 of the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Car Vehicle Approval Specification under Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Sections 10(2) and 10(5) ("Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles").

In terms of Standing Order 6.8, the Chair agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 10.55 a.m. for a short comfort break, reconvening at 11.05 a.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

5.4 Short Terms Lets:- NA00306N: Mary Cleary; NA00307N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00308N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00309N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00310N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00311N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00312P: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00313P: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00314N: JDC Rentals Ltd.; NA00315P: JDC Rentals Ltd.; and NA00317P: JDC Rentals Ltd.

Mary Cleary, having been duly cited to attend, was not present. However, Mary Cleary's son, Jason Cleary, was in attendance. Mr Cleary was represented at the hearing by Janet Hood, Solicitor, who also represented Mary Cleary and JDC Rentals Ltd. A representative from Police Scotland was in attendance.

A number of preliminary legal matters was dealt with at the outset of the meeting. It was also agreed that the 11 applications for Short Term Lets would be dealt with under one hearing, given the similarities pertaining to each of the applications under consideration.

Police Scotland then addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out their objection.

Ms Hood then addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

The Committee agreed that it had sufficient information available to allow it to make a decision in respect of this matter.

Mr Cleary and his representative and the representative from Police Scotland then withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate. Thereafter, Mr Cleary and his representative and the representative from Police Scotland re-joined the meeting, with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance, to hear the Committee's decision.

Decision

The Committee agreed to grant the applications under The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-Term Lets) Order 2022 No. 32 ("the STL Order") subject to (a) the Mandatory Conditions set out in Schedule 3 to the STL Order; and (b) the additional local condition set out as "The First Exception" in Paragraph 10(b) of the Committee's "Licensing Policy Statement on Short-Term Let Licensing".

6. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 12.00 noon.

Staffing and Recruitment Committee
8 February 2024

IRVINE, 8 February 2024 - At the Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 9.00am

Present

Marie Burns, Shaun Macauley, Tom Marshall, Cameron Inglis, Joe Cullinane, John Bell, A Hill.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT).

Apologies

A Gurney.

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Recruitment Committee held on 7 February 2024 was confirmed and the Minute and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Recruitment: Executive Director (Communities & Housing)

Four candidates were shortlisted for the position of Executive Director (Communities & Housing), however one candidate withdrew. Three candidates were therefore interviewed, and the Committee agreed to appoint David Hammond to the post.

5. Urgent Items

An update was provided by Officers on the recruitment of the Executive Director (Education) post. The Committee agreed to re-advertise the post and to progress the two shortlisted candidates to the next stage of the process.

The Meeting ended at 2.30pm

Staffing and Recruitment Committee
13 February 2024

At the Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 9.00am involving participation by remote means.

Present

Marie Burns, John Bell, Joe Cullinane, Cameron Inglis, Shaun Macaulay and Tom Marshall.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place) and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT).

Apologies

A. Gurney

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Recruitment Committee held on 8 February 2024 was confirmed and the Minute and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Recruitment: Head of Service (Economic Development, Growth & Regeneration) post

The Committee considered applications for position of Head of Service (Economic Development, Growth & Regeneration) and agreed that 4 candidates would progress to the next stage of the recruitment process.

The Meeting ended at 9.15am.

Cabinet
20 February 2024

IRVINE, 20 February 2024 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Margaret Johnson, Christina Larsen and Shaun Macaulay; and for consideration of Education Authority Business Elizabeth Turbet, Andrew Bruce and Jacqui McKenzie.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) (Chief Executive's Service); A. Sutton, Executive Director, R. Leith, Head of Service (Communities), A. McClelland, Head of Service, and F. Hopkins, Senior Manager (Education) (Communities & Education); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Sustainability, Transport and Corporate Property), N. McIlvanney, Interim Head of Service (Growth, Investment & Employability), L. Kirk, Interim Head of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration), E. McMullen, Senior Manager (Economic Policy), M. Paterson, Economic Policy Manager (Community Wealth Building), and C. Fitzsimmons, Senior Manager (Regeneration) (Place); A. Craig, Head of Service, M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Communications) and S. Wilson, Committee Services Officer (Democratic Services).

Also In Attendance

Cameron Inglis, Davina McTiernan and Chloé Robertson.

Apologies

Rev. Mark Goodman.

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 January 2024 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Early Learning and Childcare – Redesign of Service

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) seeking approval for the proposed refresh of North Ayrshire Council’s Early Learning and Childcare provision.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposed redesign of North Ayrshire’s Early Learning and Childcare provision as outlined in the report.

4. Review of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Hourly Rate for Funded Providers

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) seeking approval to increase the sustainable rate of payment to funded providers of early learning and childcare (ELC) in North Ayrshire who are contracted by the Council to deliver funded ELC to eligible 2–5-year-olds.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) increase the current hourly rate paid by the Council to funded providers from 1st of April 2024; and (b) receive a further report in advance of the next annual review of the sustainable rate for funded providers.

5. Naming of the New Primary School at Montgomerie Park, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) to select a name for the new non-denominational primary school at Montgomerie Park, Irvine.

The Cabinet reflected on consultation responses, considered the proposed names and selected “Montgomerie Park Primary School” as the name for the school.

6. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on an application from the Irvine Locality Partnership on the allocation of Community Investment Fund (CIF) funding. The application from the Irvine Locality Partnership, in relation The Micah Project, was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Having reviewed the application in line with the CIF criteria, the Cabinet agreed to approve a £50,000 CIF award to the Irvine Locality Partnership.

With the consent of the Chair and on behalf of the Cabinet, Councillor Macaulay took the opportunity to pay tribute to Audrey Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education) for the work undertaken throughout her time with North Ayrshire Council, highlighting her bright personality and positive outlook, and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

7. Scottish Maritime Museum Trust – Memorandum of Understanding

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust, to develop the Maritime Heritage Hub project at Irvine harbourside as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal funded Great Harbour programme.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the overall implications if the museum was unable to raise the funds needed for the project to progress.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust to facilitate collaboration between parties to develop the Maritime Heritage Hub project as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal funded Great Harbour programme.

8. International Marine Science & Environment (IMSE) Ayrshire Growth Deal Project - Collaboration Agreement

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) outlining progress in developing a business case pathway for Ayrshire Growth Deal investment in IMSE with partners Field Studies Council and University of Stirling.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the risks associated with the project.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the strategic direction for the IMSE project and (ii) the establishment of a Collaboration Agreement between the Council, Field Studies Council and University of Stirling to develop related project activity.

On behalf of the Cabinet, the Chair, took the opportunity to pay tribute to Neale McIlvanney, Interim Head of Service (Growth, Investment & Employability) who was attending his last meeting of the Cabinet prior to leaving North Ayrshire Council in the coming weeks. The Chair expressed her gratitude to Neale for the contributions he made to North Ayrshire Council, particularly with the Ayrshire Growth Deal, and wished him well in his new role and future career.

9. Transport Scotland - Public consultation for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS3) Contract

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval for the proposed North Ayrshire Council submission to Transport Scotland's public consultation for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS3) contract. The proposed response to the consultation was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the submission of the proposed response to the consultation attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The following item was subject to the call-in procedure per the Council's Scheme of Administration. The call-in was subsequently withdrawn and the decision implemented.

10. Community Wealth Building Refresh Strategy

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing an update on progress of the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy 2020-2025 and seeking approval of the refreshed Community Wealth Building Strategy 2024-2027, which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:

- how Community Wealth Building was delivered at a locality level; and
- the Scottish Government consultation on Building Community Wealth and the timeline for this new legislation being implemented.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress against actions of the Community Wealth Building Strategy 2020-2025; and (b) approve the refreshed Community Wealth Building Strategy 2024-2027 attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS) Consultation

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing details of the proposed new Social Housing Net Zero Standard (SHNZS) and seeking approval of the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation, which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

A Member asked a question and was provided with further information in relation to the pathfinder project.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the potential implications arising from the introduction of the Social Housing Net Zero Standard; and (b) approve the proposed response attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

12. Scottish Government Consultation on the Proposed Heat in Buildings Bill

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing Cabinet with details of the proposed Heat in Buildings Bill and seeking approval of the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the potential implications arising from the proposed Heat in Buildings Bill; and (b) approve the proposed response attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Burns, Chair, intimated that there had been a change to the Cabinet structure, confirming that Councillor Hill's portfolio included Communities, Housing and Protective Services.

13. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 3:35 p.m.

Staffing and Recruitment Committee

22 February 2024

At the Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 11.30am involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Marie Burns, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Cameron Inglis, Joe Cullinane, John Bell.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT).

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meetings of the Staffing and Recruitment Committee held on (a) 8 February 2024 and (b) 13 February 2024 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Recruitment: Executive Director (Education) post

The Committee considered applications for the position of Executive Director (Education) and agreed that 3 candidates would progress to the next stage of the recruitment process.

The Meeting ended at 11.45am.

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
26 February 2024

At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving a combination of participation by remote electronic means and physical attendance within the Council Chambers, Irvine.

Present (Physical Participation)

Donald Reid, Jean McClung, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid and John Sweeney.

Present (Remote Attendance)

Scott Davidson.

In Attendance

Wallace Turpie, Senior Manager (Waste Resources – Operations) (Place); R. Lynch, Senior Manager Legal Services, C. Cochrane, Solicitor (Legal Services) and C. Stewart and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent R. Higgins and Chief Inspector F. Normansell (Police Scotland); and Area Commander I. McMeekin (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Donald Reid in the Chair.

Apologies

Stewart Ferguson and Angela Stephen.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee held on 13 November 2023 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance and Service Update

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided statistical information on progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 December 2023. The report provided an analysis of the performance across six indicators, using the rolling three-year average as a basis of measuring performance, together with a summary of priorities and current activity. Additional contextual information was provided by Area Commander McMeekin to the meeting.

An update was provided in relation to the decision to pause the Local Fire and Rescue Plan review until budget implications were fully known, with the 6 current local priorities continuing to be a focus to meet the needs of the North Ayrshire area. Consultation on the future priorities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would commence at the end of March 2024 through engagement with Elected Members and Council officials.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- the role of home safety fire visits to highlight areas of concern through appropriate referral pathways;
- the risks and impact of deliberate fire setting in the Irvine West and Saltcoats and Stevenston areas;
- future joint action plans to tackle deliberate fire setting, including the ongoing work of the Council's Environmental Enforcement Team;
- the criteria regarding fire appliance attendance at road traffic incidents;
- risk management in connection with electric vehicle fires;
- retained duty system contracts and statistics; and
- unintentional injury or harm figures.

The Chair advised that the Committee would be happy to consult with the Area Commander on the future priorities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and, if time allowed, that the consultation could be extended to all Members of the Council.

Noted.

4. Police Scotland Performance Update

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Policing Plan for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 December 2023. A summary of current local policing plan priorities was also detailed.

The report provided information on North Ayrshire's performance, including a 6.2% increase in the total number of crimes. The report further outlined progress in the areas of serious crime, violence against women and girls, safer communities, community wellbeing, road safety and public confidence. Additional contextual information was provided by Chief Superintendent Higgins to the meeting.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- laws affecting owners to ensure their dogs were kept under control when not on a lead;
- measures to tackle the significant increase in detection and reporting rates for shoplifting in supermarkets in the North Ayrshire area;
- related links between shoplifting and youth disorder;
- the increase in violent crime primarily due to the number of minor assaults both on emergency workers and the public;

- whether any incidents were attributable to changes in street lighting on roads and footpath areas;
- the potential for Police quad bikes to be deployed to the Lochshore area of Kilbirnie during the forthcoming summer months;
- the routine carrying of tasers by trained Police Scotland officers;
- the Challenge 25 policy utilised by licence-holders;
- the use of future test purchasing initiatives as an additional tool to prevent illegal underage alcohol sales being reported by Police Scotland in future Committee reports;
- clarification on road traffic offences dealt with by Police Scotland and DPE provisions enabling NAC enforcement officers to administer parking penalties; and
- whether details of on duty officer totals could be quantified within future information provided to Committee.

The Chair advised that the Committee would be happy to consult with the Chief Superintendent on the future priorities for the next Policing Plan and also in connection with any requirement to amend timing of reports to Committee in line with Police Scotland reporting timelines.

Noted.

5. Update Reports: Operation Moonbeam

Submitted reports in relation to the North Ayrshire approach to Operation Moonbeam during October and November 2023 and on partnership work undertaken to identify problematic areas and tackle illegal bonfire locations in relation to reducing risks to communities.

Information was also provided in relation to offences against emergency services personnel responding to incidents and the main hotspot areas which were challenging in terms of the level of crime and incidents.

The Committee was also advised of work undertaken with Trading Standards to ensure retailers were aware of the new legislation in terms of the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022 where Local Authorities had the ability to designate particular areas as a Firework Control Zone. Ongoing work was taking place to determine whether to designate any areas as Firework Control Zones in terms of this new legislation.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- individual and organised displays where public entertainment licences were not obtained;
- the number of locations where materials were unable to be removed due to the timing of intimation and availability of resources;
- weekend collection of combustible materials with the potential to cause storage and disposal issues and risks of fires at depots;
- finance costs for removal of materials; and

- the knock-on effect on customer service requests as a result of the clear-up exercise following bonfire night.

The Chair intimated thanks to all services for the partnership working approach taken in connection with Operation Moonbeam.

The Committee agreed (a) that a standing item be added to future Agendas in connection with preparation and follow up in relation to Operation Moonbeam; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

6. Valedictory

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, took the opportunity to thank Diane McCaw, Committee Services Officer, for the work undertaken by her with North Ayrshire Council and its predecessor, Cunninghame District Council, and wished her a long and happy retirement.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

Staffing and Recruitment Committee
29 February 2024

IRVINE, 29 February 2024 - At the Meeting of Staffing and Recruitment of North Ayrshire Council at 9.00am.

Present

Marie Burns, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Cameron Inglis, Joe Cullinane, and John Bell.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT).

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. Recruitment: Executive Director (Education)

Three candidates were shortlisted for the position of Executive Director (Education) however one candidate withdrew. Two candidates were therefore interviewed, and the Committee agreed to appoint Sam Anson to the post.

The Meeting ended at 12.45pm