



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

## North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Wednesday, 13 September 2023** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

### **Meeting Arrangements - Hybrid Meetings**

This meeting will be held on a predominantly physical basis but with provision, by prior notification, for remote attendance by Elected Members in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

#### **1 Apologies**

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

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

#### **3 Previous Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21 June 2023 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

#### **4 Provost's Report**

Submit report by the Provost for the period covering 12 June - 3 September 2023 (copy enclosed).

#### **5 Leader's Report**

Submit report by the Leader of the Council for the period covering 12 June - 3 September 2023 (copy enclosed).

**6 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**

Submit, for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of Meeting of committees of the Council held in the period 9 June - 29 August 2023.

**7 Community Planning Partnership(CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 22 June 2023**

Submit report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 22 June 2023 (copy enclosed).

**8 Congratulatory Motions**

In terms of Standing Order 15.3, submit the undernoted motions, duly proposed and seconded, which seek to congratulate, commend or recognise an individual or group in relation to their achievement or activities within North Ayrshire:-

**(1) a congratulatory motion, duly proposed and seconded, in the following terms:**

“Council congratulates the Irvine Tennis Community on the forthcoming opening of their Tennis Courts on Thornhouse Avenue on Monday 11th September by Judy Murray OBE.

Council notes its thanks and appreciation to Chris McKenna and his committee at Irvine Tennis Community for their work.

Council further notes that the Late Provost Ian Clarkson was instrumental in the campaign to restore the courts and that this is a fitting legacy for a long-standing and deeply admired community leader.”

**(2) a congratulatory motion, duly proposed and seconded, in the following terms:**

"North Ayrshire Council wishes to congratulate former Ardrossan Academicals RFC player, Ian Murchie who, after 54 years, has received his Scotland cap from the Scottish Rugby Union; recognises that many people encouraged the SRU to change its ruling that not all matches played for their country merited a cap; remembers that his long time Ardrossan Accies friend, Bill Nolan, was one such persistent voice in the SRU; recognises that this is also a great moment of pride for everyone in Ardrossan Academicals RFC; and is delighted to know that he has finally been given the recognition he deserves."

**9 Presentation**

A letter from the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Australia, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, will be presented to the Council by Councillor Ian Murdoch.

**10 Outside Body Appointments**

The Council is invited to consider nominations, proposed by Councillor Burns and seconded by Councillor Macaulay, for Councillor Hill to serve on (i) the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum, (ii) the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board and (iii) the West of Scotland Archaeology Joint Committee (the latter as a named substitute).

**11 Committee Timetable 2024**

Submit report by the Chief Executive on a proposed timetable of meetings of the Council and its committees for the period from January - December 2024 (copy enclosed).

**12 Revenue Estimates 2023/24 – Irvine Common Good Fund**

Submit report by the Head of Finance on the level of grant applications received by Irvine Common Good Fund and seeking approval to increase the level of funding made available for disbursement as grants during 2023/24 (copy enclosed).

**13 Ardrossan Harbour Update**

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on an update on the Ardrossan Harbour development following Transport Scotland's decision to pause procurement activity for the project (copy enclosed).

**14 Irvine Town Centre Working Group Update**

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on the progress made by the working group to evaluate options to bring the former Forum building, former Ruby Tuesdays building and surrounding buildings that have fallen into disrepair back into a usable state ( copy enclosed).

**15 Questions**

In terms of Standing Order 14, submit:-

**(1) a question by Councillor T. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Communities in the following terms:**

“To ask the Cabinet Member how much Scottish Government funding was provided for the Summer Holiday Food Programme and the Activities and Childcare Programme budgets for summer 2023 (financial year 2023 -24)?”

**(2) a question by Councillor Foster to the Provost in the following terms:**

“I have previously raised concerns about information shared by you through your social media account @Anthea\_Dickson which clearly states you are a North Ayrshire Councillor and Provost of North Ayrshire Council. Since I last raised a question regarding you sharing misinformation and offensive comments from this account, you have shared the following:

- Nicola Sturgeon is facing a trial by 'media s\*\*\*'.
- The BBC is full blown pro union.
- Scotland produces 300% more renewable energy than our current needs.
- The Scottish Covid enquiry will be politicised.
- BBC Scotland used Covid deaths in care homes to attack the SNP.
- 92% of Scotland's oil and gas revenues goes to Westminster.
- Scotland should be left to the Scots.
- Nicola Sturgeon's life will end up in tatters due to 'a\*\*\*\*\*' journalists.
- Scotland has more tidal capacity than the rest of the world combined.
- Humza Yousaf will get arrested and released without charge.
- Scotland sends water to London without compensation.
- Nicola Sturgeon was only arrested due to signing audited accounts.

Standards in public life are important. The Council run account @NAC\_Provost links to the account @Anthea\_Dickson in its bio so that residents who visit that council run page are being directed to your own account that is spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories, including conspiracy theories relating to a live police investigation. Given your civic responsibilities to represent North Ayrshire, your social media is causing our area embarrassment and bringing the Council into disrepute. Will you consider your position and resign as Provost to save North Ayrshire Council any further embarrassment?"

**(3) a question by Councillor T. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:**

"To ask the Cabinet Member for Education how many primary and secondary school children have received a free laptop or tablet as per the SNP election promises made in May 2021?"

**(4) a question by Councillor Kerr to the Cabinet Member for the Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:**

Does the Cabinet Member regret imposing the largest rent increase for over a decade on Council tenants, only for the HRA to report a £6 million + underspend due to his inability to get capital projects off the ground?"

**(5) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:**

"It is reported that the national gap in attainment of A to C grades between the most deprived fifth of Higher pupils and their least deprived peers has risen to 16% this year up from 14.9% in 2022 but below the last pre pandemic year of 2019 when the gap stood at 16.9%. What are the equivalent figures for North Ayrshire Council?"

**(6) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Chair of the Licensing Committee in the following terms:**

“It is reported by the Scottish Bed and Breakfast Association that 2/3 of B&Bs are at risk of closure due to all the new licensing rules which come into effect on 1st October. It means that anyone providing even a single room in their home for rent must apply for a short-term licence (STL) showing evidence of the buildings and public liability insurance as well as up-to-date energy performance fire safety, gas and electricity compliance reports.

How many businesses in total North Ayrshire must apply for an STL and of that number how many have been granted a licence and how many applications are pending determination?”

**(7) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

“To ask the Leader does she agree that the Administration should be open and transparent so that Elected Members’ Questions at full Council are answered in full thus avoiding the necessity of Members resorting to Freedom of Information requests?”

**(8) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and the Economy in the following terms:**

“As part of the budget in March, the Administration announced the pilot of a community transport scheme. Can the Cabinet Member update the Council on the scheme and how successful it has been?”

**(9) a question by Councillor S. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for the Green Environment and the Economy in the following terms:**

“On the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 NAC announced that Sanctus LTD had been awarded the £3 million contract to carry out remediation works on the derelict former oil refinery site in Ardrossan, the location for the new community campus.

Regarding the site of the former oil and bitumen refinery in Ardrossan, on which this Council plans to build two schools and a leisure centre, will the Cabinet Member accept that anything less than a guarantee that the site has been 100% cleared of the toxic contaminants we know are in the soil before embarking on building schools and leisure facility?”

**(10) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for the Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:**

“Does the Cabinet Member think North Ayrshire is looking good and well maintained?”

**(11) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:**

“Is it the opinion of the Cabinet Member that someone who has paid for private healthcare and received a diagnosis should be denied care services from HSCP on the basis of private healthcare diagnosis not factoring in to the normal HSCP clinical pathway or other processes?”

**16 Motions**

In terms of Standing Order 15, submit:-

**(1) a motion by Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor Collier, in the following terms:**

“Council notes with disappointment the decision of the board of Transport Scotland to revisit the business case for the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour.

Council also notes:

- that Ardrossan provides the shortest, most economical, and greenest ferry route for Arran residents
- that Ardrossan is the only port with adequate public transport links to service the ferry
- that any change to the route would result in longer crossing times, the concomitant reduction in the number of services and the subsequent reduction in the Arran service
- the multi-million pound investment already committed by North Ayrshire Council to the project and more widely in Ardrossan
- that these, and other factors, have already been accepted by all parties as the core framework for continuing the Ardrossan to Arran ferry service
- that Ardrossan Harbour is a key component of Peel Ports’ infrastructure

Council acknowledges the increase in building costs associated with this and other projects but does not accept that this constitutes grounds for changing the core decision.

Taking into account this context the Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to:

- the Transport Minister to ask her to publicly re-affirm the choice of the Ardrossan to Arran route and to urge her to proceed with the project as quickly as possible
- the board of Transport Scotland in the same terms
- the Chief Executive of Peel Ports to ask the organisation to invest in the project to a level commensurate with its importance
- the First Minister to remind him of his previous commitment to the project and to ask him to consider reversing the privatisation of Peel

Ports' Scottish assets.”

**(2) a motion by Councillor Sweeney, seconded by Councillor McPhater, in the following terms:**

“Council instructs Officers to review the Policy and Management of Temporary Furnished Accommodation and asks that a report is presented to the council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The report should outline how the policy operates, include consideration of any possible adaptations or improvements which could be made to it to alleviate hardship and should also include detail on any financial implications arising from any proposed changes to the policy.”

**(3) a motion by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Foster, in the following terms:**

“Council acknowledges that in food inflation is currently sitting at 11.8% as of August 2023 and has seen the highest annual food inflation rate for over 45 years.

Council notes that for some school aged young people, the meal they receive at school may be the only substantial meal they receive that day.

Council therefore agrees to the following with costs covered from the “Service Concessions.”

1. A scheme to cover any additional P6/7 pupils not covered by Free School Meals in all Primary Schools at a cost of £100,000
2. A Pilot scheme in Kilwinning Academy and Irvine Royal Academy to test the appetite for Universal Free School Meals and measure the impact of it including any increase in uptake at a cost of £370,000

Council instructs officers to begin planning and for the implementation to take place following the October holidays and last until the end of the academic year.”

**(4) a motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor S. Ferguson, in the following terms:**

"It has been announced by the Scottish Minister for Transport that the planned procurement process for the Ardrossan Harbour redevelopment work is being delayed to review the business plan. This will result in further delaying the completion of the vital redevelopment work required on the harbour to 2027 or 2028. The Ardrossan Task Force was set up by the Scottish Government in 2017 to enable decision-making and scrutiny to be overseen by the Scottish Government. It is, therefore, impossible to understand what a further delay to the project will achieve.

North Ayrshire Council is disappointed and frustrated by this decision that will further exacerbate the uncertainty surrounding the Arran ferry route. Arran is already experiencing social and economic challenges due to the delays and uncertainty surrounding the Arran ferry route. Delaying the completion of this project will cause additional harm to Arran's already fragile communities.

North Ayrshire Council directs the Chief Executive to write to Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Minister for Transport, to express the Council's extreme disappointment and frustration caused by her decision, to highlight the social and economic difficulties that the continued uncertainty with the Arran ferry is causing, and to urge her to restart the Ardrossan Harbour redevelopment project without delay."

**(5) a motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Marshall, in the following terms:**

"The deadline for existing short-term let operators to submit their applications for a Short Term Let Licence is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There is evidence from across Scotland and North Ayrshire that significant numbers of existing operators have not submitted their applications, and that large numbers of providers will stop trading.

Whilst the picture in North Ayrshire is better than in some other areas, the numbers of providers who have still to submit application is still significant. This legislation is causing harm to our economy and will push up the cost of visitor accommodation in Scotland making it uneconomic to visit and do business in Scotland.

A fall of even 10% in short-term let accommodation will impact both accommodation providers but also other business that rely on visitors, such as restaurants, taxis, retail outlets, pubs. Therefore, North Ayrshire Council must add its weight to the campaign to further delay the implementation of this legislation and for the legislation to be reviewed in light of the significant issues currently being experienced.

To this end, North Ayrshire Council directs its Chief Executive to write to Paul McLennan, Scottish Housing Minister, to express the Council's concerns about the low numbers of existing short-term let providers applying for licenses and the harm that will be caused to North Ayrshire's tourism industry if existing accommodation providers stop trading. In addition, North Ayrshire Council urges the Minister to listen to the concerns being raised across Scotland and pause the implementation of the Short Term Let Licence legislation. North Ayrshire Council also asks the Minister to review the legislation in light of current issues and put forward a regulatory system that is fair and balanced which supports Scotland's tourism businesses."



**(6) a motion by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Inglis, in the following terms:**

“New Scots integration

Council reaffirms the implementation of the New Scots Integration Strategy principles within North Ayrshire and seeks to move this into its next phase: taking the innovative approach to inclusivity, on the individual level, in order to create harmonious communities and support individuals in their integration into the wider community and to achieve their full potential.

The Scottish Government’s New Scots Integration Strategy (2018-2022) was based on principles like access to services, freedom from persecution, building strong relationships and connections and inclusive communities. The next Scottish Government policy paper on Integration is yet to be released but discussions within COSLA have highlighted what has been described as ‘insular’ approaches within some schemes and a need to learn and move towards long-term integration approaches.

The purpose of this motion is to plan for the future, to seek greater integration, understanding and community building.

I, therefore, move that Council establishes a Member-Officer working group to review the previous and current integration strategy, its successes, challenges, areas for improvement, incorporating learning from other organisations, to create a real, tangible vision for what we would wish to see in the future, with a report being brought to a future meeting of the Council for consideration. The report should include consideration of options to move towards creating an inclusive, 'individual-integration' approach, rather than a 'community-integration' approach; seeking out ways for individuals to integrate into already existing society/communities/groups without necessarily seeking to create new groups or associations."

**17 Urgent Items**

Any other items which the Provost considers to be urgent.

**Webcasting**

Please note: this meeting may be filmed/recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting, the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed/recorded/live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council’s published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council’s internet site.

Generally, the press and public seating areas will not be filmed. However, by entering the Council Chambers, using the press or public seating area or (by invitation) participating remotely in this meeting, you are consenting to being filmed and consenting to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in them for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. If you do not wish to participate in a recording, you should leave the meeting. This will constitute your revocation of consent.

If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact [dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk).

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## North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

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John Bell  
Timothy Billings  
Marie Burns  
Eleanor Collier  
Joe Cullinane  
Scott Davidson  
Anthea Dickson  
Stewart Ferguson  
Todd Ferguson  
Robert Foster  
Scott Gallacher  
John Glover  
Tony Gurney  
Alan Hill  
Cameron Inglis  
Margaret Johnson  
Amanda Kerr  
Christina Larsen  
Shaun Macaulay  
Jean McClung  
Nairn McDonald  
Matthew McLean  
Louise McPhater  
Davina McTiernan  
Tom Marshall  
Jim Montgomerie  
Ian Murdoch  
Donald Reid  
Donald L Reid  
Chloe Robertson  
Ronnie Stalker  
Angela Stephen  
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:



North Ayrshire Council  
21 June 2023

At a Meeting 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)**

John Bell, Timothy Billings, Marie Burns, Eleanor Collier, Joe Cullinane, Anthea Dickson, Stewart Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Tony Gurney, Cameron Inglis, Margaret Johnson, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, Matthew McLean, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Chloé Robertson and John Sweeney.

**Present (Remote Electronic Participation)**

Scott Davidson, Todd Ferguson, Alan Hill, Amanda Kerr, Tom Marshall and Angela Stephen.

**In Attendance**

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education); M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance); F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT); and A. Craig, Head of Service, R. Lynch, Senior Manager (Legal Services); J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) and D. McCaw and S. Wilson, Committee Services Officer (Democratic Services).

**Chair**

Provost Dickson in the Chair.

**Apologies**

John Glover, Nairn McDonald, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch and Ronnie Stalker.

**1. Provost's Remarks**

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, including intimation that the meeting, which was taking place on a hybrid basis, would be live streamed to the internet.

**2. Apologies**

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

### **4. Previous Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2023 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Referring to a point of order which had been taken at the last meeting immediately after the short comfort break which followed consideration of Item 11 (Questions), the Provost intimated that it would be her intention, in any future such circumstances, to ask for the sederunt to be taken prior to considering any points of order.

Noted.

### **5. Provost's Report**

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 8 May – 11 June 2023.

The Provost highlighted the wide variety of community work which she had had the opportunity to see in recent weeks and, in particular, expressed her delight at the great opportunities there were for young people within the community.

Noted.

### **6. Leader's Report**

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period for 8 May – 11 June 2023.

Noted.

### **7. Council Minute Volume**

Submitted for noting the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 2 December 2022 – 7 June 2023.

The Provost allowed a question of clarification from Councillor Donald Reid on a recent Special Meeting of the Cabinet and the mechanism for dealing with a call-in from this meeting given the summer recess period.

The Chief Executive confirmed, in terms of Standing Orders, that the call-in would be considered at a Special Meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and, on behalf of officers, apologised if the Member had been erroneously advised otherwise.

Noted.

## **9. Appointment to Outside Body**

The Council was invited to note the resignation of Councillor Davidson from the COSLA Environment and Economy Board and consider a nomination to fill the vacancy.

Councillor Gurney, having been duly proposed and seconded, was nominated to fill this vacancy. There being no other nominations, Councillor Gurney was duly appointed.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to note the resignation of Councillor Davidson from the COSLA Environment and Economy Board, effective from 13 June 2023; and
- (b) to approve the appointment of Councillor Gurney to fill this vacancy with immediate effect.

## **10. North Ayrshire Council Plan 2023-28**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council Plan 2023-28. The draft Council Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Details of the engagement/consultation approach and responses were set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

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

- the anticipated cost of achieving the Council's net zero ambition by 2030 and the mechanisms for apprising Elected Members of the cost; and
- whether the Council Plan would require to be amended in the event of Integration Joint Boards being taken outwith the locus of Councils.

Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Macaulay, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the Council Plan 2023-28 attached at Appendix 1 to the report; and

- (b) to note that (i) the Performance Management frameworks, including delivery plans, would be approved by Cabinet and thereafter considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and (ii) progress reports on the delivery of the Council Plan would be submitted twice per year to Cabinet and thereafter considered by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Davidson joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

## **10. Boundaries Scotland: 2023 Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries**

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Democratic) on Boundaries Scotland's 2023 Review of Scottish Parliament Constituency Boundaries. The draft consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The proposed and existing boundaries of Cunninghame South were illustrated at Appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Macaulay, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to note (i) the Boundaries Scotland's 2023 Review of Scottish Parliament Constituencies and (ii) the proposals for the alteration of the constituency boundary for Cunninghame South, as outlined in the report and illustrated at Appendix 2 to the report;
- (b) to approve the proposed consultation response set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (c) to receive further progress updates on the Review.

## **11. Review of North Ayrshire IJB Scheme of Integration**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the requirement to review the Scheme of Integration between North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

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

- the current Risk Register assessment of the likelihood of Integration Joint Boards being taken out of the scope of local Councils; and
- whether, given the current uncertainty around the proposals for a National Care Service, the requirement to conduct the review might be relaxed by the Scottish Government or else challenged legally by the Council.



Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Larsen moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to note the requirement to review the Scheme of Integration between North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and
- (b) to receive further updates on the progress of the review.

## **12. North Ayrshire Council Unaudited Annual Accounts 2022/23**

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March 2023. A link to the full set of accounts was provided within the report.

Councillor Larsen, seconded by Councillor McTiernan, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to approve the Annual Accounts for 2022/23, subject to audit;
- (b) to note that Audit Scotland planned to complete its audit of the Accounts by mid-September 2023, and would present its annual audit report to the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2023; and
- (c) to authorise the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to consider, and approve for signature, the audited annual accounts within the required timeframe.

## **13. North Ayrshire Council Charitable Trusts: Unaudited Trustees' Annual Report 2022/23**

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the unaudited Trustees' Annual Report for the year to March 2023, for approval by the Council as trustees. The Annual Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the work being done to promote applications to the Charitable Trusts, in particular the Kilwinning Town Trust;
- the level of detail provided within the report and whether further information could be included in future reporting on the activities which had been undertaken by local groups using funding from the Trusts; and

- whether future reporting could include information on plans to promote the Trusts.

The Head of Finance undertook to (i) liaise with the Locality Partnership team on the provision of information to Elected Members on the work being done to promote applications to the Charitable Trusts; (ii) provide Elected Members with further detail on the financial activity which sat behind the summary tables set out in the appendix to the report; and (iii) seek to include information in future reports on the work being done by the Locality Partnership team to promote applications to the Trusts.

Councillor Larsen, seconded by Councillor McTiernan, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed, as Trustees of the North Ayrshire Council Charitable Trusts, to approve the Annual Report for 2022/23, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to audit.

#### **14. Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report 2022/23**

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the Management and Investment Annual Report and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23. The Annual Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor Larsen, seconded by Councillor McTiernan, moved approval of the recommendations set out in the officer's report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to note (i) the Treasury Management and Investment Annual Report for 2022/23 set out at Appendix 1 to the report and (ii) the Prudential and Treasurer Indicators contained therein.

#### **15. School Meal Debt**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on options in response to the Council motion of 17 May 2023 to "scrap all school meal debt by the start of the 2023/24 school year".

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

- the accuracy of anecdotal evidence that young people had been declined lunch because there they had no credit of their school meal card, which was at odds with the Council's commitment that no child should be left hungry; and
- the extent to which the scrapping of school meal debt would put pressure on other school funding and projects, such as the resurfacing of sports pitches.

The Executive Director (Communities and Education) undertook to meet Members to explore any anecdotal evidence of a child being refused a school meal due to lack of credit.

Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor Burns, moved approval of Option 1 as set out in the officer's report.

As an amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Inglis, moved approval of Option 2 as set out in the officer's report.

There followed summing up.

On a division and a roll call vote, there voted for the amendment, Councillors Billings, S. Ferguson, T. Ferguson, Gallacher, Inglis, Marshall, McLean, D.L. Reid and Stephen (9) and for the motion, Councillors Bell, Burns, Collier, Cullinane, Davidson, Dickson, Foster, Gurney, Hill, Johnson, Kerr, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McPhater, McTiernan, D. Reid, Robertson and Sweeney (19), and the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, having considered the options presented, agreed to implement Option 1 as set out in Section 2.18 of the report.

In terms of Standing Order 6.8, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.10 p.m. for a short comfort break. The meeting reconvened at 3.25 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

## **16. Questions**

In terms of Standing Order 14, submitted:

- (1) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“According to the Corporate Health and Safety Group Meeting dated 25 May 2023, Appendix 1 records Aggression and Violence Incidents in NAC Secondary Schools in Quarter 3 as 52 compared to 31 last year a rise of almost 70% in a comparable quarter. How many of these incidents involve teaching staff and what steps are being taken to address this problem?”

Councillor Macaulay thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The way the statistics are recorded means that all incidents are collated into one figure. To break this down, the three categories are:

- Physical violence
- Threatening/intimidating behaviour
- Verbal abuse

The figures for the first two categories remain at similar levels. The rise reflects rising numbers of cases of verbal abuse being recorded with 7 recorded in Q3 of 2021 and 24 recorded Q3 2022.

A working group has been convened, comprising a range of local authority and school staff to work in partnership with trade union colleagues. This reflects the commitment of the Education Service to analyse, learn from and respond to incidents which happen in North Ayrshire schools.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall referred to the possibility of under-reporting of incidents in the interests of the school’s reputation and to avoid exclusions, and asked whether Head Teachers were under pressure to reduce the number of incidents of violence being reported.

Councillor Macaulay responded by asserting that the opposite was the case and that the introduction of a new reporting system would make it easier for incidents to be reported, including via mobile ‘phone and tablet, so future practice could be informed by incidents and near misses and support could be provided to staff.

(2) a question by Councillor Montgomerie to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“The Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy made a strong and robust argument in favour of Town Centre parking charges back in February, despite the campaign waged against them by local businesses and residents. Given his and the SNP Administrations unequivocal vote to impose parking charges on people shopping in North Ayrshire Towns, does the Cabinet Member believe it is fair that he has claimed parking costs on his Council expenses?”

In terms of Standing Order 14.4 and in the absence of Councillor Montgomerie, Councillor Foster requested that the question be taken as read.

Thereafter, in light of Councillor Montgomerie’s absence, the Provost intimated her intention not to exercise her discretion in terms of Standing Order 14.4 to allow a supplementary question to be asked.

Following a point of order by Councillor Foster, in terms of Standing Order 12.2, Councillor Gurney was invited to apologise for a reference in his opening remarks to Councillor Montgomerie’s absence from the meeting.

Having so apologised, Councillor Gurney continued to respond by intimating that he regarded part of the question which referred to him having made a “strong and robust argument” as a compliment, noting, however, that it was also an argument which had been made by Councillor Montgomerie whilst he was in Administration, further noting that his position had altered now that he was in Opposition. The Cabinet Member asserted that, although the previous Administration had declared a climate emergency, Councillor Montgomerie’s choice was now that walkers, cyclists and those who could not afford a car got to subsidise car owners.

Councillor Gurney referred to the appropriateness for both employees and Elected Members to claim expenses incurred in the course of their duties to ensure that they did not incur additional costs. He referred also to the publication of Members’ Expenses, noting the level of those claimed by Councillor Montgomerie in relation to telephone expenses.

(3) a question by Councillor McClung to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“According to recently released Public Health Scotland statistics, between 2017 and 2021 there were 111 deaths by suicide in North Ayrshire. Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care please give an update on what work has been undertaken by NAC to reduce the number of deaths by suicide?”

Councillor Johnson thanked the Member for her question and referred to the following written response:

“Every death by suicide is a tragedy. There are evident challenges in reducing suicide and as such an extensive range of work is being undertaken in North Ayrshire across the whole system in response to this.

Examples of focussed areas of work and multiagency forums include:

- Strategic Suicide Prevention Group - chaired by the Independent Chair of Adult Support and Protection and Child Protection Committees. This group oversees and provides direction across a range of agencies.
- North Ayrshire Young Peoples Suicide Taskforce - established in 2017 in response to a number of deaths by suicide by young people, includes representation across a number of agencies including education, health, social care, police and public health. This group was formed primarily to develop a co-ordinated response by agencies following the death by suicide of a young person within North Ayrshire. A key development from this group has been the co-ordination of a Crisis Response Plan which is reviewed and updated in response to any death.

- The Suspected Death by Suicide Review Group was established in January 2022, to undertake an early review of suspected deaths by suicide and to respond in partnership to any support and follow up as well as considering issues and trends which may be emerging and which will help target work and training. It can also identify key services, groups or communities which may have been impacted and help provide resources, information and support.
- North Ayrshire has been fortunate to be part of the National Pilot for a Suicide Bereavement support service delivered by Penumbra which supports families impacted by suicide.
- Locally in North Ayrshire the Choose Life Manager and Suicide Prevention Lead continues to offer training and awareness raising across a range of settings.

An update report was presented to the IJB in May this year, and this report can be accessed by members and the public to provide additional information on this critical area of work.

In September 2022, The Scottish Government and COSLA launched their new joint National Suicide Prevention Strategy; “Creating Hope Together”.

The Pan Ayrshire Suicide Prevention Group held a launch stakeholder event in December 2022 with the purpose to creating a new Ayrshire Strategy. The event was held in North Ayrshire supported by NHS Public Health and the pan Ayrshire group are following up on the requirements to deliver this plan locally and to build on the work already underway in North Ayrshire.”

(4) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“Pre-Inspection bully surveys have highlighted issues with bullying in Greenwood Academy and the lack of confidence parents and carers have in the school to handle any problems that have been raised by a child. What can the Cabinet Member do to reassure all parents in North Ayrshire that all schools and staff are equipped to deal with bullying in schools?”

Councillor Macaulay thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The issue of bullying is taken very seriously by Greenwood Academy and all schools in North Ayrshire.

Referring specifically to Greenwood Academy, it should be noted that pre-inspection questionnaires are one source of information used in an inspection. The overall inspection feedback was very positive about the work being undertaken in the school. Greenwood Academy carried out a full consultation with all stakeholders, which included parents, regarding bullying in April 2021 and launched their new Anti-bullying policy in May 2021. Parents were surveyed and their views shaped the policy along with other stakeholders.

The school celebrated Anti-bullying Week and revisited the policy with pupils in November 2022. This was discussed during HWB/Reg across every year group. The policy was reviewed again when the school were working towards the LGBT Silver Charter this session.

The school believes that pupils are now clearer about how to report bullying and they are proud to have introduced the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP) this year with S1. This will be rolled out further in 2023/24. PSE inputs focus on developing positive peer relationships and this year the Area Inclusion Worker has reinforced this with P7 in partnership with S1 volunteers. The above demonstrates Greenwood Academy's ongoing commitment to making further improvements in this area.

In line with our ongoing commitment to taking this important matter seriously, similar work focusing on minimising or preventing and responding to bullying behaviours is taking place across all schools in North Ayrshire."

(5) a question by Councillor Foster to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"NHS Ayrshire and Arran has not set a balanced budget for 2023/24. As the Council's representative on the local health board, what assurances can the Council Leader give that the health board has a plan to sustain and indeed improve health services for the people of North Ayrshire?"

In terms of Standing Order 14.4, Councillor Foster requested that the question and answer be taken as read.

Councillor Burns thanked the Member for his question her answer in the following terms was taken as read:

"NHS Ayrshire and Arran considered the Revenue Plan for 2023/24 at its meeting on 28 March 2023. Unlike the Council and the IJB, the NHS Board does not have a legal obligation to balance its budget and the Board has a budget deficit of £56.4m which has increased annually over the last few years.

The budget which was set by NHS Ayrshire and Arran constitutes its spending plan for Health Services across the area during the current financial year. The Board has a baseline budget of £850.2 million for 2023/24 and further earmarked funding for specific purposes of £131.0 million, giving £981.2 million of revenue funding to deliver services either directly or via services delegated to the three Integration Joint Boards.

Given the Health Board has not yet set a balanced budget I cannot provide any assurances at this time of the impact on health services, the implications of addressing the budget gap is subject to ongoing discussions at both a local and national level.”

(6) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“What has made the Member change their mind regarding investment zones?”

Councillor Gurney thanked the Member for his question and responded that he was unable to answer as he was not aware of having changed his mind on the proposals.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean referred to the Administration’s opposition to a motion on registering to become Scotland’s first Investment Zone and to a later response by Councillor Gurney in which said he would wait to hear more about Investment Zones, and asked whether this suggested a change from initial opposition to a more open-minded view.

Councillor Gurney responded by pointing out that the question had been about Free Ports, which arguably, in his opinion, encouraged tax avoidance, helped multi-nationals in tax havens and involved less regulation, including for emissions. Councillor Gurney suggested that proposals were not new, having been set up by the government of Margaret Thatcher 40 years ago, and that they had been so disastrous that they were removed by David Cameron’s government in 2012. The Cabinet Member concluded by asserting that he would always do what was best for North Ayrshire and that Free Ports did not fall into that category.

(7) a question by Councillor Kerr to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“With the resignation of the sixth Transport Minister to have held the position since the reformation of the Ardrossan task force in 2017, does the Council Leader believe the appointment of a seventh will have any impact on the Ardrossan Harbour project?”

In terms of Standing Order 14.4, Councillor Kerr requested that the question be taken as read.



Councillor Burns thanked the Member for her question and responded by confirming her previous position that she was disappointed that the work had made slow progress since the formation of the task force in 2017. She commented on the complexity of the project, the disruption caused by the pandemic, and the impact of inflation on project costs.

Councillor Burns commented that progress was now being made, referring to the recent Cabinet paper, the procurement timeline and the need to work together with partners to ensure continuation of progress. The Leader concluded by advising that the work would continue regardless of which Transport Minister was in post.

(8) a question by Councillor Inglis to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy if the Council has been in contact with the owners of Rankins pub in Stevenston to ask what their intentions with the building are, as it is a blight on Stevenson town centre?”

Councillor Gurney thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“Officers within Regeneration Services identified that the former Rankins pub was sold in July 2022. A letter was issued to the new owner making them aware of support available via the Repurposing Property Grant Scheme and inviting them to share their intentions for the site with the Council. No response or funding application has been received from the owner to date. Officers will make contact again with the owner to establish their intentions regarding the property and encourage, an application to the Repurposing Property Grant Scheme.”

(9) a question by Councillor Kerr to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care what impact the NHS Ayrshire and Arran budget deficit will have on the IJB?”

Councillor Johnson thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“NHS Ayrshire and Arran considered the Revenue Plan for 2023/24 at its meeting in March 2023 and has a budget deficit of £56.4m.

The Scottish Government funding settlement requires the NHS Board to pass on an appropriate share of any increase in funding it receives to the IJB. The IJB is then required to make appropriate provision for the entirety of the delegated resource from the NHS Board and North Ayrshire Council.

Following resource allocation from both partner bodies, the IJB had a budget gap for 2023/24 of £6.215m and set a balanced budget in March 2023 through the delivery of planned savings and the non-recurring use of reserves.

The NHS budget deficit does not therefore have a direct impact on the IJB, due to the requirement to pass through an appropriate share of funding, and for the IJB set a balanced budget in line with the resource allocation. However, the Heath Board's financial position does reduce the opportunity for the IJB to seek any additional funding from the NHS Board and impacts on the service and financial pressures across the wider health and social care system."

(10) a question by Councillor Billings to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"In May 2023, the Accounts Commission published the report 'Local Government in Scotland – Overview 2023. The report contained some dire warnings about the fragility of local services in Scotland and made a number of very challenging recommendation on how to mitigate the effects of under-funding of local authority services and the staffing difficulties we are currently experiencing. What approach does North Ayrshire Council's Administration intend to take to implements the Account Commission's recommendations?"

Councillor Burns thanked the Member for his question and referred to the following written response:

"The Accounts Commission report recognised the significant cost pressures facing councils which have been fuelled by high levels of inflation and set out a number of recommendations for both the Scottish Government and Councils. When we set the Budget back in March, this included an anticipated budget gap of over £16million for next year. This presents a significant challenge and in order to deliver a balanced budget will require a range of measures to address.

The budget process for 2024/25 and beyond has already started and members will be provided with updates on progress and to get your input and feedback following the summer recess. It is recognised that in order to live within our available resources and to support investment in our key priority areas, as outlined earlier in the development of the new Council plan, we will likely be faced with difficult choices. A number of significant areas of focus are currently being progressed and they include:

- Further engagement with Scottish government in progressing a New Deal across a range of areas, including more fiscal flexibility to councils in areas like council tax, tourist visitor levy and non-domestic rates

- Similarly, more collaboration with Scottish Government for greater fiscal autonomy and developing joint outcomes across key areas of our budget which link to national policies and priorities, including the deployment of our learning resources and our health and social care funding
- Progressing our change programme across the areas of land and property, sustainability, Accessing our Council and Waste Services. The more financial efficiency we can generate in these areas, the greater level of protection we can provide to support our key priorities
- Development of our Workforce Planning programme in order to align our available resources to support our key priorities
- We also appreciate that using council reserves is not a sustainable solution, however, through the controlled and limited use of council reserves across the medium-term, this will provide vital financial flexibility to help navigate through the next few years and for this to run in parallel with more sustainable measures, and finally
- We will continue to work with our communities, partners, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and neighbouring authorities to look at the way we deliver services and for this to be considered within the context of the outcomes we aim to achieve.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Billings asked whether the Administration would set out specific answers to the points made by the Accounts Commission, to allow Elected Members and the public to see how the Council would be addressing the recommendations across all of its services.

Councillor Burns responded by advising that there were no plans to make a formal response to the Accounts Commission recommendations. She indicated that responding to the points raised was a work in progress and that the approach to next year’s budget consultation would be the subject of further consideration, with the Accounts Commission recommendations taken into account.

The Leader concluded her response by acknowledging that the report had raised important questions around what local government was about and how it managed to deliver within the current financial envelope.

(11) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“In 2022, it was agreed to pilot on Arran the use of self-employed carers for people choosing self-directed care. Please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on this pilot, including the number of self-employed carers that the service makes payment to and the number of residents making use of this service?”

Councillor Johnson thanked the Member for his question and, in terms of Standing Order 14.1, requested that the following response be taken as read:

“The use of self-employed carers on Arran has been developed as a test of change which arose from the HSCP’s learning review into the application of Self-Directed Support (SDS) and in response to the particular challenges with access to care and support on Arran.

Self Employed Personal Assistants have not been supported in North Ayrshire due to complexities of HMRC, Tax, NI, holidays, insurance, and public protection concerns. With the development of a supportive policy and a balanced perspective on public protection it was agreed to explore if this development would be welcomed by communities.

A project group with representation from Social Work, Ayrshire Independent Living Network, In Control Scotland and Arran Community and Voluntary Service led on developing a policy which will support this approach and test of change.

There are 3 key aims, firstly a reduction of waiting times for support, secondly an increase in choice and control with people feeling they have more options and finally an increased confidence for staff in the offer of support options.

Practice guidance and the SDS systems have been amended, it is anticipated that this pathway will go live in July 2023 and will be supported with communications and guidance to allow residents can make an informed choice and understand the associated roles, responsibilities, and risks of using a self-employed PA.

As the pilot is due to launch in July 2023 there have been no self-employed carers to date, there have also not been any requests in the planning phase for support, if a request arose there would be due consideration of support for this arrangement given the work already progressed around policy and practice.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Billings referred to the circumstances of an Arran constituent who had been paying for his own care as carers were not otherwise available, and asked if the Cabinet Member would work with him to find ways in which the Health and Social Care Partnership might be able to exercise more flexibility with regard to providing for people who could only find care through self-employed carers.

Councillor Johnson responded by expressing her willingness to work with Councillor Billings on this matter.

(12) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“Does the Cabinet Member believe that the current funding allocated the roads budget is sustainable, considering the recent report the Irvine Locality Partnership showing that there is a backlog of carriageway maintenance that is currently 7 times the annual roads budget allocated in 23/24?”

Councillor Gurney thanked the Member for his question and responded by referring to austerity, its impact on every aspect of the public realm, and the different approaches of the UK and Scottish governments.

On a point of order in terms of Standing Order 14.11, Councillor Billings challenged the accuracy of the Cabinet Member’s response. Specifically, Councillor Billings asserted that it was inaccurate to imply that the Scottish Government had not disproportionately cut funding to local authorities taking into account the level of grant funding it had itself received.

The Provost invited the Cabinet Member to modify his response in light of the point raised by Councillor Billings.

Councillor Gurney continued his response by observing that, in England, council funding had gone from £41 billion to £26 billion over the decade.

In the context of roads, the Cabinet Member advised that to keep the roads in their current condition cost £4.3 million per year. He referred to the decision at the recent budget meeting, which was approved across the Chamber, to invest £5.95 million this year, which was an extra £1.65 million, or almost 40% more. Councillor Gurney concluded by observing that the situation was actually improving.

(13) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“To ask the Portfolio holder for Green Environment and Economy to:

- a. Visit and sit for 30 minutes on the newly installed black seating benches either on the Seafront in Largs or in Ardrossan and rate their comfort on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being uncomfortable and 10 being comfortable.
- b. State the cost of one bench.
- c. State who placed the order for such and what other options were considered.
- d. Confirm that the benches meet relevant safety standards.”

In terms of Standing Order 14.4, Councillor Marshall requested that the question be taken as read.

Councillor Gurney thanked the Member for his question and responded to confirm that he had sat on the benches and, whilst he would not wish to sit on them for three hours, they were fine. The Cabinet Member also advised that he noted others sitting on the new benches m having chosen them in preference to the older benches which were also available. He further commented on the aesthetic appearance of the plethora of bench types clustered in one area.

In response to the remainder of the question, Councillor Gurney advised as follows:

“Part (b) asked me to state the cost of the new bench type and I have to apologise, but I cannot. Due to the recent letting of the contract, this information may be regarded as commercially sensitive. But I am happy to share the information with any Elected Member on a confidential basis outwith the meeting.

The Member has asked me to state who placed the order and I have to say I will not state that and I never will identify individual officers in this Chamber. I do not think it is for this Chamber to expose officers to public hearing.

Part (d) asks me to confirm that the benches meet relevant safety standards and I can confirm that they do.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall referred a recent local newspaper article which highlighted concerns about the quality of the benches and lack of consultation with local Members, and asked if the Cabinet Member would accept claims in respect of injuries arising from people falling through the benches.

Councillor Gurney responded by expressing disappointment that some people found the benches uncomfortable and clarified that local Members were not consulted on the bench style as this was an operational matter. The Cabinet Member advised that any claims should be addressed to the Council in the normal way.

(14) a question by Councillor Gallacher to the Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Economy in the following terms:

“To ask the Cabinet Member how many cases of Japanese knotweed have been reported in Irvine in the past 2 years?”

In terms of Standing Order 14.4, Councillor Gallacher requested that the question and following written response be taken as read:

“We have recorded two new reports in that time.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gallacher asked about the treatment process for Japanese knotweed and how successful it was.

Councillor Gurney responded by advising that the two cases were on public land in Irvine and, having identified them, the Council would ensure they were treated. The treatment would involve weedkiller, as digging or cutting up knotweed would cause it to spread. Councillor Gurney indicated that the most effective time to do this was in August when the plant was just about to flower.

## 17. Motion

In terms of Standing Order 15, submitted:

(1) a motion proposed by Councillor Kerr and seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:

"That the Council:

1. Notes the use of zero-hour contracts has risen over the last decade, meaning there is an increasing number of workers who do not have a guaranteed number of working hours each week.
2. Does not accept the rhetoric that zero-hour contracts provide 'flexibility' both for the worker and the employer, and instead notes that such contracts nearly always provide one-sided flexibility in favour of the employer.
3. Notes workers on zero-hour contracts face financial insecurity as a result of:
  - (a) the insecurity of not knowing how many hours they are working from week-to-week and, sometimes, from day-to-day
  - (b) getting too few hours to financially make ends meet
  - (c) spending money to be able to work and then being out-of-pocket when hours are cancelled (travel costs, childcare costs etc.);
  - (d) getting hours at the last minute and having to make urgent arrangements for childcare or other caring responsibilities, or cancel social plans
  - (e) the fear of refusing hours lest it results in fewer hours being offered or bullying and harassment from the employer.
4. Recognises any one of these issues can result in the interference and employer control of the worker's life outside of working time. This can result in debt, health issues because of household poverty and mental anguish and anxiety. This can not only affect the worker themselves, but the whole family unit.
5. Further notes
  - (a) that despite the government promising on numerous occasion new legislation to provide better security for workers on zero-hour contracts, it has failed to do so.

- (b) Zero-hour contracts are not only used in the private sector and some local authorities directly employ workers on such contracts.
- 6. Is proud to be a local authority that does not and will not use zero- hour contracts.
- 7. Supports the work of Zero Hours Justice, an organisation which seeks to end exploitative zero-hours contracts by providing help for workers on such contracts, and supporting businesses and other organisations that either do not use zero-hours contracts or only do so in accordance to minimal criteria.

This Council resolves to lead by example, and to reaffirm our commitment to providing security to our workers by applying to the Zero Hours Justice Accreditation Scheme, and thus to become an employer that does not both directly employ our workers on zero-hour contracts, and indirectly employ workers on zero-hour contracts via agency or any third-party contractor.”

Councillor T. Ferguson queried the competence of the motion in terms of Standing Order 15.4 (vi), (vii) and (x).

At the invitation of the Provost, the Monitoring Officer confirmed the competence of the motion, advising that that any implications could be dealt with on an operational basis, failing which the matter would be brought back to Council in a report.

In terms of Standing Order 6.8, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 4.10 p.m. for a short in order to seek to resolve a technical issue with the Chambers microphones. The meeting reconvened at 4.15 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

Councillors T. Ferguson and Marshall sought to raise a further point of order in respect of Standing Order 15.4. The Provost determined that the matter had been addressed in the Monitoring Officer’s previous response.

An amendment, proposed by Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Larsen, moved approval of the terms of the motion, subject to deletion of the text after “contracts” at the end of point 5(b) and the addition of the following:

“This Council resolves to lead by example, as evidenced by our Casual Worker Protocol in 2015 in conjunction with Trade Unions to define the key principles within North Ayrshire Council for casual workers.

The Council notes that the Chief Executive has already organised a review of existing casual/supply lists to ensure casual workers are utilised, managed effectively and where appropriate ensure the individual has the most relevant contract to their working arrangement. This review will be progressed by all Services, with HR support.”



In terms of Standing Order 16.5, Councillor Kerr, with the agreement of her seconder, expressed a willingness to alter the motion in terms of the amendment. In light of this, Councillor Hill, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to withdraw the amendment in favour of the motion, as amended. There being no further amendments, the motion, as amended, was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

- (a) to note the use of zero-hour contracts had risen over the last decade, meaning there is an increasing number of workers who did not have a guaranteed number of working hours each week;
- (b) not to accept the rhetoric that zero-hour contracts provided 'flexibility' both for the worker and the employer, and instead note that such contracts nearly always provided one-sided flexibility in favour of the employer;
- (c) to note workers on zero-hour contracts faced financial insecurity as a result of:
  - (i) the insecurity of not knowing how many hours they were working from week-to-week and, sometimes, from day-to-day
  - (ii) getting too few hours to financially make ends meet
  - (iii) spending money to be able to work and then being out-of-pocket when hours were cancelled (travel costs, childcare costs etc.)
  - (iv) getting hours at the last minute and having to make urgent arrangements for childcare or other caring responsibilities, or cancel social plans
  - (v) the fear of refusing hours lest it resulted in fewer hours being offered or bullying and harassment from the employer.
- (d) to recognise any one of these issues could result in the interference and employer control of the worker's life outside of working time. This could result in debt, health issues because of household poverty and mental anguish and anxiety. This could not only affect the worker themselves, but the whole family unit;
- (e) to note that:
  - (i) despite the government promising on numerous occasion new legislation to provide better security for workers on zero-hour contracts, it had failed to do so and
  - (ii) Zero-hour contracts were not only used in the private sector and some local authorities directly employed workers on such contracts
- (f) to resolve to lead by example, as evidenced by the Council's Casual Worker Protocol in 2015 in conjunction with Trade Unions to define the key principles within North Ayrshire Council for casual workers;

- (g) to note that (i) the Chief Executive had already organised a review of existing casual/supply lists to ensure casual workers were utilised, managed effectively and where appropriate ensure the individual had the most relevant contract to their working arrangement and (ii) this review would be progressed by all Services, with HR support.”

#### **18. Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

#### **19. Provost’s Closing Remarks**

The Provost closed the meeting by wishing Members a good break over the summer recess and hoping that they would return suitably refreshed.

The meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 12 June – 3 September  
2023

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Anthea Dickson.



# PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 12 June – 3 September 2023

Since the last meeting of the Council, I have taken part in many events, including:

## ***Greig Steven Memorial Games, Valefield Park, Kilbirnie, 17 June***

On 17 June, I attended the Greig Steven Memorial Games at Valefield Park Kilbirnie. Greig passed away in 2015 from a rare and aggressive form of cancer. Family, friends and former colleagues united to form a charity based in Kilbirnie to raise funds and ensure the sustainability of Greig's House, a luxury lodge situated in Wemyss Bay offering stays for young people and adults living with cancer. I was delighted to be able to support such a worthwhile cause.

## ***Watch Commander Fred Williams 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Community Fire Station, Dalry, 19 June***

On 19 June, I attended a special event in Dalry Community Fire Station to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Watch Commander Fred Williams joining the Fire and Rescue Service. Fred has been instrumental in shaping the Service in our local communities across North Ayrshire and it was great to be able to acknowledge his excellent contribution to public service.

## ***HSCP Partnership Awards, Volunteer Rooms, Irvine, 20 June***

The HSCP hosted their Partnership Awards, "A Celebration of Care" on 20 June in the Volunteer Rooms, Irvine. I was delighted to attend the ceremony and help celebrate the invaluable work going on in our communities supporting the health, care and wellbeing of local people.

## ***Make Music Day, Irvine Library, 21 June***

Make Music Day is an annual celebration of music-making that takes place in communities across the world on 21 June. To mark this special event North Ayrshire Chamber String Ensemble performed in Irvine library for the local community. I never fail to be impressed with the talent of our young musicians.



### ***Fundraising Concert, Arran High School, 24 June***

On 24 June, I was at Arran High School, for a fundraising concert featuring North Ayrshire's Chamber String Ensemble, the Garnock Community Campus Woodwind Ensemble and a Brass Ensemble. Musicians from Arran Music School also performed at what was a wonderful event supporting the fantastic music making taking place on the Isle of Arran.

### ***Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra Summer Concert, Ayr Town Hall, 24 June***

On the evening of 24 June, I attended Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra's Summer Concert in Ayr Town Hall. The Concert was held prior to the Orchestra going on a tour in America. As usual the calibre of the performances was of a very high standard, and I was happy to have the opportunity to wish them all well on their forthcoming tour.

### ***Friar's Lawn Opening Event, Kilwinning, 29 June***

On 29 June, I officially welcomed all the guests and partner organisations to the final completion of the refurbished sheltered housing complex at Friars Lawn, Kilwinning. This was delivered as part of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan and is a most welcoming place both in style and from delighted residents.

### ***Provost's Visit, Discovery Group, David White Community Learning Hub, Saltcoats, 29 June***

On 29 June, I visited the Discovery Group in the David White Community Learning Hub in Saltcoats. The Discovery Award is a fun, free personal challenge award for the over 50's. It was great to meet all those who took part and hear about their experiences and the positive outcomes they have had from the Award. It is proving to be an excellent way to reduce isolation, share and learn new skills, and widen people's interests.

### ***Caley Gardens Opening Event, Stevenston, 29 June***

In the afternoon of 29 June. I welcomed all the guests and partner organisations to the opening of the most impressive Caley Gardens in Stevenston. This 15-home supported accommodation project provides assistive technology which can be adapted to suit the needs of each individual resident.

### ***CEIS Ayrshire National Employability Day, Irvine, 30 June***

On National Employability Day on 30 June, I visited CEIS in Irvine, it was great to meet the team and find out about how their employability services are supporting individuals into employment.



### ***Dalry & Millour Hill Wind Farms Family Open Day, Dalry, 1 July***

Dalry & Millour Hill Community Wind Farms Community Windpower Ltd hosted a free Family Open Day at their local wind farms close to Dalry on 1 July which I was happy to attend. The event was great success with range of attractions and organised activities on offer.

### ***NHS Family Nurse Partnership, HSCP 10th Anniversary, Fullarton Connexions, Irvine, 3 July***

On 3 July, the NHS Family Nurse Partnership marked 10 years' service at a special event held in Fullarton Connexions. Irvine. Tributes were paid to our Family Nurses, who have helped change the lives of hundreds of mothers and children across Ayrshire and the reunions were emotional.

### ***Opening of Dementia Wellbeing Cafe, Argyle Centre, Saltcoats, 21 July***

The Depute Provost attended the opening of the Dementia Wellbeing Café in the Argyle Centre, Saltcoats on 12 July. It was great to meet trained volunteers and staff from the Ayrshire Independent Network and hear about the service they are providing for this suffering from dementia and their families. The Provost visited the Café on 4 August.

### ***CHA Annual Tenants Conference, Seamill Hydro, West Kilbride, 26 July***

The Depute Provost attended Cunninghame Housing Association's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Tenants Conference in the Seamill Hydro. It was a great opportunity to hear first-hand about the issues these tenants are facing and about the Association's plans for the forthcoming year.

### ***Polish Singing Sailors Choir Concert, Scottish Maritime Museum, Irvine, 31 July***

On 31 July, I was delighted to attend a concert in the Maritime Museum, Irvine. The Polish male choir Zawisza Czarny from Gdynia is reputed to be the largest, regularly performing sea shanty choir in the world. The choir is made of the ship's crew Zawisza Czarny, which is the flagship of the Polish Scouting Association.

### ***The Song of the River Steamers Exhibition, Garrison House, Millport, 2 August***

On 2 August, I visited the latest exhibition at the Museum of the Cumbraes, Garrison House, Millport. The late Charles Glen, well known in Millport, dedicated a large part of his retirement to recording for posterity the great era of the Clyde Steamers. Mr Glen created paintings, models and research about every steamer to ever grace the Clyde, and the work put into this invaluable resource is astounding. The boats take you on a journey through time, from 1812 onwards, with each new era of steam ships. Following Mr Glen's passing, his daughters, Janis



Seith and Moira Crozier, honoured his wish to have the collection donated to the Museum of the Cumbraes for future steamer enthusiasts to study and enjoy.

### ***Ardeer Gala Day, Stevenston, 5 August***

On 5 August I had the privilege of crowning the Gala Queen, Farrah Daldry, at Ardeer Gala Day in Stevenston. The organisers, who are all volunteers did an excellent job providing a wide range of entertainment and events for their local community. Events like these highlight all the positive aspects in our local communities and bring people together encouraging community involvement and participation.

### ***Provost's Visit, Take Time on the Road Event, Ardrossan South Beach, 9 August***

On 9 August, I visited Ardrossan South Beach for the Take Time on the Road Event. This event featured many fun activities and information for children and young people focusing on mental health and wellbeing.

### ***Barista Project Launch - Cafe Solace, Kilbirnie, 11 August***

On 11 August, I officially launched the barista project in Café Solace, Kilbirnie. These innovative community projects are supported by NAHSCP and Developing Young Workforce and give those participating obtain new skills and better employment opportunities.

### ***Visit to Irvine Beat FM on their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Irvine, 16 August***

On 16 August, I visited Irvine Beat FM as the station celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is truly something to be proud of that the station has reached its first decade of service to communities across the Irvine area.

### ***Opening of Redston Cemetery, Kilwinning, 17 August***

On the 9 June, I officially opened our new cemetery for Kilwinning, Redston Cemetery. To mark the occasion a service of dedication took place.



### ***Marymass Festival, Irvine, 17 – 28 August***

This year's Marymass Festival took place from 17 – 28 August in Irvine. The year's Festival featured many events and attractions mixing the contemporary with the traditional and ensuring that there was something arranged for all age groups and tastes. The event got off to a great start on Thursday 17 August with the announcement that Gordon Storrar would serve as Captain of the Carters for 2023, followed by the sashing ceremony of the Marymass Queen Elect and her four Marys, then I had the privilege of officially opening the Festival.

I took part in the Kirking of the Captain of Irvine Carters' Society in the Old Parish Church on 20 August and the next day hosted a visit by the Marymass Queen Elect and her Marys to Cunninghame House.

I welcomed Mayor Rosetti from Voisins-les-Bretonneux, France, Irvine's twin town, who visited the Festival along with volunteers from their Town Twinning Association.

On Marymass Saturday, the Depute Provost and I welcomed guests to a reception at Irvine Townhouse prior to the Crowning Ceremony and afterwards we made our way to Irvine Moor where a range of events were taking place.

On Sunday 27 August I attended the Marymass Service in the Old Parish Church, and this was followed by the Carter's lunch at Bogside Golf Club, which was a great opportunity to reflect on the previous day. On the evening of 27 August, the Depute Provost attended the traditional Marymass Service in St Mary's Church in Irvine.

By all accounts the Festival was a great success and very well attended. Events like these are the lifeblood of local communities and the amazing working carried out by members of the Marymass Committee and many volunteers from a number of organisations is commendable.

### ***Drama for Wellbeing Show Case, Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine, 18 August***

On 18 August, I attended the Drama for Wellbeing Showcase in the Harbour Arts Centre, which was a culmination of a programme of activity that saw both primary and secondary pupils explore a range of issues through the drama. The performances were amazing and highlighted the difficulties and challenges faced by our young people today.

### ***Visit by delegation from Andernos Les Bains, Garrison House, Millport, 22 August***

On 22 August, I welcomed twenty visitors from Largs Twin Town, Andernos-les-Bains in France to North Ayrshire. The Largs Town Twinning Group are hoping to reignite the relations they have with the French town. As part of a tour of the area they visited Millport, I met up with them at the Garrison House where they saw the latest exhibition and learned about the history of the Garrison.





### ***Visit to Isle of Cumbrae Distillers, Millport, 22 August***

Also on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, I met the owners of the Isle of Cumbrae Distillers. I was fascinated to learn about their short history, how they engage with the local community and how they market their product.

### ***Open Evening Mecoco, Dalry, 25 August***

On 25 August I attended the opening evening of Mecoco in Dalry. Mecoco is a social enterprise based in North Ayrshire which makes candles, reed diffusers and other fragrance products, and which employs a mixture of disabled and non-disabled colleagues working together.

### ***Opening of Largs Viking Festival, Largs, 2 September***

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September I was privileged to open the 44<sup>th</sup> Largs Viking Festival. Thousands of people visited Largs on the opening day and witnessed the excellent parade, a huge number of Viking related activities, markets and fairground. The Festival is arranged by volunteers who have poured their time, energy and enthusiasm into making the festival a reality. Their commitment to bringing history to life and creating a fantastic experience for all attendees is truly commendable.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthea Dickson".

Councillor Anthea Dickson  
**Provost North Ayrshire Council**





North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 12 June – 3 September  
2023

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

## LEADER'S REPORT



# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 12 June – 3 September 2023

## ***HARBOURSIDE HOUSING OPENING CEREMONY, 12 June***

On 12 June, I was delighted to attend the official opening ceremony of North Ayrshire Council's latest housing development at Irvine Harbourside. The site provides 71 new houses including general needs houses, amenity bungalows and homes for wheelchair users. The development also includes a sheltered housing complex called "Alfred Nobel House" which overlooks the harbour.

The development followed extensive consultation with local residents to ensure the design of the homes blended in with the coastal area. All of the properties have been built to the Scottish Government's Greener Standard ensuring that all homes are environmentally friendly and energy efficient.

This latest development is part of our ambitious plans to build 1,625 new homes by 2028.

## ***THE PROMISE JOINT YOUTH CABINET, 13 June***

The first ever "Promise" Joint Youth Cabinet was held on 13 June at Redburn Community Centre and together with North Ayrshire Council Cabinet, I was delighted to take part in discussions with some of our care experienced young people.

The event provided the platform for some of our care experienced people to share their views and own experiences with North Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and North Ayrshire Youth Services.

I would like to thank all the young people who came along and had the courage to talk about their own personal experiences. As Corporate Parents, it is important that we listen to these experiences and ensure we improve in the areas that need addressing.

## ***COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION, 14 June***

On 14 June, I chaired a meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Wealth Building (CWB) Commission in Cunninghame House, Irvine. Attendees received updates from the Lead Officer Working Group, the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy and the Ayrshire Growth Deal CWB Fund (Project updates). Attendees then took part in a series of discussions

## LEADER'S REPORT



focusing on what climate action projects and initiatives exist locally that would benefit from adding value through CWB. Members also discussed the following in relation to Climate Change and CWB:

- How we can ensure a “Just Transition” for Ayrshire
- How do we grow the green sector within Ayrshire and in line with CWB
- Is there scope to amplify existing initiatives or explore new opportunities eg scale up community-owned energy generation.

My thanks again to officers and partners for taking part in these discussions which will work towards ensuring that our CWB and Climate Change Strategies work in tandem.

### ***GREENWOOD ACADEMY PRIZEGIVING, 14 June***

Later on, 14 June, I was delighted to be asked to attend the junior prizegiving for years S1, S2 and S3 at Greenwood Academy.

It is always heart-warming to hear of the achievements of our young people especially after their hard work during the academic year. I hope that teaching staff and pupils have all had an enjoyable break over summer and are ready for the new school year.

### ***STAFF ENGAGEMENT SESSION WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE, 15 June***

On 15 June, together with North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive Craig Hatton, I took part in a virtual Staff Engagement session. The “Have your Say” event is one of a series of events that have been held for North Ayrshire Council staff to hear about the Council’s plans for the next few years and to hear about the Administration’s key priorities which include the Cost-of-Living Crisis, Climate Emergency and Working with Communities.

### ***CHAP CELEBRATION EVENT, 16 June***

I was delighted to be asked along to CHAP Offices in Ardrossan for a celebration event held on 16 June. CHAP is an Ayrshire charity which helps people from all walks of life with a range of housing, welfare, and debt issues. It also provides education and early intervention services. They provide free, confidential support on housing, debt, and benefit issues. With support and guidance, they offer clients straightforward, practical advice to make their lives better. The charity has three departments: Housing Advice, Money Advice, Welfare Advice. CHAP brings a wealth of benefits to individuals and the local community through its work; keeping people in homes and accessing welfare support for those who need it most as well as educating young people how to avoid related problems.

## LEADER'S REPORT



It was lovely to be able to hear more about the charity's work, get a tour of the premises, meet the staff there and to be asked to present certificates to members of the team who had recently completed Diplomas in Digital Application Support.

My thanks to Debbie Alexander, CHAP's Chief Executive for asking me along to celebrate their achievements.

### ***LAUNCH OF AYRSHIRE REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY, 19 June***

On 19 June, together with Councillor Dougie Reid, East Ayrshire Council Leader and Chair of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Partnership and Alastair Dobson, Chair of Regional Economic Strategy Working Group, I took part in the official launch of the Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy (ARES) held at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine.

The ARES launch follows months of collaborative working and is the first of its kind to highlight the importance that Community Wealth Building has to play in our local economy. North Ayrshire Council has led the way in Scotland with Community Wealth Building and this is heavily reflected in the strategy which sets out a vision to strengthen our regional economy and to improve the lives of our communities here in Ayrshire.

It is the collective desire to take a more inclusive approach to regional economic development based on the principles of Community Wealth Building which is of huge significance and importance.

### ***BROOMLANDS AND BOURTREEHILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AFTERNOON TEA, 20 June***

On 20 June, I met with members of the Broomlands and Bourtreehill Association (BABCA) at Towerlands Community Centre for an afternoon tea. It was good to hear from BABCA members about events happening in their area and for them to raise any issues of concern.

### ***NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE, 21 June***

On 21 June, I attended an NHS Audit and Risk Committee meeting where attendees discussed various Audit and governance papers. The Committee also approved the annual accounts for 2022/23 which will now be submitted to the NHS Board for their approval.

The Committee also approved the Annual Audit Assurance statement which will go to the NHS Board for final approval.

## LEADER'S REPORT

***COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 22 June***

I chaired a meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board on 22 June. Following on from the success of our last CPP Board meeting where we focused on the “Wellbeing” priority from our Partnership Plan, the meeting focused on the “World” theme.

The Board received a presentation from Jennifer Wraith, Manager for the Energy and Sustainability team at North Ayrshire Council, on the work of the Climate Change Steering Group. Board members were asked to consider opportunities to support the work taking place across North Ayrshire.

Board members also received a presentation on the Children’s Services Plan and to approve the Child Poverty Report and Action Plan and the Children’s Rights Report.

There were also presentations and further updates from the Green Health Partnership, the Active Travel team and work being done on the Cost of Living. Board members were asked to consider opportunities to support the work taking place across North Ayrshire in all of these areas.

***GARNOCK CAMPUS SCHOOL SHOW, 22 June***

Later on, 22 June, I was delighted to attend Garnock Campus school show “Back to the 80s”. The show was superb and there were fine musical and acting performances by pupils. It was a wonderful evening and a great way to celebrate the end of the school year. Well done to all those involved in putting the show together.

***WELLBEING ALLIANCE EVENT, 23 June***

On 23 June, I welcomed attendees to a Wellbeing Alliance event hosted by KA Leisure at the Irvine Townhouse. North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership’s local outcome improvement plan for 2022-2030 sets out three key priority themes: World, Work and **Wellbeing**. The Community Planning Partnership has asked KA Leisure to support the development of a new partnership which will bring together a broad range of partners to create a Wellbeing Alliance for North Ayrshire.

This new group will focus on ways that people across North Ayrshire can live better lives by:

- Exploring activities which enhance the wellbeing of residents.

## LEADER'S REPORT



- Creating opportunities to build capacity and scale up existing activities.
- Developing new programmes that will help to address the challenges that some of our communities face.
- Establishing smart, collaborative approaches to securing new funding.

I look forward to continuing to develop this work with our CPP partners here in North Ayrshire.

### ***COSLA BUSINESS GATEWAY BOARD MEETING, 23 June***

Later on, 23 June, I attended a meeting of the COSLA Business Gateway Board where attendees received updates on the work of the Business Gateway National Unit and Marketing. The Board also discussed objectives for the Business Gateway National Unit following on from the new performance framework and reporting approach that was agreed in April 2019.

The current performance reporting was also developed prior to the announcement of the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, announcements of new strategies and operational changes from Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the establishment of the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency and the Business Support Partnership in its current form and announcements on the end of European Regional Development Funding and Incoming UK Shared Prosperity Funds.

### ***AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 26 June***

I attended a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee on 26 June. Attendees received updates on the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) Implementation and Financial Plans, an update on the AGD Benefits Realisation Plan and an update on the AGD programme risk register.

Signed in November 2020 the AGD is a £251.5 million ten-year investment programme covering the three Ayrshire local authority areas. This funding will support a range of activities across six themes (Aerospace and Space; Economic Infrastructure, Energy, Circular Economy & Environment; Tourism; Digital and Communities). Amongst other outputs, the Deal is projected to unlock private investment and generate up to 7,000 jobs.

### ***NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES MEETING, 27 June***

On 27 June, I attended a meeting of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Endowment Trustees. The Committee were asked to consider a bid for funds for an Ayrshire Cancer Support facility in



## LEADER'S REPORT



Kilmarnock, which was approved. The Committee also received a report on expenditure up to March 2023 and a portfolio performance report.

### ***NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, 27 June***

Following on from the Endowment Trustees meeting on 27 June, I attended an NHS Special Board meeting where Board members were asked to consider and approve the Integration Schemes for East, South and North Ayrshire Councils Health and Social Care delivery.

### ***HOUSING CEREMONIES, 29 June***

On 29 June, I attended the opening of two housing developments. The first one was Friar's Lawn in Kilwinning and the second was at Caley Gardens in Stevenston. The 22 properties at Friar's Lawn sheltered housing, have undergone major refurbishment works including energy-efficient boilers, insulated rendering and new windows. New kitchens have been fitted taking into consideration the needs of the residents using dementia friendly design principles.

The Caley Gardens development consists of 12 one-bedroom and three two-bedroom properties. Each home has been equipped so that assistive technology can be installed to suit the needs of each individual resident, helping to provide support in a way that promotes independent living.

All homes are modern and energy efficient and are part of our continued commitment to build 1,625 homes by 2028.

### ***COSLA LEADERS', 30 June***

On 30 June, I attended the final COSLA Leaders' meeting before summer recess and the final meeting for the outgoing COSLA Chief Executive, Sally Loudon. It was another packed agenda including the following items for discussion:

- Local Government Finance
- Council Tax Joint Working Group update
- National Care Service
- Local Government Data Platform Project
- The Promise
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
- Asylum Dispersal

## LEADER'S REPORT



In May 2020 Leaders approved a project to explore the development of an online data portal for Local Government. The aim being to explore the creation of an online data portal that would coordinate data returns to third parties while streamlining data and the processes required to provide it. The Improvement Service (IS) has led this work, with governance provided by an Oversight Group jointly chaired by SOLACE and COSLA and they will now be looking at implementation of Phase 2. Phase 2 will include Rationalising the data reporting landscape, ensuring it meets assurance requirements, reducing manual collection and improving reuse (using proof of concepts).

### ***TACKLING CHILD POVERTY AND COST OF LIVING BOARD MEETING, 5 July***

On 5 July, I chaired a meeting of the Tackling Child Poverty and Cost of Living Board. Attendees discussed the Cabinet approved Child Poverty Strategy & Action Plan for 2023/24 and received updates on the following items:

- Health Impact Assessment – Mitigating the impacts of the rising cost of living audit of North Ayrshire supports.
- Childcare mini-enquiry output report
- No Wrong Door
- Data Update

The Board agreed with the proposed format with data, progress updates and next steps presented together to demonstrate a clear rationale, progression, and future improvements. NHS Ayrshire & Arran Child Poverty Plan actions have been mapped into this work and a shorter public friendly version of the report will be devised to sit alongside the full report, which aligns with legislative Child Poverty reporting requirements.

### ***NHS AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN HEALTHCARE BOARD MEETING, 14 August***

On 14 August, I attended a meeting of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Board meeting. Attendees received updates on several reports including the Parent Experience annual report for 2022/23 and a Quality and Safety report for Pediatrics. The Board also received updates from some of the key items from the most recent meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee, HealthCare Governance Committee and Staff Governance Committee.

## LEADER'S REPORT

***MARYMASS OPENING FESTIVAL, 17 August***

On the 17 August, I attended the Marymass Festival Opening Ceremony at the Townhouse in Irvine. I would like to congratulate Gordon Storrar on being re-elected as Captain of Irvine Carters.

***WELLBEING SHOWCASE, 18 August***

I was delighted to be invited to a “Wellbeing Showcase” on 18 August held at the Harbour Arts Centre. The event uses the power of drama therapy to connect young people allowing them to express themselves whilst addressing issues surrounding Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Congratulations to all the young people involved in putting such a powerful and moving production together.

***THREE TOWNS LOCALITY VISIT, 21 August***

Together with North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I took part in the first of several locality visits to visit some of our staff and community organisations in their place of work. The first visit was to the Three Towns and I was delighted to meet and chat with one of the residents from Afton Court to find out how they are enjoying living there.

This was followed by a visit to North Ayrshire Council Building Services at Portland Place. It is always great to get the opportunity to meet and talk to Council staff and find out what their work entails and hear how things are post-pandemic.

The final stop was at “Doon The Beach Café” on Shore Road and meeting with the volunteers who provide fantastic food and refreshments to our community there. It has been a positive addition to the area and well worth a visit.

***VISIT TO MILLPORT, 23 August***

On 23 August, I went on the second of the Locality visits again with our Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, this time to Millport. Visits included Cumbrae Primary School where I met with the Head Teacher, Julie McAleese and spoke to some Ukrainian children to find out how they have settled into life on the island and adjusted to being at school on the island.

The next visit was to the newly refurbished Millport Town Hall where I got the chance to meet with the Chair of the Trustees, Angie McCallum and find out about funding and progress of the renovation works to the Town Hall.

## LEADER'S REPORT



To end the day off, a visit to the Flood Protection Scheme and a meeting with the Council Roads Team Leader, Martin Miller plus representatives from the contractor to discuss ongoing works and its progress.

### ***COSLA LEADERS', 25 August***

On 25 August, I attended COSLA Leaders' meeting for another packed agenda which included the following items for discussion:

- Scottish Welfare Fund Action Plan Update
- Local Government Finance Update
- Scottish Recommended Allowance Foster and Kinship Carers
- Joint Health and Social Care Winter Planning Priorities
- Asylum Contingency Accommodation and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
- Ukraine Strategic Policy Position Paper, Welcome Accommodation Proposals and Funding

The Ukraine Strategic Policy Paper asks Leaders to agree the draft proposals contained in the paper 'A Warm Scots Future' (appended) before its publication. It provides an update on welcome accommodation proposals and ask Leaders to agree next steps. The paper also updates Leaders on discussions between COSLA and UK and Scottish Government officials regarding funding for the scheme in order that local authorities are appropriately resourced and reimbursed for the work being undertaken.

### ***MARYMASS SATURDAY, 26 August***

I was delighted to go along to Marymass Saturday on 26 August and see the crowning ceremony of the Marymass Queen, Rebecca Orr. I took part in the parade up to Irvine Moor and attend the Provost's Reception and lunch. My thanks to Provost Anthea Dickson for a lovely afternoon and my congratulations to the Royal Marymass Party who have performed their duties so well as part of the longstanding, local traditions of Irvine.

### ***VISIT TO ST BRIDGETS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 28 August***

On 28 August, together with Depute Leader, Councillor Shaun Macaulay, I visited St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie. The visit provided the opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher and staff and also to meet with pupils who kindly showed us round their allotment where they are learning the benefits of growing fresh produce. The pupils have been learning how to plan,

## LEADER'S REPORT



look after and cook with the produce. It was a fantastic visit and great to see the enthusiasm shown by the pupils when they were talking about their allotment project.

My thanks to Dennis Hopkins, Head Teacher and to all the staff for taking time out of their busy day to meet with us.

### ***LOCALITY VISIT TO ARRAN, 30 August***

On 30 August, another locality visit, to Arran this time. Together with the Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I visited and met with HSCP staff at “Glenartney”. Glenartney premises were set up to be used by North Ayrshire Health & Social Care staff who have accommodation problems on the island. It was interesting to learn about the specific challenges they face on the island.

From there, it was a visit to Arran Eco Savvy to hear about the fantastic work the group continue to do in order to reduce Arran’s carbon footprint, reducing food waste and delivering on environmental projects.

The day was rounded off with an interesting visit to Arran High School, with a meeting with the Head Teacher, Susan Foster and to hear about the school’s involvement in sports. The school was awarded a “gold” level award in the Sport Scotland national school sport programme.

Then a visit to Arran Youth Foundations, a youth group making a difference in the lives of teenagers on the island. The Group received £45,226 in Community Investment funding in 2020 from North Ayrshire Council and this has been used to enhance mental health and well-being services for young people in crisis.

From there a visit to Arran High School Mountain Bike Club which encourages residents on the island to engage in cycling activities.

Finally, to wrap up the day, a visit to the Council Area Office in Lamlash to meet front office staff, the Streetscene team and social work colleagues. My thanks to Brodie Pearcey for taking us round the island all day and giving up his time.

LEADER'S REPORT



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Burns".

Councillor Marie Burns  
Leader of North Ayrshire Council

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

13 September 2023

### North Ayrshire Council

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**Title:** North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board:  
Minutes of Meeting held in June 2023

**Purpose:** To submit the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership Board held on 22 June 2023.

**Recommendation:** That Council the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix  
1.

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It was previously agreed that the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board be submitted to North Ayrshire Council for information. The key matters arising from the minutes have been highlighted for the attention of Council and are detailed in Section 2.1.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Minutes of the meeting of the CPP Board held on 22 June 2023 are appended. This meeting focused on the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 'World' priority and took place in person in the Council Chambers. Particular matters for the Council's attention include the following:

#### **Meeting of March 2023**

##### Agenda Item 3

CPP partners received a joint presentation and asked to support the suite of children and young people's strategies, including the Children's Services Strategic Plan and the Child Poverty Report and Action Plan. The reports were endorsed and will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

##### Agenda Item 4

Partners received an update on the work of the Climate Change Steering Group. This included the aims of the group, the strategic principles of Sustainable North Ayrshire and an overview of a number of projects including two new solar farms, the Community Net Zero fund, Energy Smart and ECO4 Flex. An update was also provided on the Ayrshire Energy Master Plan and the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

### Agenda Item 5

The CPP Board received an update on the work of the Green Health Partnership. The Partnership was formed in 2018. Green Health is improving health and reducing health inequalities by making more use of the outdoors for nature-based activities such as walking, cycling, outdoor play, conservation work, growing or volunteering in the outdoors. Partners were updated on the key strategic local and national links, the Green Health referral pathway and an overview of Green Health Week 2023.

### Agenda Item 6

An update on Active Travel was received. The Active Travel Team is currently developing a new Local Transport and Active Travel Strategy for North Ayrshire. The objectives of the Active Travel Strategy are:

- Deliver a well-connected and accessible active travel network.
- Facilitate an increase in the proportion of all journeys made by walking, wheeling and cycling.
- Deliver training, events and promotion of active travel to encourage more people to travel by active means.

Key funders include such SPT, Sustrans, Transport Scotland. Community groups, locality networks and other key delivery partners such as the NHS and Police Scotland are also involved. The Board received an overview of key projects including:

- Feasibility/Design Stage: Largs prom, Cumbrae Active Travel Link, Dalry-Kilbirnie
- Construction Stage: Caledonian Railway Path, Fairlie Coastal Path, i3 active travel link.

### Agenda Item 7

This is currently a standing item. CPP partners received an update on the work of the Child Poverty and Cost of Living Board including Energy Smart, the new Child Poverty and Cost of Living Fund, new funding for the Community Transport Initiative, Islands Crisis Emergency Fund, the Parental Employability Support Fund and Co-ordinator and £2.3 million additional funding for P 4/5 free school meals.

## **3. Proposals**

3.1 That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

## **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

### **Financial**

4.1 None.

### **Human Resources**

4.2 None.

### **Legal**

4.3 None.



## **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 None.

## **Environmental and Sustainability**

4.5 None.

## **Key Priorities**

4.6 The CPP activities detailed within this report support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

## **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 None.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 No consultation was required.

Audrey Sutton  
**Executive Director**  
**Communities and Education**

For further information please contact **Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager (Policy, Performance and Community Planning)**, on **01294 324415**.

## **Background Papers**

Appendix: 1 CPP Board Minutes, 22 June 2023

## **Present**

### **North Ayrshire Council**

Cllr Marie Burns, Elected Member (**Chair**)  
Cllr John Bell, Elected Member  
Cllr Timothy Billings, Elected Member  
Cllr Alan Hill, Elected Member  
Cllr Margaret Johnson, Elected Member  
Cllr Shaun Macaulay, Elected Member  
Craig Hatton, Chief Executive  
Audrey Sutton, Executive Director  
Rhonda Leith, Head of Service

### **Ayrshire College**

Angela Cox, Chief Executive & Principal

### **North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

Caroline Cameron, Director

### **NHS Ayrshire and Arran**

Lesley Bowie, Chair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Vice Chair)  
Ruth Mellor, Consultant in Public Health

### **Police Scotland**

Superintendent Derek Frew

### **Scottish Enterprise**

Brian Connolly, Engagement Partner

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

Neil Shearer, Local Senior Officer

## **In Attendance**

Jacqui Greenlees (NAC), Lesley Dunlop (NAC), Gillian Jennings (Green Health Partnership), Claire Fitzsimmons (NAC), Jennifer Wraith (NAC)

## **Apologies**

Sheila Lynn (DWP), Cllr Scott Davidson (Elected Member), Vicky Yuill (Arran CVS), Shona Mitchell (Skills Development Scotland), Sam Anson (Scottish Government), Niamh O'Connor (Scottish Government), Kaileigh Brown (TACT), Paul Zealey (SDS), Allan Comrie (SPT)

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.

### **2. Minute of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 13 March 2023 were approved.

### 3. Children's Services Strategic Partnership

Audrey Sutton and Caroline Cameron provided the Board with a presentation on the suite of children and young people's strategies, including the Children's Services Strategic Plan and the Child Poverty Report and Action Plan. A Sutton advised that the reports have been brought to the Board to seek endorsement.

C Cameron informed the Board of the importance of the North Ayrshire Young People Needs Assessment and shared several points including:

- It is estimated that 29% of local young people live in poverty which is the second highest in Scotland.
- 45% of local young people live in areas that are considered to be in the 20% most deprived across Scotland.
- The cost-of-living crisis is adding additional pressure on all families in North Ayrshire and is more acutely experienced by those families living in poverty.
- Our young people in our island communities are also facing additional challenges of low wellbeing and feelings of isolation due to the rural nature of their communities.
- 18 in every 1,000 children living in North Ayrshire is currently care experienced, this is the 4th highest rate in Scotland.
- In 2022, the rate of local children on the Child Protection Register was almost double the national average. At 4.2 (per 1000) this was the highest rate in Scotland.
- In terms of general health, in 2022 there has been a decrease in the percentage of primary one children who are a healthy weight across the country. In North Ayrshire, 65% of children were reported as being of a healthy weight.
- Services to support children's mental health have seen significant increases year on year, with a higher proportion coming from areas of high deprivation and with increased presentation of neurodiverse needs.
- Local demand for Speech and Language Therapy has increased in recent years, with concern over services' capacity to manage.

C Cameron shared the new Children's Services Plan 2023-2026 with the Board and highlighted the five key priorities:

- The rights of children and young people are promoted and protected.
- Acting early to improve what happens next.
- Making things fairer.
- Promoting good mental health and wellbeing.
- Inspiring children and young people to be active.

C Cameron advised of actions against the five priorities including:

- Ensure that Children's engagement forums focus on rights, helping children and families understand UNCRC and what this means.
- Through our Advocacy Strategy prioritise community-based advocacy to children and young people ensuring they are aware of their rights and are appropriately represented.
- Implement the Signs of Safety approach to social work practice.
- Improve planning for transitions of care to ensure children and young people are able to thrive moving into adulthood.
- Close the poverty related attainment gap.
- Create a new 3 year raising attainment strategy.
- Establish a Financial Inclusion Partnership in North Ayrshire to better support access to support for families.
- Work with children, young people, families, and communities to improve mental health and wellbeing through physical activity and social participation.

- Improve services for children with neuro-developmental conditions, implementing a whole system approach with partners.
- Ensure we remove any barriers to participation for care experienced young people to take part in sport and physical activity.
- Ensure all primary, secondary and ASN schools are provided with quality extra-curricular opportunities in sport and physical activity open to all.

C Cameron advised that to address the priorities the plan sets out:

- A suite of supporting actions, identified across partner organisations.
- Significant commitment to whole system response to supporting children and their families.
- Our commitment to complying with national policy, in particular the UNCRC and the Promise.
- How local partners align and prioritise the wellbeing of children and young people.

C Cameron concluded with an explanation of how the plan will be achieved including:

- How the plan will be resourced, including the use of an estimated budget of £218 million across all partner services.
- How the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund investment will add value locally.
- The key support mechanisms, workstreams, committees and future developments that will focus support on improving the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

A Sutton advised that the Child Poverty Action Plan is a shared responsibility of the local authority and the health board and was completed using a collaborative approach with internal and external partners.

A Sutton informed that the report consists of:

- Summary of the existing and planned activity intended to reduce child poverty in North Ayrshire.
- Development and implementation of a Child Poverty and Cost of Living strategy to reflect the Scottish Government's "Best Start, Bright Futures" tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026.

A Sutton shared key highlights of the report including:

- Establishing our Child Poverty and Cost of Living Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council, with representation from NHSAAA, North Ayrshire's HSCP, Third Sector Interface and Community Planning partners.
- Strengthening our participatory approach to developing local supports through a series of mini enquiries focused on employability, food, childcare, and ensuring there is 'no wrong door' in North Ayrshire.
- Embedding innovative employability initiatives with partners, including health visitors and third sector partners, supported by the Parental Employability Fund.
- Continuing our commitment to reducing the cost of the school day in partnership with our learners. This year we have prioritised school clothing & equipment, a winter warmer breakfast in all secondary schools and IT devices for identified learners.

A Sutton informed the Board of areas of focus for the year ahead which included the following:

- Further maximising parental employment opportunities through a Parental Employment Coordinator.
- Implementing the recent review of financial inclusion services.
- Continuing to support families where disability is a factor through the EQUAL Programme

- Maximising the opportunities provided by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, for example in relation to supporting dads and male caregivers and extending the Family Centred Wellbeing Service.
- Work with the Third Sector and community partners to scope our current provision for whole family support and identify where our gaps are, to create a fund for partner activity through the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.
- Improving support for young mums.
- Working with partners to source and use local information to target resources effectively.
- Implementing a range of additional actions outlined in mini-enquiry action plans to improve local employment, food provision, childcare and implementation of a 'No Wrong Door' approach.

A Sutton informed that the Children's Rights Report is a statutory requirement which must be provided every three years. She highlighted the points below:

- Almost 90% of Additional Support Needs and young carers have their voice heard, helping to realise Article 12 of the United Nations Charter on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- No child or young person will go without a school meal in North Ayrshire.
- Our electronic cashless catering system provides anonymity for those entitled to free school meals.
- We have invested in a Welfare Rights Officer who works with our secondary establishments.

A Sutton thanked everyone for their contribution and participation and asked them to endorse the reports and plan so that they could be submitted to the Scottish Government.

The Chair thanked A Sutton and C Cameron for their presentation and applauded the work that has taken place so far.

The Chair invited comments and questions from the Board which included:

- Councillor Bell stated that it is great to see the amount of work that has gone on and the measures that are in place. He added that there are additional issues due to Covid with young children starting nursery with a lack of socialisation and asked what is being done to support the socialisation and language skills need? A Sutton responded that there is both a national and local response and added that C Cameron spoke earlier about the neurodevelopmental pathway and further speech and language therapy work. There is also a national working group around relationships in schools. North Ayrshire have created a group to look at relationships of children and young people.
- Angela Cox thanked A Sutton and C Cameron for a comprehensive piece of work and providing an evidence base to build on. Reflecting on the number of actions to take place she asked if there would be an impact assessment to look at so that we can prioritise on the measures that make the most impact. A Sutton replied that there will be a Needs Assessment on poverty in North Ayrshire that will show the Scottish Government the breadth and depth of what is happening in North Ayrshire. A more straightforward version of this report will be made available for the public. It is also the job of the Children's Services Strategic Partnership to assess and hold partners accountable. To date we have involved a range of partners via mini enquiries. C Cameron added the actions will be spread across a range of partners to take forward and that it is about using existing services. The Chair asked the Board if they are happy to endorse. All agreed.

#### **4. Climate Change Steering Group**

Jennifer Wraith provided the Board with a presentation on the work of the Climate Change Steering Group.

J Wraith highlighted:

- North Ayrshire Council's aim is for Net Zero by 2030.
- The reduction in emissions so far and the projection of reduction to 2030.
- Emissions mainly come from Industry, Commercial, Transport and Domestic Waste.

The Climate Change Steering Group aims to:

- Act as a sounding board and critical friend to support and challenge the implementation of the North Ayrshire Sustainability Strategy.
- Bring ideas, lessons learned and best practice from elsewhere in the UK and internationally around climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Advise on approach to achieving net zero carbon by 2030.
- Contribute wider policy knowledge on the sustainability and climate change agenda.
- Promote North Ayrshire's actions on climate change.
- Contribute to the review and refresh of the North Ayrshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Strategy as required.
- Members of the CCSG include - NAC, Ayrshire College, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, KA Leisure, Community Groups, Youth, Industry and Transport Sector

The strategic principles of Sustainable North Ayrshire are:

- Take a whole system approach.
- Report on our emissions
- Develop a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency
- Prioritise actions on 'heat and fleet'.
- Articulate the potential costs and skills required.
- Expand on the need for adaptation measures.
- Identify opportunities for carbon sinks and other carbon capture technologies.

J Wraith gave examples of community and partnership in action such as:

- Two new solar farm projects
- Community Net Carbon Zero Fund which has £350k to support community energy generation.
- Energy Smart
- ECO4 Flex / ABS maximising funding to support private sector.

J Wraith informed the Board of the Ayrshire Energy Master Plan and the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and provided information on their work. North Ayrshire Council are working in partnership with East and South Ayrshire Councils to provide a network of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points across Ayrshire with the aim to provide an extra 307 points. They are also working on decarbonising their fleet of vehicles.

J Wraith highlighted upcoming opportunities to work alongside partners including community engagement via mini enquiries.

The Chair thanked J Wraith for her presentation and acknowledged the opportunity for joint working.

Councillor Macaulay thanked J Wraith for her excellent presentation. He stated that climate change is the biggest issue we face. He added that it would be good to have regular updates regarding the ongoing work.

Brian Connolly also thanked J Wraith for her presentation and advised that Scottish Enterprise are delighted to be involved. He highlighted that there are a number of funds available including of the private sector and he is happy to share this information.

The Chair advised that the Board is happy to continue to receive updates. Craig Hatton suggested that partner updates regarding climate change would be useful. All agreed.

The Chair thanked J Wraith for her presentation.

## **5. Green Health Partnership**

Gillian Jennings and Ruth Mellor provided the Board with a presentation on the work of the Green Health Partnership.

G Jennings advised the Board that the Green Health Partnership was formed in 2018. Green Health is improving health and reducing health inequalities by making more use of the outdoors for nature based activities such as walking, cycling, outdoor play, conservation work, growing or volunteering in the outdoors.

G Jennings highlighted some of the associated benefits of green health such as:

- Cycling reduces congestion and harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
- Brisk 30 minute walk 5 days of the week can reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, diabetes, hip fractures, cancer, depression.
- Volunteering in the outdoors helps develop transferrable skills for employability.
- Children: improved motor skills, reduced symptoms of ADHD.
- Promotes social interaction and improves mental wellbeing.

G Jennings informed the Board of key strategic links both locally and nationally. The NHS is the lead organisation but works in partnership with other organisations. There are five areas of work that they undertake – Green Health Activity, Green Health Referral/Social Prescribing, Building Capacity, Communications, Monitoring & Evaluation.

G Jennings explained the referral pathway for a person with a defined health need can be a self-referral, via a Health Professional or Community Link Worker. Referral partners include KA Leisure, TACT, Scottish Wildlife Trust. All information is on the Green Health Partnership website which has links to activities, events calendar, resources amongst other information.

Green Health Week in May was very successful with over 40 different activities/sessions available. On 20<sup>th</sup> May a Green Health Day was held at Eglinton Park with 26 different community groups and organisations providing green health/nature-based activity and health & wellbeing information delivering stalls.

Ruth Mellor highlighted the next steps for the Green Health Partnership which include:

- Develop a Green Health Strategic Framework for North Ayrshire.
- Host a green health celebration stakeholder event.
- Fund our GHP Senior Project Officer until March 2024.
- Continue the work of our GHP Steering group.
- Promote green health opportunities and share knowledge and learning through nagreenhealth webpages and resources.
- Continue to promote engagement with the natural environment through green health social prescribing.
- Continue to support our green health community projects.

R Mellor stated that the asks of the Community Planning Partnership are:

- Promote the work of the NAGHP and the importance of engaging with nature from a climate change, health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities perspective.
- Support the development of a Green Health Strategic Framework for North Ayrshire.
- Embed green health opportunities through our LOIP themes of World, Wellbeing and Work.
- Continue to integrate green health into your strategies, plans and services.
- Promote community use of the natural spaces you are responsible for.
- Support your staff to engage with nature.
- Create more opportunities in our local communities for people to engage with nature through promoting green health activities, supporting community groups and enhancing and protecting our natural assets.

The Chair thanked G Jennings and R Mellor for their presentation. The Chair added that Placemaking is critical, and this is a perfect illustration of the crossover of themes. The Chair suggested looking at land and assets through community wellbeing and look at how we can maximise the use of them.

A Sutton informed of a Wellbeing Alliance workshop which is being held on Friday 23 June at the townhouse which will look at the three priorities – World, Wellbeing and Work, with a focus on Wellbeing, and discuss how we can better co-ordinate the work we are undertaking.

## **6. Active Travel**

Claire Fitzsimmons provided the Board with a presentation on the work of the Active Travel Team.

C Fitzsimmons highlighted that active travel is walking, cycling and wheeling. The team is currently developing new Local Transport and Active Travel Strategy for North Ayrshire. For this first time, the Local Transport Strategy will include an active travel strategy. Many areas have prepared an active travel strategy separate to their LTS, but we wanted to combine the two to show that active travel is at the top of that transport hierarchy and that it is an integral part of our transport system, plans and discussions.

The objectives of the Active Travel Strategy are:

- Deliver a well-connected and accessible active travel network.
- Facilitate an increase in the proportion of all journeys made by walking, wheeling and cycling.
- Deliver training, events and promotion of active travel to encourage more people to travel by active means.

C Fitzsimmons advised that within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan increasing active travel is a specific outcome under the World priority, but it can also play a significant role in both the wellbeing and work priorities as well. C Fitzsimmons added that active travel has far reaching benefits across a range of policy areas. It has an important role to play regarding health and wellbeing, helping to prevent or manage a range of chronic health conditions. It also provides environmental, economic and social benefits, and can contribute to economic performance by providing more cost-effective access to employment.

C Fitzsimmons informed that in North Ayrshire, a partnership approach is key. We cannot deliver on our national, regional and local transport vision and ambitions alone. We are reliant on establishing and maintaining good working relationships with a range of partners. This includes some of the key funders such as SPT, Sustrans, Transport Scotland. Community groups, locality networks and other key delivery partners such as the NHS and Police Scotland are also involved.

C Fitzsimmons highlighted current projects including:



- Feasibility/Design Stage: Largs prom, Cumbernauld Active Travel Link, Dalry-Kilbirnie
- Construction Stage: Caledonian Railway Path, Fairlie Coastal Path, i3 active travel link.

C Fitzsimmons informed that the base for delivering Travel Smart is the Trinity Active Travel Hub in Irvine which was opened in 2019. It can provide a range of services including:

- Maps and information on active travel routes.
- Personalised travel planning and advice.
- Supporting local businesses to promote workplace walking and cycling.
- Supporting and organising events.
- Delivering training sessions.
- Providing local knowledge on public transport options.

The team also has a dedicated officer whose role is to work with employers across the area to encourage their staff to consider active and sustainable travel. Teamwork with a range of partners to deliver active travel improvements, events and training across the area such as Police Scotland to provide joint activities – particularly in relation to road safety, cycle training and bike marking is proving successful. We also work with community partners such as Radio City and TACT to support their efforts in encouraging active travel.

C Fitzsimmons advised of the plans and challenges for the year ahead:

Plans:

- Finalise and publish the Local Transport and Active Travel Strategy. This will be going to Cabinet after recess.
- Secure the future of Travel Smart Workplaces project.
- Continue to identify new active travel projects.
- On the ground delivery of key infrastructure projects such as Fairlie Coastal Path and the Ardrossan Low Carbon Hub.
- Expansion of the Travel Smart programme across North Ayrshire with support from community groups and partner organisations.

Challenges:

- Working within a difficult economic environment.
- Need for continued lobbying to emphasise the importance of active travel and the range of policy areas it can support.

The Chair thanked C Fitzsimmons for her presentation.

## **7. Cost of Living**

Audrey Sutton provided the Board with an update on Cost of Living.

A Sutton advised the Board of interventions that are taking place:

- Energy Smart has been allocated c. £500,000 from the budget underspend.
- New Child Poverty and Cost of Living Fund of £1.4 million over three years.
- £100,000 has been allocated for Financial Inclusion to allow the strategy to be implemented.
- A further £45,000 has been allocated to CHAP via the Community Investment Fund.
- Community Transport Initiative has been allocated £100,000. The pilot is in the Garnock Valley.
- Islands Crisis Emergency Fund provides bespoke support.
- Parental Employability Support Fund and Co-ordinator.
- P 4/5 free school meals - £2.3 million additional funding has been received.

A Sutton will continue to bring a 6 monthly update to the Board.

The Chair thanked A Sutton for her update.

## **8. Partner Updates**

No partner updates were received.

## **9. AOCB**

No other business was discussed.

The next meeting of the North Ayrshire CPP Board will be held on **Thursday 14 September at 11.15 am in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine.**

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

13 September 2023

### North Ayrshire Council

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**Title:** Committee Timetable 2024

**Purpose:** To invite the Council to consider a timetable of meetings of the Council and its committees for the period from January – December 2024

**Recommendation:** That the Council agrees:

- (a) to approve the draft committee timetable set out at Appendix 1; and
  - (b) to note that arrangements for Locality Partnership meetings and any ad hoc or Special Meetings will be intimated separately to Members
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### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Council sets a timetable of committee meetings for each calendar year. The appendix to this report proposes a timetable for 2024.

### 2. Background

2.1 The proposed timetable of meetings set out at Appendix 1 incorporates six-weekly meetings of the Council, as well as Cabinet, standing committees of the Council and meetings of the Policy Advisory Board.

2.2 Recess periods have been included for Easter, Summer, October and Christmas. Any further recess required as the result of an electoral event will be added in due course and any Council/committee meetings rescheduled as necessary.

2.3 Dates for the Integration Joint Board (and IJB PAC) are provisional, to be formally agreed by the IJB. An indicative date for the Special Meeting of Council to consider the budget is included for information only at this stage, with arrangements to be finalised in due course.

2.4 The proposed timetable does not include the following meetings which will be intimated separately to Members:

- the Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee (and Partnership Board) and the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee, which set their own meeting dates.

- the six Locality Partnerships, which take place in the early evening on a quarterly basis;
- the Local Development Plan Committee, Staffing and Recruitment Committee, Education Appeal Committee, Appeals Committee and Special Council (Planning), which meet on an ad hoc basis, as required;
- any Special Meetings of the Council and its committees which may be required, including meetings to consider Cabinet Call In requests
- any meetings of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tier Joint Consultative Committee, which sets its own meetings calendar

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 The Council is invited:

- (a) to approve the draft committee timetable for 2024 set out at Appendix 1; and
- (b) note that arrangements for Locality Partnership meetings, joint committees and any ad hoc or Special Meetings will be intimated separately to Members.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

4.1 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **Human Resources**

4.2 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **Legal**

4.3 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **Climate Change and Carbon**

4.5 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **Key Priorities**

4.6 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 None arising from the recommendations of this report.

### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 Group Leaders and Independent Members have been consulted on the proposed timetable.
- 5.2 Consultation has also taken place with Services of the Council on the proposed meeting dates. In particular, efforts have been made to ensure that the timing of relevant meetings of the Cabinet, Audit and Scrutiny and Council align as far as possible with accounting period requirements.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services)**, on **01294 324131/melanieanderson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk**.

### **Background Papers**

None

## Draft Committee Timetable January – December 2024

Meeting Cycle 1

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 January		Public Holiday	Public Holiday	Recess	Recess	Recess
8 January	1			2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee		
15 January	2		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda		2.00 p.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	
22 January	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	
29 January	4		10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel		10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	
5 February	5		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda*	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
12 February	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council		

\*Provisional – brought forward a week to avoid full Council week

Meeting Cycle 2

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 February	1		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body		
26 February	2	2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Committee		2.00 p.m. Special Council (Budget) TBC	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	10.00 a.m. IJB PAC (TBC)
4 March	3					
11 March	4		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC) 2.00 p.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	
18 March	5		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	
25 March	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	Good Friday
1 April		Easter Monday Public Holiday & Expected School Hols	Easter Recess & Expected School Hols	Easter Recess/ & Expected School Hols	Easter Recess & Expected School Hols	Easter Recess & Expected School Hols

### Meeting Cycle 3

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 April	1	(Expected School Hols)	10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel	(Expected School Hols) 2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	(Expected School Hols)	(Expected School Hols)
15 April	2					
22 April	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body		
29 April	4		2.30 p.m. Cabinet		10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	
6 May	5	Public Holiday		2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
13 May	6	1.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council		

### Meeting Cycle 4

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20 May	1	2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Committee		2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	2.00 p.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	
27 May	2		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	
3 June	3		2.30 Cabinet (Education)	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	
10 June	4	2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Committee			10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
17 June	5			2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body		10.00 a.m. IJB PAC (TBC)
24 June	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council		

## Meeting Cycle 5

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 July						
8 July						
15 July				Summer Recess Period & Expected School Hols		
22 July						
29 July						
5 August						
12 August	1	(Expected School Hols)	(Expected School Hols)	(Expected School Hols) 2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	(Expected School Hols) 10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	(Expected School Hols)
19 August	2	2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Committee	2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda		10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC) 2.00 p.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	
26 August	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	10.00 a.m. IJB PAC (TBC)
2 September	4					
9 September	5		10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	
16 September	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council	10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	

## Meeting Cycle 6

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 September	1	Public Holiday (provisional)	2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	10.00 a.m. Special Audit & Scrutiny (if required)	
30 September	2		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)			
7 October	3				10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
14 October				October Recess & Expected School Hols		
21 October	4		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required) 2.00 p.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	
28 October	5		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body	10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny	
4 November	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council		



## Meeting Cycle 7

Week Beginning	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 November	1		10.00 a.m. Policy Advisory Panel		10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
18 November	2	2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Committee		2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee	10.00 a.m. Appeals Committee (if required)	
25 November	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m.* Local Review Body		
2 December	4		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)			
9 December	5				10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)	
16 December	6	2.00 p.m. Council Pre-Meeting (Provost & Group Leaders)		2.00 p.m. Council		10.00 a.m. IJB (TBC)
23 December				Winter Recess & Expected School Hols		
30 December						



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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

13 September 2023

### North Ayrshire Council

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**Title:** Revenue Estimates 2023/24 – Irvine Common Good Fund

**Purpose:** To advise Council of the level of grant applications received by Irvine Common Good Fund and seek approval to increase the level of funding made available for disbursement as grants during 2023/24.

**Recommendation:** That Council approves the revised 2023/24 revenue estimates for Irvine Common Good Fund to maximise the support offered to the community.

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council is the custodian of the Common Good Funds for the former burghs of Ardrossan, Irvine, Largs, Millport, Saltcoats and Stevenston.
- 1.2 On 1 March 2023, Council approved the 2023/24 revenue estimates for the Common Good Funds, including the amounts available for disbursement in the form of grants from each. The level of funding available for these grants was based on the net annual income of each Fund, after meeting their expenditure commitments, adjusted to reflect the level of grant disbursements in previous years.
- 1.3 Following an increase in the volume and value of applications for support received by the Irvine Common Good Fund, it is recommended that the 2023/24 revenue estimates are revised to increase the amount available for disbursement to £41,041, enabling the locality partnership to maximise the level of support offered to local communities.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is the custodian of the Common Good Funds for the former burghs of Ardrossan, Irvine, Largs, Millport, Saltcoats and Stevenston. The purpose of the Common Good Funds is to benefit the general population within the defined areas of each of their respective towns.

- 2.2 The Common Good Funds make annual disbursements to groups and individuals based on approved criteria. The levels of grant available for disbursement are determined after all expenditure commitments and projected income from assets has been assessed. Current practice has been for the remaining surplus to be made available for trustees to disburse, ensuring that capital balances are left intact, with the disbursement of funds from the capital balance requiring Council approval.
- 2.3 On 1 March 2023, Council approved the revenue estimates for each Common Good Fund for 2023/24, including the amounts available for disbursement in the form of grants.
- 2.4 In the case of Irvine Common Good Fund, due to one-off budgeted expenditure in relation to essential works at Seagate Castle, the budgeted level of expenditure exceeded the level of income. In order to maximise the benefits to the community, Council agreed to set the budget for grant disbursement at a level which reflected previous years' disbursements. This resulted in a budgeted draw on capital balances of £195,459 for the year.
- 2.5 The budget for grant disbursement from Irvine Common Good Fund was approved at £26,500 for the year, reflecting the level of activity during 2022/23 which included 3 grant applications totalling £26,500.
- 2.6 However, following increased activity across community groups since the Covid-19 pandemic and community engagement by colleagues within the Connected Communities service, the number of applications received by the Irvine Locality Partnership up to 31 July 2023 has increased to 5 applications totalling £34,000.
- 2.7 In order to maximise the benefits to the community and provide sufficient headroom to allow the Locality Partnership to consider any further applications which may be received during the remainder of the financial year, it is proposed that the budget available for disbursement is increased to £41,041 for 2023/24. This amount reflects the balance which would have been available if the additional budget provision in relation to Seagate Castle had not been required.
- 2.8 The detailed budget for Irvine Common good, including the proposed revisions, is included at Appendix 1.

### **3. Proposals**

- 3.1 That Council approves the revised 2023/24 revenue estimates for Irvine Common Good Fund to maximise the support offered to the community.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1 Approval of the budgets will allow Irvine Locality Partnership to disburse individual grants up to the revised levels.

## **Human Resources**

4.2 None.

## **Legal**

4.3 All expenditure from Trusts and Common Good Funds must be for the purposes of the Trust or meet the Common Good criteria of benefitting the inhabitants of the Common Good area.

## **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 None.

## **Environmental and Sustainability**

4.5 None.

## **Key Priorities**

4.6 This report directly supports the Council Plan 2023 to 2028 by providing support for community organisations in achieving their goals.

## **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 None.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 Colleagues within the Connected Communities have been consulted on the recommendations within this report.

Mark Boyd  
Head of Service (Finance)

For further information please contact **David Forbes, Senior Manager (Strategic Business Partner)**, on **01294 324551**.

## **Background Papers**

Revenue Estimates 2023/24 – Common Good and Trusts - Council 1 March 2023

Budget 2022/23 £	Outturn 2022/23 £	<b>COMMON GOOD FUND - IRVINE</b>	Approved Budget 2023/24 £	Revised Budget 2023/24 £
<b>1,093,581</b>	<b>1,102,411</b>	<b>Common Good Balance Brought Forward at 1 April</b>	<b>1,115,681</b>	<b>1,115,681</b>
		<b>INCOME</b>		
		<b>Property Rentals</b>		
25,000	25,000	Woodlands Centre	25,000	25,000
11,500	11,500	Bank Street (Church of Latter Day Saints)	11,500	11,500
2,500	18,385	Irvine Moor	13,385	13,385
13,000	13,000	Ground East Road (McConnachies)	13,000	13,000
2,000	2,000	East Road New Car Park	2,000	2,000
		<b>Other Income</b>		
1,117	17,061	Loans Fund Interest (on cash balances)	27,340	27,340
<b>55,117</b>	<b>86,946</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>92,225</b>	<b>92,225</b>
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
		<b>Property Costs</b>		
500	-	General Repairs	500	500
10,033	10,197	Rates on vacant properties (36/38 Bank Street)	10,500	10,500
2,310	887	Electricity	3,110	3,110
30,445	28,995	Grounds Maintenance*	30,445	30,445
220,000	1,673	Property Maintenance	210,000	210,000
1,000	-	Other Property Costs	1,000	1,000
264,288	41,752		255,555	255,555
		<b>Others</b>		
4,673	5,424	Administration - Charge from Finance	5,629	5,629
4,673	5,424		5,629	5,629
<b>268,961</b>	<b>47,176</b>	<b>SUB TOTAL OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>261,184</b>	<b>261,184</b>
<b>(213,844)</b>	<b>39,770</b>	<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE GRANTS</b>	<b>(168,959)</b>	<b>(168,959)</b>
26,500	26,500	Available for Disbursement as Grants	26,500	41,041
<b>(240,344)</b>	<b>13,270</b>	<b>FINAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR INCLUDING GRANTS</b>	<b>(195,459)</b>	<b>(210,000)</b>
<b>853,237</b>	<b>1,115,681</b>	<b>COMMON GOOD BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 MARCH</b>	<b>920,222</b>	<b>905,681</b>

\* For the upkeep of ground at the Moor, Low Green, Recreational Parks, Galt Avenue, Old Parish Church, Redburn Community Centre, Berry Drive

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## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

13 September 2023

### Council

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**Title:** Ardrossan Harbour Update

**Purpose:** This report provides an update on the Ardrossan Harbour development following Transport Scotland's decision to pause procurement activity for the project.

**Recommendation:** Council notes the response to Transport Scotland's decision to pause activity for the Ardrossan Harbour development programme.

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 During 2017, North Ayrshire led a successful campaign to ensure that Ardrossan Harbour remained the mainland port servicing the Arran ferry, with a programme of marine and landside development works also agreed at that time. While partners have progressed works to a design for the project, changes to the original scope of works and cost inflation have created a predicted significant increase in the cost to deliver the project. As a result, in August 2023, Transport Scotland announced its decision to pause procurement activity for the project to reassess the business case for the project.
- 1.2 This report sets out the background to the current project status and the Council's response to the decision to pause procurement activity for the project

### 2. Background

#### Project History

- 2.1 During 2017, North Ayrshire Council led a successful campaign to ensure that Ardrossan Harbour remained the mainland port servicing the Arran ferry service.
- 2.2 The campaign highlighted the wide range of benefits of Ardrossan continuing to be the mainland port serving Arran, as well as extensive analysis of socio-economic impact that would occur through the loss of the service to Ardrossan. The case also referenced the wider regeneration activity planned for Ardrossan, which has advanced significantly in the time that has passed since the original case was agreed. The Ardrossan Coastal Quarter is a regeneration programme of national scale, which will support Ardrossan to become a more resilient, sustainable and thriving coastal community by maximising the economic impact of the coast and marine environment. The socio-economic benefit to the Arran and Ardrossan communities was reflected in the Scottish Government's decision to support the Ardrossan to Arran route.

- 2.3 As part of the agreement to retain the Ardrossan to Arran service, a package of marine and landside infrastructure investment was identified to ensure that the harbour was suitable for serving the ferry into the future. The package of infrastructure works was to be funded by Transport Scotland and Peel Ports Group for marine infrastructure; while North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland, and Peel Ports Group were to fund landside infrastructure. The landside funding package also sought to secure external funding from sources including Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Capital Programme, who have supported development to date. When the Scottish Government confirmed the Ardrossan to Arran service in 2017, a Ministerial Taskforce was established to oversee the completion of the infrastructure works package. The Taskforce has continued to meet since that time.
- 2.4 In the intervening period, although an exemplar design for the infrastructure works has been agreed by Taskforce partners as a basis for procuring a contractor to deliver the project, costs for delivery and scope of works has increased such that in August 2023 Transport Scotland notified Taskforce members and publicised that it was pausing the project prior to proceeding to procurement to reassess the project business case. Transport Scotland advise that the business case review will conclude in November 2023. Transport Scotland's correspondence on this matter, and related press release are available online.
- 2.5 This position was not anticipated by the Council, given that Cabinet approval on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 agreed to enter into a procurement agreement to allow Peel Ports Group to lead project procurement activity on behalf of partners, following agreement to that approach through Taskforce meetings in January and March 2023. The decision, and delay added, will have significant impact on island service delivery and the emerging wider Ardrossan strategic regeneration programme, given that the success of the programme will be in part linked to the wider integrated and connected place-based design approach to all elements, which will benefit communities, businesses, and the environment.

#### North Ayrshire Council Response

- 2.6 In response to the latest position of Transport Scotland, the Council has expressed disappointment that a review of the business case will result in further delay to the project, however, acknowledges Transport Scotland's decision to review the project business case. The Council has publicly expressed its view that both the Arran and Ardrossan communities are best served by the provision of services from Ardrossan and that the Council remains committed to supporting and retaining the Arran ferry service from Ardrossan.
- 2.7 Notwithstanding the pause on procurement activity, Transport Scotland has informed partners of the intent to maintain project technical working groups. Council officers will continue to engage with project technical meetings to progress the project in support of the original aspirations for Ardrossan.
- 2.8 Additionally, the Council is procuring economic consultants to provide updated socio-economic analysis to underpin the case for investment at Ardrossan to inform the Transport Scotland business case review, which will reaffirm the key benefits identified during the campaign to secure the Ardrossan to Arran route.
- 2.9 During the Save our Ferry Campaign, the case for the Ardrossan to Arran route was accepted based on a range of critical benefits, which remain valid, including:
- That the Ardrossan to Brodick route is the shortest, cheapest and fastest crossing point between the mainland and Arran. This was estimated as providing value in



time travel saved of £33.5m. In addition, further savings on operational costs of servicing the shortest most efficient route through savings on staffing, fuel costs and maintenance – all of which will be vital to Arran communities and businesses.

- Ardrossan is the safest and most resilient location for the service, with the location and proposed infrastructure providing all-weather berthing and greatest berthing capacity in addition to service areas for parking, marshalling passenger access and terminal, which have now been developed to design stage.
- Ardrossan is the best-connected harbour for the service, with multi-modal transport interchange with rail, bus, cycling and pedestrian links directly serving the port.
- That the Ardrossan to Brodick route was the overwhelming preferred location for Arran and Ardrossan communities, whilst providing significant economic benefit to Ardrossan communities, which contains areas of long-standing high deprivation. The service also provides the most efficient, cost effective and sustainable service provision model for Arran communities by providing better accessibility for staffing and transport of goods and services, such as waste management operations.
- That Ardrossan Harbour provides the most sustainable, low carbon location for the Arran crossing, given its ability to service low carbon fleet, it is the shortest and most resilient route and Ardrossan provides multi-modal low carbon transport solutions and the low carbon hub aspirations that are being developed as part of the wider Ardrossan programme. This includes the current delivery of low carbon infrastructure, funded through Transport Scotland. The sustainability position is only likely to be a heightened consideration for the business case, given the local, national and global commitments to responding to the climate emergency that have been made since the original case was accepted.

2.10 While it is expected that these benefits will remain valid, and in some instances the case for Ardrossan to Arran may have increased, a refreshed socio-economic analysis of the project will be beneficial to assisting Transport Scotland's review to support the case for investment at Ardrossan Harbour and reflect impacts that may have changed since the original case through factors such as Covid, the energy and cost of living crises.

2.11 With particular reference to understanding the impact of Covid, the Fraser of Allander Institute 2020 report "The Impact of Covid-19 on the Arran Economy" outlined the economic value of the Ardrossan to Arran ferry crossing, as follows: -

- It is estimated that, on average, each day of ferry operation contributes just under £170,000 to the island's economy.
- Some island jobs may require skills which the local population cannot offer. This means that businesses in Arran have to rely on commuters from North Ayrshire and other parts of Scotland to meet these skill requirements, making ferry transport a crucial mode of transport for local employers.
- Ferries are the primary mode of transport to and from Arran. Restrictions on ferry capacity are a primary concern for the tourism industry.

2.12 Given the current project status, it is critical to refresh socio-economic analysis to be able to fully articulate and quantify the benefits arising from the continued operation of the Ardrossan to Arran route, and investment in ferry service infrastructure, to ensure the review of the project business case considers the strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management cases for progressing the Ardrossan Harbour project to delivery as soon as possible.

2.13 Members are asked to note the content of the papers and the actions taken to support the assessment of options to progress the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour. Future updates will be provided to members throughout the business review process.

### **3. Proposals**

#### **3.1**

Council notes the response to Transport Scotland's decision to pause activity for the Ardrossan Harbour development programme.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

4.1 None directly arising from the content of the report.

#### **Human Resources**

4.2 None.

#### **Legal**

4.3 None directly arising from the content of the report.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 As set out in this report, the Save our Ferry Campaign outlined extensive socio-economic benefits arising from the retention of the Ardrossan to Arran service and the investment in infrastructure. Officers are procuring support to update the socio-economic analysis currently held to reflect the current position, including increased benefit through additional capital expenditure for the programme, and other changes since the base case was established.

#### **Climate Change and Carbon**

4.5 As set out in paragraph 2.11, Ardrossan Harbour provides the most sustainable, low carbon location for the Arran crossing, given its ability to service low carbon fleet, it is the shortest and most resilient route and Ardrossan provides multi-modal low carbon transport solutions and the low carbon hub aspirations that are being developed and delivered as part of the wider Ardrossan programme, including some funded through Transport Scotland. The sustainability position is only likely to be a heightened consideration for the business case, given the local, national and global commitments to responding to the climate emergency that have been made since the original case was accepted.

#### **Key Priorities**

4.6 The retention of the Arran to Ardrossan ferry and improved service provision through infrastructure investment will support the Council Plan objectives of Climate Change,

Wellbeing and Communities & Local Democracy. This is set out in further detail in paragraphs 2.9 and 2.11.

### **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 The programme of investment and regeneration at Ardrossan Coastal Quarter, including the Ardrossan Harbour redevelopment is a national scale regeneration programme, which will bring significant benefits to local communities and businesses. Including supporting regeneration opportunities within Ardrossan town centre. The updated socio-economic will consider the community wealth building and wellbeing impact of the proposed investment at Ardrossan.

### **5. Consultation**

5.1 No consultation has been undertaken in preparing this report; however, as referred to in the body of the report, extensive consultation has been undertaken both throughout the Save Our Ferry campaign and in the ongoing development of the project that has been undertaken since.

Russell McCutcheon  
Executive Director, Place

For further information please contact **Neale McIlvanney, Interim Head of Service, Growth, Investment & Employability**, on [nealemcilvanney@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:nealemcilvanney@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) .

### **Background Papers**

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**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****13 September 2023****North Ayrshire Council**

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**Title:** Irvine Town Centre Working Group Update**Purpose:** To update Council on the progress made by the working group to evaluate options to bring the former Forum building, former Ruby Tuesdays building and subsequent surrounding buildings that have fallen into disrepair back into a usable state.**Recommendation:** That the Council Notes the progress made by the working group and agrees to receive a further update towards the end of 2023.

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**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 A working group of Elected Members and Officers has been established regarding Irvine town centre in accordance with a motion passed by Council on 17 May 2023. The purpose of the working group is to discuss and evaluate options outlining the ownership position and options for bringing the former Forum building, former Ruby Tuesdays building and subsequent surrounding buildings that have fallen into disrepair back into a usable state. This report provides an update on the progress made to date including the identification of short-term improvements and the development of a feasibility study.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Our town centres are facing challenges due to changing and evolving retail patterns. Town centres are a key element of the economic and social fabric and can be a central component of successful local economies and offer a base for small businesses and jobs. They are often at the core of community life, offering spaces to meet and interact with access to facilities, places to live and services that people require. It is therefore important that our town centres are functioning, well-maintained assets that develop to support the needs of their residents, businesses and visitors.
- 2.2 Through the Placemaking theme, the Regeneration Delivery Plan promotes the importance of place, repositioning of our town centres, town centre living, and leads on a response to derelict sites. Bringing town centre properties back into positive use and creating places that are vibrant, welcoming, sustainable and attractive is central to this ambition. Through the development of the Plan several properties were identified as having a substantial negative impact on our town centres and requiring action.
- 2.3 At the meeting on 17 May 2023, North Ayrshire Council agreed that a working group of local Elected Members and relevant Officers be established to discuss and evaluate

options outlining the ownership position and options for bringing the former Forum building, former Ruby Tuesdays building and subsequent surrounding buildings that have fallen into disrepair back into a usable state. Furthermore, it was agreed that a report on the outcome be submitted to the first meeting of the Council following the summer recess.

- 2.4 The working group is comprised of Elected Members from the Irvine East, West and South Wards and representatives from the following Services: Corporate Property and Transport and Sustainability; Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration; Finance; Housing; and Public Protection and Neighbourhood Services. Two meetings have been held to date on 30 June and 23 August 2023.
- 2.5 The working group has identified and agreed the three initial actions which are being progressed by Services to:
- Engage with landowners to understand their plans for the properties and increase awareness of opportunities through the Repurposing Property Grant Fund.
  - Identify and implement short term improvements to improve the aesthetics of properties and surrounding area, subject to securing the necessary consents and permissions.
  - Develop a high-level feasibility study to consider potential opportunities to repurpose the properties and surrounding area.
- 2.6 The identified properties are within private ownership. A letter was issued to each owner by the Regeneration Team. This extended the offer of a meeting and requested information on their plans for their respective properties. It also outlined the offer under the Council's Repurposing Property Grant Fund, which offers grant funding for feasibility studies to identify potential options for vacant and derelict sites and their viability. There has been no response to our correspondence to date however Officers from Regeneration and Protective Services continue to try and engage the owners to bring proposals forward.
- 2.7 Engagement with the neighbouring Rivergate Shopping Centre has been positive and is ongoing to identify opportunities for partnership working. Site visits have also been undertaken to consider short term improvements that could be undertaken to improve the aesthetic of the area. These have identified that works could include pressure washing, weeding, soft-washing and graffiti removal. Quotes are being obtained via Streetscene with a view to progressing these works. Disclaimer waivers will be sought from landowners prior to implementing any short-term improvements alongside a contribution to the works where possible.
- 2.8 Consultancy support was procured by the Regeneration team via the Council's Professional Services Framework to prepare the high-level feasibility study. Graham and Sibbald are currently developing the study, the objectives of which are to:
- Identify viable alternative uses that support regeneration priorities;
  - Promote a Community Wealth Building approach to the re-purposing of vacant/under-utilised properties;
  - Take into consideration aspirations for neighbouring properties such as the Rivergate Shopping Centre and wider regeneration proposals; and
  - Assess alternative options in terms of indicative value and likely cost against current operational and maintenance costs.

2.9 The study process will:

- Confirm the current ownerships and any aspirations for redevelopment;
- Detail existing constraints and potential opportunities for mitigation;
- Engage with property owners including the Rivergate Shopping Centre;
- Engage with Scotland's Town Partnership to learn from national experience and best practice;
- Identify a range of alternative uses including consideration of residential, business, commercial, leisure and community opportunities;
- Undertake a market analysis for proposed alternative uses; and
- Assess the viability of redevelopment through an assessment of indicative development costs and indicative values.

2.10 The final report is due by the end of September 2023. It is proposed that a further report updating on the progress of these actions be considered at a future meeting of the Council in late 2023. It is envisaged that the outcome of this work will help to inform the Council's approach to vacant town centre properties going forward.

### **3. Proposals**

3.1 That the Council notes the progress made by the working group and agrees to receive a further update towards the end of 2023.

### **4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty**

#### **Financial**

4.1 The actions being progressed are being funded using existing Regeneration budgets. This includes the allocations for Council led projects under the Communities and Place Fund. Notwithstanding the outcome of the feasibility study, it is likely that significant financial resource would be required to implement any longer-term actions in the area. Potential sources of funding will be investigated through this process.

#### **Human Resources**

4.2 The actions being progressed are being delivered through existing cross Service resources.

#### **Legal**

4.3 Disclaimer waivers will be sought from landowners prior to implementing any short-term improvements. As the properties and associated land are in private ownership, a full assessment of the legal considerations associated with the options presented through the feasibility study will be required prior to any delivery.

#### **Equality/Socio-economic**

4.4 The actions being progressed assist in meeting our socio-economic duty as set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty. They seek to tackle the identified long-term vacant and derelict land and buildings within Irvine town centre thereby reducing their levels and impact on communities. They also aim to build community wealth and tackle local

deprivation through the regeneration of our communities by maximising the potential of underutilised land and assets.

### **Climate Change and Carbon**

4.5 The potential for sustainability and low carbon related improvements will be considered as part of the feasibility study.

### **Key Priorities**

4.6 The actions being progressed align with and contribute to the following Council Priorities:

- Wellbeing: to transition to a wellbeing economy, delivering prosperity, wellbeing and resilience for local people and to ensure our places and spaces where we live, work and visit are well maintained and accessible.
- Communities and Local Democracy: that our places encourage strong inclusive communities and respect the local environment and cultural heritage.

### **Community Wealth Building**

4.7 The work being progressed contributes to our aims to build community wealth and tackle local deprivation through the regeneration of our communities by maximising the potential of land and assets. The potential for wider community wealth building opportunities and benefits will be investigated through the feasibility study.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1 The working group is comprised of Elected Members and Officers from across Services, who are proactively engaged in the development of this work. Initial approaches have been made to landowners and engagement will be ongoing throughout the development of the proposals. The feasibility study process will engage with Scotland's Town Partnership to learn from experience across Scotland.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON  
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Claire Fitzsimmons, Interim Senior Manager – Regeneration**, on **01294 315305**.

### **Background Papers**

Regeneration Delivery Plan, 2021