



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 4 November – 8
December 2019

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.

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COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Over the past couple of months, I have been asked to speak at various Conferences about Community Wealth Building. For some time now North Ayrshire Council has been leading change on the local economy front, and now we are embarking on a key strategic and transformative piece of work which has the potential to reconnect the local economy with economic and social justice, putting fair work at the heart of the local economy and supporting alternative, more inclusive forms of business ownership.

The starting point for us with Community Wealth Building is recognising that for decades our approach to economic development hasn't worked for North Ayrshire. Ayrshire as a region hasn't fulfilled its economic potential and as a result local people haven't been able to achieve theirs.

However, for us to make a real change and difference, we need to work together. We need local businesses, employers and social enterprises to do the same, to think about what they can do to make a difference and contribute.

We need a Pan Ayrshire CWB regional approach where we:

- Pay the Living Wage
- Promote Fair Work Practices and position Ayrshire as a Fair Work region
- Support and fund social enterprises, employee ownership and procurement collaboration activities
- Encourage and support anchors, and wider Ayrshire Growth Deal project leads, to ensure their procurement practices and community benefits approach align to wider Ayrshire inclusive growth, Community Wealth Building and locality priorities.

At the beginning of the year we finally signed the heads of terms for our Ayrshire Growth Deal. £3million money has been set aside by the Scottish Government for a Community Wealth Building Fund. But it's not just the £3million fund, it's about the other £250m in the pot, and what we do with it.

It is important that we spread and deliver the message about Community Wealth Building and get others on board to understand how this has the potential to work for us all. I was therefore delighted to speak at the following three conferences on the subject:

PAN AYRSHIRE THIRD SECTOR CONFERENCE, 6 November

This was held at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock on 6 November and organised by partners who have a responsibility to deliver the remit of the Third Sector Interface across Ayrshire, known as “Ready4Ayrshire”.

Ready4Ayrshire will identify areas of work where it makes sense to adopt a pan-Ayrshire approach going forward, hopefully including Community Wealth Building and the Conference was the first step in working more collaboratively for the sector with the added value of sharing best practice, skills and expertise.

SCOTLAND'S TOWNS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 20 November

Scotland's Towns Conference held at the Music Hall in Aberdeen and hosted by Aberdeen City Council was attended by over 150 senior level stakeholders who work to support our towns and city districts from across sectors. The Conference provided the opportunity for attendees and stakeholders to share challenges and opportunities; and to feel inspired and re-energised by the latest thinking, pilots and supports, funding and resources.

SENSCOT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONFERENCE, 25 November

This was held at the Westerwood Hotel in Glasgow and the focus was building Community Wealth and Wellbeing and the role for social and Community Enterprises. Other speakers included Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Communities, Neil McInroy, CEO of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

LIVING WAGE BUSINESS BREAKFAST, 14 November

On 14 November, North Ayrshire hosted a Living Wage Business Breakfast Event at the Riverside Lodge hotel. The event was organized by the Poverty Alliance and was one of a series of events held that week to celebrate Living Wage Week.

I was delighted to be asked to say a few words at this event as it's a subject I feel very strongly and passionate about. North Ayrshire Council has been an accredited Living Wage Employer since 2015 and I am pleased to say that this is the fourth consecutive year in which North Ayrshire Council has committed to pay our staff the new Living Wage of £9.30; six months earlier than many other Living Wage Employers are. That makes a huge difference to the lives of many people working and living in North Ayrshire.

NORTH AYRSHIRE ACHIEVES, 21 November

It was another great night on 21 November at the Saltcoats Hall, when I attended North Ayrshire Achieves. The night enables us to acknowledge some of the great work our staff do in their day to day jobs, with some going over and beyond. I had the honour of presenting the exceptional employee of the year award, to Jim McHarg, who has contributed so much to the work of our local communities. It was an award well deserved.

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners in all the categories and of course, thank you to our Human Resources team for putting on such a great evening for all to enjoy.

FAIR SAY STAFF ENGAGEMENT, 4 December

On 4 December, together with North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I took part in the staff engagement FAIR SAY event held in Kilwinning. This engagement event provides North Ayrshire Council employees the opportunity to put any questions to myself or our Chief Executive, on Council-related matters, specifically in relation to our new Council Plan. There will be another FAIR SAY event in January.

FINAL COMMENTS

Finally, as we approach Christmas and the end of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in NAC who work so tirelessly throughout the year to provide high quality public services to the people of North Ayrshire. I look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

LEADER'S REPORT



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council