

Cabinet  
25 February 2014

**Irvine, 25 February 2014** - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

**Also Present**

Alex Gallagher, Tom Marshall and Alex McLean.

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director, D. Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment), P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit and Risk Management), T. Reaney, Procurement Manager and J. Hamilton, Employment Services Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Corporate Director, K. Yeomans, Head of Service (Development Planning) and A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) (Development and Environment); C. Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills); M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Anthea Dickson.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2014 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, subject to the following amendment in respect of Item 4 - Re-zoning the Denominational Primary School Catchment Areas in Kilwinning:

The Cabinet agreed to (a) *"note the information contained within the report;"* and (b) to receive (i) statutory public consultation documents; and (ii) updates on the progress of the proposal at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

### **3. Millport Regeneration**

Submitted report and presentation by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on progress with a series of regeneration projects in Millport.

The report and presentation provided information on:-

- the need for regeneration of Millport;
- the operation of Millport Marine Biological Station by Field Studies Council and phased capital investment that will deliver new accommodation, parking and renewable energy and refurbishment of the existing accommodation and teaching facilities;
- the Townscape Heritage Programme that helps communities improve the built environment of conservation areas in need of investment;
- the re-submission of a bid for Townscape Heritage funding for the Millport Conservation Area in conjunction with a bid to the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme that targets conservation areas with social and economic disadvantages;
- the identification of a preferred option for the future redevelopment of Millport Pier (Appendices 1 and 2 to the report) and the need to identify sources of external funding to develop the preferred option;
- the design of a shared use path through the centre of Millport to lessen pedestrian/cycle conflict and improvements to the Quayhead, as illustrated in Appendix 3 to the report;
- the potential for a community fuel facility on Cumbrae and a public consultation event that will take place on 18 March 2014; and
- the implementation of the Road Equivalent Tariff Scheme that will reduce the costs of ferry travel by car.

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

- a report that will be presented to the North Coast Area Committee in May 2014 on the Field Studies Council;
- the examination of six options for the redevelopment of Millport Pier and the identification of Option 5 as the preferred option for the pier; and
- the development of clear and focused proposals to target external project funding.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made with proposals for: Millport Marine Biological Station; Millport Conservation Area; Millport Pier; a shared use path and improvements to the Quayhead; (b) the preparation and submission of a bid for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme funding; the re-submission of an application for Townscape Heritage Initiative funding; and, support a shopfront improvement scheme within Millport town centre; and (c) note that Option 5 provides the most efficient economic outcome for Millport Pier and that, subject to the securing of external funding, this be developed for further consideration.

#### **4. Gaelic Language Plan**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the outcome of the consultation events on the Gaelic Language Plan held in North Ayrshire and submissions received via the online consultation facility.

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

- new consultation on Gaelic Medium Education and the identification and promotion of clear pathways for parents who wish to have their children educated through the medium of Gaelic.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of the consultation; and (b) approve the Gaelic Language Plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

#### **5. Tourism in North Ayrshire**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on progress made in the development of the tourism economy of North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress which has been made in tourism development both at a regional level by the pan-Ayrshire Tourism Team and locally by North Ayrshire Council; (b) approve the approach of focusing on 3 key tourism priorities for future development; and, (c) approve the proposed work to develop a local tourism strategic policy and investment framework for future growth opportunities.

#### **6. Refurbishment of Cunninghame House**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress being made with the Cunninghame House refurbishment project; the result of the tender exercise for phase 1 of the works; and proposals for the award of contract for the phase 1 works.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract for phase 1 of the works to James Frew Ltd, at a contract value of £1,301,839.36.

#### **7. Contract for Provision of Non-Life Insurance Services and Claims Handling Services**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the provision of Non- Life Insurance Services and Claims Handling Services.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Zurich Municipal Ltd, at a contract value of £10,990,304.01.

## **8. Maximising Attendance Performance - December 2013 (Quarter 3 Summary)**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on an analysis of sickness absence in Quarter 3 and the current year to date position.

Noted.

## **9. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: Minutes of Meeting held on 17 January 2014**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 17 January 2014.

Noted.

## **10. 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health and Safety Group: Minutes of Meetings held on 6 February 2014**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meetings of the 1st Tier JCC and the Corporate Health and Safety Group held on 6 February 2014.

At its meeting on 5 December 2013, the 1st Tier JCC agreed that each meeting would focus on a particular theme. The meeting on 6 February 2014 received a presentation from the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) on Social Health and Integration - Preparing for Integration, which was well received.

The format of future meetings of the Corporate Health and Safety Group will also be reviewed.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.