

Cabinet
16 February 2016

IRVINE, 16 February 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney, Ruth Maguire, Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus, Elizabeth Highton, Mark Fraser (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7); and Gordon Smith (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) and Erin McAuley and David Dunlop (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Items 3 and 4).

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); J. Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools), A. McClelland and P. Gosnay, Senior Managers, L. Cook, Education Development Co-ordinator (Youth Employment and Enterprise); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Laurenson, Team Manager Regeneration (Economy and Communities); C. Hatton, Executive Director and L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

C. Nimmo, N. Ronald, L. McDowall and C. Ferguson (Garnock Academy).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bruce.

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 held on 2 February 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Naming of the New School Campus and Leisure Development in the Garnock Valley

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the naming of the new educational and leisure campus in the Garnock Valley. The Cabinet also received a presentation from 4 pupils from Garnock Academy.

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

- support for the Lochshore option; and
- the importance of the school community being able to have their say.

The Cabinet took a short adjournment at 2.45 p.m. and reconvened at 2.50 p.m.

The Cabinet agreed to name the new educational and leisure campus in the Garnock Valley "Garnock Community Campus".

4. Curriculum for Excellence – Senior Phase

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the plans to refine and enhance the Senior Phase in secondary schools in North Ayrshire.

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

- working with other partners including colleges, Skills Development Scotland, John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award and the SQA;
- the need to raise public awareness of the model of attainment;
- how to involve parents;
- unintended consequences such as narrowing of the curriculum;
- how to ensure vocational qualifications are given due weight compared to academic awards; and
- preparing pupils for the different type of learning environment in colleges compared to schools.

The Cabinet agreed to support the continued development and implementation of the Senior Phase in North Ayrshire schools in order to maximise positive outcomes for all learners.

5. Developing Nurture in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the progress of the Nurture Strategy within North Ayrshire Schools.

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

- the recruitment process to appoint our best probationers and supply teachers to permanent contracts;
- the training provided to staff engaged in nurture training; and
- how attainment challenge funding will be provided in the long term.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress; (b) endorse the continuation of the implementation of the Nurture Strategy; and (c) receive a further progress report in June 2016.

6. Education and Youth Employment Physical Intervention Policy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the development of Education and Youth Employment's Physical Intervention Policy, which is required to ensure the Council continues to receive accreditation with Crisis and Aggression Limitation Management (CALM).

Members asked a question, and were provided with further information in relation to, the extent to which these procedures were used and the importance of de-escalation training.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the content of the draft Physical Intervention Policy.

7. School Leaver Destinations 2014/2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the latest statistical information about North Ayrshire school leavers from the School Leaver Destination Return and the ongoing monitoring and tracking of the destinations and participation of young people after leaving school.

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

- the work with partners, particularly colleges; and
- the fact that we had received such excellent results in spite of high levels of deprivation; and
- destinations once pupils leave colleges.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information set out in the School Leaver Destination Report and the continued improvement in the post-school outcomes for young people; and (ii) the development of the data hub and its related statistical information; and (b) approve the ongoing development work to enhance outcomes for young people that will result in initial positive destinations being sustained.

8. Irvine Enterprise Area - Site Purchase and Investment Proposals

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the purchase of land and for subsequent investment within the Irvine Enterprise Area.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the purchase of 3 areas of land within the Irvine Enterprise Area at Annickbank, Riverside Way and Greenwood from the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; and (b) the investment of capital funds in the subsequent development of commercial space with the aim of creating employment.

9. Exclusion of the 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 indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

9.1 Surplus Property, 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the disposal of the Council's heritable interest in the former Registration Office at 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.