



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Cabinet

A Meeting of the **Cabinet** of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Tuesday, 14 May 2019** at **14:30** to consider the undernoted business.

1 Declarations of Interest

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

2 Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 April 2019 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

EDUCATION ITEMS FOR DECISION

3 School Attainment Results 2018

Submit report and receive presentation by the Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum) on the overall performance of the 2018 school leavers as highlighted in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool (copy enclosed).

4 Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

Submit report by the Head of Service (Inclusion) on the outcome of the statutory consultation (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Chief Executive

- 5 Local Government Benchmarking Framework**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the results of the LGBF indicators for 2017/18 (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Place)

- 6 Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme**
Submit report by the Head of Service (Commercial Services) on the proposed next steps in the development of the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme (copy enclosed).
- 7 North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031**
Submit report by the Head of Service (Physical Environment) on the publication and implementation of the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031 (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

- 8 Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure**

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the application by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to a range of proposed projects (copy enclosed).
- 9 Town Centre Fund**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the approach being developed for the new Scottish Government Town Centre Fund (copy enclosed).

CONTRACTS

- 10 Award of Phase 2, Kyle Road, Irvine – Building of an industrial Unit**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tendering exercise for Phase 2, Kyle Road, Irvine – Building of an industrial unit (copy enclosed).
- 11 Proposed Extension and M&E upgrade - Annick Primary School**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Proposed Extension and Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade to Annick Primary School, Irvine (copy enclosed).
- 12 Award of Contract - Pan Ayrshire Occupational Health**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Pan-Ayrshire Framework for Provision of Occupational Health and Welfare Services (copy enclosed).

13

Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Cabinet Sederunt

Elected Members

Joe Cullinane (Chair)
John Bell (Vice-Chair)
Robert Foster
Alex Gallagher
Louise McPhater
Jim Montgomerie

Church Representatives

Ms Elizabeth H. Highton
Ms Babs Mowat
Mr Ian Haining

Teaching Representative

Mr Gordon Smith

Youth Council Representatives

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

IRVINE, 16 April 2019 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher and Louise McPhater.

Also Present

Davina McTiernan, Donald L Reid and Donald Reid.

In Attendance

L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director and F. Anderson, Economic Development Officer (Economy and Communities); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) and L Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic Services), A. Hale, Equality and Health Policy Officer, M. McColm, Communications Manager and E. Gray, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

C. Glencorse, KA Leisure

Apologies

Robert Foster, Jim Montgomerie and Craig Hatton

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 March 2019 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Equality Mainstreaming and Equality Outcome 2017-2019

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Equality Mainstreaming and Equality Outcome 2017-2019. The Equality Mainstreaming report was set out at Appendix 1 and the Equality Outcomes report at Appendix 2 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to where the Equality Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes reports are published and whether more can be done to publicise the contents of these reports.

The Cabinet agreed to approve reports set out in the appendices to the report, for publication by 30 April 2019.

4. The Great Harbour

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development proposals and plans at Irvine Harbourside and Ardeer "Great Harbour".

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

- liaison with environmental groups about unregulated development on the Ardeer Peninsula;
- the progress of work with the Scottish Government to remove the Ardeer 1953 Special Development Order and the level of compensation that the Council would be liable for should this occur;
- the proposed two-year partnership with NPL; and
- contrasting views held by the Council and some local residents on the benefits of the proposed development and work which could be carried out to rectify this.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) progression of the masterplan and technical feasibility work set out at sections 2.14 and 2.15 to the report; and (b) the agreement to enter into a two-year partnership with NPL to progress the masterplan and technical feasibility work set out at sections 2.14 and 2.15 to the report.

5. Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 Events Programme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 Events Programme with the list of major events set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- timescales for the project and the work which has been carried out to ensure the proposed Making Waves festival does not clash with established local events; and
- a previous attempt by the Council to host an event at Irvine Beach Park, lessons which could be learned from this and the possibility of utilising the work carried out for any future events.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) continue development of the Making Waves events programme for the Scottish Government's National Year of Coasts and Waters 2020; (b) further development of a signature event with a detailed business case to be developed for future cabinet approval; and (c) support £50k revenue funding from the tourism budget in 2019/20 in support of the programme.

6. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the applications by the Locality Partnerships to allocate Community Investment Fund (CIF) funding to a range of proposed projects. The application was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the application from the Three Towns Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; (b) approve expenditure of £100,000 over three years for the Three Towns Growers project, as set out in section 2.4 of the report; (c) accept future applications from Locality Partnerships for CIF funding; and (d) accept future reports on the progress of the initiatives at dates to be agreed with the Locality Partnerships.

7. Exclusion of the Public

Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

8. Surplus Property – Former Council Offices, Montgomerie House, West Byrehill, Kilwinning

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Physical Environment) on the surplus office building at West Byrehill, Kilwinning.

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

The Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	School Attainment Results 2018
Purpose:	To update Cabinet on: (1) the overall performance of the 2018 North Ayrshire Council school leavers ¹ as highlighted in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool; and (2) Curriculum for Excellence attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for 2018.
Recommendation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agree to note: the content of the report; the progress being made by learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy; and the achievements of school leavers in last year's SQA examinations; (ii) Approve the measures being taken to make further improvements to attainment and achievement levels across all schools.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the key performance measures of pupil attainment in the session 2017-18, based on two key national publications: (1) the benchmarking analysis tool INSIGHT, released at the end of February 2019; and (2) the Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels report, published by Scottish Government in December 2018. Outline proposals are also presented for future actions to secure further improvements in performance.
- 1.2 Performance in literacy and numeracy is improving at almost all stages and compares positively with the performance in previous years.
- 1.3 The lowest attaining 20% of leavers have performed better than the national average for this group for the last four years. The middle attaining 60% of leavers has steadily improved over the last five years and is well above the virtual comparator. The performance of the highest attaining 20% has remained consistent over the last three years.
- 1.4 When taking deprivation into account, North Ayrshire school leavers perform better than learners from similar areas at the national level. The gap between the attainment of leavers from the 20% most SIMD deprived areas and the rest of the SIMD areas continues to reduce and is smaller than the gap at a national level.

¹ The annual leavers' cohort in INSIGHT now matches with the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) school leavers return.

- 1.5 At 95.6%, the percentage of leavers going into positive destinations has improved to the 10th best performing Local Authority in Scotland this year.

2. Background

- 2.1 Since 2014, the Scottish Government has produced a customised web interactive analytical tool to benchmark and inform performance evaluation in schools and education authorities. INSIGHT is consistent with the Curriculum for Excellence ethos as it emphasises the best achievement at the point of exit from school², rather than at stage-by-stage level, although it still allows users to drill down to cohort, level, subject or socio-demographic characteristics of pupils.
- 2.2 The benchmarking methodology used by INSIGHT is centred on the idea of a "Virtual Comparator". This virtual school is built around four key characteristics, which go into the make-up of any school. From these four areas, the tool matches ten leavers from across Scotland to every one of the leavers in each school/authority and treats this matched group as the virtual school/authority.
- 2.3 The main analysis of 2018 attainment and achievement for secondary schools was released by the Scottish Government in February 2019³. The INSIGHT analysts have also provided the performance of the South West Education Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC)⁴ region as comparison and these values are represented in the supporting tables and charts. This Report is structured – as in previous years - along the four key national benchmarking measures aimed at:
1. Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (% of candidates attaining Literacy and Numeracy)
 2. Improving attainment for all (Average Total Tariff Score distribution)
 3. Tackling Disadvantage by Improving the Attainment vs. Deprivation Gap (Average Total Tariff Score by SIMD decile)
 4. Increasing Post-school participation (School Leaver Destinations for 2018).
- 2.4 **Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy** (These highlights are supported by charts in Appendix 1)
- 2.4.1 Performance of North Ayrshire school leavers in attaining Literacy at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2018 has been the highest recorded to date, exceeding Virtual Comparator, SWEIC regional and national and overall levels for the year. This reflects the increased focus on core Literacy skills from the Broad General Education stages and throughout the Senior Phase. Almost all learners achieve SCQF levels 4 and above (96.4%) in English SQA qualifications, ensuring that

² The 2018 benchmarking "point of exit" indicators published in INSIGHT on 28 February 2019 are called "National Benchmarking Measures". The set of similar indicators referring to specific cohorts of pupils on the school roll (S4, S5, S6) are designated as "Local Benchmarking Measures" in INSIGHT.

³ The data for previous years' attainment is annually updated, to account for some corrections in the national methodology and the inclusion of some school leavers' records that were not available at the time. Therefore, the values of the indicators in this Paper will not match exactly the figures available in the report presented to Members this time last year.

⁴ The SWEIC region comprises North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway local authorities.

school leavers are equipped with the literacy skills required for life after leaving school.

- 2.4.2 The performance of North Ayrshire school leavers in Numeracy has been maintained at level 4 and improved at level 5. While North Ayrshire performance in Numeracy at level 4 is currently slightly below the Virtual Comparator and National levels, performance at level 5 has increased to 70% of all 2018 school leavers, overtaking the performance of all the other three benchmarks (Virtual Comparator, SWEIC, and national performance).
- 2.4.3 Literacy and Numeracy results at level 6 and above continue to rise. In 2018, 58% of school leavers attained a qualification in Literacy at Higher level or above (28% in Numeracy). North Ayrshire performance exceeds Virtual Comparator levels in both measures. Performance in literacy is the same as National and better than the performance of all SWEIC authorities.

2.5 **Improving attainment for all** (These highlights are supported by charts in Appendix 2)

- 2.5.1 This measure focuses on the average total tariff score of the candidates' latest and best qualifications. Tariff points are assigned to each unit or course achieved by learners – in all SCQF-graded awards, not only those provided by SQA. This acknowledges to a greater extent the drive towards wider achievement qualifications and encourages schools to offer curricular choices tailored to a variety of pupil abilities and aspirations. The information is presented as the total tariff score per average leaver in one of three categories of: the lowest attaining 20%, the middle attaining 60% and the highest attaining 20%.
- 2.5.2 The average total tariff score of the lowest attaining 20% of leavers (Appendix 2) has dipped slightly again in 2018 but has remained well above the Virtual Comparator and above National performance. In four of the last five years, the performance of the lowest attaining 20% of leavers in North Ayrshire has been greater than the National performance and, in 2018, for the first time performance is just above the 4 SWEIC authorities.
- 2.5.3 The performance of the middle attaining 60% of school leavers from North Ayrshire has steadily improved over the last 5 years (Appendix 2). With an average total tariff score of 815 in 2018, North Ayrshire is well above the Virtual Comparator, and although we remain below the National performance in this measure, the gap between North Ayrshire and the National figure is reducing over time.
- 2.5.4 The performance of the highest attaining 20% of leavers (Appendix 2) has remained broadly consistent over the last three years, exceeding the corresponding performance of the Virtual Comparator. While the trend over the last five years is towards improvement, there is scope for further improvement in this measure.

2.6 **Attainment vs. Deprivation** (These highlights are supported by charts in Appendix 3)

- 2.6.1 The INSIGHT measure aimed at tackling disadvantage presents the Average Total Tariff Score (ATTS) compared across the SIMD datazone deciles⁵ where the school leavers reside.
- 2.6.2 The Attainment vs. Deprivation chart for 2018 SIMD decile performance (Appendix 3), clearly shows that North Ayrshire school leavers have out-performed the learners from the similar areas at the National level. In 2018, the average total tariff score of school leavers in every decile – with the exception of SIMD deciles 5 and 10 - is above National performance. School leavers in SIMD decile 6 have performed significantly higher than the National establishment. The trend line for North Ayrshire is above National trend line, indicating higher average performance, with a similar attainment vs. deprivation correlation. The slope of the line is less steep than the one for the National performance, meaning that the gap between the attainment of school leavers from the *most* SIMD deprived and those from the *least* SIMD deprived backgrounds is smaller in North Ayrshire than in similar areas across Scotland. The gap between the attainment of leavers from the 20% most SIMD deprived areas and the ones from the rest of the SIMD Areas (80%) has reduced in 2018 to 37%, from 44% the previous year and much smaller than the similar gap calculated for all leavers in Scotland – 46%.

2.7 **Increasing Post-School Participation** (Appendix 4)

- 2.7.1 Over the last few years, the percentage of school leavers moving into positive destinations in North Ayrshire has been one of the highest across Scotland.
- 2.7.2 In 2018, the percentage of leavers into positive destinations has increased again, following the dip in performance in 2017. 95.6% of 2018 school leavers have moved on to positive post-school destinations, exceeding the Virtual Comparator, National and SWEIC performance. It is an indication that the action plan put in place last year to address these areas with specific focus on targeting vulnerable young people at risk of not entering into a positive destination when they leave school is starting to have an impact.

2.8 **Attainment in Broad General Education – Attainment of Curriculum for Excellence Level (ACEL) in P1, P4, P7 and S3**

- 2.8.1 In 2016, the Scottish Government began to collect statistics on the CfE level achieved in Literacy (Listening and Talking, Reading, Writing) and Numeracy by pupils in the Broad General Education stages P1, P4, P7 and S3. This is based on teacher judgement about each pupil's achievement of a level made at the end of June each session.

⁵ The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) – 2017 update - ranks the 6976 datazones across Scotland according to a composite of measures of socio-economic deprivation. We are able to pinpoint the SIMD deprivation decile of the area where a pupil resides using the pupil's postcode as collected on the occasion of the annual School Census. SIMD decile 1 represents the 10% most deprived datazones in Scotland while SIMD decile 10 represents the least SIMD deprived of datazones in Scotland. INSIGHT has now updated their analysis, which is based on SIMD2016 and the new (redrawn) datazones based on the 2011 population census.

- 2.8.2 At the end of the 2017/18 Academic session 72% of primary pupils (P1, P4, P7 – combined) attained the expected level⁶ in Literacy (assessed in all the three components) and 80% attained the expected level in Numeracy. This compares favourably with the National performance which is 71% for Literacy in primary school (P1, P4, P7 – combined) and 78% in Numeracy.
- 2.8.3 By the end of S3, in the 2017/18 academic session, 91% of North Ayrshire pupils attained level 3 or better in Literacy (in all three components) and 47% attained level 4. Correspondingly, in Numeracy, 92% of S3 North Ayrshire pupils attained level 3 or better and 57% attained level 4. In 2017/18, S3 pupils in North Ayrshire exceeded the National performance in all measures.
- 2.8.4 Appendix 5 presents the detailed attainment of each stage in each of the Literacy components and in Numeracy, for the past three years. There is a strong improvement trend in all measures at almost all stages for the 2016-2018 period.
- 2.8.5 Appendix 6a shows the breakdown in performance by pupils from each SIMD Quintile (20% band) – Quintile 1 being the most deprived areas and Quintile 5 the least deprived areas.
- 2.8.6 Appendix 6b shows that, at all stages, the gap in attainment between the SIMD most deprived and least deprived areas is smaller in North Ayrshire than at National level and is reducing considerably for pupils expected to attain level 3 or above by the end of S3.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees to note the content of the report and the achievements of the leavers as highlighted in this annual attainment report.
- 3.2 The following improvement actions are proposed in respect of the key performance measures in pupil attainment:
- 3.2.1 **Improving attainment in Literacy & Numeracy:** The attainment in Literacy and Numeracy will continue to be a principal focus of the Broad General Education phase. This will be supported through the significant work of the Professional Learning Academy. North Ayrshire's Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funding will continue to focus on developing better literacy and numeracy skills for targeted groups of learners.
- 3.2.2 **Improving Attainment for All:** There will be a continuation of the focus on the middle and highest achieving learners to ensure that our performance continues to reduce the gap between North Ayrshire and the National performance. Part of our work will include a further expansion of available courses and units to ensure that the Senior Phase is meeting the learning needs and aspirations of all learners. The re-designed senior phase curriculum structures in many schools will also enable further targeted programmes to be developed for the lowest achieving learners, particularly in S4.

⁶ P1 pupils are expected to attain the Early level in Literacy components and Numeracy by the end of their first year in school, P4 pupils – First level and P7 Pupils – Second level. S3 pupils are expected to achieve level Three or better in Literacy and Numeracy, with some having also achieved Level 4 by the time they finish their Broad General Education

3.2.3 Attainment versus Deprivation: North Ayrshire's Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Fund will continue to implement interventions for pupils living in the most deprived areas to improve their attainment and achievement levels. There will also be a focus on data literacy, to ensure that data is being used effectively, by all staff, to improve outcomes for learners. Establishments will also continue to focus specifically on the learners living in deciles 5 and 10 to endeavour to bring their performance into line with national levels.

3.2.4 Increasing Post-School Participation: To continue to monitor impact of the action plan implemented last session.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	There are no financial implications.
Human Resources:	There are no human resource implications.
Legal:	There are no legal implications.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	This paper relates directly to improving outcomes for all our children and young people and will contribute to the closing of the poverty related attainment gap.
Children and Young People:	Children's views will be sought in the individual target setting process.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental and sustainability implications.
Key Priorities:	<p>NAC Draft Council Plan 2019-2024: Aspiring Communities: "Children and young people experience the best start in life".</p> <p>In 2019-20, this work relates to the following high-level action: "We will support our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens."</p>
Community Benefits:	N/A

5. Consultation

5.1 There is a robust Quality Improvement Framework in place to support schools to analyse their performance and plan future improvements. This self-evaluation tool includes a structured approach to regular evaluative school visits by Senior Officers at school and HQ level. During these visits challenging discussions take place on how schools are using the analysis of their attainment as a mechanism to inform their targets. There is a clear focus on data literacy with a robust programme of CLPL in place to help establishments turn their data into action. As part of our annual review process, we have consulted staff across the service on the improvement priorities for the coming session.

Schools have engaged with their whole school communities on their own priorities for improvement.

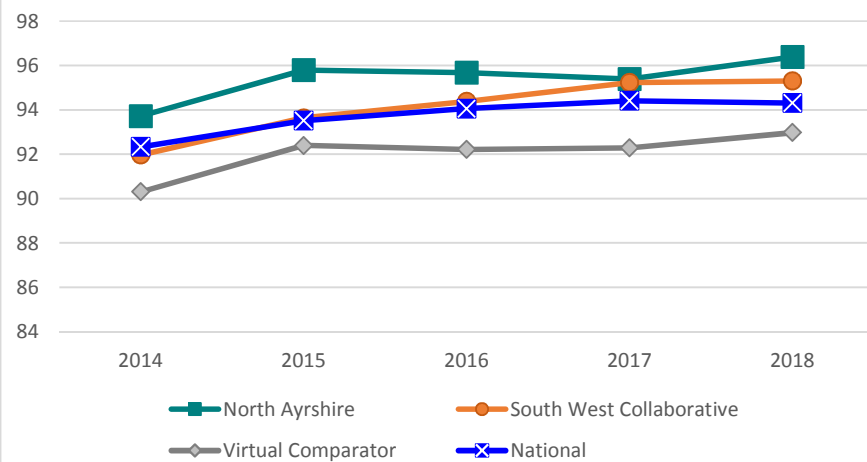
Andrew McClelland
Head of Service

For further information please contact Johana House, Senior Manager, on 01294 324045.

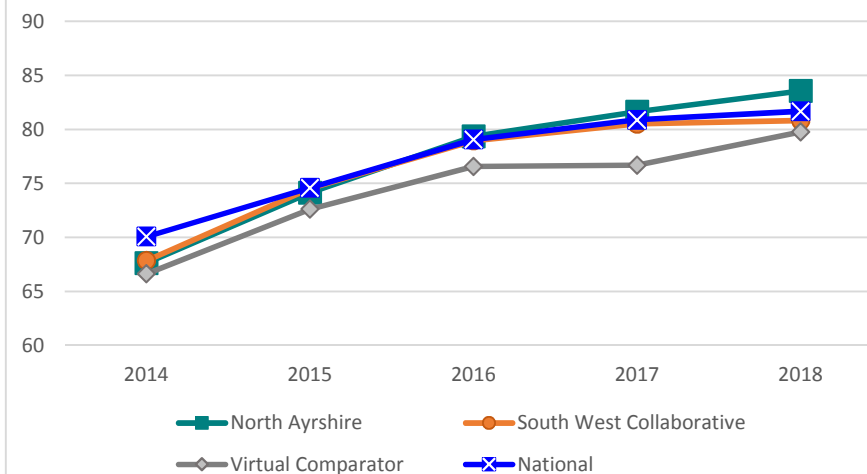
Background Papers

N/A

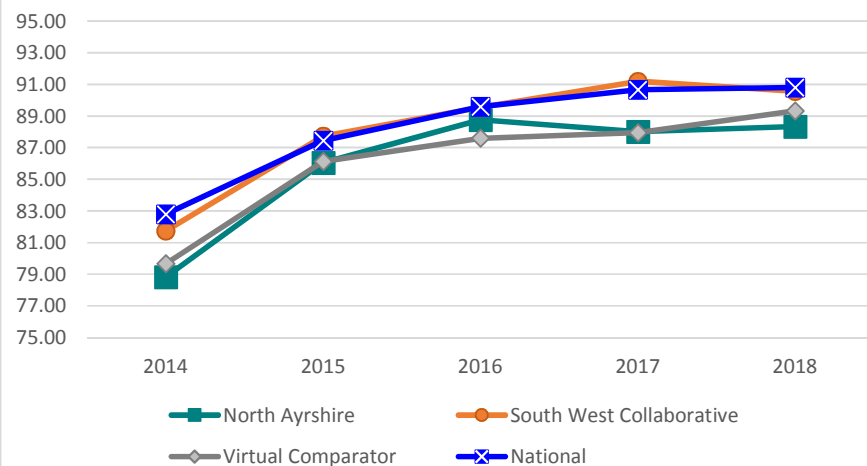
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 4 or better in Literacy



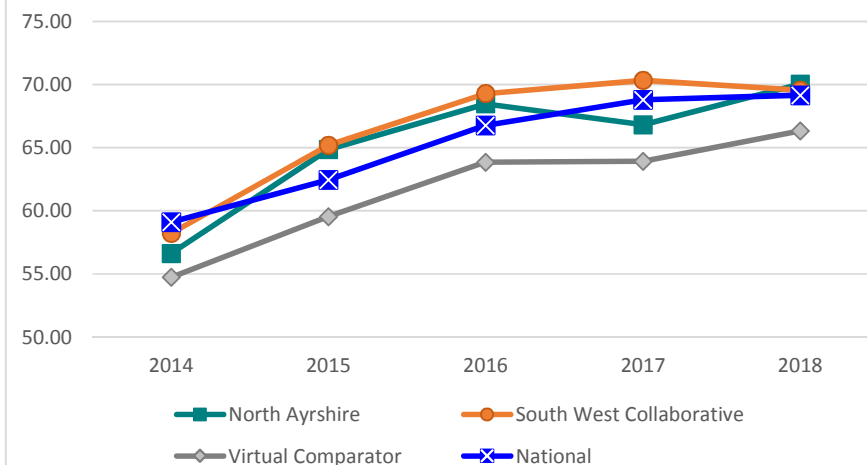
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 5 or better in Literacy



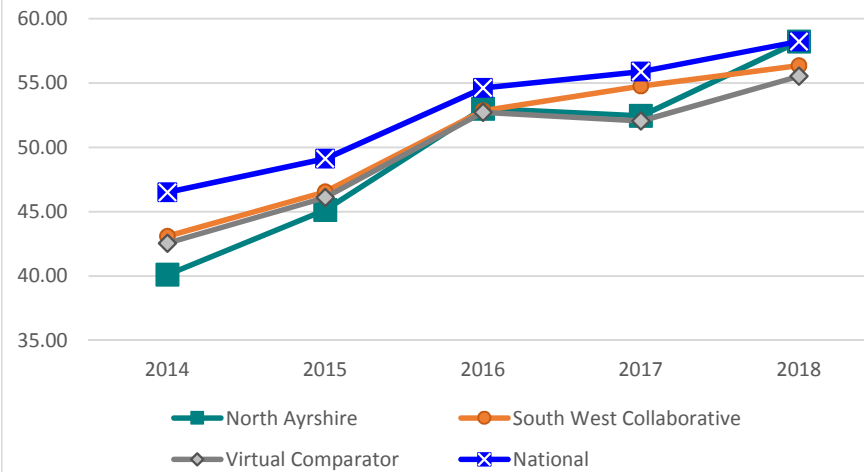
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 4 or better in Numeracy



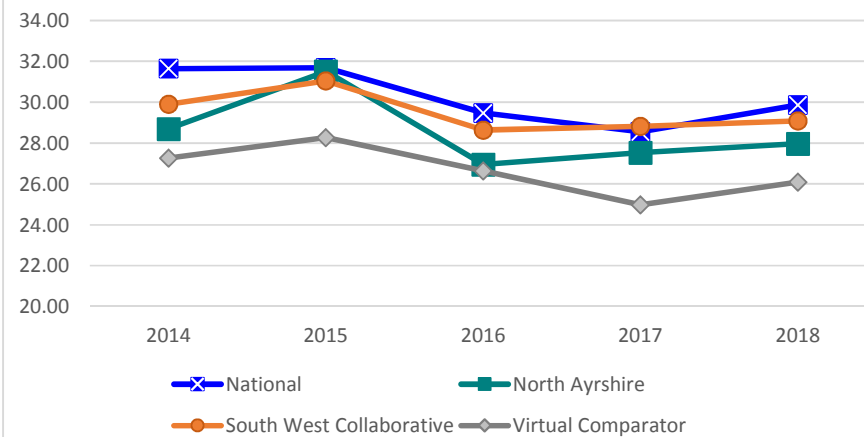
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 5 or better in Numeracy



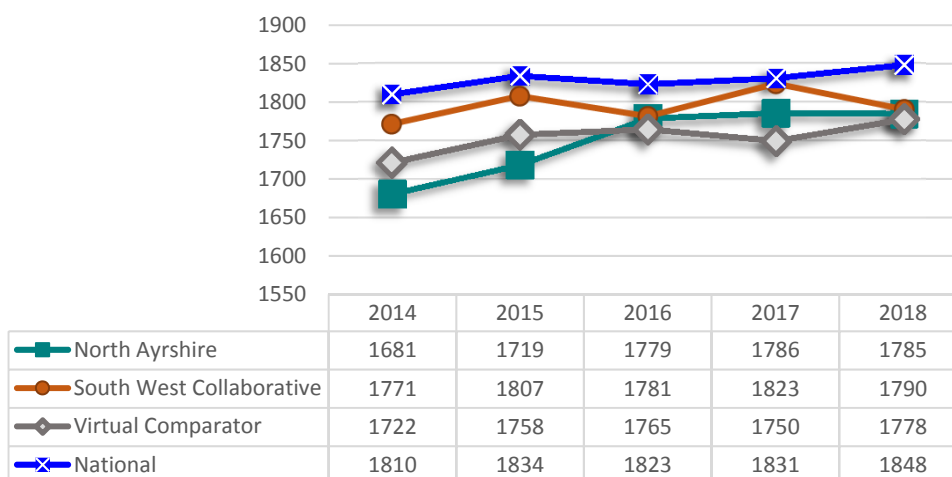
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 6 or better in Literacy



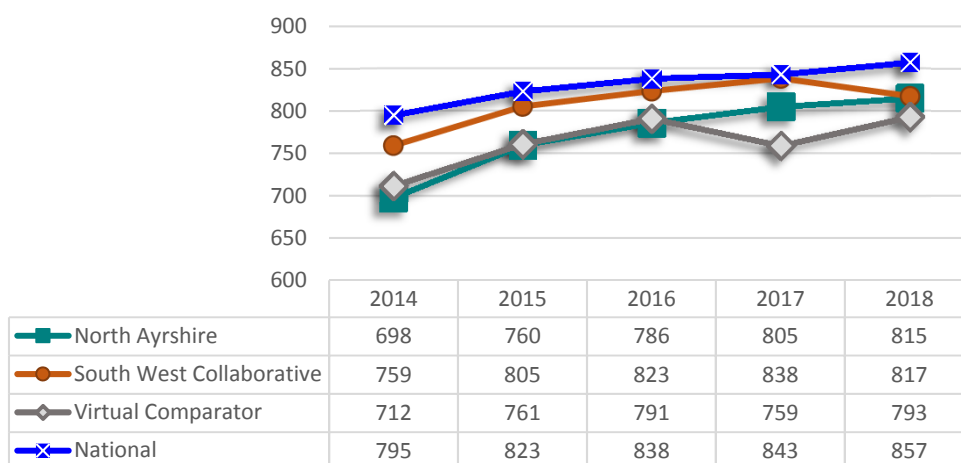
Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF level 6 or better in Numeracy



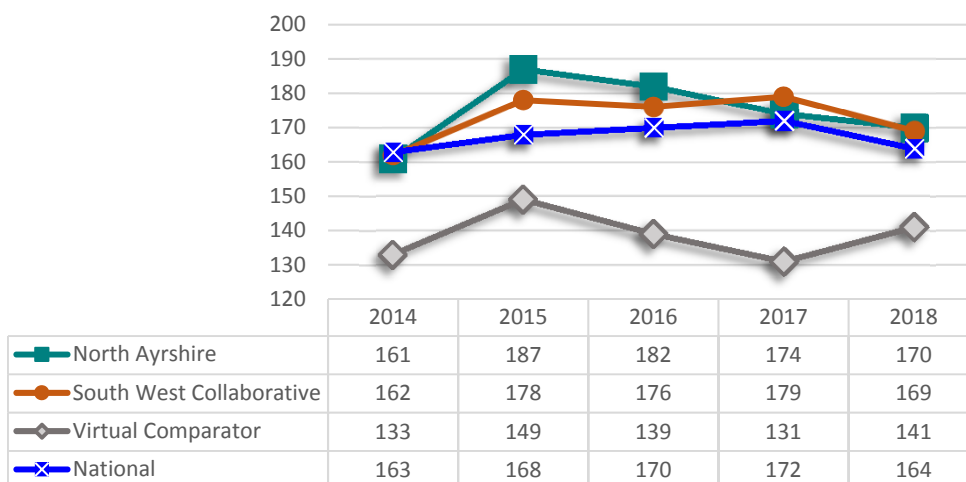
Attainment for All - Highest 20%

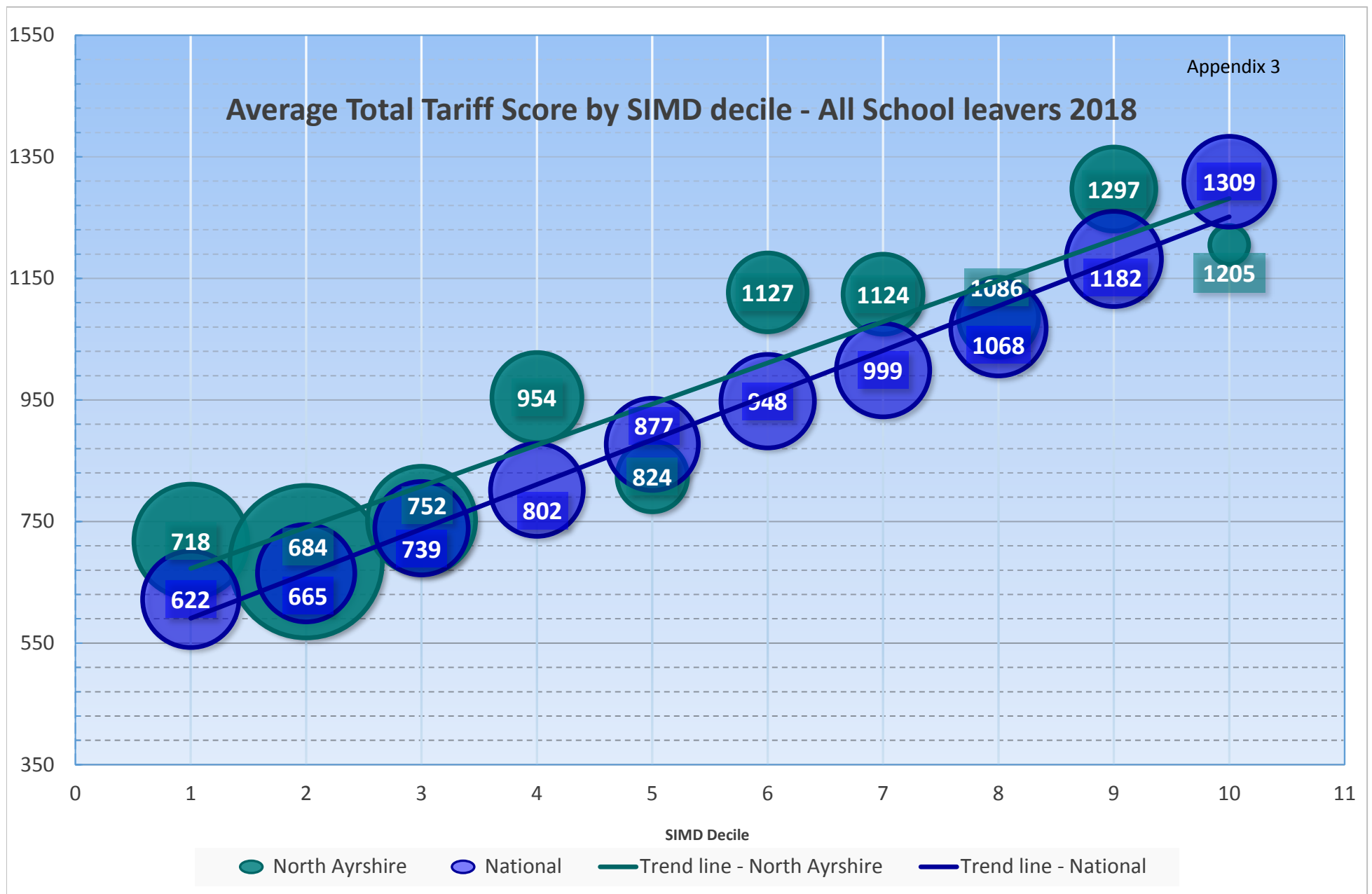


Attainment for All - Middle 60%



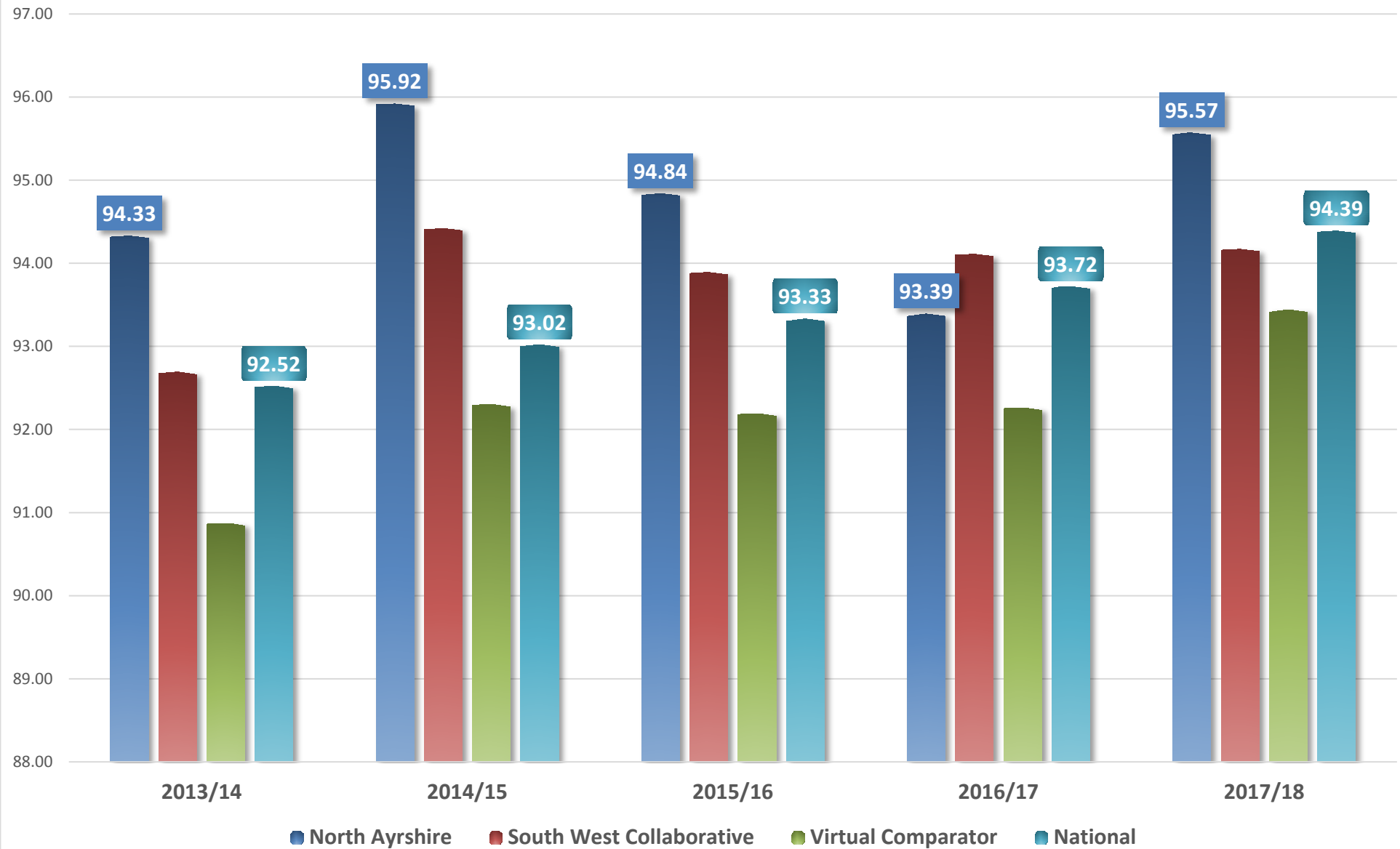
Attainment for All - Lowest 20%



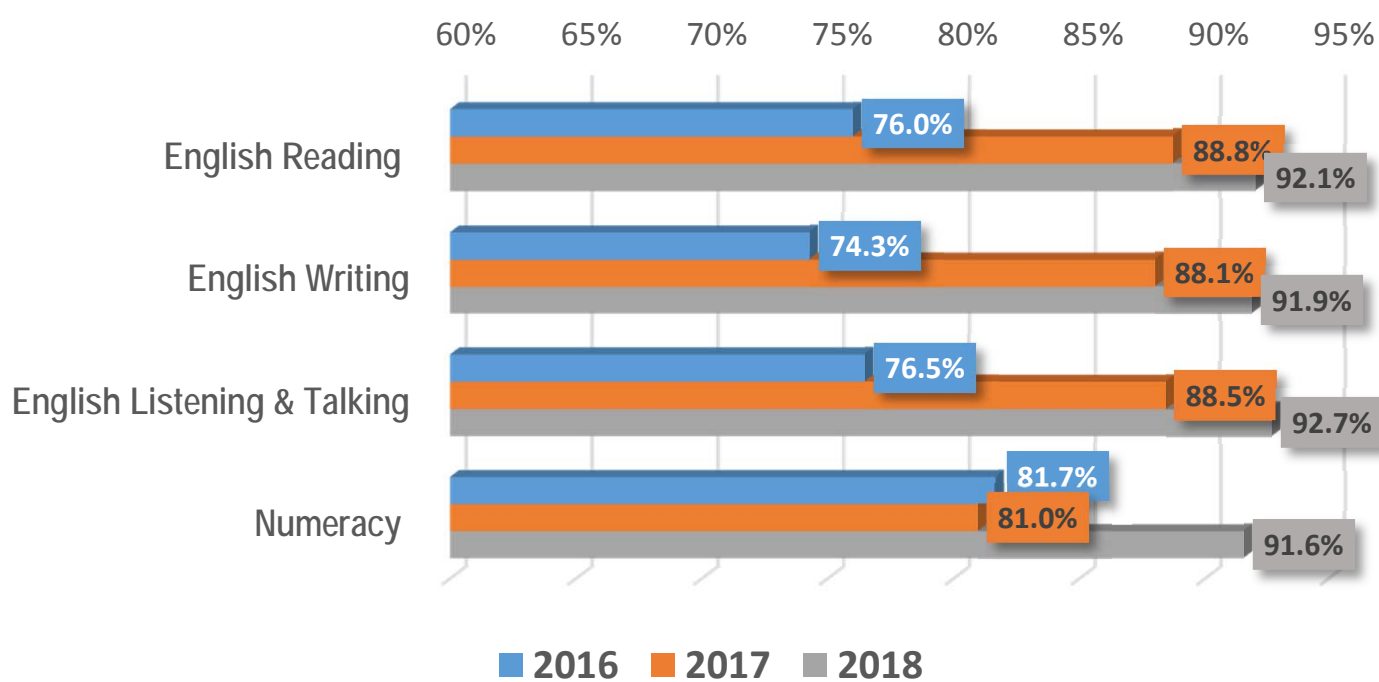


Comparative Performance on % of School Leavers Moving to Positive Destinations

Appendix 4

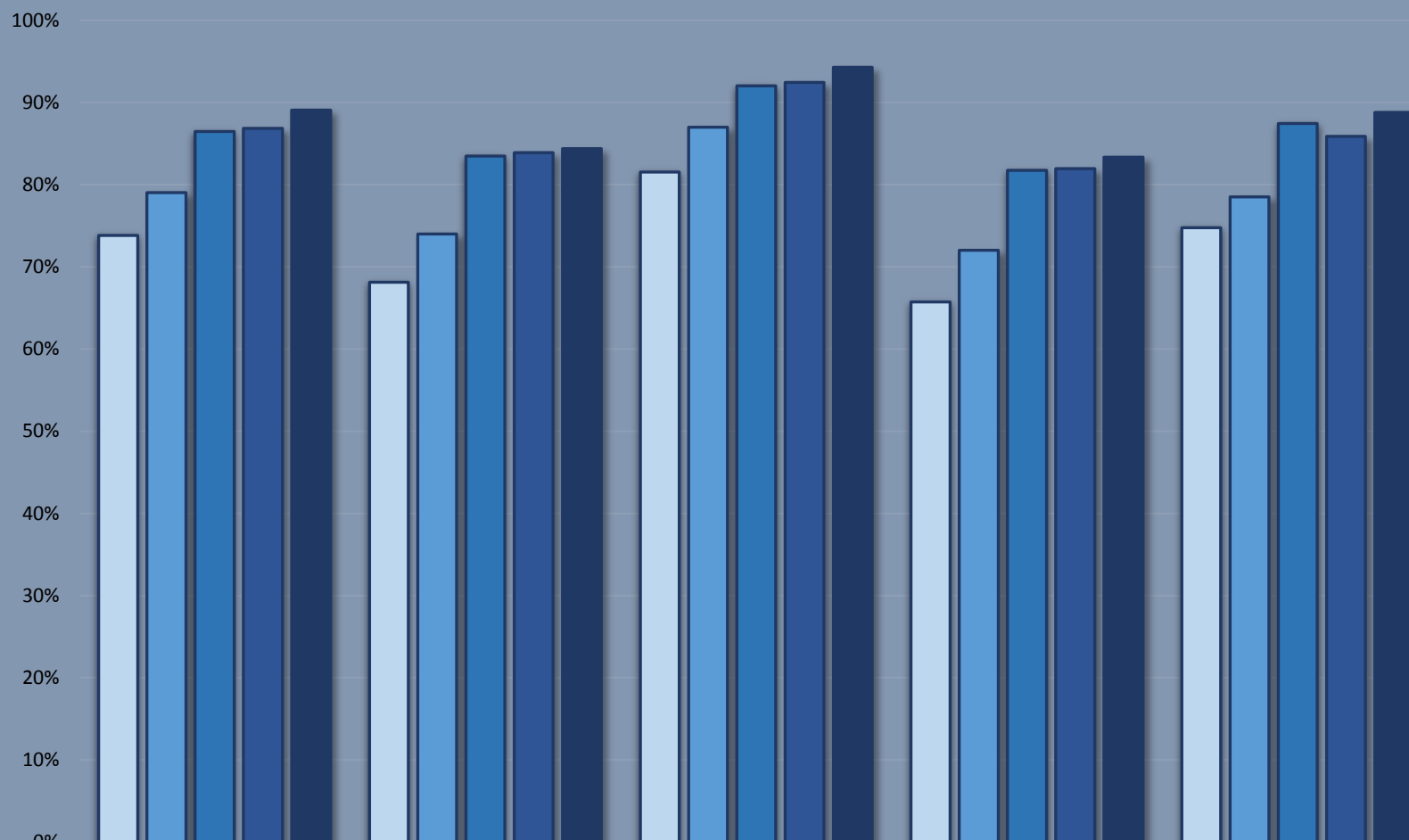


% of S3 pupils attaining Level Three or better



P1,P4,P7 combined performance by SIMD Quintile

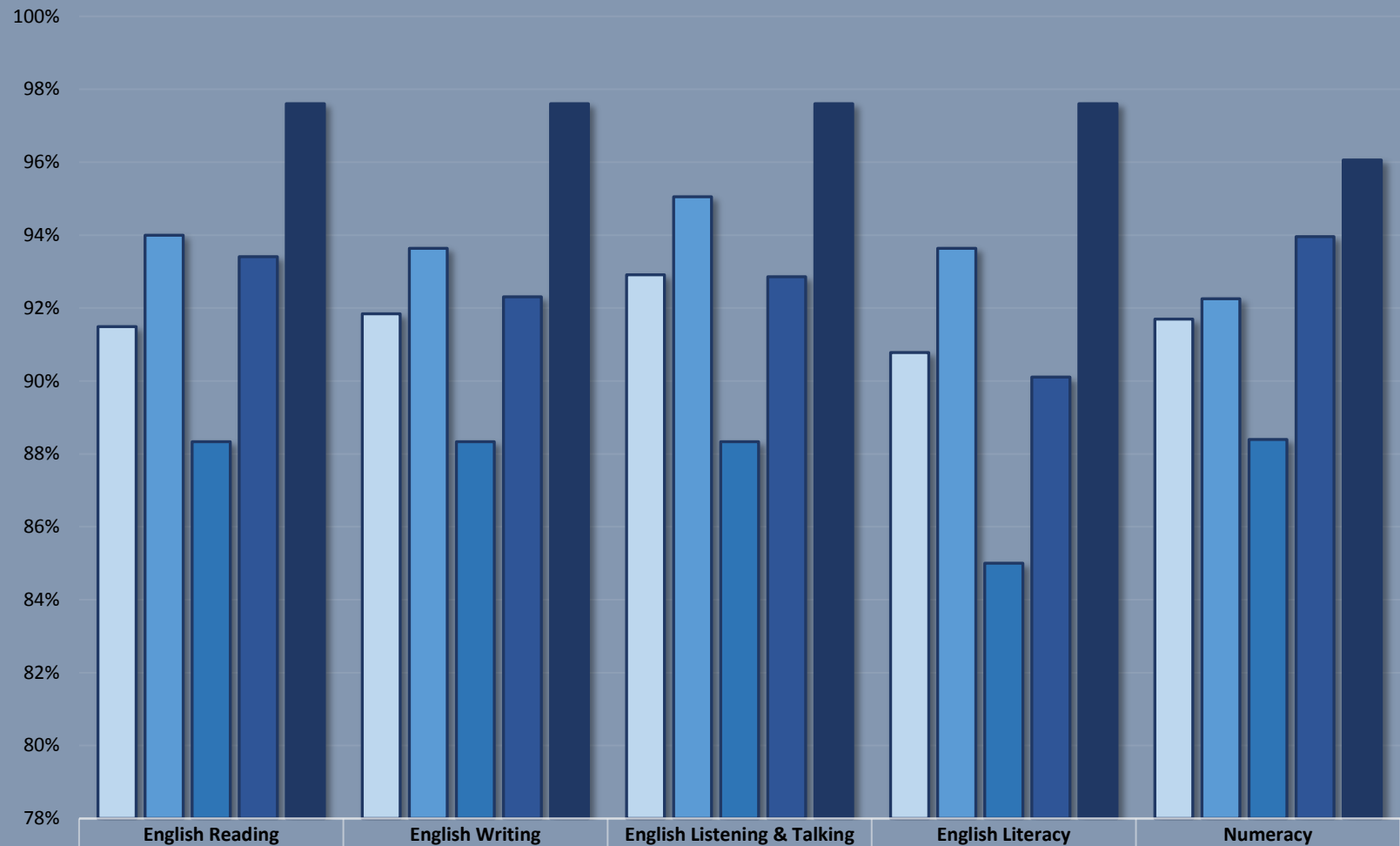
Appendix 6a



	English Reading	English Writing	English Listening & Talking	English Literacy	Numeracy
<div></div> SIMD Quintile 1 - most deprived	74%	68%	82%	66%	75%
<div></div> SIMD Quintile 2	79%	74%	87%	72%	79%
<div></div> SIMD Quintile 3	86%	83%	92%	82%	87%
<div></div> SIMD Quintile 4	87%	84%	92%	82%	86%
<div></div> SIMD Quintile 5 - least deprived	89%	84%	94%	83%	89%

S3 level 3 or above performance by SIMD Quintile

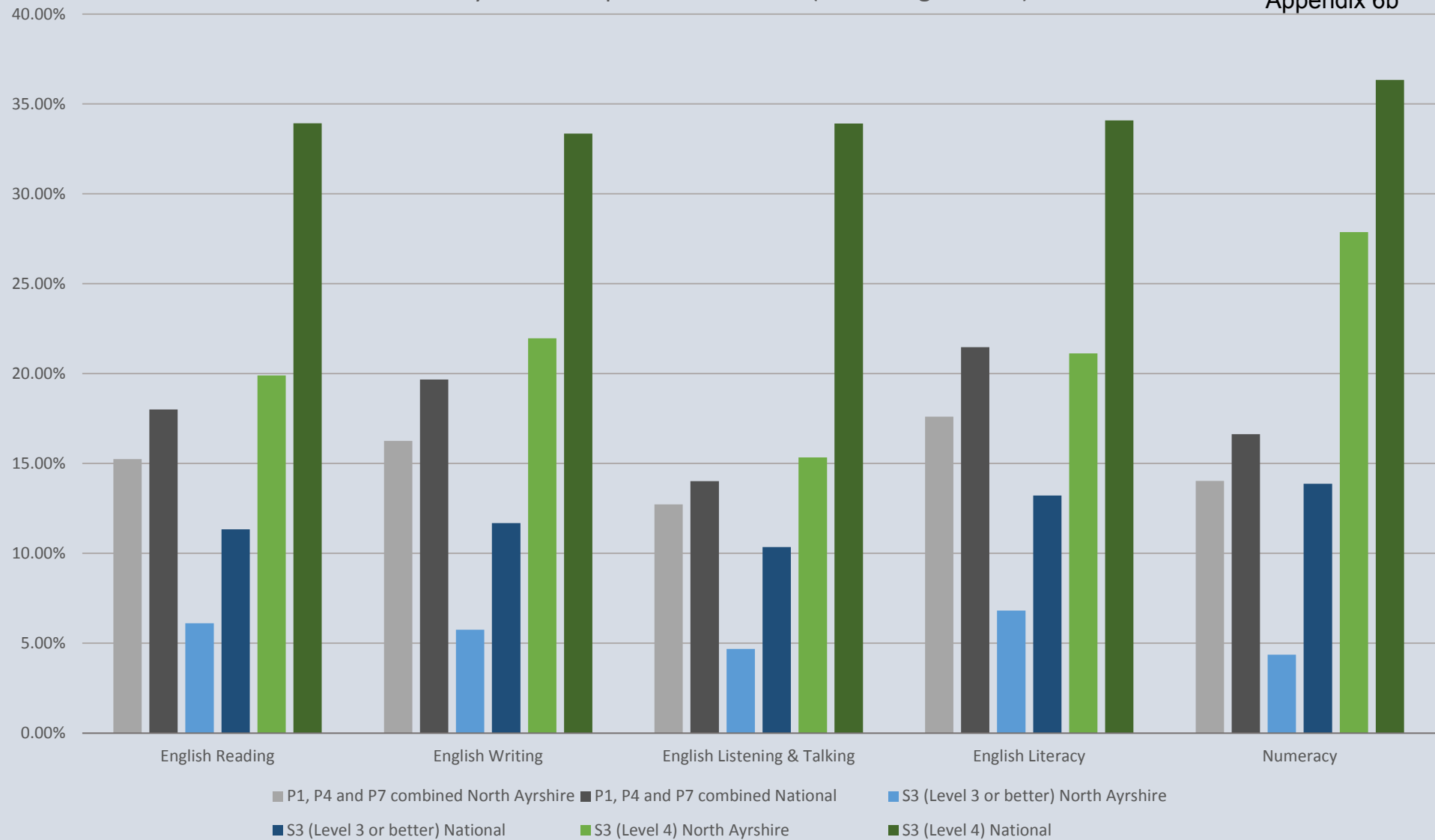
Appendix 6a



	English Reading	English Writing	English Listening & Talking	English Literacy	Numeracy
■ SIMD Quintile 1 - most deprived	91%	92%	93%	91%	92%
■ SIMD Quintile 2	94%	94%	95%	94%	92%
■ SIMD Quintile 3	88%	88%	88%	85%	88%
■ SIMD Quintile 4	93%	92%	93%	90%	94%
■ SIMD Quintile 5 - least deprived	98%	98%	98%	98%	96%

Attainment Gap between the 20% most SIMD Deprived and 20% least SIMD deprived areas in North Ayrshire compared to National (Percentage Points)

Appendix 6b



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**14 May 2019****CABINET**

Title: **Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme****Purpose:** To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposal to close Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and relocate provision to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class in Kilbirnie, and to seek approval for the proposal to go ahead.**Recommendation:** It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves the proposal to close Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and relocate the provision for 2 – 3 year olds to newly refurbished provision within St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class in August 2020.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Statutory Public Consultation period for the above proposal ended on 08 March 2019. The report on the outcome of the Statutory Consultation was published on 08 April 2019 and is attached at Appendix 1. The report includes a summary of the report on the educational aspects of the proposal which was provided by Education Scotland on 22 March 2019.
- 1.2 Based on the analysis of the responses received to the statutory consultation and the recommendations of the Education Scotland report, the Outcome Report concludes that the proposal should go ahead. Cabinet is therefore asked to approve the proposal.

2. Background

- 2.1 In December 2018, Cabinet approved a paper which proposed the commencement of a Statutory Public Consultation on 23 January 2019 on the proposal to relocate the early learning and childcare (ELC) provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre (GVEYC) to a newly re-furnished provision for 2-5 year olds at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class.
- 2.2 The Statutory Public Consultation ran from 23 January 2019 until 08 March 2019. Views were sought from parents, carers and staff from both affected establishments and members of the public who were provided with a choice of methods to respond to the proposal. A public meeting was held on Tuesday 05 February 2019 to share information

about the proposal. This meeting was attended by one member of the public, three members of staff, one local councillor and a representative from Education Scotland. The consultation complied fully with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended).

2.3 Education Scotland provided their consultation report on 22 March 2019 and this formed part of the Council's report on the outcome of the statutory consultation. Their report supports the educational benefits of the proposal, commenting that it also offered "Best Value through making more efficient and effective use of (the Council's) resources". Education Scotland advised the Council to fully involve parents and staff from both establishments in the final design of the new facility.

2.4 The table below provides a breakdown of the responses received to the question posed during the consultation period. Stakeholders were asked the following question:

Do you agree with the proposals to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years provision?

Establishment	Interest	Relocate GVEY Centre to St. Bridget's Primary School Early Years		
		YES	NP*	NO
Garnock Valley Early	Parent/Carer			4
Garnock Valley Early	Staff			2
St. Bridget's Primary	Parent/Carer			
St. Bridget's Primary	Staff	1		1
Both establishments	Parent			1
Establishment Unknown	Parent		1	
Organisation (other)	Stakeholder group		1	
NP* = No Preference		1	2	8
		Total of 11		

2.5 Key themes emerging from the consultation were as follows:

- Staff notification of the consultation.
- Loss of nursery based provision for birth – two year old children.
- Safety of early years' children accessing the early years' entrance via the school playground.
- Sizes of the proposed new playrooms.
- Accommodation for wet and dry play areas.
- Physical state of outdoor play space.
- Use of canopied outdoor areas for storage rather than play.
- Parents not wanting to send their children to an early years' provision located in a denominational school.
- Communication to staff on future roles.
- Timing of public meeting.
- Continued support for parents.

- Loss of dedicated transport.

- 2.6 The Council has addressed all of these points in section 6 of the Outcome Report (see Appendix 1)
- 2.7 The Directorate of Education and Youth Employment published its report on the outcome of the consultation for a 3 week period from 08 April 2019. It was available for viewing on the Council's website and hard copies were made available at St Bridget's Primary School, Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, Kilbirnie Housing Office, Bridgend Community Centre and Kilbirnie Health Centre.
- 2.8 Based on the analysis of the responses received, the nature of the issues they have raised and the Council's response to them, the report concludes that the proposal should go ahead.
- 2.9 If the proposal is approved, the Scottish Ministers must be notified of the decision. Thereafter, Scottish Ministers have an eight week period to consider whether they will issue a notice to the Council to call in the proposal.
- 2.10 In taking the decision on whether to issue a call in notice, the Scottish Ministers are required within the framework of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), "to take account of any relevant representations made to them (by any person) within the first three weeks of that eight week period".
- 2.11 If no representation is made to Ministers, the Council will be able to implement any decision it has taken to proceed with the recommendations concluded in the Outcome Report.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), and as a result of the successful early engagement with stakeholders and the outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process, it is proposed that Cabinet gives its approval to:
 1. Relocate the current ELC provision for two–three year old children at GVEYC to a newly re-furnished provision for two-five year old children at St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class with effect from August 2020.
 2. Discontinue ELC provision at GVEYC from August 2020 and return this facility to the NAC estate portfolio for re designation to an alternative purpose
 3. Notify Scottish Minister of the decision to allow them to consider whether they will issue a notice to the Council to call in the proposal.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	<p>Scottish Government has confirmed capital funding of £11.4m for the required infrastructure works across the whole early years' estate. The high level costs of the proposed works at St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class is £639,710 and is included within this funding.</p> <p>There will be revenue savings of approximately £200,818.</p>
Human Resources:	<p>A full engagement programme will take place pending the outcome of the Statutory Public Consultation, with the early years' staff at both establishments and Trade Unions, to minimise impact of the changes on staff and to promote the opportunities for the newly expanded workforce as a result of 1140 hours expansion.</p>
Legal:	<p>The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended). If the proposal is approved, the Scottish Ministers must be notified of this decision. Thereafter, Scottish Ministers have an eight week period to consider whether they will issue a notice to the Council to call-in the proposal. In taking the decision whether to issue a call-in notice, the Scottish Ministers are required by the Act "to take account of any relevant representations made to them (by any person) within the first three weeks of that eight week period."</p>
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	<p>There are no equality issues arising from this report.</p>
Children and Young People:	<p>The colocation of two to three year old children within a whole early years' community will be more inclusive and support improved transitions.</p> <p>Provision of a modern, fit for purpose learning environment will have a positive impact on all children.</p>
Environmental & Sustainability:	<p>There are no environmental or sustainability issues arising directly as a result of this report. However any investment in infrastructure will take account of environmental and sustainability considerations.</p>
Key Priorities:	<p>Draft North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019 - 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Outcome: North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life: We will expand our early learning and childcare to make sure all eligible children are able to access 1140 hours of free care each year.
Community Benefits:	<p>Access to St Bridget's Primary School facilities. This will also be identified through the procurement of works.</p>

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation and engagement with key groups is a strong focus of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme. Stakeholder groups are listed below:

- Parents, carers and families
- Staff
- Trade Unions
- Partner providers and childminders
- Employers
- Ayrshire College
- NACPP
- Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland
- Other NAC Council Directorates

Caroline Amos
Head of Service

For further information please contact **Doreen Walkinshaw, Business Manager**, on **01294 324175**.

Background Papers

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

CONSULTATION REPORT

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE GARNOCK VALLEY EARLY YEARS CENTRE AND RELOCATE THE PROVISION TO ST BRIDGET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS CLASS IN KILBIRNIE

REPORT BY HEAD OF SERVICE (INCLUSION), EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

This document has been issued by North Ayrshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended)

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**North Ayrshire Council
Education and Youth Employment**

**Consultation report on the proposal to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre
to St. Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision in Kilbirnie**

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**Proposal Document & Summary Proposal Document
Note of Public Meeting 5 February 2019
Report from Education Scotland**

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
CONSULTATION REPORT

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT?

In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), North Ayrshire Council is required to:

- set out the total number of written representations made to the Council by any person during the period of the public consultation exercise;
- set out a summary of those written representations;
- set out a summary of the oral representations made to the Council at the public meeting held at:
 - St. Bridget's Primary School on 5 February 2019
- set out a statement of the Council's response to:
 - those written and oral representations; and
 - Education Scotland's report.
- provide a copy of Education Scotland's report;
- set out a statement explaining how the Council reviewed the above proposal having had regard (in particular) to:
 - the relevant written representations received by the Council during the public consultation period;
 - oral representations made to it at the public meetings detailed above; and
 - Education Scotland's report
- provide details of any alleged omission from, or inaccuracy in, the Proposal Document and a statement of any action taken;
- outline the procedure for making representations to the Scottish Ministers in terms of Section 15(4) of Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended).

2. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

2.1 Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

North Ayrshire Council's Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme Board is responsible for delivering the Scottish Government's new Early Years Strategy to provide 1140 hours per annum of early learning and childcare (ELC) for all three and four year old and eligible two year old children by 2020.

This strategy is designed to reduce health and social inequality in later life and is linked to policies for school age children to close the poverty related attainment gap.

North Ayrshire Council's Directorate of Education and Youth Employment aspires to deliver an education estate that is fit for purpose for 21st Century learning and teaching, guided by Scottish Government principles of estate management and the Space to Grow Guidance and the Council's own Early Learning and Childcare Standard Design Brief. The key objectives are listed below:-

- the condition of the establishment and its ability to support and enhance the function of early learning and childcare to accommodate the increase in hours;
- more suitable and inclusive establishments which are future proofed for flexibility and adaptability;
- establishments which are greener, more sustainable and environmentally efficient;
- establishments which best serve their communities;
- a well-managed estate which represents and delivers best value;
- establishments which both drive and support effective early learning and childcare; and
- establishments which provide children with relevant indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

In considering capital investment and infrastructure plans, the Scottish Government assumes that effective early years expansion planning will take account of a sequential decision making process as follows:

1. Use what we have – make full use of existing assets;
2. Use what we purchase – enhancing the use of partner provision; and
3. Create what we need – including the use of outdoor nurseries.

A key part of the early learning and childcare expansion programme is to co-locate 2 year old provision with 3 - 5 year old provision wherever possible, to support and facilitate children's transition through early years and into primary school. This proposal enhances the opportunities for improved transitions as children move through their early learning journey, offering clear pathways through early level learning to primary education.

On 19 June 2018, North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet took the decision to cease the provision of early learning and childcare for all children aged birth – two years in North Ayrshire Council's Early Years Centres and direct all referrals to the Council's Day Carer service. This will mean that the number of children in this age group attending Garnock Valley Early Years Centre will gradually reduce until 2020 when there will be no children in this age group at the Centre.

The current facility and infrastructure within the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre has limited flexibility to accommodate the demands of the expansion to 1140 hours.

2.2 Early Engagement Process

The Council recognises both the importance of seeking the views of the community and the valuable contribution that this collaborative approach has in establishing a comprehensive proposal. Working together from this early stage builds the foundation for positive working throughout the life of this initiative.

In August 2018, the Directorate of Education and Youth Employment embarked on a series of engagement events with parents, staff and community representatives.

These events presented the proposal to relocate the early learning and childcare provision within Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St. Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, and to listen to and consider the views expressed in the development of this proposal.

Whilst this stage of the process is not legally required, the Council wanted to engage with all interested parties at this early formative stage of the process. A working group was established to consider and develop a robust plan to ensure as many views as possible were heard prior to formulating the more detailed proposal.

The first step in this joint approach was to issue an introductory letter to parents and staff in August 2018, providing early information on this proposal. A copy of the pre-consultation stakeholder plan was included with this letter along with an invitation to attend information sessions.

A series of engagement sessions took place with parents, staff, parent council representatives, the local community councils and health visitors. The sessions highlighted the importance of their contribution and explained the significance of their role in encouraging others to participate.

The early engagement process helped to shape the best way forward for this proposal and ensure the needs and desires of the community are met.

3. THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), and as a result of early engagement with a wide range of interested parties, at its meeting on 15 January 2019 North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet approved the recommendation to commence a Statutory Public Consultation to discontinue the early learning provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre with effect from June 2020. This provision would relocate the provision to a modern and fit for purpose learning environment located at St. Bridget's Primary School.
- 3.2 As part of the early learning and childcare expansion programme, North Ayrshire Council is planning to undertake a £639,000 refurbishment project at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class to enhance the current early years' provision and include facilities for the 2 year old children. This refurbishment will provide suitable ancillary facilities to accommodate the expansion to 1140 hours from August 2020 which is not currently available at the school. This will include dining, nurture and parenting facilities. The outdoor learning area and children's toilets will also be enhanced and improved.

This project has been developed in line with the Scottish Governments Early Years design principles as detailed in the Space to Grow Guidance and the Council's own Early Learning and Childcare Standard Design Brief.

Existing fittings will be stripped out for renewal, existing toilets will be relocated to provide direct access from the playrooms to encourage independence of the children, and a small extension will be created within the facility to create more open and bright playrooms for the 2 year old and the 3 – 5 year old children.

A significant feature and improvement will be the creation of free flow access to the outdoor garden area direct from both playrooms, complete with two canopied areas and improved external lighting. This free flow arrangement will allow the children to lead and develop their own play opportunities outside.

A flexible dining/general purpose space will be developed for all children to have their lunch or light tea. This will also be utilised for general purpose activities and for parents groups. A dedicated parent's room will also be provided within the scope of the proposed plan.

Improvements are being considered for the entrance and cloaks areas and all fixtures and fittings would be renewed to provide a modern, fresh and high quality facility. A quiet room would also be created between the two playrooms. This would be a shared space for each age group which would have the benefit of assisting with transition and participating in shared activities between the two groups of children.

The existing fence line between the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years' garden will be moved to allow the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre garden to be retained by the new facility.

- 3.3 The co-location of two to three year old children within a whole early year's community will provide:
- support for high quality transitions for our youngest children;
 - an inclusive nurturing environment;
 - links with other siblings already in the school;
 - consistency of staffing;
 - a familiar setting through all stages of their early learning and primary education;
 - improved outdoor learning opportunities;
 - one point of contact for parents where there is more than one sibling attending early years;
 - inclusion in a larger early years community for parents and
 - access to the whole St Bridget's Primary School community and facilities.

4. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 A Proposal Document was developed and published on the North Ayrshire Council website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Copies were made available at those establishments affected by the proposal, Education and Youth Employment HQ, local libraries, local community centres and the health centre. In addition, a summary of the Proposal Document was issued to all interested parties. Both documents are attached to this report - see Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The consultation started on 23 January 2019 and remained open until 12 noon on 8 March 2019, which included a period of 30 school days.
- 4.3 Views on the proposal were encouraged, using the following methods:
- Completing an online response form at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk;
 - Submitting a paper copy of the response form. These could be obtained from the establishments affected by the proposal or on request by calling 01294 324429;
 - Writing to the Head of Service (Inclusion), Education and Youth Employment, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; or
 - E-mailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

- 4.4 A formal public meeting was held to share information about the proposal. The details of the meeting were included in both the Proposal and Summary Documents and were also advertised in the local press and the Council website. Both establishments issued reminders to parents of the meeting, which took place on:

Venue	Date	Time
St. Bridget's Primary School	Tuesday 5 February 2019	6.00pm

One member of the public, (a parent), three staff from Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, one local councillor and one Education Scotland Officer attended the meeting. The parent and members of staff asked several questions regarding the proposal, all of which were considered, discussed and responded to at the time. All attendees at the meeting were shown the initial plans for the proposal, and advised that there would be further consultation on these with staff and parents. The notes of the public meeting, which are in question and answer format, can be found in Appendix 2. The timing of the public meeting was to allow staff, parents/carers and members of the public to attend.

- 4.5 At the public meeting an invitation was extended to parents, carers and staff from Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to visit other new or recently refurbished early years' establishments to illustrate the benefits that modern educational facilities can offer.
- 4.6 Copies of the Proposal Document, Summary Proposal Document, public meeting note and all responses to the proposal were submitted to Education Scotland whose report on the proposal can be found at Appendix 3.

5. WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE TO THE STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION?

- 5.1 A total of 131 summary proposal documents and 30 full proposal documents were issued to interested parties at the beginning of the consultation period, including the Parent Council, Education Scotland, Parents and Carers of children attending the establishments affected, Staff, Trade Unions, Community Planning Partners and any other users of the School and Centre. Information on the Consultation was also included on North Ayrshire Council's website.
- 5.2 At the end of the consultation period, a total of 11 formal responses were received, 7 on-line surveys were returned, 1 email response and 3 paper responses were received. All of the responses are available for public reference at Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.

A press enquiry was received relating to the proposal. The content of the enquiry followed similar themes to those raised at the public meeting and via the submitted responses.

Two enquiries were received from local Councillors; one was received following the Council's Cabinet meeting, which approved the commencement of the Statutory Public Consultation, but prior to the start of the formal Statutory Consultation period. The questions raised were similar in theme to those raised at the public meeting and a response was provided. The second was regarding the time of the public meeting.

- 5.3 The table below provides a breakdown of the responses received to the question posed during the consultation period. One has not been included as the detail was incomplete. A detailed analysis of responses is attached at Appendix 4.

Stakeholders were asked the following question:

Do you agree with the proposals to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years provision?

Establishment	Interest	Relocate GVEY Centre to St. Bridget's Primary School Early Years		
		YES	NP*	NO
Garnock Valley Early Years	Parent/Carer			4
Garnock Valley Early Years	Staff			2
St. Bridget's Primary	Parent/Carer			
St. Bridget's Primary	Staff	1		1
Both establishments	Parent			1
Establishment Unknown	Parent		1	
Organisation (other)	Stakeholder group		1	
NP* = No Preference		1	2	8
		Total of 11		

5.4 Key themes that emerged throughout the consultation period, both at the public meetings and comments made in the form of responses received, can be summarised as follows:

- Were staff notified of the consultation?
- Loss of nursery based provision for birth – two year old children;
- Safety of early year's children accessing the early years' entrance via the school playground. Could the entrance be relocated?
- Sizes of the proposed new playrooms;
- How could wet and dry play be accommodated within one playroom when there is currently access to two rooms;
- Outdoor play space marshy;
- Use of canopied outdoor areas for storage rather than play;
- Parents may not want to send their children to an early years provision located in a denominational school;
- Communication to staff on future roles;
- Time of public meeting;
- Continued support for parents;
- Loss of dedicated transport.

6.0 THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSES TO THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

6.1 A number of points were raised during the consultation period. The Council's responses are detailed below:

6.2 Staff Consultation

A query was raised asking if staff at Garnock Valley Early Centre had been informed of the proposal to relocate the Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class

The Council's Response

The affected members of staff were informed of the proposal in June 2018. Senior Managers met with the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class staff groups.

Early stakeholder engagement meetings were held with both parents and staff to discuss the proposal.

6.3 Loss of Nursery Based Provision for Birth – Two Year Old Children

There is a concern that the loss of the birth – two year old provision will result in parents not using the Daycarer or Child Minding services.

The Council's Response

The Council took the decision in 2018 to remove service provision for this age group across all Early Years Centres. Where there is an identified need, parents will be supported in sourcing Day-care providers within the area. It was noted that the Daycare Support Service is a specialist team of Childminders who have been trained by the Council to respond to and support children with additional support needs and from vulnerable families. The Daycarers provide early learning and childcare for children who have been referred through the Named Person Service.

6.4 Access to the Early Years Entrance via the School Playground

There were concerns for the safety of children attending the early year's class at St. Bridget's Primary School as parents had to access the current entrance via the school playground.

The Council's Response

Parents were advised that the design proposal is still at an early stage in the process. The plans shown to the staff and parents were feasibility plans to show what could be achieved. Further consultation sessions will be planned once the outcome of the proposal is known.

These sessions will take account of the thoughts and ideas raised by the parents and staff to develop and shape the final design. The management and operation of the newly expanded provision will be discussed with the Head Teacher and staff.

6.5 Early Years Class Sizes in the Proposed New Design

At present the 3 – 5 year old children in St. Bridget's Early Years Class can access two playrooms. Parents were concerned that by providing a single playroom for the 3 – 5 year old children they will be limited in the choice of activities offered.

The Council's Response

The proposal to refurbish, remodel and expand the current provision in St Bridget's Early Years Class will provide some of the most vulnerable children with facilities to support their smooth transition through early years. It is proposed to expand and enhance the current accommodation at St Bridget's Early Years Class, which will offer greater flexibility, including free flow access to improved outdoor areas. It is envisaged that children will have greater choice and ability to access a wider range of learning experiences. The set-up of the rooms will allow all types of play with different resources, furniture and equipment.

6.6 Choices for wet and dry play within one playroom

There are concerns that by having one play room this will limit the type of play that children can take part in and may exclude children and hinder their development. It was felt that children would not be able to access wet and dry play at the same time if there was only one playroom for each age group.

The Council's Response

Staff have the skills and experience to engage with children to manage their individual needs and provide a stimulating learning environment that enhances children's development. The proposed design provides additional areas for the early year's classes to use and includes a Play Room pod/Quiet Room, GP space and Nurture Space. The new outside canopies will allow wet and sand play to move outside, if appropriate.

6.7 External Ground Conditions

There were concerns that children will get dirty if they play in areas that are muddy and marshy. It was suggested that it would be better to build the proposed extension in this area.

The Council's Response

There will be further design consultation sessions to look at the final design. Whilst the area is marshy, health and safety considerations are taken into account for all activities undertaken. Children are provided with outdoor clothing to allow them to take part in the outdoor learning environment and are encouraged to explore, discover and experience new challenges through outdoor play.

6.8 External Canopied Areas

It was stated that canopies in other schools are used for storing equipment and not used for the purpose that they were designed and installed.

The Council's Response

The canopied areas can be used to store play equipment such as bikes and trikes overnight in a secured area. Children will be able to use these covered areas throughout the day to enjoy outdoor learning and play activities in any weather. The water bath and sand pit can also be located in this area. These covered spaces will provide greater flexibility for the children to have free flow access to the outdoor space and be provided with shelter from the elements.

6.9 Children Attending an Early Years Class Within a Denominational School

There was a concern that parents may choose not to send their children to the new early year's facility as it is part of a denominational school.

The Council's Response

There is no catchment for early years provision and it is classed as non-denominational. The placement for early year's children is determined by parental choice and availability of space within the early year's setting. Parents will have the same options and choices for primary and secondary education as they currently do. Parents will still have the choice on whether to enrol their child at their local denominational or non-denominational school or make a placing request to another school of their choice.

6.10 Future Roles of Staff

Staff enquired as to whether they would have the opportunity to discuss their future roles should the proposal be approved.

The Council's Response

Staff were advised that this would take place once the final outcome of the statutory public consultation was known.

6.11 Timing of the Public Meeting

A local Councillor enquired why the public meeting was in the evening and not held during the day where it was felt more parents could attend.

The Council's Response

Officers from Education and Youth Employment undertook an early pre-engagement exercise with stakeholders last year. This included parents and staff at both St Bridget's Primary School and Garnock Valley Early Years Centre. These meetings were held during the day. As part of the statutory public consultation there is a requirement to undertake a public meeting which is open to all interested parties, therefore the preferred time for these meetings is early evening to ensure that working parents and employees can attend.

6.12 Continued Support for Parents

Concerns were raised regarding the perceived loss of parents' classes and mental health support within the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre.

The Council's Response

In the current setting, parents groups meet in a small area off the staff room. Support for parents and parenting is extremely important to North Ayrshire Council and therefore support for individual parents and parenting programmes will continue to be provided. In the new plan it is proposed to create a dedicated parents room that will provide the opportunity for parents to access a wider range of support activities.

6.13 Loss of Dedicated Transport

There was a concern that parents would not bring their children if the dedicated transport arrangement currently available for children attending Garnock Valley Early Years Centre is removed.

The Council's Response

The dedicated transport arrangement is unique to the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and is not available at any other North Ayrshire early years facility. The service does not continue when the children move from the Centre to another early year's provision at the age of three. Only families, where the nearest early years facility is more than five miles from their home, are entitled to receive transport to their nearest facility.

7. EDUCATION SCOTLAND

- 7.1 Education Scotland has a key role in considering the educational aspects of the proposal. A representative from Education Scotland attended the public meeting and was provided with copies of all correspondence received by the Council during the consultation period.

As well as attending the public meeting their officers subsequently conducted interviews with staff from Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class.

- 7.2 In line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), a report was provided by Education Scotland in relation to the proposal. This report can be found at Appendix 3.

- 7.3 Detailed below is a summary of their report:

North Ayrshire's proposal to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to a newly refurbished provision at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class has a number of possible educational benefits. The proposal will assist the council to deliver 'Best Value' through making more efficient and effective use of its resources. The removal of transport will save money and ensure equity of provision across the authority. The proposal will enable the council to deliver 1140 hours per annum of early learning and childcare for all eligible children in line with the Scottish Government's Early Years Strategy. Pre-school children from two to five will learn in a modern, well-resourced environment. They will have access to improved dining and social areas and access to wider learning opportunities. Transition into the primary school stage will be improved.

In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to involve fully parents and staff from both establishments in the final design of the refurbished early year's resource. In particular it should address concerns raised in this consultation in terms of the allocation and layout of the space, location of a secure entrance, maintaining support to parents and engaging with staff regarding their employment status.

8. THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT

8.1 North Ayrshire Council welcomes the report by Education Scotland which highlights the educational and wider benefits of the proposal. Education Scotland considered the educational aspects of the proposal and their comments are detailed in their report, attached at Appendix 3. The Council has considered these comments, both during and after the public consultation process and can offer the following responses.

8.2 **Education Scotland's Comment:** Parents and staff from Garnock Early Years Centre did not agree that there would be any educational benefits for either parents or children. Concerns were expressed about the perceived loss of the inclusive, supportive environment the children currently experience and a reduction in the level of service.

The Council's Response St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class will continue to be led by a dedicated Head Teacher, supported by an Early Years Manager and Senior Early Years Practitioner. The team will lead the development of a range of curricular pathways that will maximise opportunities for attainment and achievement for all children from 2 years old. The modern learning environment will fully support the guidelines contained within Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families, Curriculum for Excellence and Building the Ambition.

This new, fully inclusive environment will provide better outcomes for children at transition points and improve the participation of early learning and childcare in the life of the school and enable enhanced opportunities for cross sectoral work with staff able to move between stages of education, facilitating continuous learning experiences for children as well as improved opportunities for families and staff to work more closely together

8.3 **Education Scotland's Comment:** Parents and staff in Garnock Valley Early Years Centre expressed concerns about a reduction in the much valued support they receive including provision of transport to and from the facility and their access to wider support services.

The Council's Response: The dedicated transport arrangement is unique to the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and is not available at any other North Ayrshire early years facility. The service does not continue when the children move from the Centre to another early year's provision at the age of three. Only families where the nearest early years facility is more than five miles from their home are entitled to receive transport to their nearest facility.

The relocation will result in easier integrated working for support services such as educational psychology, learning support and health and social care services. These specialist services will enable improved planning and as a result, will provide better personalised planning for children with additional support needs and improve the transition process for children.

- 8.4 **Education Scotland's Comment:** The staff at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre expressed concerns about the limited level of shared detail, their lack of engagement in the process and the impact on their own employment status.

The Council's Response: Senior Managers undertook early stakeholder engagement meetings with staff in June 2018 to discuss the proposal with Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class staff groups. Affected members of staff were informed at this time.

At the Public Meeting, those parents and staff in attendance were advised that the design proposal is still at an early stage in the process. Those shown were feasibility plans to show what could be achieved. Further consultation sessions will be planned once the outcome of the proposal is finalised. These sessions will take account of parent and staff views to develop and shape the final design.

- 8.5 **Education Scotland's Comment:** Staff from St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class expressed a concern on how space will be maximised to accommodate 2 – 3 year olds without detriment to existing 3 – 5 year old, the location of a dedicated entrance and the proposed staffing compliment.

The Council's Response: The proposal is to expand and enhance the current accommodation at the St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class. In the proposed scheme there will be playroom for the 2 – 3 year olds and a separate playroom for the 3 – 5 year olds. The available space for each child aligns to the Scottish Government criteria and best practice, as defined in the Space to Grow guidance and the Council's own Standard Design Brief. The feasibility plan shows that a small extension would be created to create more open and bright playrooms.

The staffing compliment will align to the Council's agreed staffing strategy for early year's establishments. For those schools ranked within the Scottish Indicators for Multiple Deprivation deciles 1 and 2 respectively, the staffing ratios for 3 – 5 year old children will be one member of staff per six and one member of staff per three children in the 2 – 3 year old age group.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 **Cabinet Decision**
North Ayrshire Council Cabinet will make a final decision on the proposal on 14 May 2019.
- 9.2 **Scottish Ministers Consideration**
If the proposal is agreed, the Scottish Ministers must be notified of this decision. Thereafter, Scottish Ministers have an eight week period to consider whether they will issue a notice to the Council to call-in the proposal. In taking the decision whether to issue a call-in notice, the Scottish Ministers are required by the Act "to take account of any relevant representations made to them (by any person) within the first three weeks of that eight week period."

Anyone wishing to contact the Scottish Ministers during the three week period referred to above should do so by e-mail to:

schoolclosure@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or in writing to:
School Infrastructure Unit
Scottish Government
Areas 2-A South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

9.3 Design Consultation

If the proposal is approved, a series of design consultation sessions will take place with parents and staff to shape the design of the new facilities within St. Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, with a view to being on site by December 2019.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The response to this consultation is relatively low taking account of the number of potential interested parties who received information on the proposal. Of those who did respond, 8 out of 11 did not agree with the proposal, 1 agreed and 2 expressed no preference.

10.2 Delivering 1140 hours of early learning and childcare at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre would be a challenge. The Centre has limited flexibility of space to enable the creation of lunch provision, quiet room and nurture space, as well as limited free flow access to outdoor spaces.

10.3 The move to a newly refurbished and enhanced provision will enable the co-location of 2 year olds with the 3 - 5 year old provision. This will provide improved transitions for children as they move through their early learning journey, offering clear pathways beyond early level learning into primary education.

North Ayrshire Council has considered each response made to the consultation, taking on board all feedback and comments. The Council are confident that their proposal will provide an innovative, quality, flexible, and affordable facility which makes best use of Council assets. The design and implementation of the proposed learning environment will be progressed in consultation with staff and parents/carers, giving consideration to childrens' learning, childcare, development, wellbeing and social needs and experiences. Furthermore, the Council are confident that the high quality of care, teaching and learning being provided in the current provision will be continued.

10.4 The analysis of the number of responses and the nature of the issues they have raised concludes that the proposal to discontinue the early learning and childcare provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre with effect from June 2020, and relocate the provision to a modern and fit for purpose learning environment located in St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, should go ahead.

This document can also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。
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درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

Na życzenie klienta, informacje te mogą być udostępnione w innych językach oraz formatach.

Please apply in writing to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House,
Friars Croft, Irvine, KA12 8EE; by telephone on 01294 344429; or by e-mail at
educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

**PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE
GARNOCK VALLEY EARLY YEARS CENTRE TO ST BRIDGET'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS PROVISION IN KILBIRNIE**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF SERVICE
(DIRECTORATE of EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT)**

This document has been issued by North Ayrshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended)

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**Proposed Relocation of Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to
St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision**

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council's Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme Board is responsible for delivering the Scottish Government's new Early Years Strategy to provide 1140 hours per annum of early learning and childcare (ELC) for all three and four year old and eligible two year old children, by 2020.
- 1.2 To ensure that North Ayrshire early years classes and centres are prepared for this expansion, a full review was undertaken of our early year's estate to identify what level of investment may be required to support the increase in operational hours.
- 1.3 This proposal relates to Garnock Valley Early Years Centre (GVEYC) and St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class, both located in Kilbirnie. GVEYC is a dedicated, standalone building located in the grounds of St Bridget's Primary School which provides ELC for up to 15 two to three year old, and 8 birth to two year old, children per session. St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class provides ELC for up to 40 three to five year old children per session.
- 1.4 The proposal is to relocate GVEYC to newly refurbished provision at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class. Its main aim is to establish a more inclusive ELC service that focuses on secure and seamless transitions for young children and is designed to facilitate delivery of an enhanced service model that reflects, and is responsive to, local needs.
- 1.5 Taking account of the Care Inspectorate publication 'Space to Grow' as a standard, the Directorate of Education and Youth Employment has identified the following key principles to be included, where possible, in the design of all our establishments;
 - Parents meeting and learning spaces;
 - Dining and general purpose spaces;
 - Nurture space;
 - Small break out areas to provide greater flexibility in the delivery of early learning and childcare;
 - Greater flexibility and variety of space and activities for children who could be accommodated within the service from 8am – 6pm; and
 - Provision for children to move freely between the internal learning environment and outdoor learning and social spaces.
- 1.6 In its current location, delivering 1140 hours at GVEYC will be challenging. The Centre has limited flexibility of space to enable the creation of a lunch provision, quiet room or nurture space. Only one of the two playrooms has free flow access to outdoor learning space. The move to a newly refurbished and remodelled provision would provide some of our most vulnerable children with the facilities to support smooth transitions through their early learning journey. St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class and GVEYC are ranked in SIMD deciles 1 and 2 respectively, in the Scottish Indicator for Multiple Deprivation.

2. Strategic Context

2.1 Council Vision

The current North Ayrshire Council Plan sets out our key aims and ambitions over the five year period 2015-2020.

Our mission is 'to improve the lives of North Ayrshire people and develop stronger communities'. We aim to achieve this by being 'a leading organisation defined by excellent and innovative services'.

The Council's priorities to achieve this aim are outlined below:

- Growing our economy, increasing employment and regenerating towns;
- Working together to develop stronger communities;
- Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work; □ Supporting all of our people to stay safe, healthy and active;
- Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

Further information on the Council's priorities can be found on the Council's website at www.northayrshire.gov.uk

2.2 Education and Youth Employment Vision

North Ayrshire Council's Directorate of Education and Youth Employment aspires to deliver an education estate that is fit for 21st century learning and teaching, guided by Scottish Government's principles of estate management and the Space to Grow Guidance which include:

- the condition of the establishment and its ability to support and enhance the function of early years to accommodate the increase in hours;
- more suitable and inclusive establishments which are future proofed for flexibility and adaptability;
- establishments which are greener, more sustainable and environmentally efficient;
- establishments which best serve their communities;
- a well-managed estate which represents and delivers best value;
- establishments which both drive and support effective early learning and childcare; and
- establishments which provide children with relevant indoor and outdoor learning experiences

In considering capital investment and infrastructure plans, the Scottish Government assumes that effective early years expansion planning will take account of a sequential decision making process as follows:

1. Use what we have – make full use of existing assets;
2. Use what we purchase – enhancing the use of partner provision; and
3. Create what we need – including the use of outdoor nurseries.

A key part of the early learning and childcare expansion programme is to co-locate 2 year old provision with 3-5 year old provision, wherever possible, to support and facilitate children's transition through early years and into primary school. This proposal enhances the opportunities for improved transitions as children move through their school career, offering clear pathways through early level to primary education.

2.3 Asset Management Strategy

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 places a duty on Local Authorities to demonstrate best value in delivering their services and managing any assets they hold.

Typically, individual Councils hold assets worth many millions of pounds and it is in the interest of Councils and their residents that the most effective use of these assets is being made. This is achieved through the delivery of a Property Asset Management Plan (PAMP).

North Ayrshire Council's PAMP clearly outlines the priorities for the physical care and improvement of the Council's property portfolio and is intended to assist the Council in contributing to its key priorities.

The purpose of the PAMP is to support the delivery of our vision for North Ayrshire properties, providing a strategic framework to facilitate fit for purpose properties to ensure our property assets continue to play an active role in the delivery of our services. The PAMP sets out the Council's approach to the management of its property assets by:

- establishing a corporate framework for the management of all our property assets;
- highlighting our corporate outcomes and priorities and how they will be supported through the effective and efficient management of our property assets;
- presenting an overview of the extensive property assets owned by the Council;
- identifying the internal and external influencing factors and challenges affecting property;
- identifying a number of activity themes to improve the performance of property assets management; and
- outlining the investment we will make in our property assets over the next five years.

3. Background to Current Proposal

- 3.1 The expansion of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) places from 600 hours per annum to 1140 hours per annum for eligible 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year olds by 2020, is an integral part of Scottish Government's drive to improve outcomes for all children. It is a flagship Scottish Government policy designed to reduce health and social inequality in later life and is linked to policies for school age children to close the poverty related attainment gap.

North Ayrshire Council's Directorate of Education and Youth Employment has a well-established programme of work to meet this additional requirement for ELC across the authority. The Directorate is committed to ensuring that this opportunity contributes to the fulfilment of its vision of enabling children and young people "to have the best start in life" and for "North Ayrshire to be the best place in Scotland to grow up"

Nationally, the Scottish Government recognises that the expansion in ELC to 1140 hours per year will require transformational change in how ELC is delivered. This will not just reflect the substantial increases in workforce and infrastructure investment, but also new and innovative models of delivery. Local authorities are fully engaged in the planning and delivery of the ELC programme at a national level with Scottish Government.

- 3.2 North Ayrshire Council's expansion programme prioritises high quality learning experiences for our children, recognising the significant contribution that universally accessible early learning and childcare can make to a child's development and to closing the attainment gap. High quality indoor and outdoor learning environments are a key part of this approach. In addition, as children will be spending more time in an early years setting, there is even more need to ensure the overall environment and facilities are:
- fit for purpose;
 - of a high quality to support and inspire the learning experience;
 - supporting positive outcomes and creating opportunities for children to have fun, learn and play;
 - improving learning outcomes for children;
 - positively supporting children to access indoor and outdoor learning opportunities which inspire curiosity, wonder and excitement; and
 - welcoming places at the heart of our communities.
- 3.3 In an early learning and childcare setting, there are several transitions that we expect children to manage: from home to ELC provision; from person to person; from ELC provision to ELC provision; and eventually from ELC provision to primary school. It is essential that all of these transitions are managed sensitively, inclusively and positively. North Ayrshire Council is already focussed on this careful management of transitions and pays particular attention to the needs of eligible two year old children when they make the transition from home to an ELC setting and within the setting from two year old provision to three-five year old provision. Currently GVEYC will be the only establishment in North Ayrshire that provides ELC for two to three year olds exclusively in a standalone centre.
4. Pre-Consultation Stakeholder Engagement
- 4.1 The Council recognises both the importance of seeking the views of the communities and the valuable contribution that this collaborative approach has in establishing a comprehensive proposal. Working together from this early stage builds the foundation for positive joint working throughout the life of this initiative.
- 4.2 In August 2018, the Directorate of Education and Youth Employment embarked on a series of engagement events with parents, staff and community representatives. These events aimed to present the proposal to relocate the ELC provision within GVEYC to St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class, and to listen to and consider the views expressed in the development of this proposal.
- 4.3 A working group was established to consider and develop a robust plan to ensure that as many views as possible were heard prior to formulating the more detailed proposal. This resulted in a pre-consultation stakeholder engagement plan being produced, attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 Whilst this stage in the process is not legally required, the Council wanted to engage with all interested parties at the early, formative stage of the process and hear as many views as possible prior to formulating more detailed proposals.

- 4.5 The first step in this joint approach was to issue an information letter to parents and staff in August 2018, providing early information on the proposal. A copy of the pre-consultation stakeholder plan was included with this letter along with an invitation to attend information sessions.
- 4.6 A series of information and engagement sessions took place, with parents, staff, parent council representatives, the local community council and health visitors. The sessions highlighted the importance of their contribution and explained the significance of their role in encouraging others to participate.
- 4.7 The early engagement process has helped to shape the best way forward for this proposal and ensure that we meet the needs and desires of the community.

5. Outcome of Pre-Consultation Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 The key themes emerging from the pre-consultation stakeholder engagement were:

Suitability of the proposed new facility at St Bridget's Primary School

Significant works are planned to improve and expand the learning environment at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class. This includes the provision of a dedicated entrance, creation of nurturing and parenting facilities and an enhanced outdoor learning environment. The programming of these works will ensure minimum disruption to the pupils attending St Bridget's Primary School and Early Years Class.

Support for parents

All the parenting classes and support provided at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre will continue to be delivered at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class. As a result of the planned works, these classes and support will take place in a dedicated parenting space designed with their needs in mind.

Loss of nursery based provision for birth – 2 year old children

The Council has previously taken a decision to direct all referrals for children aged birth to 2 years to its specialist Day Carer service. This is currently being phased in across the Council and will be fully implemented by August 2020.

Change of staff working arrangements

Discussions around staff working arrangements at the new location will take place as part of the transitional planning for the new facility.

St Bridget's Primary School denominational provision

Early learning and childcare provision is non-denominational across the authority.

Parking

Traffic management will be considered as part of the detailed design development process.

6. Current Service Provision Information

- 6.1 GVEYC is located within a dedicated, standalone building in the grounds of St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie, see Appendix 2. It has the capacity to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare (ELC) provision for 15 two to three year old children and 8 birth to two year old children. (Birth to two year old children are not eligible for funded ELC but are provided with an ELC service because they are vulnerable or are referred through the Named Person Service).
- 6.2 Currently 25 eligible two to three year old children attend GVEYC. This is split with 12 attending the morning session and 13 in the afternoon sessions and 1 child in the birth-2 room.
- 6.3 On 19 June 2018, Cabinet approved a proposal to cease provision of early learning and childcare for all children aged birth – two years in NAC Early Years Centres and direct all referrals to the Council's Day Carer service. This will mean that the number of children aged birth – two years attending GVEYC will gradually reduce until 2020 when there will be no children in this age group attending GVEYC.
- 6.4 The current facility and infrastructure within the GVEYC has limited flexibility to accommodate the demands of the expansion to 1140 hours. This includes the provision of lunch space, nurture space, and a quiet room. In addition there is free flow access to the outdoor space from one of the two playrooms. Some children have to be accompanied to a path that is adjacent to the car park area and escorted around the building to the rear garden and outdoor learning area.
- 6.5 The GVEYC Service is managed by a Head of Centre and Depute Head of Centre.
- 6.6 GVEYC provides a transport service for children who attend the Centre. This is a unique service in North Ayrshire and was developed as a response to the rural nature of the Garnock Valley. However, there is a need to review the continuation of this service as part of this proposal as the same rural and deprivation characteristics that exist in the Garnock valley, also exist in other localities of the authority which do not benefit from a transport service. Children currently attending St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class do not receive this transport provision.
- NAC does not provide transport for any other early years child unless the child has an additional support need, there is a request from the HSCP, or they live more than 5 miles from the nearest early years establishment (Arran only).
- 6.7 St Bridget's Primary School Early Year's Class exists within St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie. It is located less than 50 yards from GVEYC. It has capacity to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare provision for 40 three to five year olds per session. There is currently no two year old provision at St Bridget's. The ELC provision is managed by the Head Teacher of St Bridget's Primary School

7. Financial Information

- 7.1 North Ayrshire Council has secured funding from the Scottish Government to enable the implementation of the increased hours for early learning and childcare.

Feasibility visits were undertaken at each early year's class and centre to determine the scope of capital works that may be required to ensure that our establishments are fit for purpose.

A scoping exercise was completed for the expansion of the early year's provision at St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class to include the two to three year old provision. An initial cost proposal suggests that the project would cost in the region of £639,000.

7.2 Revenue Costs

The revenue saving as a result of this proposal will be £200,818. This is made up of:

Staffing costs	£193,696
Operational costs (incl transport)	£7122

Appendix 4 provides a detailed breakdown of recurring costs and savings.

There has been no recurring savings applied in relation to building costs or income. This is because any potential saving would not be directly linked to Education and Youth Employment.

8. Proposal

- 8.1 In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), and as a result of early engagement with a wide range of interested parties, North Ayrshire Council, proposes that:

Education provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre will be discontinued with effect from June 2020. Children will relocate to a modernised and fit for purpose learning environment located at St Bridget's Primary School.

- 8.2 As part of the ELC expansion programme, North Ayrshire Council is planning to undertake a £639,000 refurbishment project at St Bridget's Primary School to enhance the current early years' provision. This refurbishment will provide suitable ancillary facilities to accommodate the expansion to 1140 hours from August 2020 which is not currently available at the school. This will include dining, nurture and parenting facilities. The outdoor learning area and children's toilets will also be enhanced and improved.

The £639,000 project has been developed in line with the Council's standard brief and 1140 hours key principles. Existing fittings would be stripped out for renewal and existing toilets relocated with direct access from the playroom to encourage independence of the children.

A small extension would be created within the facility for 3-5 year olds, to create a more open and bright playroom. A significant feature and improvement will be the creation of free flow access to the outdoor garden area direct from both playrooms, complete with covered canopy and external lighting. This free flow arrangement will allow the children to lead and develop their own play opportunities. A flexible lunch/GP space would be developed for children to receive meals and this will also be utilised for general purpose activities and for parents groups. A dedicated parents' room will also be provided within the scope of the proposed plan.

Improvements are being considered for the entrance and cloak areas and all fixtures and fittings would be renewed to give a modern, fresh and high quality facility. A quiet room would also be created between the 2 playrooms. This would be a shared space for each age group which would have the benefit of assisting with transition and shared activities between the two groups of children.

Consideration is being given to altering the existing fence line GVEYC and St Bridget's early year's garden to allow the GVEYC garden to be retained by the new facility.

8.3 The co-location of two to three year old children within a whole early year's community will provide:

- support for high quality transitions for our youngest children;
- an inclusive nurturing environment;
- links with other siblings already in the school;
- consistency of staffing;
- a familiar setting through all stages of their early learning and primary education;
- improved outdoor learning opportunities;
- one point of contact for parents where there is more than one sibling attending early years or school provision; and
- inclusion in a larger early year's community for parents.
- access to the whole St Bridget's Primary School community and facilities

9. Educational Benefits Statement

- 9.1 The newly refurbished and remodelled St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class will continue to be led by a dedicated Head Teacher, supported by an Early Years Manager and Senior Early Years Practitioner. The team will lead the development of a range of curricular pathways, that will maximise opportunities for attainment and achievement for all children from 2 years old.
- 9.2 The modern learning environment will fully support the guidelines contained within Birth to Three: Positive Outcomes for Scotland's Children and Families, Curriculum for Excellence and Building the Ambition.
- 9.3 Dining and social areas will be improved from current arrangements. This, along with the development of external areas to create stimulating and inspiring outdoor learning space, will encourage young children to socialise and improve their health and wellbeing.
- 9.4 The new learning environment will allow for greater movement of children and consequently better learning opportunities across all areas. This should result in a removal of barriers to accessing all curriculum areas as well as wider learning opportunities.
- 9.5 Outdoor learning areas will allow for free flow to all weather participation in activities. These improved outdoor areas will further promote opportunities for outdoor learning to meet the needs as set out by the Scottish Government in 'Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning'.

- 9.6 This model will also support effective transition into the primary school stage and enable staff to share information to ensure progression in children's learning.
- 9.7 Professional collegiate collaboration for staff will be enhanced in this new expanded and refreshed setting, enabling a shared understanding and safeguarding of the range of children's needs, in particular in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child and child protection.
- 9.8 The proposed relocation will result in easier integrated working with support services such as educational psychology, learning support, health and social services. These specialist services will enable improved planning across sectors, and as a result will provide:
- better personalised planning for children with additional support needs; and
 - improved transition processes for children with additional support needs.
- 9.9 **What will be the impact on children and young people from any affected early years provision?**

Provision of a modern, fit for purpose learning environment will have a positive impact on all children and families attending the enhanced provision.

9.10 **Specific Benefits for the Children and Families**

Easing the transition between early years and primary stages will provide better outcomes for children at transition points. An inclusive environment that improves the participation of ELC in the life of the school, will enable enhanced opportunities for cross sectoral work with staff able to move between stages of education, facilitating continuous learning experiences for children. There will be improved opportunities for families and staff to work more closely together.

9.11 **How will the proposal impact on future children?**

The opportunity to build on the strengths of the St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class and GVEYC will be realised through this proposal. A wider range of staff expertise, interest and skills in one enhanced learning environment will open the way for improved learning experiences for children in the short and long term.

Modern design specifications will be used to reduce revenue costs, for example, through energy efficiency. This will also free resources for the general benefit of children and young people in the Authority area.

9.12 **What is the community impact of the new early year's provision?**

The co-location of the early years and primary education in this local area will enable families to come together to support and develop parenting skills, and help enrich the community.

9.13 **What is the impact on other children in the Council area?**

This proposal will not have any impact on other children in the Council area.

9.14 Are there any other likely effects of the proposal?

Families with primary or early year's children will have all educational services concentrated in one area, for example easing problems of school transport or family emergencies.

9.15 How does the authority intend to minimise or avoid adverse effects that may arise from the proposal?

It will be essential to fully support the transition arrangements to the new ELC provision for all children and families involved. Should the proposal go ahead, during the transition phase to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, a commitment will be undertaken to ensure that the full range of children's needs are addressed and that any disruption to their early learning and childcare is minimised. Care will be taken to ensure that all children, parents and staff are familiar with their new environment.

The two ELC establishments already work closely together and this will be further strengthened by ensuring the improvement planning process leads to a consistent approach to all aspects of ELC. In addition, a number of other measures will be put in place to support the proposal. These include:

- opportunities for children, parents and staff and parents to come together prior to any move;
- joint planning between staff on matters such as curriculum planning; and □ joint and team events;
- familiarisation visits to the new establishment by both parents and children to enable them to experience the new learning environment.

In supporting the move to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, the Head Teacher and leadership team will be involved in visits to other similar sized establishments with two – five provision, to observe, learn and reflect on best practice.

10. The Proposed New Provision

10.1 The newly extended and refurbished facility would accommodate 40 three to five year olds and 14 two to three year old children.

10.2 It is proposed that the design should accommodate the existing numbers of children that attend early years across the two sites.

The design will signal to all users (children, parents and staff) that learning is a valued activity, and that the learning environment is a priority. It will be inspiring and invite exploration of the use of the environment and space in different and imaginative ways.

10.3 The extended facility would be staffed according to local and national policies and agreements in place at the time, which are designed to ensure that all duties and responsibilities of the early year's provision are carried out.

The staffing levels will principally be determined by the number of children.

Transfer of staff would be managed in accordance with existing agreed Council policies and procedures.

- 10.4 The newly refurbished facility will be appropriately equipped with the facilities and resources to allow for the delivery of the teaching and learning of the early years curriculum.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to be involved in the design of the new provision. It will be important that all users of the proposed facility have the opportunity to express their views.

- 10.5 A Transport Assessment will require to be undertaken as part of the planning process. Within this assessment predicted traffic flows to, from and around the school are assessed and where necessary mitigation measures are proposed to deal with and identify problems including congestion. Part of the focus will be to encourage walking / cycling and sustainable modes of travel. These will be encouraged as part of the project to reduce the numbers of children being dropped off and picked up by private car.
- 10.6 In line with North Ayrshire Councils policy, transport will only be provided for those early year's children that qualify under additional support need, there is a request from the HSCP, or they live more than 5 miles from the nearest early years establishment. Therefore, the existing transport arrangements will cease from August 2020 when the new facility at St. Bridget's becomes fully operational.
- 10.7 The use of the existing GVEY site, once vacated has still to be determined. It is likely that it would be used either by the Council or a third party for future development, for a purpose that complies with or is capable of complying with the requirements of the Local Development Plan. However consideration will be given to retaining the existing GVEYC garden space.

11. Statutory Public Consultation Process

- 11.1 This document has been issued by North Ayrshire Council for consultation in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended).

11.2 What is a Statutory Public Consultation?

In Scotland, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure the adequate and efficient provision of Early Learning and Childcare in their area. If a local authority proposes to change any part of the existing education provision in its area, then it must engage in a formal consultation process under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended). The act aims to ensure that all major changes which affect schools are subject to clear consultation with parents, children, young people and communities.

11.3 When does the statutory public consultation start?

The consultation will start on 23 January 2019 and run until 12 noon on 8 March 2019, which includes a period of 30 school days.

11.4 Who will have access to this proposal document?

This proposal document has been made available to all interested parties, including St Bridget's Parent Council, Education Scotland, Parents and Carers of children attending the establishment affected, Staff, Trade Unions and any other users of the establishments as detailed in the distribution list.

This proposal document is published on the Council website at www.northayrshire.gov.uk. Copies are also available at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class and Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, Education and Youth Employment HQ, local library, local community centres and health centres. If requested, copies can be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

11.5 What if I notice an error in the document?

If any inaccuracy or omission is discovered in this proposal document, either by the Council or any person, the Council will determine if relevant information has been omitted or if there has been an inaccuracy.

The Council may then take appropriate action, which may include the issue of a correction notice, the reissuing of the proposal document or the revision of the timescale for the consultation period, if appropriate. In that event, relevant consultees and Education Scotland will be advised.

11.6 How will I get a chance to give my opinion?

You will be able to give your opinion on the proposal by:

- Completing an online response form at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk;
- Submitting a paper copy of the response form, attached at Appendix 3;
- Writing to the Head of Service (Inclusion), Education and Youth Employment, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; or
- Emailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

All responses must be submitted by **no later than 12 noon on 8 March 2019**.

11.7 Will there be any information sessions for the public?

A formal public meeting will be held to discuss these proposals and will be advertised in local newspapers. Anyone wishing to attend the public meeting is invited to do so.

The meeting will be convened by North Ayrshire Council and will provide an opportunity to hear more about the proposal, ask questions and have your views recorded so that they can be taken into account as part of the consultation process.

The public meeting will be held as follows:

Venue	Date	Time
St Bridget's Primary School	Tuesday 5 February 2019	6.00pm

A note will be taken at the meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. The note will be published on the Council website and a copy will be made available on request. The note will also be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process.

11.8 Will any other agencies be involved in the process?

The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended) requires that a report on the proposal is prepared by Education Scotland. Education Scotland may attend the public meeting.

Once the statutory public consultation period comes to an end, Education Scotland have three weeks to consider the educational aspects of the proposal and submit a report to the council.

Education Scotland receive copies of relevant papers from the council, including:

- a copy of the proposal paper;
- copies of the written representations or a summary of them (if Education Scotland agree);
- a note of oral representations made at the public meeting;
- any other related documentation.

Education Scotland visit schools as part of their consideration of the proposal and meet with children, staff and parents who may be affected by the proposal.

Upon receipt of the proposal document and other relevant documentation, Education Scotland will consider the educational aspects of the proposal. They will ensure that their report takes account of:

- the educational benefits statement;
- the representations received by the council;
- any further written representations made directly to Education Scotland on any educational aspect of the proposal which is considered relevant.

The consultation report that the Council publish following the statutory public consultation must include the report from Education Scotland in full.

11.9 Will the outcome of the consultation be made public?

The Head of Service (Education and Youth Employment) will prepare a report on the results of the consultative process. The report will take account of all Education Scotland recommendations. This report will be published in electronic and printed formats and will be advertised in local newspapers. It will be available on the Council website and from Council headquarters, affected schools, local libraries, local community centres and health centres.

The report will include a record of the total number of written representations made during the consultation period, a summary of the written and oral representations, and the Council's response to recommendations made by Education Scotland.

A copy of the Education Scotland report will be an appendix to the consultation report which will be published and available for further consideration for a period of 3 weeks ahead of presentation to Elected Members at Cabinet.

11.10 When will the Council make a decision on the outcome of the consultation?

The consultation report, together with any other relevant documentation, will be considered by Cabinet (Education) who will make a decision on the proposal in May 2019.

11.11 What happens next?

If the proposal is approved, the Council is required, in terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland Act) 2010 (as amended), to notify Scottish Ministers within 6 days of making that decision. The Council is also required to place a notice on its website of the decision and of the opportunity to make representations to Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Ministers then have a period of eight weeks following an authority's decision in which to decide to call-in the decision or not. The first three weeks of this period is to allow stakeholders to make representations either against or in support of the decision. Scottish Ministers then have a further five weeks to consider all documents and representations.

Until the Council has been notified of the outcome, the proposal cannot be implemented.

In accordance with legislation, should the proposal not be approved, the Council are restricted in their ability to reconsider it within a 5 year period.

DISTRIBUTION

A copy of this document is available on the North Ayrshire Council website:
www.northayrshire.gov.uk

A summary of this document will be provided to:

Stakeholders associated with the early years centres/classes affected by the proposal, including:

- Parents/Carers
- Parent Councils
- Head Teachers
- Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff, including facilities management
- Local Elected Members
- Member of Parliament
- Member of Scottish Parliament
- Education Scotland
- Chief Executive
- Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)
- Head of Service (Place) x 2
- Executive Director (Economy and Communities)
- Director, Health and Social Care Partnership
- Head of Democratic Services
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Sub Division Commander, Police Scotland
- Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
- Principal of Ayrshire College
- Community Councils
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
- East Ayrshire Council
- South Ayrshire Council
- Inverclyde Council
- Dumfries and Galloway Council

Trade Unions

- Unison
- EIS, Education Institute of Scotland
- NAS/UWT, National Union of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers
- T&GWU, Transport & General Workers' Union
- GMB
- UNITE
- VOICE

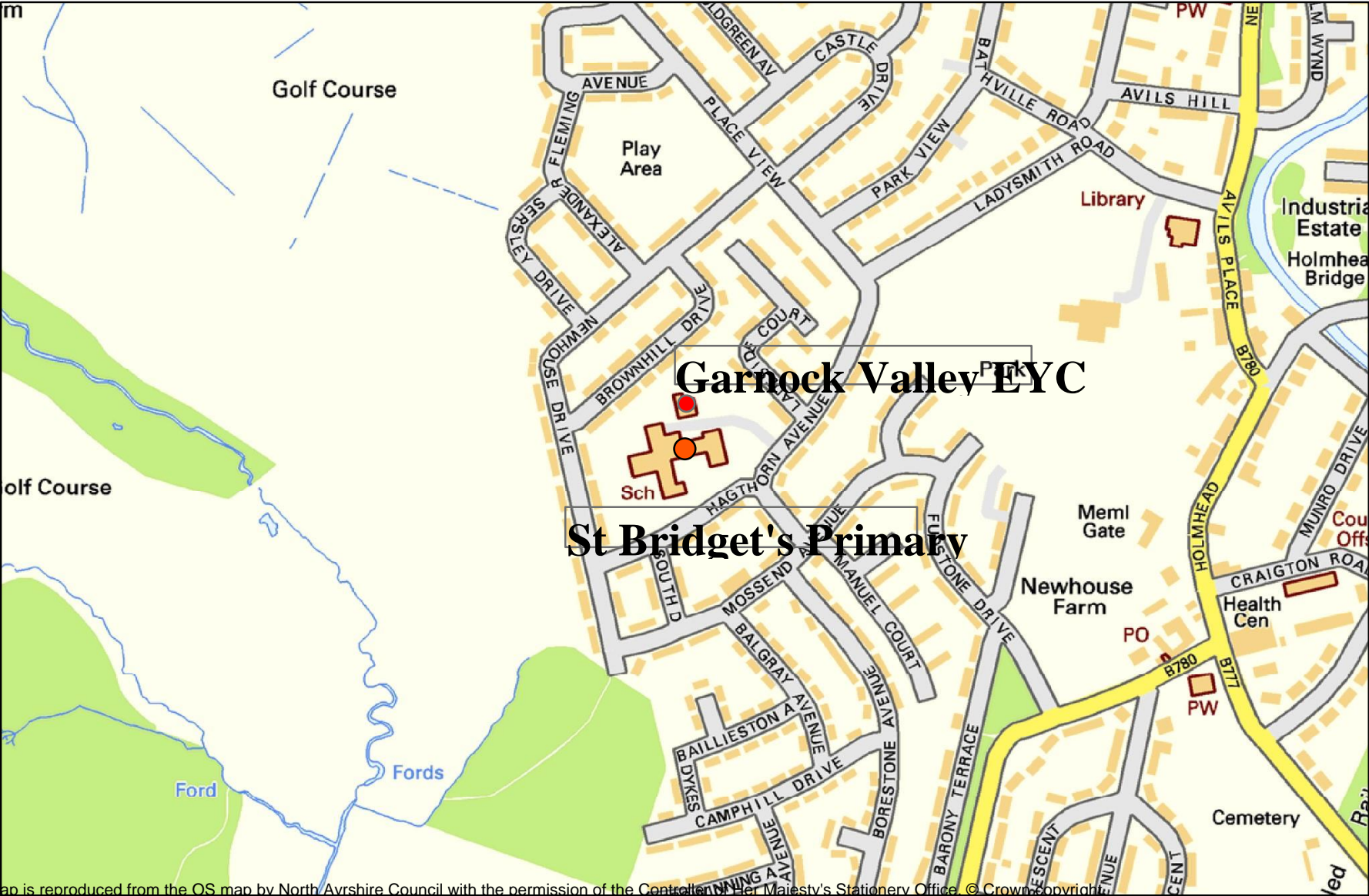
Copies of the Proposal Document will be made available to view at:

- St Bridget Primary School Early Years Class and Garnock Valley Early Years Centre
- Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine
- Local Public Libraries, Community Centres and Health Centres

Adverts will be placed in local newspapers.

Pre-Consultation Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Date Time Venue
GVEY Staff and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Staff	3 September 2018 4.15pm St Bridget's Primary School
Parent Council	3 September 2018 2.30pm St Bridget's Primary School
Parents	25 September 2018 3.00pm St Bridget's Primary School 1 November 2018 9.15am St Bridget's Primary School
Local Community Council	11 September 2018
Health Visitors	28 November 2018

Proposed Relocation of Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to
St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision



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Proposed Relocation of Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision

Appendix 3

Education and Youth Employment, 5th Floor, Cunninghame House, IRVINE KA12 8EE



RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSAL CONSULTATION

Garnock Valley Early Years Centre

St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class

For convenience this form can be completed online at: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

It is proposed to relocate GVEYC to newly refurbished provision at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class. Its main aim is to establish a more inclusive Early Learning and Childcare service that focuses on secure and seamless transitions for young children and is designed to facilitate delivery of an enhanced service model that reflects, and is responsive to, local needs.

North Ayrshire Council, in line with our Data Protection responsibilities will only use the personal data provided for the sole purpose of evaluating your responses. The response submitted by you may form part of the response paper that will be submitted to the Council for consideration in the near future and will therefore be made available for public inspection.

Should you wish any of your personal details (e.g. name, address, phone number, etc.), which you have included in your response, to be included in our published responses it is necessary for us to obtain your consent. Please indicate this by ticking the box below.

Yes I consent ☐

Further details how North Ayrshire manages your data can be found within our privacy Policy at the following website link. <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/privacy-policy.aspx> If you require a paper copy please contact Education and Youth Employment on 01294 324429.

MUST BE COMPLETED FOR A VALID RESPONSE

Name
(PRINTED)

Address

Email Address:

Please confirm that you have read the full report by ticking this box

Garnock Valley Early Years Centre

Parent/Carer ☐

Staff ☐

Pupil ☐

Other ☐

St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Centre

Parent/Carer ☐

Staff ☐

Pupil ☐

Other ☐

Other (please state)

Do you agree with the proposal?

Yes ☐

No ☐

No Preference ☐

Please use this space for any additional comments

Proposed Relocation of Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision

Appendix 4

Financial Template

Table 1	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Row 1	Current revenue costs for school proposed for closure			
Row 2	Name of School	Costs for full financial year (2018/2019) (projected annual costs)	Additional financial impact on receiving school (St Bridget's Early Years (10-102021))	Annual recurring savings (column 2 minus column 3)
Row 3	Garnock Valley Early Years (10-102039)			
Row 4	School costs			
Row 5	Employee costs - note 1			
Row 6	teaching staff	-	-	-
Row 7	support staff	332,364.84	138,668.48	193,696.36
Row 8	teaching staff training (CPD etc)			-
Row 9	support staff training			-
Row 10	Supply costs - note 2			-
Row 11	Building costs:			-
Row 12	property insurance	4,950.00	4,950.00	-
Row 13	non domestic rates			-
Row 14	water & sewerage charges			-
Row 15	energy costs			-
Row 16	cleaning (contract or inhouse)			-
Row 17	building repair & maintenance			-
Row 18	grounds maintenance			-
Row 19	facilities management costs - note 6			-
Row 20	revenue costs arising from capital			-
Row 21	other			-
Row 22				
Row 23	School operational costs:			
Row 24	learning materials	2,164.27	1,080.00	1,084.27
Row 25	catering (contract or inhouse)			-
Row 26	SGA costs			-
Row 27	other school operational costs (e.g. licences)	1,996.00		1,996.00
Row 28				
Row 29	Transport costs: note 3			
Row 30	home to school			note 4
Row 31	other pupil transport costs	3,120.00		3,120.00
Row 32	staff travel	922.00		922.00
Row 33	SCHOOL COSTS SUB-TOTAL			
Row 34				
Row 35	Income:			
Row 36	Sale of meals			-
Row 37	Lets			-
Row 38	External care provider			-
Row 39	Other			-
Row 40	SCHOOL INCOME SUB-TOTAL			
Row 41				
Row 42	TOTAL COSTS MINUS INCOME FOR SCHOOL	345,517.11	144,698.48	200,818.63
Row 43				
Row 44	UNIT COST PER PUPIL PER YEAR			

Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Capital Life Cycle cost - note 7		
Third party contributions to capital costs		

Table 3	Annual Property costs incurred (moth-balling) until disposal
	property insurance
	non domestic rates
	water & sewerage charges
	energy costs
	cleaning (contract or inhouse)
	security costs
	building repair & maintenance
	grounds maintenance
	facilities management costs
	other
	TOTAL ANNUAL COST UNTIL DISPOSAL

Table 4	Non-recurring revenue costs
	TOTAL NON-RECURRING REVENUE COSTS
	200,818.63

Table 5	Impact on GAE - note 5
	GAE IMPACT

Notes

1. The total costs incurred for teaching staff (row 5) and support staff (row 6) are required to be included. Column 2 should include the current costs for a full financial year for the school proposed for closure, and column 3 should include the additional cost to the receiving school as a result of staff transferring.

For teaching staff, this should include regular teachers, itinerant teachers, learning support teaching staff and special education (ASN) staff.

Itinerant teaching staff includes central support services such as English as additional language support, hearing, visually impaired services, educational psychology services.

For support staff, this should include classroom assistants, administration staff and janitorial staff.

For all staff the costs entered should include salary, NI and pension costs.

If the school proposed for closure has less than 3 staff members, then the cumulative staff costs only should be given in row 5 (for both teaching and support staff), so as to avoid possible disclosure of individual salaries.

Training costs should be identified separately in rows 7 and 8.

2. Supply costs to cover teaching and support staff. This may be held in a central budget, be devolved or shared across the budgets.

3. 'Home to school' pupil transport costs should include those school transport costs incurred in accordance with Council policy. 'Other pupil transport costs' will cover costs incurred for the transport of pupils for activities such as swimming etc.

4. Row 30 of column 3 should include the additional transport costs related to the increased home to school transport arrangements that are put in place in accordance with Council policy. This figure is therefore likely to be considerably higher than current costs.

5. This table is to capture the impact on the revenue support grant as a result of changes to GAE. Impact on GAE should consider the issues covered in the GAE section of the guidance document that accompany this template.

6. Facilities management costs will include costs related to caretaking, janitorial and security.

7. The capital costs for the receiving school should be taken across the life cycle of the school in line with the life expectancy of that school. The capital costs for the school proposed for closure should be taken across the same life cycle period. It should be noted that the lifecycle costs in Tables 3 represent 10 year anticipated costs and exclude fees, contingency, prelims and VAT.



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE CURRENT EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR 2-3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN AT THE GARNOCK VALLEY EARLY YEARS CENTRE AND RELOCATE TO ST BRIDGET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS CLASS

SUMMARY PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

This is a summary document only

The full Proposal Document can be accessed at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Copies of the full Proposal Document will also be available at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, Kilbirnie Library, Kilbirnie Housing Office, Bridgend Community Centre, local health centre and Education and Youth Employment HQ. If requested, copies will also be made available in alternative formats or in translated form for readers whose first language is not English.

Statutory Public Consultation

North Ayrshire Council want to consult you about the following proposal in accordance with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended). The proposal is to:

- Relocate the current Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision for 2-3 year old children at the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to a newly refurbished provision for 2-5 year old children at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class with effect from August 2020.
- Discontinue the ELC provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre from August 2020 and that this facility is declared surplus.

The proposed development would see St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class delivering early learning and childcare for children aged 2-5 years from August 2020. The refurbishment would take account of the Care Inspectorate publication 'Space to Grow' as a standard design brief. The Directorate of Education & Youth Employment has identified the following key principles to be included, where possible, in the design of all our establishments;

- Greater flexibility and variety of space and activities for children who could be accommodated within the service from 8am – 6pm;
- Provision for children to move freely between the internal learning environment and outdoor learning and social spaces;
- Nurture space;
- Small break out areas to provide greater flexibility in the delivery of early learning and childcare;
- Dining and general purpose spaces; and
- Parents meeting and learning spaces;

The newly refurbished and remodelled St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class will continue to be led by the Head Teacher, supported by an Early Years Manager and Senior Early Years Practitioner. The team will lead the development of a range of curricular pathways to maximise opportunities for attainment and achievement for all children from 2 years old.

Easing the move from early years and primary stages will provide better outcomes for children at key transition points. An inclusive environment which can improve the participation of ELC in the life of the school, will enable enhanced opportunities for cross sectoral work. Staff will be able to move between stages of education, facilitating continuous learning experiences for children. There will be improved opportunities for families and staff to work more closely together.

Background

On 15 January 2019, North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet agreed that a proposal, informed by an early engagement process, should be developed to relocate the early learning and childcare provision at Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to a newly refurbished provision for 2-5 year olds at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class.

Pre-consultation engagement was undertaken, which has helped to ensure that this proposal best meets the needs and wishes of the community.

Why are the Council proposing this?

The co-location of 2-3 year old children within a whole early years' community will provide:

- support for high quality transitions for our youngest children;
- an inclusive nurturing environment;
- links with other siblings already in the school;
- consistency of staffing;
- a familiar setting through all stages of their early learning and primary education;
- improved outdoor learning opportunities;
- one point of contact for parents where there is more than one sibling attending early years or school provision;
- inclusion in a larger early years community for parents; and
- access to the entire St Bridget's Primary School community and facilities.

Where can I find out more about this proposal?

Copies of this document are available from Education and Youth Employment, 5th Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE. The document can also be viewed in Garnock Valley Early Years Centre, St Bridget's Primary Early Years Class, Kilbirnie Library, Kilbirnie Housing Office, Bridgend Community Centre, local health centre and on the North Ayrshire Council website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

A public meeting will be held to discuss these proposals:

Venue	Date	Time
St Bridget's Primary School	Tuesday 5 th February 2019	6:00pm

A note will be taken at the meeting of comments, questions and officer responses. The note will be published on the Council website and a copy will be made available on request. The note will also be forwarded to Education Scotland along with all other submissions and comments that are received by the Council during the consultation process.

How do I make sure my views are heard?

You will be able to share your opinion on the proposal by:

- Completing an online response form at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk;
- Submitting a paper copy of the response form. These can be obtained from St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class and Garnock Valley Early Years Centre on request or by calling 01294 324614;
- Writing to the Head of Service (Inclusion), North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; or
- E-mailing educ_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

All responses must be submitted **no later than 12 noon on Friday 8th March 2019**.

What happens next?

All the points raised during the consultation will be carefully considered and the Council will then decide if the proposal should go ahead. Education Scotland and the Scottish Government will also consider the proposal.

If the proposal is accepted, ongoing stakeholder engagement will take place to ensure a smooth transition to the new facilities for all children, their families and the community.

**North Ayrshire Council
Education and Youth Employment
Proposal To Relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre To St
Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision In Kilbirnie**



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

**Public Meeting Held in St Bridget's Primary
Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 6pm**

The Head of Service (Inclusion), Education and Youth Employment, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other North Ayrshire Council officers present. It was also noted that Education Scotland were in attendance. One member of the public (parent), three staff from Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and one local councillor attended the meeting.

A presentation which provided information on the key proposal was delivered.

It was noted that there was an online survey available for the public to complete, paper copies of this were also available at the meeting and could be collected from various other public buildings.

Draft plans for the proposed refurbishment of St Bridget's Early Years' class were displayed on boards for all to view and discuss at the meeting. It was confirmed that these were not final plans and that there would be further consultation on these.

Following the presentation, questions were invited from the audience:-

Enquiry: Were all Garnock Valley Early Years Centre staff notified of the consultation process at the beginning?

Response: Yes, all staff were informed.

Enquiry: Were the staff ok with having the proposal of having 40 children in the same room?

Response: The proposal scheme will offer a variety of spaces for children to use, including two playrooms.

Enquiry: Where will birth to 2 year-old children go?
Are there enough spaces for this in Kilbirnie?

Response: The Council took the decision last year to remove service provision for 0-2 year old children across all Early Years Centres. Children in this age group currently attending the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre will continue to attend. No further children of this age will be enrolled in any centres across North Ayrshire.

Where there is an identified need, parents will be supported in sourcing day-care providers within the area. Day Carers receive specialist training. This also provides opportunities for Childminders and Day Carers in the Garnock Valley area.

Enquiry: An attendee advised they had tried to use the online survey but was unable to complete the process?

Response: Another attendee confirmed that they had successfully completed the online process earlier that evening, however it was agreed that this process will be

checked and contact would be made to confirm the survey was operational. Paper copies were provided to all attendees at the meeting.

Post-Meeting note: The on-line survey was checked and was found to be operating. The attendee was contacted by phone to advise of this.

Enquiry: A query was raised regarding the safety of children attending Early Years as parents had to access the current entrance via the primary playground. There was also a concern about adults walking through the playground whilst pupils were outside.

It was suggested that the nursery entrance be relocated to the rear of the Early Years facility at St Bridget's.

Response: There have been visits by architects to look at the site and gauge the scope of works.

Children would be dropped off at new entrance, go through cloakrooms and then into playrooms from where there is access to the secured outside play space.

The design proposal is still at an early stage and aligns to Scottish Government criteria and best practice, as defined in the **Space To Grow** guidance. As the proposal is at feasibility stage there will be further consultation on the final design.

There will be further consultation and we would consider fencing options to delineate areas or other solutions. Early involvement is important to ensure we get value for money and a facility with which everyone is happy.

It is critical with any major works not to disturb the service delivery. Our colleagues in Property would develop a programme of works in consultation with the Head Teacher. Suitable arrangements would be made to ensure that children and pupils experience minimal disruption.

Enquiry: Can you put an entrance at the back of the school and create a safety gate?

Response: We will pick up these suggestions at the design consultation. It's very helpful for you to raise this and it will be looked at. We will also need to consider improved external lighting for outdoor areas, and security.

Enquiry: What will be the size of the new playroom and extension?

Response: In the proposed scheme there are the following:

Playroom for 2-3 year olds measuring approximately 52m².

Playroom for 3-5 year olds measuring approximately 96m² - included in this figure is the extension area of approximately 45m².

There will also be a shared playroom pod, between the two playrooms, with an approximate area of 11m².

We are following Government guidance on the space allocation per child in an Early Years setting.

Enquiry: At present there are separate rooms for wet and dry play. The proposal only has one big room so how will that work?

Response: Within the design proposal, there will be a separate playroom for 2-3 year olds and another for 3 – year olds.

It is proposed to expand and enhance the current accommodation at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years class, which will offer greater flexibility, including free flow access to improved outdoor areas. It is envisaged that children will have greater choice and ability to access a wider range of learning experiences.

The set-up of the rooms will allow all types of play with lots of resources, furniture and equipment. The new outside canopies will provide the opportunity to do wet play outside, if appropriate. Currently having two rooms for 3-5 years olds at Garnock Valley Early Years does present challenges for staff.

Enquiry: The outside area, that is marsh, could that not be the 2-3 year playroom? As the area is marshy the children will get dirty if this is used as outdoor play space?

Response: We would always consider existing space for any design scheme and the initial proposal was seen to be the most cost-effective solution. However further design consultation will take place in due course.

Whilst the area is marshy, it is ok for children to get muddy. Health and safety considerations and risk assessments are undertaken, but we do want to allow and encourage children to explore, discover and experience taking their own risks through outdoor play.

We would work with staff to develop all outdoor areas, to provide flexible and stimulating outdoor learning experiences for children. There are plans for two external canopied play areas.

Enquiry: It was stated that other schools with canopies used these to store equipment, could this be an issue?

Response: The canopies may be used to store play equipment overnight, however children will use these covered areas during the day to enjoy outdoor learning and play activities.

Enquiry: Will the current outdoor hut be retained?

Response: Yes it will remain.

Enquiry: What will happen to the existing GVEYC building, who would use it?

Response: The building would not be retained by Education. The future use of the asset would be considered corporately, which includes representation from Education. All needs and views would be considered before any decision is made.

Enquiry: What about children whose parents would not want to send them to a Catholic school?

Response: Early Years provision is non-denominational. Parents will have the same options and choices for primary and secondary education as they currently do.

The placement for Early Years is determined by parental choice and availability of space within the Early Years settings.

Parents will still have the choice on whether to enrol their child at their catchment denominational or non-denominational school, or making a placing request to another school of their choice.

Other Early Years settings within Kilbirnie include Garnock Community Campus and Moorpark Primary School Early Years.

Current children attending the Garnock Valley Early Years Centre will be going into primary by the time the project is completed.

Enquiry: Will staff be communicated with regarding their positions?

Response: Yes. This would take place once the final outcome is known, following the statutory public consultation. We will consider the transition for staff, and children, at that point.

Enquiry: Why was the meeting at this time?

Response: As part of the statutory public consultation process, we must have public meetings which are open for everyone to attend including staff, parents and carers. Therefore public meetings tend to be held in the evenings.

Enquiry: What would be the timelines for the building works?

Response: A detailed programme of works will be developed in consultation with the Head Teacher and staff to minimise any impact on the operations of the school. Contractors commissioned by the Council are used to working in operational school environments and work with establishments to keep disruption to an absolute minimum.

Depending on how the consultation and plans move forward, construction work may start in December 2019. If that was the case, we would hope to be finished by the beginning of the summer holidays in 2020.

Enquiry: What about transport for children from Milton, if you don't put on a bus then people will not come in? There is poor public transport.

Response: Where there is an identified vulnerability, and it has been identified that the child requires transport, then this would be provided.

The Head of Service (Inclusion) thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded the audience of the importance of completing and submitting the formal response form as part of the consultation process.



Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

Report by Education Scotland addressing educational aspects of the proposal by North Ayrshire Council to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years provision in Kilbirnie.

March 2019

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report from Education Scotland has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HM Inspectors) in accordance with the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the 2010 Act"). The purpose of the report is to provide an independent and impartial consideration of North Ayrshire Council's proposal to relocate Garnock Valley Early Years Centre (GVEYC) to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years provision in Kilbirnie. Section 2 of the report sets out brief details of the consultation process. Section 3 of the report sets out HM Inspectors' consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal, including significant views expressed by consultees. Section 4 summarises HM Inspectors' overall view of the proposal. Upon receipt of this report, the Act requires the council to consider it and then prepare its final consultation report. The council's final consultation report should include this report and must contain an explanation of how, in finalising the proposal, it has reviewed the initial proposal, including a summary of points raised during the consultation process and the council's response to them. The council has to publish its final consultation report three weeks before it takes its final decision. Where a council is proposing to close a school, it needs to follow all statutory obligations set out in the 2010 Act, including notifying Ministers within six working days of making its final decision and explaining to consultees the opportunity they have to make representations to Ministers.
- 1.2 HM Inspectors considered:
- the likely effects of the proposal for children of the settings; any other users; children likely to become pupils within two years of the date of publication of the proposal paper; and other children in the council area;
 - any other likely effects of the proposal;
 - how the council intends to minimise or avoid any adverse effects that may arise from the proposal; and
 - the educational benefits the council believes will result from implementation of the proposal, and the council's reasons for coming to these beliefs.
- 1.3 In preparing this report, HM Inspectors undertook the following activities:
- attendance at the public meeting held on 5 February 2019 in connection with the council's proposals;
 - consideration of all relevant documentation provided by the council in relation to the proposal, specifically the educational benefits statement and related consultation documents, written and oral submissions from parents and others; and
 - visits to the site of GVEYC and St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Provision in Kilbirnie, including discussion with relevant consultees.

2. Consultation process

- 2.1 North Ayrshire Council undertook the consultation on its proposal with reference to the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 2.2 The formal consultation ran from 23 January 2019 until 8 March 2019. A public meeting was held on 5 February 2019. One member of the public attended. A number of concerns were expressed. These included: too many children being housed in one

playroom and adults accessing the facility via the infant playground at school break times. The council posted the consultation document on its website. Interested parties were invited to comment. Hard copies were also made available at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class, GVEYC, Education and Youth Employment HQ, the local library, local community centres and health centres. A total of 131 summary proposal documents and 30 full proposal documents were issued to interested parties.

- 2.3 The council received 11 responses in total to the proposal. These included seven online surveys, one email response and three paper responses. Of these, eight were not supportive of the proposal, one was supportive and two did not indicate a preference. The main areas of objection raised were: the location of the extension and entrance, the safety of four to seven year olds should have access to the facility be via the infant playground, the proposed loss of transport for existing GVEYC users and the impact of locating all pre-school children in one room.

3. Educational aspects of proposal

- 3.1 GVEYC is located within a dedicated, stand-alone building in the grounds of St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie. It has the capacity to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare (ELC) provision for 15 two to three year old children and eight birth to two year old children. Currently 25 eligible two to three year olds attend GVEYC. In June 2018 North Ayrshire Council approved a proposal to cease provision of ELC for all children aged birth to two years in North Ayrshire Council Early Years Centres and direct all referrals to the council's Day Carer Service. This will mean that the number of children attending GVEYC will gradually reduce until 2020 when there will be no children in this age group attending. GVEYC currently provides a transport service for children who attend the centre. This service is unique to GVEYC as North Ayrshire Council does not provide transport for any other early years child unless the child has an additional support need. St Bridget's Primary School Early Year's Class exists within St Bridget's Primary School in Kilbirnie. It is located less than 50 metres from GVEYC. It has the capacity to provide 600 hours of ELC provision for 40 three to five year olds per session. There is currently no two year old provision at St Bridget's. The council is committed to delivering 1140 hours per annum of ELC for all eligible children by 2020 in line with the Scottish Government's Early Years Strategy.
- 3.2 The council has set out a reasonable case in support of its proposal. The council states that there will be a number of educational benefits if the proposal goes ahead. These include pre-school children learning in a modern, well-resourced environment, access to improved dining and social areas, access to wider learning opportunities available including improved outdoor areas and across the school as a whole. Collegiate, collaborative working will be enhanced. Transition into the primary school stage will be improved. More effective staff sharing of information should improve progression in children's learning. The proposal will assist the council to make efficient and effective use of its resources as it will not incur costs for running GVEYC. The removal of transport will save money and ensure equity of provision across the authority. The proposal will enable the council to deliver 1140 hours per annum of ELC for all eligible children by 2020 in line with the Scottish Government's Early Years Strategy.
- 3.3 Parents and staff from GVEYC who met with HM Inspectors did not support the proposal. Parents and staff did not agree that there would be any educational benefits for either parents or children. Concerns were expressed about the perceived loss of the inclusive, supportive environment the children currently experience and a reduction in the level of service. Parents were concerned about a reduction in the much valued support they

receive including provision of transport to and from the facility and their access to wider support services. Staff, including support staff, expressed concerns about the limited level of detail shared, their lack of engagement in the process and the impact on their own employment status.

- 3.4 Staff from St Bridget's Primary School Early Year's Provision who met with HM Inspectors were supportive of the proposal. They saw a number of benefits. Early Years children would benefit from being part of the whole school community, from the school's wider community links, have access to facilities such as the gym hall and to wider staff expertise including music specialists. Transition to primary would be improved. However, as staff have not seen detailed plans, they were unclear about the detail of how the proposal would progress. A number of concerns were expressed namely: how space will be maximised to accommodate two to three year olds without detriment to existing three to five year olds, the location of the dedicated entrance and the proposed staffing complement. No parents from St Bridget's Primary School met with HM Inspectors.
- 3.5 The representative from the Catholic Church who met with HM Inspectors was supportive of the proposal. She saw the proposal as offering improved continuity for children as they progress from early years education to primary. All children would benefit from the improved resources should the proposal proceed.

4 Summary

North Ayrshire's proposal to relocate GVEYC to newly refurbished provision at St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class has a number of possible educational benefits. The proposal will assist the council to deliver 'Best Value' through making more efficient and effective use of its resources. The removal of transport will save money and ensure equity of provision across the authority. The proposal will enable the council to deliver 1140 hours per annum of ELC for all eligible children in line with the Scottish Government's Early Years Strategy. Pre-school children from two to five will learn in a modern, well-resourced environment. They will have access to improved dining and social areas, and access to wider learning opportunities. Transition into the primary school stage will be improved. In taking forward the proposal, the council needs to involve fully parents and staff from both establishments in the final design of the refurbished Early Years resource. In particular, it should address the concerns raised in this consultation in terms of the allocation and layout of space, location of a secure entrance, maintaining support to parents and engaging with staff regarding their employment status.

HM Inspectors
March 2019

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title: **Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2017/18**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the results of the LGBF indicators for 2017/18 and to highlight Directorates' priorities.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees (a) that further work will continue within Directorates to identify improvement activity in the priority areas; and (b) to submit the report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the results of the LGBF indicators for 2017/18 and highlights the Improvement Service's areas for development that will enable us to make further use of the Framework.
- 1.2 This report also highlights in yellow the **priorities** identified by Directorates as attached in **Appendix 1**. Appendix 1 also contains the feedback narrative provided by Directorates following analysis of the results in March and April 2019.

2. Background

- 2.1 During the past eight years, North Ayrshire Council has been working with other Scottish councils and the Improvement Service to develop and improve the Local Government Improvement Framework (LGBF). The LGBF brings together a wide range of information about the performance of Scottish councils. The LGBF is designed to:
 - help councils and services better understand why they achieve their current performance levels
 - build understanding of where council performance varies
 - build understanding of why council performance variation occurs
 - help identify and share good practice across councils
- 2.2 The Improvement Service will continue to work to broaden the range of indicators being deployed to support benchmarking. The following priorities have been identified by the Improvement Service to strengthen the LGBF across the next period:
 - i. To ensure the framework has relevance, credibility and timeousness.

- ii. To better align the LGBF and outcomes.
- iii. To demonstrate how the framework is being used to inform decision making, drive improvement, and strengthen public accountability.

2.3 A performance update will be circulated to Elected Members through North Ayrshire News.

2.4 Analysis of the national data highlights that our performance has improved from 2016/17. There are now 80 indicators with five new economic development indicators included this year. There are four indicators where 2017/18 data was not available because they are published only every two years. The charts below show our performance in terms of quartiles for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Chart 1: 2016/17 LGBF Indicators by Quartile

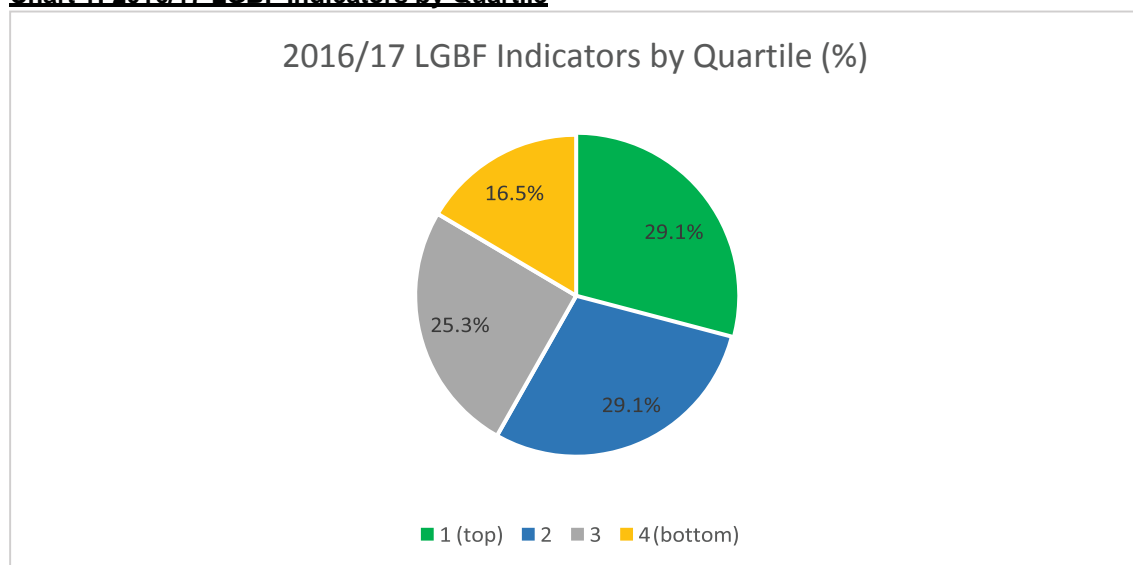
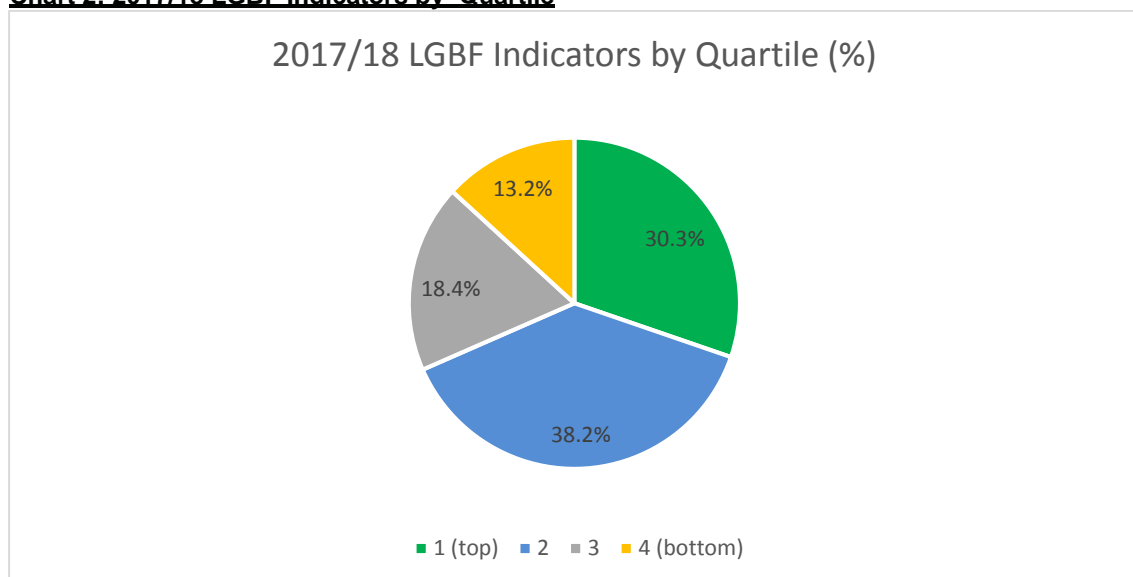


Chart 2: 2017/18 LGBF Indicators by Quartile



- 2.5 The LGBF forms part of our performance management arrangements in terms of driving improvements in key areas. Directorates identified priority areas in 2016. These are areas where a strong or improving performance is of particular importance to North Ayrshire. In March and April 2019 Directorates reviewed their priority areas to ensure alignment to the new Council Plan. The priority indicators are performing well, since last year, 18 of the 24 indicators have performed better, with 8 of the 24 falling in quartile 1 and a further 8 falling in quartile 2.
- 2.6 Following publication of the LGBF data, work has been undertaken with Directorates to analyse our performance and plan for improvements in our key priority areas. The identified priorities and other measures are highlighted in Appendix 1.
- 2.7 A new National Performance Framework (NPF) for building a more successful and inclusive Scotland was launched on 11 June 2018. The NPF sets out a vision for national wellbeing in Scotland across a range of economic, social and environmental factors. It builds on the previous NPF which was introduced in 2007 and refreshed in 2011 and 2016. A mapping exercise of the Council Plan Performance Framework has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.8 We will continue to use the framework to support our improvement journey. It also assists us to demonstrate Best Value.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees (a) that work will continue within Directorates to identify improvement activity in the priority areas; and (b) to submit the report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The aim of benchmarking activity is to learn from best practice. This can enable an improved service to be delivered at the same cost, or the same level of service to be delivered at lower cost.
Human Resources:	Some of the indicators detailed in the LGBF, such as that on absence levels, deal specifically with matters relating to Human Resources.
Legal:	Effective benchmarking can be seen not only as a means of improving performance or lowering cost, but of complying with the Council's legal obligation to deliver Best Value.

Equality/Socio Economic Duty:	Some of the indicators detailed in the LGBF, such as those relating to the % of the highest paid 5% of employees who are women and gender pay gap, deal specifically with equality. Others show a clear link between performance and deprivation and equality in its wider sense.
Children and Young People:	Some of the LGBF indicators, such as education attainment, deal specifically with matters relating to Children and Young People and help us demonstrate the progress we are making to delivering better outcomes for Children and Young People.
Environmental & Sustainability:	Numerous indicators relate to environmental issues.
Key Priorities:	Implementation of effective benchmarking practices across the Council will help support the Council's strategic priorities.
Community Benefits:	There are no community benefit implications.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Executive Leadership Team discussed this report on 25 April 2019.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Lauren Cameron, Policy Officer, Democratic Services** on **01294 324160**.

Background Papers

N/A

All Indicators - Directorate Priorities have been highlighted in yellow

Education and Youth Employment

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
CHN1 Cost Per Primary School Pupil	£4,976	£5,080	↓	16	16	↓	2	2	↓	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Quartile (Q) 2.	Data Only Indicator
CHN2 Cost per Secondary School Pupil	£7,248	£7,572	↓	23	28	↓	3	4	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q3 to Q4.	Data Only Indicator
CHN3 Cost per Pre-School Education Registration	£4,838	£5,012	↓	21	22	↓	3	3	↓	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q3.	Data Only Indicator
CHN4 % achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 5	61.00	60.00	↓	14	21	↓	2	3	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q2 to Q3.	Schools are targeting this measure and design actions and interventions to improve performance. Curriculum design ensures pupils get the appropriate breadth and depth of learning for their ability and aspirations.
CHN5 % achieving 5 or more awards at SCQF Level 6	32.00	30.00	↓	18	23	↓	3	3	↓	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q3.	Although a dip from previous year's performance the level of the indicator is considerably higher than the position in 2015/16. Secondary Head Teachers have been focusing on this indicator in their performance self-evaluation process. Schools have set targets for pupil's attainment at SCQF Level 6 or better and will design actions and interventions to ensure continuous improvement of pupils' experiences and achievements.
CHN6 % of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 5	46.00	45.00	↓	7	10	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	The segment of S6 school population in 20% most deprived areas is considerably higher in North Ayrshire than in most authorities in Scotland and schools have consistently monitored their performance to ensure a gradual reduction in the deprivation-induced attainment gap. We aim to reduce annual variation in performance and maintain an improving trend in the medium/long-term.
CHN7 % of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas gaining 5+ awards at level 6	18.00	17.00	↓	8	12	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	We aim to maximise performance in this measure, reinforcing our work to significantly reduce the poverty-related attainment gap over the long/medium term. Improved attainment at higher awards will contribute towards increasing the opportunities available to young people from

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											more deprived areas to access higher education. This is encouraged through programmes such as Reach or Top-up offered by some universities for pupils from schools located in the 30% most SIMD deprived areas.
CHN10 % of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools	81.33	80.00	↓	13	7	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has declined. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	We aim to maintain and improve the reputation of North Ayrshire schools by increasing engagement and involvement of parents in young people's education and school life.
CHN11 Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	93.40	95.60	↑	21	10	↑	3	2	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	In 2018, the percentage of leavers into positive destinations has increased again, following the dip in performance in 2017. 95.6% of 2018 school leavers have moved on to positive post-school destinations, exceeding the Virtual Comparator and National performance.
CHN 12a Overall Average Total Tariff	884	854	↓	18	20	↓	3	3	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q3.	Ensuring levels of attainment & achievement are improving for all learners is a key priority for Education & Youth Employment. In order to ensure consistency across the Education Service, while focusing on the same attainment data, insight performance indicators are utilised in Directorate Planning & National Improvement Framework reporting. Insight indicators are calculated using a slightly different methodology from LGBF indicators. The Directorate aim to focus on maximising attainment for all through a curriculum which meets the needs of all. Following completion of a review of curriculum structure in Senior Phase, which was based on analysis of current data, it is anticipated performance will increase next year. While there has been some slippage in Quartile ranking from 2016-17 to 2017-18, North Ayrshire remains in the top two Quartiles for almost all indicators, despite being one of most deprived local authority areas in Scotland. The Education Service continue to make good progress in further reducing the poverty related attainment gap through initiatives funded through the Scottish Attainment Challenge & Pupil Equity Funding.
CHN 12b Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 1	695	662	↓	4	9	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	
CHN 12c Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 2	803	836	↑	9	6	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	
CHN 12d Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 3	1042	1039	↓	5	4	↑	1	1	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	
CHN 12e Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 4	1097	1043	↓	10	13	↓	2	2	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q2.	
CHN 12f Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 5	1222	1191	↓	12	14	↓	2	2	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q2.	
CHN 18 % of funded early years provision which is graded good/ better	98.33	95.16	↓	5	9	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	We are aiming for a 100% evaluation of our early years funded provision as good/better to emphasise the strive for excellence in the Early Years education sector in North Ayrshire.

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
CHN 19a School attendance rates (per 100 pupils)	92.60	n/a	n/a	26	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a	Data published every two years. Data is not available for 2017/18.	
CHN 19b School attendance rates (per 100 'looked after children')	91.60	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a		
CHN 20a School exclusion rates (per 1000 pupils)	19.72	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a		
CHN 20b School exclusion rates (per 1000 'looked after children')	54.70	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a		
CHN 21 Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	90.30	91.10	↑	23	24	↓	3	3	▬	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q3.	While the performance in this indicator is not completely under the control of education services, the provision of the appropriate skills, knowledge and readiness for the world of work is the ultimate focus of quality teaching and learning in our schools. We aim to provide curriculum choice and career opportunities adapted to the needs of North Ayrshire young people, as well as of the local businesses and community.
Corp 6a Sickness Absence Days per Teacher	5.88	5.73	↑	17	15	↑	3	2	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Continue to provide a working environment in schools that will foster maximising attendance of teaching staff. Maintain position in Quartile 1 or 2.

Finance and Corporate Support






















Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
Corp 1 Support services as a % of Total Gross expenditure	2.28	2.49	↓	1	2	↓	1	1	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	Maintain current quartile.
Corp 3b The % of the highest paid 5% of employees who are women¹	55.51	55.47	↓	7	10	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	Appointments secured on merit.
Corp 3c The gender pay gap¹	1.16	1.53	↓	7	7	▬	1	1	▬	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	Formal reporting of this every second year. Maintain top quartile performance.







¹ Council wide indicators.

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
Corp 4 The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax	£7.81	£7.65	↑	10	16	↓	2	2	→	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q2.	Continue to focus on this – aim to move to quartile 1
Corp 6b Sickness Absence Days per Employee (non-teacher) ¹	10.88	10.81	↑	16	13	↑	2	2	→	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q2.	Aim for top quartile performance.
Corp 7 % of income due from Council Tax received by the end of the year	94.68	94.83	↑	28	29	↓	4	4	→	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q4.	We seek to maximise collection in year, our Band profile makes this difficult. Aim is to secure 96.5% over the medium term. Income collection review is being progressed in 2019/20.
Corp 8 % of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days ¹	92.96	91.83	↓	18	21	↓	3	3	→	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q3.	Business improvement has been undertaken with further work planned in 2019/20. Aim in the short term to secure 2 nd quartile performance.
Econ4 % of procurement spent on local small/ medium enterprises	16.62	19.75	↑	28	23	↑	4	3	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q4 to Q3.	Within the confines of procurement regulations and legislation we will maximise the opportunities to procure from local businesses and SMEs. Integra gives us the opportunity to refine our data and ensure more accurate reporting of this.










Health and Social Care Partnership










Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
CHN8a The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per week	£2591	£3256	↓	6	13	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	Although costs have increased, we are lower than national figure (£3,485) and 4 th highest of 7 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who provided the data. Compared to the end of 16/17 we had less children overall in residential placements, but more in the more expensive placements therefore making the cost per child increase. All residential placements now have to be approved through the head of service.
CHN8b The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	£313.42	£320.06	↓	17	17	→	3	3	→	Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q3.	Very slight increase compared to last year. Lower than the national figure (£328) and 2 nd highest of 7 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who provided the data. Overall there were less children in community placements compared to last year.
CHN9 Balance of Care for looked after children: % of children being looked after in the community	86.84	88.63	↑	23	16	↑	3	2	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Improvement from last year. Slightly lower than national figure (89.7%) and 4 th highest of 7 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who provided the data. It is hoped this will to

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance +/-	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank-/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile +/-	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											continue to increase due to all residential placements now having to be approved through the head of service.
CHN 17 % of children meeting developmental milestones	76.19	74.34		10	15		2	2		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q2.	Considerably higher than national figure (57%) and 2 nd highest of 6 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who provided the data.
CHN 22 % of child protection re-registrations within 18 months	7.19	4.78		21	16		3	2		Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Performance has improved as the figure has decreased from last year as desired. We are also lower than the national figure (6.1%) and second lowest of our LGBF family group of similar councils. More enhanced support following de-registration has contributed to this.
CHN 23 % of LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year (Aug-Jul)	21.71	19.54		17	11		3	2		Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Performance has improved since last year as the figure has decreased. We are also lower than the national figure (20.5%) and 3 rd lowest of 7 in our LGBF family group of similar councils. Additional training and support has been provided to foster carers and kinship carers to prevent breakdown of placements.
SW1 Older Persons (Over 65) Home Care Costs per Hour	£28.93	£30.00		26	26		4	4		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q4.	Cost has increased from last year and is above national figure (£23.76). We are 2 nd highest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data. 3.7% increase in costs which reflects increases in salary costs inc Living Wage.
SW2 SDS spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	2.34	2.57		28	29		4	4		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q4.	Slight increase from last year. We are lower than the national figure (7%) and 3 rd lowest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data. Support is being enhanced with a new collaboration with the Community Brokerage Network (CBN) that has secured funding to work beyond East Ayrshire.
SW3a % of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs who receiving personal care at home	63.87	65.80		13	13		2	2		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q2.	Increase from last year and higher than the national figure (61.7%). We are 3 rd lowest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data. This increase is in line with changes in the demographics of the area.
SW4a % of adults receiving any care or support who rate it as excellent or good	79.29	77.84		24	25		3	4		Performance has declined. Declined from Q3 to Q4	Slight decrease in performance from last year. We are below the national figure (80.2%) and second lowest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data.
















Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
SW4b % of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	82.46	82.39		22	9		3	2		Performance has declined. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Although there was a slight drop in performance compared to last year, the national rank has increased from 22 nd to 9 th and we are above the national figure (80%) and 2 nd highest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data.
SW5 Older persons (over 65's) Residential Care Costs per week per resident	£361	£354		11	14		2	2		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q2.	Performance has improved since last year as costs have decreased. We are below the national figure (£372) and 3 rd lowest of 8 in our LGBF family group of similar councils who returned data.

Economy and Communities
















Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
C&L1 Cost per attendance at Sports facilities	£3.38	£2.08		20	10		3	2		Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Investment in new leisure facilities at Garnock Campus and the Portal has resulted in more cost effective services. A combination of work by KA Leisure and Active Schools and the Active Communities Strategy have resulted in a rise in attendances, expected to continue with the introduction of the Largs Campus and future investment in leisure facilities. Aim to maintain Q2.
C&L2 Cost Per Library Visit	£1.62	£2.30		8	14		1	2		Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	We have taken a deliberate approach to shift many of our services online. Following a recommendation by Internal Audit, social media interactions were removed from this PI so it now mostly records physical footfall. Lobbying is taking place at a national level with the Improvement Service to have this indicator changed so it more fully reflects the Library Service. The costs include back office Council costs as well as service costs. We continue to deliver a full programme of award winning events for our communities. The review of community facilities and libraries make remaining in Q2 a challenge however we aim to maintain the current quartile.
C&L3 Cost of Museums per Visit	£0.29	£0.27		1	2		1	1		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q1.	Investment in the Portal and the focus on co-curated exhibitions with local groups has resulted in the introduction of a high street heritage facility which is attracting significant
















Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank -/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											footfall. A full programme of exhibitions, classes and events has been launched with the new Townhouse. The Heritage Centre roof repairs have taken longer than anticipated and merged with other scheduled restoration work keeping this centre closed for the reporting period. Aim to maintain Q1.
C&L5a % of adults satisfied with libraries	92.00	91.00		2	2		1	1		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	Library services are striving to provide a high-quality range of library services normally only available in affluent city-centres, within a tight budget. Aspirations are to sustain high satisfaction levels with a blend of innovative and traditional services, delivered by well trained staff. The introduction of programmes such as the pop-up digital events, DigiDabble, coding and Makerspaces have contributed to customer satisfaction and maintaining the second highest position in Scotland. The review of community facilities and libraries make remaining in the current quartile a challenge however we aim to maintain Q1.
C&L5c % of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	74.00	71.33		13	13		2	2		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q2.	Levels of exhibition activity and programme diversity are intended to improve customer satisfaction, however the staff team are now working across the Heritage Centre and Portal, resulting in a significant reduction in opening hours at the Heritage Centre. The Creative Scotland Place Partnership will fund a Creative Connector - Place Partnership Officer to carry out research, capacity building and audience & participation development. Future plans include more co-curated community exhibitions as well as bringing high –profile national touring exhibitions into North Ayrshire and making better use of community spaces for museums, arts and galleries interpretative work. We aim to maintain Q2.
C&L5d % of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	72.33	72.67		23	19		3	3		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q3.	Investment in new leisure facilities at Garnock Campus and the Portal is intended to increase customer satisfaction. In addition facilities for disability groups have radically improved. Further investment in Largs Campus and a new ASN school campus provide opportunities for increasing satisfaction, along with the promotional work of the Active Communities

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance +/-	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank +/-	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile +/-	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											Strategy. KA Leisure have several innovative health partnerships including recovery from Heart/Stroke and Mind and Be Active. The DrEAM (Drop Everything and Move) event attracted significant social media engagement. We aim to improve our performance.
ENV5a Cost of Trading Standards, Money Advice & Citizen Advice per 1,000 population	£3,787	£3,542	↑	10	7	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	Various reviews on the future of Trading Standards are taking place at national level and any outcomes will be monitored and implemented as required to meet local and national priorities.
ENV5b Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	£13,722	£10,818	↑	12	6	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	All expenditure will be monitored to ensure costs are balanced with the risks.
Econ1 % of Unemployed People Assisted into work from Council Funded/ Operated Employability Programmes	14.67	22.72	↑	13	6	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	Performance has risen as expected as the North Ayrshire Council employability service reached full delivery capacity in the final year of the phase of funding. This PI is limited in terms of benchmarking as authorities who take a more targeted approach will suffer in terms of ranking – as it does not measure the effectiveness or appropriateness of delivery, merely the scale. North Ayrshire intends to take a more targeted approach to supporting unemployed residents, with more focus on those most in need of support. As a result, the ranking in future years could fall.
Econ2 Cost per planning application	£3,859	£4,221	↓	8	10	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	Ranking has dropped from 8th to 10th place however we continue to be below the national average. Although higher than last year, the cost per application is the second lowest since 2010. The indirect costs in the Local Financial Return (LFR) impact on this figure. Planning applications increased from 600 to 680 in 17/18 and the type and complexity of the planning application varies. The size and scale of planning applications varies from year to year and arguably the larger and more complex planning applications, which are most staff intensive to resource, bring the biggest economic benefits to the area.
Econ3 Average Time Per Commercial Planning Application	6.49	5.71	↑	2	1	↑	1	1	→	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q1.	NAC has fluctuated in either 1st or 2nd ranking since 2013/14 and certainly have the most consistent performance of all 32 councils in this










Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance +/-	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank +/-	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile +/-	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											indicator. This indicator should not be a priority for NAC.
Econ5 No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	22.37	22.39		5	7		1	1		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q1.	It is hoped that start-ups can continue to rise. There is a focus on high value start ups to help increase the impact on the local economy.
Econ6 Cost of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	£128,211	£147,323		28	27		4	4		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q4.	This is a new indicator for 2017-18. Our ranking has improved from 28th to 27th place although our costs have increased. Tourism costs include policy, marketing and development and promotional events. In 2017/18 we hosted the Men and Ladies' Scottish Open Golf events and the Council committed additional tourism budget. This PI also includes indirect costs.
Econ7 Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	27.10	21.40		25	17		4	3		Performance has improved. Improved from Q4 to Q3.	This is a new indicator for 2017-18. While recent performance is encouraging, the data is survey based which is subject to quite high margins of error – as a result we believe caution should be observed with annual movements in performance and long term trends given the focus.
Econ8 Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	88.00	92.35		18	18		3	3		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q3.	This is a new indicator for 2017-18. The ranking has remained at 18th place. The proportion has increased from 88% to 92.35%. Allied to this indicator, is a requirement to encourage more companies to trade online. North Ayrshire Council has limited influence on the rollout of the infrastructure.
Econ9 Town Vacancy Rates	n/a	9.99	n/a	n/a	14	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	2016/17 data is not available.	This is a new indicator for 2017-18. Six councils did not submit a return for this indicator. In order to measure all our towns, we rely on contractors, so this indicator has a resource implication. National average town centre vacancy rates are 9.3%. North Ayrshire has 11 towns that are measured with an overall average rate of 9.9%.
Econ10 Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan	7.19	63.03		29	6		4	1		Performance has improved. Improved from Q4 to Q1.	This is a new indicator for 2017-18. We have improved significantly from 29th to being ranked 6th. The amount of available land has increased from 7.19% to 63.03%. It is unclear whether this is “shovel ready” or established units. Developments at Annickbank and Quarry Road were completed during this period.

Place

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile - /+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
C&L4 Cost of Parks & Open Spaces per 1,000 Population	£30,009	£23,426		28	22		4	3		Performance has improved. Improved from Q4 to Q3.	Comprehensive review of costs included in Indicator carried out together with Benchmarking with East Ayrshire Council to compare performance. Measures put in place to accurately reflect costs by removing certain costs in line with published guidance going forward will see improved performance. Continue to reduce in line with Council budgetary decision.
C&L5b % of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	81.00	78.33		26	29		4	4		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q4.	The Improvement Service now pull satisfaction data from the Scottish Household Survey to present in a 3 year rolled average to deliver the required level of precision at a local level. By rolling the data across the 3 years, the confidence interval for all figures are within 5.5%. This latest data on Scottish Government website is 'Scotland's People Annual Report Results from the 2016 Scottish Household Survey' published in September 2017. Scottish Household Survey being used as basis for this indicator which is a very small proportion of NAC residents. Improve satisfaction through greater community involvement and Participatory Budget approach.
ENV1a Net cost per Waste collection per premises	£55.64	£52.76		11	7		2	1		Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	Following the change to alter the organic waste collection service to fortnightly in November 2017, performance against this indicator improved in 2017/18. Ongoing actions to reduce the associated cost of absence on the waste collection service aims to improve performance against this indicator further.
ENV2a Net cost per Waste disposal per premises	£103.74	£91.07		22	12		3	2		Performance has improved. Improved from Q3 to Q2.	Performance against this indicator improved in 2017/18 through the impact of an innovative contract for the processing of the blue bin waste resulting in reduced processing costs. The implementation of an enhanced waste and recycling collection service in April 2019 should increase recycling and reduce the associated cost of waste disposal.
ENV3a Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	£15,065	£13,690		21	21		3	3		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q3.	Continue to reduce in line with Council budgetary constraints. Review of allocation to be undertaken to ensure we are in line with LFR guidance.

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance +/-	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank-/+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile -/+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
ENV3c Street Cleanliness Score	90.60	92.19		29	20		4	3		Performance has improved. Improved from Q4 to Q3.	An improvement action plan was developed which included regular operational review and monitoring of performance via informal mini LEAMS audits, the targeting of operational resources to hot spot littering areas, complemented by the alignment of activities carried out by the Env Enf Team to target hot spot littering areas to reduce the incidence of littering. This has had a positive effect in an improved LEAMS cleanliness score for 2017/18 which has continued in 2018/19 when a further improved score of 94.5% was achieved.
ENV4a Cost of maintenance per kilometre of roads	£11,430	£11,357		16	16		2	2		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q2.	Improvement Service are currently working with SCOTS/ APSE to replace this measure, however they wish to do further work to provide robust time series data before this is included. They have worked with the Directors of Finance subgroup to amend the current measure to include capital and revenue to provide a more meaningful measure of expenditure. Performance has declined.
ENV4b % of A class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	36.19	36.22		28	28		4	4		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q4.	Extra funding has been allocated for 2018-19. Due to timing of the SRMCS surveys we expect to see improvement in RCI reported in 2019-20. Performance directly related to investment. Funding targeted towards A class, B class and C class and unclassified on a prioritisation basis to improve RCI scores.
ENV4c % of B class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	36.83	39.25		24	25		3	4		Performance has declined. Declined from Q3 to Q4.	Performance has marginally declined principally due to reduced capital in 2016/17, however extra funding has been allocated for 2018-19. Due to timing of the SRMCS surveys we expect to see improvement in RCI reported in 2019-20. Performance directly related to investment. Funding targeted towards A class, B class and C class and unclassified on a prioritisation basis to improve RCI scores.
ENV4d % of C class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	50.76	51.29		31	31		4	4		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q4.	Performance has marginally declined principally due to reduced capital in 2016/17, however extra funding has been allocated for 2018-19. Due to timing of the SRMCS surveys we expect to see improvement in RCI reported in 2019-20. Performance directly related to investment. Funding targeted towards A class, B class and

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile - /+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											C class and unclassified on a prioritisation/ basis to improve RCI scores.
ENV4e % of unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	34.55	35.18	↓	8	15	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	Performance has declined marginally. Despite additional funding being allocated for 2018-19, due to the significant deterioration as a result of the severe winter weather, and the targeting of classified roads for treatment to improve Road Condition Indicators, it is expected that current condition of the unclassified road network may deteriorate further, although alternative patching works are being carried out to try and maintain current condition. Performance is directly related to investment.
ENV6 The % of total household waste arising that is recycled	55.31	55.79	↑	5	7	↓	1	1	▬	Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q1.	Household waste recycling performance increased slightly in 2017/18 through the continued education and promotion of the 'Right stuff Right bin' campaign to encourage and increase participation in our recycling services. The implementation of an enhanced waste and recycling collection service in April 2019 should increase household waste recycling performance to allow achievement of the Scottish Government's target to recycle 60% of household waste by 2020.
ENV7a % of adults satisfied with refuse collection	87.67	87.67	▬	7	6	↑	1	1	▬	Performance has remained the same. Position maintained in Q1.	Performance against this indicator for 2017/18 remained the same as the previous year, as the indicator is based on a rolling average and the national household survey is not conducted annually. As a major waste collection service change is planned for April 2019, then this could potentially adversely affect this performance indicator during 2019/20 as householders become accustomed to the new collection service.
ENV7b % of adults satisfied with street cleaning	78.33	75.67	↓	9	7	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has declined. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	The Improvement Service now pull satisfaction data from the Scottish Household Survey to present in a 3 year rolled average to deliver the required level of precision at a local level. By rolling the data across the 3 years, the confidence interval for all figures are within 5.5%. This latest data on Scottish Government website is 'Scotland's People Annual Report Results' from the 2016 Scottish Household Survey' published in September 2017.

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance -/+	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile - /+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											We are reviewing what methods the Scottish Household Survey are using to collate information and improve satisfaction through greater community involvement. Performance monitoring in place to improve operational performance and targeting of resources to areas of greatest need. Continue to improve cleanliness through Environmental Enforcement and Educational activities to reduce prevalence of litter requiring removal. Continue to promote responsible behaviour.
HSN1b Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a % of rent due for the reporting year	3.39	3.59		3	3		1	1		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	The slight decline in performance in 17/18 reflects the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) full service in North Ayrshire in November 2017. A contributing factor is an increase in UC claimants and associated 'technical arrears' due to UC being paid in arrears to tenants. 18/19 performance, including technical arrears, is 4.06%, which is slightly worse than 2017/18 and reflects the increased number of tenants on UC. Excluding technical arrears for 18/19, arrears are 3.34%, which is below the target of 4.0%.
HSN2 % of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids	0.33	0.35		1	1		1	1		Performance has declined. Position maintained in Q1.	Performance has declined slightly but is still within the HRA Business Plan target of 0.5%. In 2018/19 the outturn was 0.45%, which was mainly due to the volume of work being carried out on void properties. This includes an enhanced standard being applied for tenants being rehoused as part of the Irvine high flats regeneration project. In addition to this, the volume of capital work required in other void properties has increased and led to longer completion times. The work required at the void stage is under review and processes are being refined, therefore an improvement is expected during 2019/20.
HSN3 % of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards	98.67	99.14		3	4		1	1		Performance has improved. Position maintained in Q1.	At 31 March 2019, 99.18% of North Ayrshire Council's housing stock achieved the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. The small percentage of properties which fail the standard have been investigated. There are two main reasons for these properties failing, which are (1) access issues which prevent improvement works from being carried out; and (2) mixed

Indicator Ref and Name	2016/17 Value	2017/18 Value	Performance +/-	2016/17 Rank	2017/18 Rank	Rank- /+	2016/17 Quartile (Q)	2017/18 Q	Quartile - /+	Performance Summary	Commentary on performance, improvement activity and future aspirations
											tenure issues. We continue to work with local Housing Offices and utilise the Customer Liaison and Factoring Services to help overcome these issues.
HSN4b Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs	7.85	5.51	↑	12	6	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	Introduction of a new staffing structure within Building Services has seen approximately 37% improvement on the average days taken to complete non-emergency housing repairs, resulting in top quartile performance.
HSN5 % of council dwellings that are energy efficient	99.48	99.93	↑	10	7	↑	2	1	↑	Performance has improved. Improved from Q2 to Q1.	The percentage of council houses that are compliant with the EESSH standard is 99.9%. Additional energy efficiency measures (new gas central heating installations, loft insulation and external wall insulation) are currently being implemented to deal with the small number of properties that do not comply.
Corp asset 1 Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	91.63	89.91	↓	5	11	↓	1	2	↓	Performance has declined. Declined from Q1 to Q2.	The ongoing property rationalisation programme means that the number of operational buildings is reducing year on year. Suitability surveys such as accessibility audits and condition surveys are carried out across the property portfolio on a 5 year rolling programme. Capital and revenue investment is directed towards maintaining our buildings' condition and addressing any suitability issues. Overall performance is dependent on the suitability of any buildings disposed of during the year, survey findings and the level of investment undertaken. The Property Management team will continue to monitor property condition and suitability and target investment towards those buildings in greatest need.
Corp asset 2 Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	99.66	99.66	▬	1	1	▬	1	1	▬	Performance has remained the same. Position maintained in Q1.	The asset rationalisation work being undertaken by the Strategic Property Assets Group (SPAG) will enable the current performance to be maintained.

Improving	No change	Worsening
↑	▬	↓

Appendix 2: Council Plan and National Performance Framework

The following tables demonstrate the alignment of the National Performance Framework against the draft new Council Plan 2019-2024. There is a good alignment with all the Outcomes from the Council Plan against the National Performance Framework.

The initial table is looking at the overall vision, missions and values whilst the second table is looking into the actual outcomes.

Table 1: Mission, Vision and Values Alignment

National Performance Framework	NAC Council Plan
Our Purpose: To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth	Our Vision: A North Ayrshire that is 'Fair for All' Our Mission: Working together to improve well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire.
Our Values: We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion, respects the rule of law, and acts in an open and transparent way	Our Values: Passion, Focus and Inspiration

Table 2: Outcomes

National Performance Framework National Outcomes	NAC Council Plan
We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy North Ayrshire is well-connected with effective infrastructure
We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy
We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy
We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire has active and strong communities North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe North Ayrshire has homes that meet our residents needs
We grew up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire has active and strong communities North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe
We are all well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A valued workforce that delivers high quality services
We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy
We are healthy and active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life • North Ayrshire's residents and communities enjoy good life-long health and well-being
We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire has active and strong communities • North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment • North Ayrshire is a sustainable environment
We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire has active and strong communities
We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title: Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

Purpose: To update Cabinet on the feedback received at the recent community engagement event held during February 2019 and to outline the proposed next steps in the development of the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme.

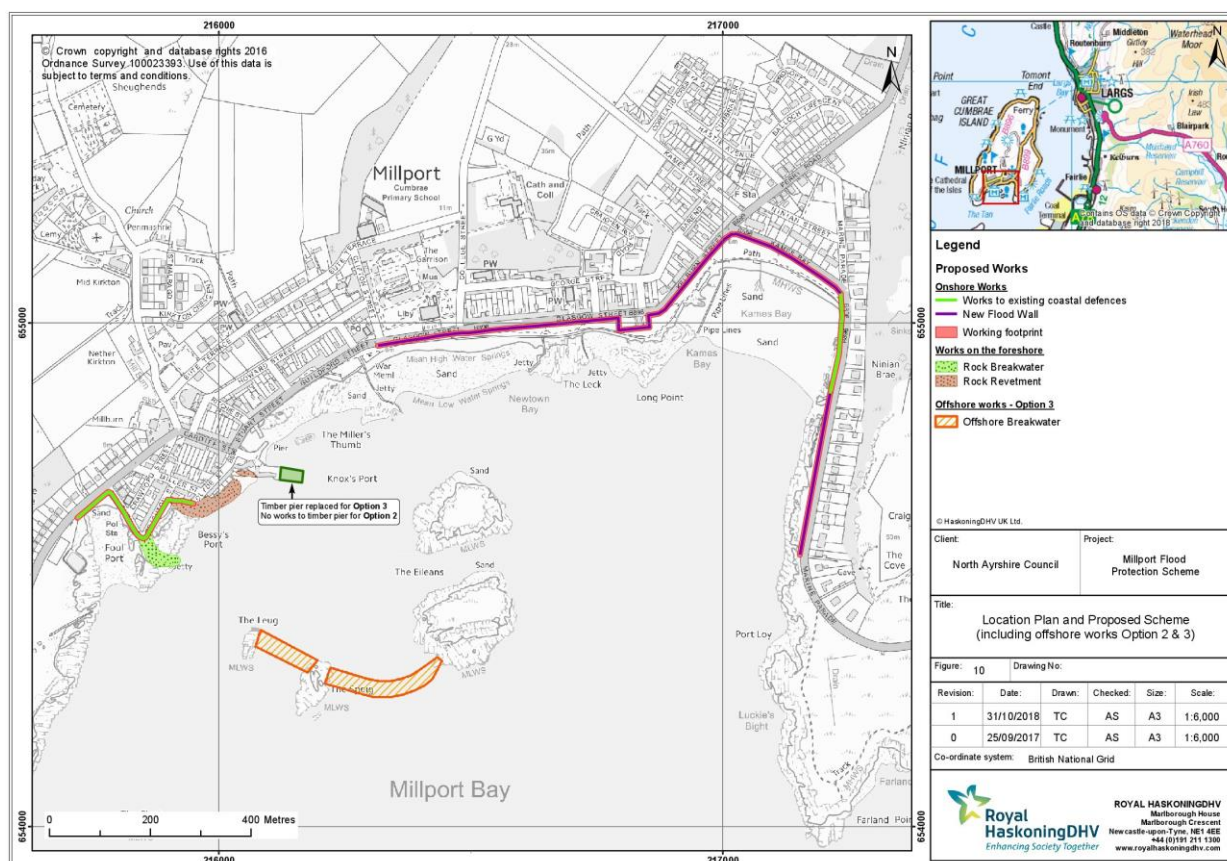
Recommendation: That Cabinet:

- a) notes the work carried out which includes extensive engagement, and which has helped to develop community support for the proposed Scheme;
- b) notes the mostly positive feedback on the preferred option following the engagement process and agrees a final non-statutory engagement event will take place in August 2019;
- c) agrees to receive a further progress report in early 2020 with the intention of considering formally notifying the Scheme at that time;
- d) notes the outline Scheme delivery timeline detailed at para 2.15.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The requirement for a coastal flood protection scheme for Millport was included within the Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan produced in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Since then work has been progressing to develop a potential design solution for an appropriate flood protection scheme.
- 1.2 Three design solutions were presented to Cabinet at the meeting of 11 December 2018. The preferred solution was option 2 which comprises off shore breakwaters connecting small islands in Millport Bay plus onshore flood walls along the Millport shoreline as shown in the diagram overleaf. The preferred solution not only provides the required element of flood protection, but it also creates an area of sheltered water which could allow the potential future development of a marina supporting the desire for step ashore facilities under the auspices of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 1.3 At the meeting of 11 December 2018 Cabinet noted and agreed that officers should undertake further community engagement to progress with the outline design of the onshore elements of the Scheme. In addition, Cabinet agreed that officers should continue to work with the local community with regards to their aspirations for coastal tourism through the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

- 1.4 Successful community engagement design workshop events took place during February 2019 when the local community were able to help co-produce and influence the design of the onshore elements of the flood protection works. The valuable feedback received will now be used to further develop the proposed landscape design and onshore elements of the Scheme.
- 1.5 A final informal community engagement event is planned for August 2019 to help finalise the proposed design prior to the formal notification of the proposed Scheme, planned for January 2020.



Plan of preferred solution showing offshore breakwater and location of onshore works

2. Background

Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

- 2.1 At its meeting of 11 December 2018 Cabinet agreed with the Scheme Recommendation Report's findings and confirmed the recommended Option 2, as the preferred solution. It was also agreed that officers would carry out a community engagement event based on that option. Cabinet also agreed that officers would continue to work with the community with regards to their aspirations for coastal tourism through the Ayrshire Growth Deal.
- 2.2 A community engagement event was held in Millport on 12 and 13 of February 2019 followed by a student consultation involving Largs Academy students. The events were delivered by the Millport Flood Protection Scheme Project Team and sought views on the preferred option and carried out design workshops on the onshore elements of the Scheme.

- 2.3 The February 2019 community engagement events were very successful, with very good engagement. There were between 170 and 200 visits made to the design workshops. Twenty-nine questionnaire responses were received, plus a further nine responses from students. A large proportion of local residents took an active role during the design workshops and provided their feedback during those discussions.
- 2.4 The Council's preferred option had positive community support which was confirmed verbally during the community engagement days as this option facilitated potential future marina/regeneration opportunities. There is also still a strong desire within the community for preserving the Millport timber pier if the community can secure funds.
- 2.5 The predominant focus of the engagement event was on the community design workshops where the local residents discussed the onshore elements of the Scheme and took great interest and an active role. A visualisation video had been prepared which helped the residents to understand the proposed sea wall layout, access points to the beach and to get a sense of the wall heights at each location.
- 2.6 Individuals provided very useful comments on the proposed onshore works during the workshop sessions and their input has provided a good basis on which to take forward the landscape design.
- 2.7 Various questions and issues were raised at the events highlighting that more focused information is required in areas such as: the size, location and appearance of the onshore walls; access to the beach for people (including those with disabilities) and vehicles; drainage; seating and other improvements that can be incorporated into the scheme; and safety.
- 2.8 The overall response to the engagement was generally positive. However, the proposed flood protection scheme will impact on a large and disparate group of people who are likely to have varying attitudes towards supporting the Scheme depending upon how they see themselves affected by the proposals. The responses highlighted the need for more developed proposals for the onshore aspects of the Scheme which will provide answers and clarity to the issues and questions raised by local people. The goal of the engagement process is to minimise levels of objection to the Scheme when it is finally notified.
- 2.9 A view was also expressed during the engagement that residents of the Crichton Street, Clyde Street and Cross House areas should have more direct engagement in the process.
- 2.10 Officers from Economy and Communities also presented a potential marina proposal, made possible by the flood protection scheme development.
- 2.11 Preliminary works had been commissioned to provide an indicative proposal for the location, size, phasing and development of a marina. This included identifying a marina operational structure that suits the Millport community aspirations in marine tourism development. Over 50 responses to date have been received in response to the marina consultation feedback survey. Responses are positive in support of the proposed marina development, its location and community led operating model.

- 2.12 With considerable community and visitor support for a marina development at Millport and a clear strategic fit within the AGD's marine tourism project identified in the Heads of Terms the project is well positioned to be further developed. This will include the development of more detailed technical design and feasibility to inform the submission of the full business case to Scottish Government, further reports to Cabinet will set out the proposals in due course.
- 2.13 A fourth community engagement event on the flood protection scheme (predominately onshore aspects) is proposed for mid-August 2019. This will afford the opportunity to provide answers and clarity to the issues and questions raised by local people in February and will also allow residents of the Crichton Street, Clyde Street and Cross House areas to be involved in a more direct engagement in the process. This is also ideal timing to connect with the seasonal residents as well as to present an updated design to local people. The visualisation video will be updated to assist the discussions. This additional event is expected to reduce the potential for objections to the Scheme by giving the community and visitors to the island the maximum opportunity to collectively influence the finishing touches of the Scheme in a fashion that will be well supported when the Scheme is formally notified.
- 2.14 On the conclusion of the final informal community engagement event in August 2019, officers will utilise the feed back received to progress to the next stage in the process which will be to complete the initial Scheme design and complete the required Scheme formal notification documents with a view to seeking Cabinet approval in early 2020 to move to formal notification of the Scheme.
- 2.15 An indicative timescale is detailed below with the proposed fourth community engagement details added. The key milestones have remained unchanged from the 11 December 2018 Cabinet Report: -
- August 2019 - fourth Community Engagement (predominately – onshore aspects)
 - December 2019 - Completion of scheme design, EIA and other scheme notification documents
 - January 2020 - Formal notification of scheme
 - April 2020 - Conclusion of FPS consultation period
 - September 2020 - Cabinet approval to progress the detailed design*
 - October 2020 to April 2021 - Detailed design
 - April 2021 to June 2021 - Tender period
 - August 2021 - Construction commences
 - March 2023 - Scheme completed and operational.

* It should be noted that the above timescale does not include a public hearing or inquiry and if either is required this would delay the project by around a year, possibly longer in the case of a public inquiry.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the work carried out which includes extensive engagement, and which has helped to develop community support for the proposed Scheme.

- 3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the mostly positive feedback on the preferred option following the most recent engagement process and agrees a final non-statutory engagement event will take place in August 2019;
- 3.3 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees to receive a further progress report in early 2020 with the intention of considering formally notifying the Scheme at that time.
- 3.4 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the outline scheme delivery timeline detailed at para 2.15.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The costs associated with the delivery of the proposed Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme are estimated at £27.5M and will attract 80% funding from Scottish Government with the remaining 20% funding being the responsibility of the Local Authority. The required funding is allocated in the Council's approved Capital Investment Plan. The costs involved in further community engagement will be met from this allocation. There is no financial allocation to secure the local community's aspirations to retain the existing timber pier structure, which will only be possible should the community be able to secure funds. The potential Marina development will form part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal business case.
Human Resources:	None.
Legal:	The Flood Protection Scheme is being developed in accordance with the approved Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Act 2009. Access to the timber section of Millport Pier has been prohibited due to safety concerns and to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	An Equality Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out during the detailed design stage of the project.
Children and Young People:	A Children's Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out during the detailed design stage of the project.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The Flood Protection Scheme will protect the environment and fabric of Millport against flooding in the long term.
Key Priorities:	The Flood Protection Scheme will protect the safety of residents in the affected areas and will also help develop the economy of Millport which aligns to the new draft Council Plan 2019 – 2024.
Community Benefits:	The actions are being taken in order to improve safety and contribute to the development of the local economy. They also support the potential development of step ashore facilities allied to the Ayrshire Growth Deal proposals.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 To date, three community engagement events have been held with stakeholders, including the most recent event which took place on 12 and 13 February 2019. These events have greatly influenced the development of the proposed flood protection measures.
- 5.2 In addition to the above a forum was established involving stakeholders, elected members and officers (including Economy and Communities) to discuss issues relating to the impact of the proposed flood protection scheme. This has afforded the opportunity to consider the views of the local community with regards to the impact of any flood protection scheme on the local economy and has also allowed discussion to take place concerning the Millport timber pier and the potential for the later development of a small marina in the sheltered bay.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Head of Commercial Services

For further information please contact **Arthur Cowley, Senior Manager (Structures, Lighting, Flooding & Design)**, on **01294 300030**.

Background Papers

N/A

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031
Purpose:	To seek approval for publication and implementation of the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031 at Appendix 1 for publication and implementation.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity is an abbreviated term for “biological diversity” and includes all our species, habitats and ecosystems.
- 1.2 The latest draft North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-31 (draft LBAP), at Appendix 1, builds on the success of previous LBAPs. It establishes a longer-term vision for biodiversity action in North Ayrshire, which will be driven forward by the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership (NABP). NABP membership includes officer representatives from North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB and several other stakeholders.
- 1.3 In order to align with the national Scottish Biodiversity Strategy document ‘Scotland’s Biodiversity a Route Map to 2020’, a ‘work programmes’ approach has been taken in drafting actions for the draft LBAP, themed around the document’s six ‘Big Steps for Nature’. Some examples of the actions within the document are summarised at paragraph 2.14 below.
- 1.4 Cabinet is invited to approve the draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031 at Appendix 1 for publication and implementation.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity is an abbreviated term for “biological diversity” and includes all our species, habitats and ecosystems.
- 2.2 The common response by local authorities to these responsibilities is to prepare a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). The LBAP is used to direct various stakeholder activity to improve habitat and species conservation and enhancement in the local area, as well

as to inform land use decisions, land management, and inform the work of various Council services and wider stakeholders.

- 2.3 The first Ayrshire LBAP 2001-2005 provided an assessment of Ayrshire's biodiversity and was a valuable tool in directing conservation efforts. The Ayrshire LBAP included Habitat Action Plans for 26 habitat types and Action Plans for 11 species. Actions were aspirational, identifying what could be done for each habitat or species, rather than detailing a committed work programme.
- 2.4 Further LBAPs were prepared in 2007, 2012 and 2015, and over this period national guidance on LBAPs has evolved to encourage creation of flexible plans which focus on key habitats and species for the local area, with specific, measurable actions that can be delivered within the resources available to the various stakeholders.
- 2.5 Preparation and implementation of the LBAP is undertaken by the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership (NABP). Membership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB and several other stakeholders.
- 2.6 The latest North Ayrshire LBAP, published in 2015, took a habitat-based approach, and set out 34 actions ranging from governance and monitoring activity to specific habitat improvements for locally important habitats, including:
 - Coastal areas
 - River corridors
 - Forests and woodlands
 - Farmlands
- 2.7 Membership of the NABP has also now been widened to include additional stakeholders such as Ayrshire Rivers Trust, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, and Community of Arran Seabed Trust.
- 2.8 A Biodiversity Duty Report was published in January 2018, which highlighted the Council and stakeholders' progress in implementing the 2015 LBAP to date. This Report has also informed preparation of the latest LBAP 2019-2031 at Appendix 1.
- 2.9 Key successes of the 2015 LBAP include:
 - Entering into a partnership with RSPB and other stakeholders to deliver 'Garnock Connections', which has secured c£1.300m of Heritage Lottery Fund grant to deliver a programme of habitat conservation, enhancement, and visitor interpretation activities over the next four years. This project contributes to delivery of a number of actions within the 2015 LBAP, as well as promoting green tourism in the area
 - Established the pilot project 'Where's Wildlife in Ayrshire', which has delivered a biodiversity records resource for the area. The project has now been extended to 2022, and implements a longstanding aspiration across several previous LBAPs
 - Implementation of relaxed grass cutting regimes in specific areas, alongside public consultation, to support pollinator species, as well as deliver valuable efficiency savings
 - The Ranger Service has delivered 'Teaching in Nature' sessions for over 60 individual primary school teachers. Each session builds confidence in order for teachers to use the outdoor environment sustainably to attain their curriculum targets

- Biodiversity improvements on local path networks. Funding has been secured from a range of sources including Sustrans, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Central Scotland Green Network to upgrade local path networks including Core Paths to all abilities and multi user access standards. Habitat improvements including wildflower planting and woodland management have been delivered alongside these works to improve the biodiversity value of the network. This has also improved the physical access to a range of sites including Local Nature Reserves and Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves
- Undertaking a range of woodland management activities across the Council estate to improve the health and biodiversity value of local woodlands. This includes activities such as thinning, new tree planting and the creation of habitat piles. The sites improved include Eglinton Country Park at Kilwinning and the Tileworks at Springside
- The Council's Sustainability and Flooding Teams have worked in partnership with Ayrshire Rivers Trust, with funding secured from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's (SEPA) Water Environment Fund, to design, commission and install a fish pass and separate eel pass at Eglinton Country Park to allow migratory fish species and other wildlife to access river habitat previously blocked by the Garden Weir, a listed Victorian structure

2.10 The Biodiversity Duty Report, successes to date, and consultation amongst the NABP, has informed the latest LBAP 2019 – 2031 at Appendix 1. The new LBAP builds on the success of the 2015 LBAP.

2.11 In response to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy document 'Scotland's Biodiversity a Route Map to 2020' a 'work programmes' approach has been taken, themed around the document's six 'Big Steps for Nature'. These are:

- Ecosystem restoration
- Investment in natural capital
- Quality greenspace for health and education benefits
- Conserving wildlife in Scotland
- Sustainable management of land and freshwater
- Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems)

2.12 Within these headings, Ecosystem Groupings from the Scottish Biodiversity List (Coastal, Freshwater & Wetland, Lowland, Woodland, Upland and Marine) have been nested to enable relevant tasks for priority species and habitats to be incorporated easily into the relevant work programme.

2.13 An increase in the LBAP period to cover a 12-year period enables short, mid and long term projects to be planned, fundraising to be carried out and relevant legacy work to be factored in by working to a longer range timeframe. The 12-year period has been divided into 3-year reporting quarters to ensure that progress towards milestones is monitored and work programmes adjusted as required to ensure tasks are achieved within the life of the plan. NALBAP 2019-2031 will be a rolling document maintained as an online resource which will be shaped by input from local stakeholders, including through the CONSUL engagement tool, during its implementation period.

2.14 The draft LBAP at Appendix 1 sets out all of the tasks within the initial three year period, but some examples of key actions are set out below for information:

- Undertake a structured, evidence-based biodiversity audit for North Ayrshire as the foundation of a targeted, successful LBAP process
- Ensure continuity of a Local Environmental Records Centre covering the North, East and South Ayrshire local authority areas
- Identify habitat networks to provide links between Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) which will inform development and adoption of Supplementary Guidance on Open Space and Green Networks to guide new development
- Enhance and restore natural floodplain habitats for wildlife in the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership Scheme through various projects including management of water control measures, green riverbank stabilisation, and control of invasive non-native plant species
- Enhance riparian habitats through integrating habitat creation and management options, beneficial for wildlife, into local diffuse pollution control mechanisms
- Develop management regimes for roadside verges and hedgerows to improve habitat quality and connectivity for a range of species including pollinating insects and farmland birds
- Promote guidance on biodiversity action for local businesses and within schools, through a range of specific project actions

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The draft LBAP 2019-31 at Appendix 1 is designed to build on the successes within the 2015 LBAP and sets a longer term vision for biodiversity action within North Ayrshire.
- 3.2 Cabinet is invited to approve the draft LBAP for publication and implementation. The document will be graphically designed prior to publication.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	There are no financial implications arising from this report. Projects noted within the LBAP 2019-2031 will be funded from existing resources and through funding bids to external agencies.
Human Resources:	There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

Legal:	This report supports the Council's discharging of its statutory Biodiversity Duty enshrined within the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and enabling reporting on this duty under the Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	The draft LBAP contributes to the Council's socio-economic duty through increasing access to quality green space for health, wellbeing and education benefits.
Children and Young People:	The draft LBAP contains actions in relation to promotion of biodiversity awareness amongst children and young people. This will provide education, health and wellbeing benefits. In addition, the 3-18 curriculum includes learning in relation to biodiversity, which will be supported by the LBAP action plan.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017-20 contains a specific action supporting the implementation of the draft LBAP given the environmental and social benefits.
Key Priorities:	The draft LBAP contributes to the Council Plan 2015-20 strategic priority of 'protecting and enhancing our environment for future generations' through the inclusion of specific actions to conserve and improve wildlife habitats. It also contributes to the forthcoming Council Plan by helping to make North Ayrshire 'a sustainable place' by protecting and enhancing important habitats and species.
Community Benefits:	Community benefits will be sought as part of the procurement of relevant individual biodiversity projects.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation with various Council services including Streetscene, Planning, Regeneration, Active Transport & Travel, Countryside Rangers, as well as the members of the NABP, was undertaken in the preparation of this report.

YVONNE BAULK
Head of Physical Environment

For further information please contact **David Hammond, Senior Manager (Housing Strategy & Corporate Sustainability)**, on **(01294) 324764**.

Background Papers

North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-18

Draft North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 -2031

Introduction

This Local Biodiversity Action Plan is intended for anyone who lives in, works in or visits North Ayrshire. We are all stakeholders in our shared local and global biodiversity.

Biodiversity is a shortened term for ‘biological diversity’, meaning the richness and variety of all life on Earth.

The rich variety of life is essential for sustaining the ecosystems that provide us with food, fuel, health, wealth and other vital services. The term used to describe the benefits that we receive, many times unknowingly, from the environment we live in is **ecosystem services**. All life on earth, including our economy, is linked to ecosystem services in numerous ways but it is difficult to place an economic value on them (known as “natural capital”) and they largely go unnoticed. These include soil formation, nutrient and water cycling, photosynthesis, fresh water, food, fuel, timber, fibre, and pharmaceuticals, flood management, pollination, carbon sequestration, erosion reduction, regulation of regional and local climate, air purification, water filtration, pest control, as well as the non-material benefits we obtain from the environment such as recreation, tourism and improved health and wellbeing through the fulfilment that nature experiences can bring.

In order to protect the well-being of present and future generations we must give special consideration to what might be irreversible changes to our environment. In short, we need to carefully evaluate the decisions we take every day and take a precautionary approach to avoid loss and damage.

Whilst we rely on biodiversity, human actions have a wide range of impacts on the natural world.

Key pressures on biodiversity include pollution; land use intensification and modification; the spread of invasive species and wildlife disease; a lack of connection to nature and consequent undervaluing of its benefits; climate change and exploitation of marine and coastal environments.

The cumulative impacts of these key pressures is having a profound effect on biodiversity. Losses of local populations of species can lead to extinction of species locally, nationally and globally. Global species extinctions are occurring at 50-100 times the natural rate and are predicted to rise dramatically. The national situation also calls for action. In a 2016 study of 218 countries assessed for the intactness of their biodiversity, the UK ranked 189th, indicating that nature is faring worse in the UK than in most other countries.

Recognising that the natural environment faces many threats, the UK Government in 1992 signed the Convention on Biodiversity at the Earth Summit in Rio. As a result, we are committed to developing national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Despite the international target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, it has continued to decline. To tackle this, we must plan for the protection and rehabilitation of our ecosystems. To do so, we need to take an **ecosystems approach**, defined by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity as a “strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way”.

Successful management of ecosystems relies on the conservation of their living and non-living components. This is recognised in the Scottish Biodiversity List which lists the animals, plants and habitats considered by Scottish Ministers to be of highest priority for biodiversity conservation in Scotland. North Ayrshire’s variety of rocks, fossils, landforms and soils (known as geodiversity) are also a finite resource which form a vital component of our ecosystems. In North Ayrshire we are equally concerned with the local loss of species, reduction in populations of species and loss of

quality or functionality of habitats. Such changes are not only of concern in terms of wildlife itself but because of the disadvantages to North Ayrshire of becoming impoverished in terms of its natural heritage, with resulting loss of ecosystem services and quality of environment for its residents.

Since 1992, the Convention on Biodiversity has formed the basis for national strategies to address biodiversity loss. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 1994. In 2004 the **Scottish Biodiversity Strategy** was adopted, with the publication of 'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'. This was supplemented by the '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity' (2013) as part 2 of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, followed by its implementation document 'Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020' in 2015. Another key driver of biodiversity action in Scotland has been the **biodiversity duty**. The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. Section 1 of the Act states:

"It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions."

'Public body or office-holder' refers to "a statutory undertaker and any person exercising functions of a public nature". Additionally, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires all public bodies to make a report publicly available on their compliance with biodiversity duty every three years.

This is the fifth Local Biodiversity Action Plan to include North Ayrshire, and the second to exclusively cover North Ayrshire. It has been structured to align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and in turn with the Biodiversity Duty Report template produced by Scottish Natural Heritage, such that the Vision, Central Aims and Work Programme are all compatible with these national documents to facilitate focussed, easily-demonstrated success. The guidance document "LBAPs in Scotland – The Manual" (1997) has been used to ensure that this Local Biodiversity Action Plan forms the basis of a functioning LBAP process. This document covers a period of 12 years to enable short, mid and long term projects to be planned, fundraising to be carried out and relevant legacy work to be factored within the lifespan of the document. The 12-year period has been divided into 3-year reporting quarters to ensure that progress towards milestones is monitored and work programmes adjusted as required to ensure tasks are achieved within the life of the plan.

NALBAP 2019-2031 will be a rolling document maintained as an online resource which will be shaped by input from local stakeholders during its implementation period. As recommended by the original LBAP guidance 'Local Biodiversity Action Plans – A Manual' (1997), a 'twin-tracking approach' has been adopted in which a biodiversity audit has been recommended, with interim actions adopted in the meantime. The establishment of a Local Environmental Information Centre covering North Ayrshire (provided by South and West Scotland Information Centre) was a key success of the previous LBAP. This is an essential resource underpinning all aspects of NALBAP 2019-2031 for prioritising LBAP work, monitoring its impact, and assessing whether priorities need to change over time. Sustaining our LERC in the long term is therefore central to the success of NALBAP 2019-2031. Development, management and implementation of this Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be carried out by the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership (NABP), which intends to bring a wide range of biodiversity stakeholders together to work towards shared objectives and to agree priorities for the limited resources. The Partnership recognises that these individuals and organisations have different roles and responsibilities but believes that they can easily have a shared agenda and a common approach. The overall aim for the Partnership is:

‘To support, encourage and positively influence the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity in North Ayrshire as part of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.’

The work of the Partnership and coordination of the NALBAP 2019 is overseen by a small Management Group, with a wider network of NABP partners contributing to the implementation of LBAP project work as appropriate.

Through the implementation of NALBAP 2019-2031, North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership will work towards the following vision for North Ayrshire’s biodiversity, based on the Six Big Steps for Nature set out in ‘Scotland’s Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020’:

1. **Ecosystem restoration** Historical losses of habitats and ecosystems have been reversed, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems
2. **Investment in natural capital** The benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets
3. **Quality greenspace for health and education benefits** The majority of people derive increased benefits from contact with nature where they live and work
4. **Conserving wildlife** The future of priority habitats and species has been secured
5. **Sustainable management of land and freshwater** Environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced
6. **Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems** A healthy balance has been achieved between environmental, social and economic elements

The essence of NALBAP 2019-2031 can be expressed as three **Central Aims**, based on those of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy “2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity” (2013):

1. Protect and restore biodiversity on land and seas, and to support healthier ecosystems
2. Connect people with the natural world, for their health and well-being and to involve them more in decisions about their environment
3. Maximise the benefits for North Ayrshire of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

A **Work Programme** for 2019-2031 has been developed to achieve the 2030 Vision and Central Aims. It comprises six **Workstreams**, each addressing one of the six points of the 2030 Vision. Within these Workstreams, **Theme** subsections address key biodiversity topics. Biodiversity action within the Workstreams and Themes has been divided into defined **Tasks**.

A biodiversity audit will be carried out to create an itinerary of North Ayrshire’s biodiversity resource and how it is faring. This will allow future biodiversity work to be prioritised based on the local context of ecosystems, habitats and species and to target the key pressures impacting upon these. The information gathered by the biodiversity audit process will be maintained by South and West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and regularly updated as a live resource, allowing progress and impact of NALBAP 2019-31 actions to be monitored, and informing changes in priorities over time. The Work Programme is therefore composed of interim Tasks, selected from a long-list by North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership, which will be carried out whilst the biodiversity audit is being undertaken. Input from a wider range of stakeholders will be sought following publication of NALBAP 2019-2031 to ensure that key issues affecting locally valued biodiversity are addressed.

The combination of a structured set of interim tasks based on national strategy and partner input, followed by prioritisation of tasks determined by an objective biodiversity audit and local input, will provide the basis for addressing the key issues for North Ayrshire's biodiversity over the next 12 years.

North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership

North Ayrshire's biodiversity relies on everyone whose activity either directly impacts on the natural environment or influences the attitudes and understanding of those who do. Successful conservation of North Ayrshire's biodiversity must therefore involve a variety of stakeholders including government and statutory agencies, local authorities, farmers and landowners, voluntary conservation organisations, businesses, educators and local communities.

The North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership (NABP) intends to bring all these sectors together to work towards shared objectives and to agree priorities for the limited resources. The Partnership recognises that these individuals and organisations have different roles and responsibilities but believes that they can easily have a shared agenda and a common approach. The overall aim for the Partnership is 'to support, encourage and positively influence the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity in North Ayrshire as part of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.'

Membership of the Partnership is informal, broad and inclusive and involves a wide range of relevant public and voluntary sector bodies. Currently partnership organisations have a focus on nature conservation and the environment, although the partnership aims to reach beyond these sectors to maximise the opportunities available for biodiversity awareness and action. Lead players in the Partnership during the preparation of this Plan included North Ayrshire Council, particularly Corporate Sustainability, Planning, Streetscene and Ranger Services; South and West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT); Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST); and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The work of the Partnership and coordination of NALBAP 2019 is overseen by a small Management Group as described in the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Partnership's Minute of Agreement. This group manages the business of the NBAP Partnership. A wider network of NABP partners contributes to the implementation of LBAP project work as appropriate.

North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership endorses the current North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 document and will develop and actively implement the plan over its 12 year period.

Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

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North Ayrshire Council (NAC)

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Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds (RSPB)

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South and West Scotland
Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC)

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Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

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Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)

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Acknowledgments

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) are made possible by a diverse and wide community of people past, present and future, who actively care about our natural environment. The North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership would like to thank all who have contributed directly or indirectly to this action plan.

Special thanks go to the following individuals and organisations for their contributions.

- Naturalists – both amateur and professional - who have contributed their time and skills to understanding and conserving our biodiversity locally, nationally and globally
- North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership, with direct input received gratefully from the following partners:
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Ardeer FRIENDS Group
 - South and West Scotland Environmental Information Centre
 - Scottish Natural Heritage
 - Scottish Wildlife Trust

Implementation of LBAP actions will be key to its success, ensuring that it responds to the dynamic nature of the field of biodiversity conservation and to build on successful project work. This will only be possible through the continued commitment of North Ayrshire's strong network of biodiversity stakeholders. Thank you in advance to those who are currently part of this positive force for biodiversity, as well as those newcomers who will become actively engaged over the coming months and years through the action plan.

Who is this document for?

This Local Biodiversity Action Plan is intended for anyone who lives in, works in or visits North Ayrshire. We are all stakeholders in our shared local and global biodiversity.

So whether your interest in biodiversity is personal or professional (or both), this plan will point you in the right direction to begin:

- learning more about biodiversity
- experiencing biodiversity for yourself
- taking positive action to conserve and enhance biodiversity in North Ayrshire

Depending on how you decide to get involved, your actions could benefit wildlife, habitats and people around the globe.

So please read on to learn about the fascinating and useful biodiversity we have, the issues facing biodiversity and what can be done to help.

As a starting point for your actions to help biodiversity, the 'Useful contacts and links' section contains handy online resources and contact details for organisations carrying out valuable work for biodiversity.

If you would like to find out more about biodiversity or get involved in work within this plan, please send an email to biodiversity@north-ayrshire.gov.uk, or telephone 01294 310000.

Biodiversity

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a shortened term for 'biological diversity', meaning the richness and variety of all life on Earth.

Biodiversity has a wide-ranging definition. It includes the fascinating **diversity of species** inhabiting in any given area. Globally over 1.75 million species have are known to science, but this does not give the true total as more are discovered or described each year. Scientists estimate that the total number of species on Earth may range from 3 million to 100 million. Even a busy urban greenspace which may seem too disturbed by people for secretive wildlife may support many species - both native and introduced.

It also includes the **variety of habitats** in a given area such as a section of our coastline which may contain seagrass beds, intertidal mud flats, coastal salt marsh, sand dune, rocky estuary and river, as well as farmland habitat features such as arable field margins and hedgerows.

Lastly, biodiversity includes the **complexity of ecosystems (or natural living systems)**, formed by the different ways that living things interact with each other and with the living and non-living aspects of their habitats.

Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity has intrinsic worth, which is separate from any benefits humans may gain from it. The biodiversity we see today is a fascinating aspect of our planet which has evolved over 3.5 billion years - much longer than humans have existed as a species.

It is important to stress that humans are part of biodiversity and live within ecosystems – we are just one species of many, and we are entirely reliant on our natural environment for every aspect of our life. The rich variety of life is essential for sustaining the ecosystems that provide us with food, fuel, health, wealth and other vital services - it is as simple as the air you breathe, the water you drink and the food you eat.

The term used to describe the benefits that we receive, many times unknowingly, from the environment we live in is “**ecosystem services**”. All life on earth, including our economy, is linked to ecosystem services in numerous ways but it is difficult to place an economic value on them (known as “**natural capital**”) and they largely go unnoticed. For example, healthy ecosystems provide free “services” to human communities:

Supporting Services are the services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services and include soil formation, nutrient and water cycling and photosynthesis.

Provisioning Services are the products we obtain from the environment such as fresh water, food, fuel, timber, fibre, and pharmaceuticals.

Regulating Services are the benefits obtained from natural processes such as flood management, pollination, carbon sequestration, erosion reduction, regulation of regional and local climate, air purification, water filtration and pest control.

Cultural Services include the non-material benefits we obtain from the environment such as recreation, tourism and improved health and wellbeing through the fulfilment that nature experiences can bring.

Some of the ways in which the health of our ecosystems affects our quality of life and the way North Ayrshire functions can be ably demonstrated by the following:

- **Habitat and Landscape Resource** – glens provide freshwater; peatlands provide carbon storage; floodplains dissipate flood water, hills provide places for recreation, tourism and a spiritual and wellbeing; farmland provides food production; trees and woodland provide building materials, shelter, carbon storage, air purification, protection against river erosion and wood fuel.
- **Pollination** – most flowering plants including many crops (including fruit, beans and peas) need help from insect pollinators such as bees, beetles, moths, wasps, flies and butterflies to reproduce.
- **Water Purification** – streams, wetlands, lochs, estuaries and forests all play an important role in purifying water, providing clean water for drinking, industrial uses, recreation and wildlife habitat.

Maintaining the processes and inter-relationships within ecosystems is vital for ensuring that we have healthy species and habitats and is also important for ensuring the on-going availability and benefits of “ecosystem services” to human life. Whilst our understanding of “ecosystems dynamics” will always be limited our challenge is to find an ecologically sustainable way of living in the world, particularly with an ever-increasing world population sharing the Earth’s natural resources.

In order to protect the well-being of present and future generations we must give special consideration to what might be irreversible changes to our environment. In short we need to carefully evaluate the decisions we take every day and take a precautionary approach to avoid loss and damage.

What are the key pressures impacting biodiversity?

Whilst we rely on biodiversity, human actions have a wide range of impacts on the natural world. Key pressures on biodiversity include:

Pollution from industry, agriculture and road traffic has impacts on waterways, uplands, air quality and sensitive habitats.

Land use intensification and modification leads to a reduction of diversity, quality and connectivity of landscapes and habitats. Across the uplands this results from increased grazing pressure and forestry. In the lowlands it is primarily through agricultural intensification and housing development.

Spread of invasive species and wildlife disease which has arisen from a growing global trade of plants and animals, with marine and terrestrial recreation also playing a role.

Lack of recognition for the value of nature as the vital benefits (i.e. the ecosystem services) that healthy stocks of nature (natural capital) provide to society are not fully recognised or appreciated and therefore are not sufficiently considered in decision making.

Disconnection with nature with nature seeming remote from the everyday lives of many people in society, leading people to undervalue its contribution to their well-being and prosperity, and to wider society.

Climate change is causing a shift in weather patterns which are affecting nature across Scotland. In the seas warming, acidification and sea level rise are becoming evident, and wetter conditions on land, especially in the west are predicted.

Marine and coastal exploitation with a range of sectors operating in the marine environment having profoundly changed the abundance and resilience of some species and altered marine habitats.

What effect are these pressures having on biodiversity as a whole?

The cumulative impacts of these key pressures is having a profound effect on biodiversity. Losses of local populations of species can lead to extinction of species locally, nationally and globally. Whilst extinction was occurring long before humans began putting pressure on biodiversity, the rate at which it is happening due to human activity is now causing concern, with global species extinctions occurring at 50-100 times the natural rate and predicted to rise dramatically. The national situation also calls for action. In a 2016 study of 218 countries assessed for the intactness of their biodiversity, the UK ranked 189th, indicating that nature is faring worse in the UK than in most other countries. We recognise that we too are at risk if we allow this to continue. As human development has rapidly increased over the past 200 years, we have exploited natural resources and fragile ecosystems, damaging the ability of ecosystems to self-sustain.

Recognising that the natural environment faces many threats, the UK Government in 1992 signed the Convention on Biodiversity at the Earth Summit in Rio. As a result, we are committed to developing national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Despite the international target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, it has continued to decline. To tackle this, we must plan for the protection and rehabilitation of our ecosystems. To do so, we need to take an “ecosystems approach”. Such an approach is a “strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way” (UN Convention on Biological Diversity 2000)."

Successful management of ecosystems relies on the conservation of their living and non-living components. This is recognised in the Scottish Biodiversity List which lists the animals, plants and habitats considered by Scottish Ministers to be of highest priority for biodiversity conservation in Scotland. North Ayrshire's variety of rocks, fossils, landforms and soils (known as geodiversity) are also a finite resource which form a vital component of our ecosystems. In North Ayrshire we are equally concerned with the local loss of species, reduction in populations of species and loss of quality or functionality of habitats. Such changes are not only of concern in terms of wildlife itself but because of the disadvantages to North Ayrshire of becoming impoverished in terms of its natural heritage, with resulting loss of ecosystem services and quality of environment for its residents. The protection of biodiversity and ecosystems is therefore very high on our list of priorities and this LBAP forms part of our strategy for conserving and enhancing North Ayrshire's biodiversity.

International to local - Key Policy and Statutory Drivers for Biodiversity Action

This edition of North Ayrshire's LBAP aims to align local biodiversity policies and action with both national and international strategic policy and legislation. The timeline below shows the key biodiversity strategy documents which connect local biodiversity conservation to coordinated national and international efforts.

1992	United Nations Rio Summit and Convention on Biological Diversity
1994	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
1998	EU Biodiversity Strategy
2004	Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in your hands. A Strategy for the Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity in Scotland
2004	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
2010	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020
2011	Our Life Insurance, Our Natural Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
2011	Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011
2012	UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
2013	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity
2015	Scotland's Biodiversity: A route map to 2020

The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) is an international legally binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. It was signed by 150 world leaders at the 1992 Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (informally known as the 'Earth Summit' and has since formed the basis for national strategies to address biodiversity loss. The CBD's governing body is the Conference of the Parties (COP) which meets every 2 years to review progress, set priorities and commit to work plans.

In 1994 the UK became the first country to produce a national biodiversity action plan.

The European Biodiversity Strategy followed in 1998, with the aim of addressing biodiversity losses which were identified as a threat to sustainable livelihoods across the European Union.

Part 1 of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in 2004, with the publication of 'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'. It set out Scotland's approach to biodiversity conservation, providing a vision for 2030: "Scotland is recognised as a world leader in biodiversity conservation. Everyone is involved: everyone benefits. The nation is enriched".

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020' adopted an ecosystems approach to the sustainable management of biodiversity. This was reflected in 'Our Life Insurance, Our Natural Capital: An EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020'. This document sets out how the EU will meet its obligations under the International Strategic Plan. It contains a target of "halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and

restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss”.

The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework forms part of a national and international programme designed to maintain and enhance biodiversity globally. It includes a number of specific plans for species and habitats afforded priority conservation action. Local Biodiversity Action Plans are seen as the means by which the national strategy can be delivered through local actions.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was supplemented by the ‘2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity’ in 2013, which sets out the major steps needed to improve the state of nature in Scotland and reflects the wider shift towards the ecosystem approach. It focusses on desired outcomes for 2020 and is a response to the targets set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity 2010 and the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 (2011). These call for a step change in efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and to restore the essential services that a healthy natural environment provides. In addition, investment in the natural assets of Scotland will contribute to sustainable economic growth and support well-being and wealth creation. The 2020 Challenge aims to:

- Protect and restore biodiversity on land and seas, and to support healthier ecosystems
- Connect people with the natural world, for their health and well-being and to involve them more in decisions about their environment
- Maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth

Seven outcomes are identified within the 2020 Challenge:

- Scotland’s ecosystems are restored to good ecological growth so that they provide robust ecosystem services and build natural capital
- Natural resources contribute to stronger sustainable economic growth in Scotland and we increase our natural capital to pass onto the next generation
- Improve health and quality of life for the people of Scotland through investment in the care of green space, nature and landscapes
- The special value and the international importance of Scotland’s nature and geodiversity is assured, wildlife is faring well, and we have a highly effective network of protected places
- Nature is faring well, and ecosystems are resilient as a result of sustainable land and water management
- Scotland’s marine and coastal environments are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, meeting the long term needs of people and nature
- A framework of indicators that we can use to track progress.

An implementation document ‘Scotland’s Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020’ was launched in 2015 to help direct priorities for action. It sets out six Big Steps for Nature, and lists priority projects needed to achieve them:

1. Ecosystem restoration – to reverse historical losses of habitats and ecosystems, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems
2. Investment in natural capital – to ensure the benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets
3. Quality greenspace for health and education benefits – to ensure that the majority of people derive increased benefits from contact with nature where they live and work.

4. Conserving wildlife in Scotland – to secure the future of priority habitats and species
5. Sustainable management of land and freshwater – to ensure that environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced
6. Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems – to secure a healthy balance between environmental, social and economic elements.

A key statutory driver of biodiversity action in Scotland has been the biodiversity duty. The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity and have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Section 1 of the Act states:

“It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

‘Public body or office-holder’ refers to “a statutory undertaker and any person exercising functions of a public nature”. Additionally, the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires all public bodies to make a report publicly available on their compliance with biodiversity duty every three years. The creation and implementation of NALBAP 2015-18 contributes to North Ayrshire Council’s fulfilment of its biodiversity duty and reporting on the biodiversity duty will be based on the progress reports produced at the end of each 3 year LBAP quarter as part of the LBAP monitoring system, enabling both functions to be satisfied by a single document.

A Timeline of Action for North Ayrshire's Biodiversity

NALBAP2019 is the fourth LBAP document covering North Ayrshire. A brief timeline of the previous documents highlights the changing focus of LBAPs over the years:

Ayrshire LBAP 2001-2005 Ayrshire's first LBAP provided a major assessment of Ayrshire's biodiversity and was a valuable tool for prioritising conservation efforts, focusing on 26 habitat action plans and 11 species action plans. Actions were aspirational, identifying what could be done for each habitat or species rather than detailing a committed work programme. At this time LBAP planning and delivery across Ayrshire was a partnership between the local authorities of North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire, led by Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit (AJPU). Ayrshire Biodiversity Group (ABG) implemented the Ayrshire LBAP and evaluated the process.

Ayrshire LBAP 2007-2010 Revision This was a revision of the Ayrshire LBAP 2001-2005 document following various changes that had taken place at a national level, including publication of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 'Scotland's Biodiversity, It's in Your Hands' (2004) and its 6 Implementation Plans (2005). The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 had also been issued, which required production of the Scottish Biodiversity List (2005). This revision also incorporated conclusions from an assessment of the Ayrshire LBAP commissioned by the Ayrshire Biodiversity Group 'Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Ayrshire LBAP 2001-2005' (c.2006) to clarify how effective the process had been to date.

Ayrshire LBAP 2007-2012 Update This update of the Ayrshire LBAP 2007-2010 incorporated lessons learned from experience by the Ayrshire Biodiversity Group through implementing the plan together, and also approaches taken by other LBAP partnerships. The Scottish Executive and SNH commissioned a study 'Strategic Review of Local Biodiversity Action Partnerships in Scotland 2003-2008' to assess the progress with LBAPs. This identified a series of similar shortcomings of the original LBAPs in failing to identify achievable actions, being unable to maintain momentum and not succeeding in refocusing organisations' own priorities.

As a result, the 2007-12 LBAP took into account changes in the wider biodiversity context, focussing more on priorities and including SMART actions (an acronym for 'specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based'). Its content included work on priority species and habitats which were not already being acted on by the conservation-orientated organisations operating in Ayrshire. The LBAP became a working document allowing it to be updated regularly and to enable it to adjust to the progress towards the Plan's targets. Specifically, the revised Action Plan was more flexible and had a reduced number of actions (two habitat action plans for lowland raised bogs and coastal habitats and two species action plans for water vole and farmland birds) to ensure that it only covered priorities and local actions.

Ayrshire LBAP 2012-2017 Revision This revision was prepared in 2012. This used a similar methodology to the 2007 LBAP with a slight adaptation to refocus the LBAP around an "ecosystem approach" and set out 2 new priority actions (record centre development; co-ordination and development) in addition to the 4 Ayrshire LBAP 2007-2012 actions of coastal habitats, lowland raised bogs, water voles and farmland birds.

North Ayrshire LBAP 2015-2018 Revision Preparation of a specific LBAP for North Ayrshire, as opposed to the pan Ayrshire approach taken to date, aimed to address both the Council's statutory Biodiversity Duty and the Scottish Government's Scottish Biodiversity Strategy document '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity' (2013) in order to conserve and enhance biodiversity in North Ayrshire. This revision was based on the methodology and data underpinning the previous LBAPs,

but with a North Ayrshire focus. Actions were specifically habitats based rather than species based, in recognition that habitat protection and enhancement can in turn conserve and benefit species. As well as specific actions to improve coordination and monitoring, the LBAP provided scope for practical delivery on habitat projects targeted at coastal, river, farmland, forests and woodland, urban post-industrial sites, urban and rural path networks and urban green space. A project based approach aimed to optimise the impact of limited resources, for example through landscape scale conservation partnerships such as the 'Garnock Valley Futurescape' led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The consultation on the draft LBAP identified the opportunity to involve a wider range of stakeholders in the LBAP Partnership and to widen the focus of the Action Plan. A number of potential partners were identified through this process to maximise potential opportunities which could benefit North Ayrshire's biodiversity, with corresponding actions added to support this. It was envisaged that any future LBAP and Action Plan would be more aspirational as a result.

North Ayrshire LBAP 2019-2031 Revision In response to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy document 'Scotland's Biodiversity a Route Map to 2020' (2015), a 'Workstreams' approach has been taken, themed around the document's six 'Big Steps for Nature' (Ecosystem restoration; Investment in natural capital; Quality greenspace for health and education benefits; Conserving wildlife in Scotland; Sustainable management of land and freshwater; Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems). Within these, Ecosystem Groupings from the Scottish Biodiversity List (Coastal, Freshwater & Wetland, Lowland, Woodland, Upland and Marine) have been nested to enable relevant tasks for priority species and habitats to be incorporated easily into the relevant Workstream.

As the Workstreams align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, and therefore also with the Biodiversity Duty Reporting template produced by Scottish Natural Heritage, NALBAP 2019-2031 is structured in a way that provides focussed, easily-demonstrated success. A range of other policy and strategy documents have been incorporated including 'Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027' (2016). While the national framework provides an appropriate structure for biodiversity action in North Ayrshire, it is important to recognise that biodiversity conservation began as a grass-roots movement, with amateur naturalists taking action to make a difference themselves. This continues to play a significant role in much of the work carried out to benefit biodiversity. As a result, the LBAP requires the ongoing input of local people with an interest in biodiversity.

An increase in the LBAP period to cover a 12 year period enables short, mid and long term projects to be planned, fundraising to be carried out and relevant legacy work to be factored within the LBAP period. The 12-year period has been divided into 3-year reporting quarters to ensure that progress towards milestones is monitored and work programmes adjusted as required to ensure tasks are achieved within the life of the plan. NALBAP 2019-2031 will be rolling document maintained as an online resource which will be shaped by input from local stakeholders during its implementation period.

As recommended by the original LBAP guidance 'Local Biodiversity Action Plans – A Manual' (1997), a 'twin-tracking approach' has been adopted in which a biodiversity audit has been recommended, with interim actions adopted in the meantime. A biodiversity audit is the only means of objectively prioritising which aspects of North Ayrshire's biodiversity are in most urgent need of conservation action, and of monitoring progress towards relevant tasks within the LBAP. The biodiversity audit aims to produce baseline data for monitoring LBAP progress as well as local priority species and habitats lists. While implementing individual action plans for all species and habitats on these lists would not be feasible, the lists will be invaluable in giving clear, objective advice to internal and external partners and the public on species and habitats of conservation significance at both national

and local scales. Provided that publicity of the LBAP has wide and sustained reach, these lists can therefore have wide-reaching impacts through stakeholder decision-making, development planning, public awareness, education and community projects.

The establishment of a Local Environmental Information Centre covering North Ayrshire (provided by South and West Scotland Information Centre) was a key success of the previous LBAP. This is an essential resource underpinning all aspects of NALBAP 2019-2031 for prioritising LBAP work, monitoring its impact, and assessing whether priorities need to change over time. Sustaining our LERC in the long term is therefore a central to the success of NALBAP 2019-2031.

2030 Vision and Central Aims

2030 Vision for North Ayrshire's Biodiversity

Through the implementation of NALBAP 2019-2031, North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership will work towards the following vision for North Ayrshire's biodiversity by 2030:

- **Ecosystem restoration** Historical losses of habitats and ecosystems have been reversed, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems
- **Investment in natural capital** The benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets;
- **Quality greenspace for health and education benefits** The majority of people derive increased benefits from contact with nature where they live and work
- **Conserving wildlife** The future of priority habitats and species has been secured
- **Sustainable management of land and freshwater** Environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced
- **Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems** A healthy balance has been achieved between environmental, social and economic elements

It is proposed that the above vision, which is based on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's 'Six Big Steps for Nature', will be developed by North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership to ensure that:

- the direction established by the work programmes section within this document is represented
- the aims and objectives of all three Scottish Biodiversity Strategy documents are incorporated
- issues applicable to the North Ayrshire context are incorporated, including relevant central aims of previous Ayrshire LBAPs, the Community Planning Partnerships and North Ayrshire Council documents including the Council Plan
- all points within the vision are sufficiently specific to be achievable

Central Aims

The essence of NALBAP 2019-2031 can be expressed as three central aims, based on those of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" (2013):

1. Protect and restore biodiversity on land and seas, and to support healthier ecosystems
2. Connect people with the natural world, for their health and well-being and to involve them more in decisions about their environment
3. Maximise the benefits for North Ayrshire of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

Achieving our 2030 Vision and Central Aims – Our Work Programme for 2019-2031

The Work Programme

This section outlines the Work Programme of prioritised biodiversity action which will be implemented through NALBAP 2019-2031 to address the key pressures affecting North Ayrshire's ecosystems, including habitats and species prioritised within the Scottish Biodiversity List. The structure of the Work Programme is explained below.

Workstreams

The Work Programme has been divided into six broad Workstreams corresponding to the 'Six Big Steps for Biodiversity' outlined in the 2015 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy document "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020".

These Workstreams ensure that all NALBAP 2019-31 work aligns with the Scottish Natural Heritage template for biodiversity duty reporting, facilitating fulfilment of North Ayrshire Council's biodiversity duty.

Themes

Within these, Theme subsections address key biodiversity topics, and ensure that stakeholders can navigate easily to biodiversity work which relates to their field. A Theme has also been created for each Ecosystem Grouping within the Scottish Biodiversity List, facilitating inclusion of new work relating to Scottish Biodiversity List species and habitats.

Tasks

Biodiversity action within the Workstreams and Themes has been divided into defined Tasks. To align with the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017-2020 (within which NALBAP 2019-2031 is nested), the following are defined for each Task:

- reference number
- "What will we do?" (action)
- "Who will do it?" (active partners)
- "When will we do it by?" (timescale)
- "Why will we do it?" (justification of how the action contributes to strategic aims).

The 12 year period of this LBAP takes a long term view to allow meaningful baseline data collection ahead of project work as required, longer term project work to be implemented and if necessary collection of monitoring data following project work. To facilitate monitoring of LBAP progress and to enable adaptive management, the 12 year period will be divided into Quarters, each lasting three years. Each quarter can act as a phase of the LBAP, enabling longer term objectives to be realised, and allowing for changing priorities as LBAP actions are achieved or as new conservation priorities come to the fore. North Ayrshire Council's Biodiversity Duty Reports are also published on a three year cycle and will therefore serve as a progress report for the NALBAP 2019-2031 process.

A biodiversity audit will be carried out to create an itinerary of North Ayrshire's biodiversity resource and how it is faring. This will allow future biodiversity work to be prioritised based on the local context of ecosystems, habitats and species and to target the key pressures impacting upon these. The information gathered by the biodiversity audit process will be maintained by South and West Scotland Environmental Information Centre and regularly updated as a live resource, allowing progress and impact of NALBAP 2019-31 Tasks to be monitored, and informing changes in priorities

over time. The Work Programme is therefore composed of interim Tasks, selected from a long-list by North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership, which will be carried out whilst the biodiversity audit is being undertaken. Input from a wider range of stakeholders will be sought following publication of NALBAP 2019-2031 to ensure that key issues affecting locally valued biodiversity are addressed.

Interim LBAP priority habitats and species for NALBAP 2019-31 have been based upon the Ayrshire LBAP 2007-2010 list:

Freshwater and Wetland

- Lowland raised bog
- Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh
- Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)

Lowland

- 6 farmland bird species:
 - Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)
 - Corn bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)
 - Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
 - Grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
 - Reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
 - Common linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)

Marine Habitats:

- Saline lagoons
- Mudflats

Coastal Habitats:

- Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh
- Coastal sand dunes
- Coastal vegetated shingle
- Coastal salt marsh
- Maritime cliffs and slopes

Not all of these LBAP priority habitats or species have an associated interim Task due to the selection process described above, but associated tasks will be developed by the North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership as appropriate. Whilst individual Action Plans have not been produced for these habitats and species due to the Convention of Biological Diversity's (CBD) recommendation to shift towards an ecosystems approach, lists of habitats and species of local importance will be produced as an output of the biodiversity audit to inform the decisions and actions of a range of stakeholders.

The structure of NALBAP 2019-2031 provides the framework for a rolling work program. Tasks will be developed and progressed by North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership, and as tasks are completed, relevant new tasks may be added. Whilst many tasks will be completed within the life of this LBAP, others by their nature will be ongoing.

The combination of a structured set of interim tasks based on national strategy and partner input, followed by reprioritisation of tasks determined by an objective biodiversity audit and local input, will provide the basis for addressing the key issues for North Ayrshire's biodiversity over the next 12 years.

Workstream 1: Ecosystem restoration

Workstream Summary

An ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit. Ecosystems are therefore characterised by the connectivity between the atmosphere, the water cycle, the nutrient cycle, geology, soils and the biodiversity they support. The term ecosystem is not limited to any particular spatial unit or scale, so examples of ecosystems could include a grain of soil, a pond, a forest, a biome or the entire biosphere. With a growing understanding that wildlife requires habitat connectivity to move through our landscapes, ecosystem conservation is increasingly being carried out through partnership working at the landscape scale, such as river catchments. The biodiversity and functioning of many ecosystems have been degraded due to a wide range of cumulative human impacts, and net biodiversity gain is required if they are to continue to provide the range of ecosystem services which humans depend on.

The Convention on Biological Diversity encourages sustainable management of biodiversity through the **ecosystem approach**, which it defines as:

‘A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organisation which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognises that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.’

Central to this approach is the recognition that we are key part of ecosystems, and not separate from them. This understanding of our dependence on functioning ecosystems is mirrored in the central aim of the part 1 of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy “Scotland’s Biodiversity: It’s in Your Hands” (2004):

‘To conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future.’

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the first of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in **Scotland’s Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 (2015)**.

- Ecosystem restoration – to reverse historical losses of habitats and ecosystems, to meet the Aichi target of restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems.

This in turn links to chapter 1 ‘Healthy ecosystems’ within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy’s **2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity (2013)**, outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - Scotland’s ecosystems are restored to good ecological health so that they provide robust ecosystem services and build our natural capital.
- Key messages:
 - Ensure we benefit from resilient ecosystems that continue to provide robust ecosystem services and natural capital for future generations.
 - Use an adaptive, integrated approach at the ecosystem level, which is best managed at the spatial scale of river catchments.

- Coordinate policies and action across Government and public bodies, and involve others including managers of land and sea and non-governmental bodies.
- Devise an effective means of assessing ecosystem health.
- Restore and enhance ecosystems.

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 1.1	Identify green and blue habitat networks to provide links between Local Nature Conservation Sites which will inform development and production of Supplementary Guidance on Open Space and Green Networks.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC: Economic Growth <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC: Physical Environment; • North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapter 1 "Healthy Ecosystems" and "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Step for Nature "Ecosystem Restoration". To contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Goals A, B and D, including 'Aichi' Targets 2, 14 and 15.
Task 1.2	Develop a landscape scale ecosystem restoration project following Garnock Connections which aims to achieve biodiversity net gain. This should align with the national ecological network and provide a means of targeting habitat restoration, enhancement and creation.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapter 1 "Healthy Ecosystems" and "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Step for Nature "Ecosystem Restoration". To contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Goals B and D, including 'Aichi' Targets 14 and 15.
Task 1.3	Investigate priorities for geodiversity within North Ayrshire in order to develop a future NALBAP 2019-2031 task	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership; 	Spring 2020	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's

	which addresses geodiversity issues. Priorities may include signing Scotland's Geodiversity Charter 2018-2023, awareness raising about the importance of geodiversity and potential protection of key geodiversity sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strathclyde Geodiversity Group 		Biodiversity" chapters 1 "Healthy Ecosystems" and 2 "Wildlife, Habitats and Protected Places" and to "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Step for Nature "Ecosystem Restoration". To contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Goals B and D, including 'Aichi' Targets 14 and 15.
Task 1.4	Prepare a delivery plan to promote awareness and encourage behaviour change relating to key global biodiversity issues that can be positively addressed by all who live in, work in or visit North Ayrshire.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2021	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapter 1 "Healthy Ecosystems" and "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Step for Nature "Ecosystem Restoration". To contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Goals A, B and D, including 'Aichi' Targets 1, 14 and 15.
Task 1.5	Translate the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017–2027 into a local pollinator strategy document which prioritises actionable work to tackle local declines in pollinators and their habitats.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapter 1 "Healthy Ecosystems" and "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Step for Nature "Ecosystem Restoration". To contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Goals A, B and D, including 'Aichi'

				Targets 1, 2, 4, 14 and 15.
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Workstream 2: Investment in natural capital

Workstream Summary

Natural capital describes the social, environmental and economic benefits to humans provided by habitats and ecosystems. Examples of natural capital include water purification, food, carbon storage, flood prevention and the physical and mental benefits of experiencing nature. Many of these benefits are free, hard to measure and cannot be bought or sold. As a result, these benefits are sometimes overlooked during decision-making or when assessing how well off we are as a society. Conversely, many of these benefits would either be economically unviable or even impossible to replace if ecosystems functioning is lost. For North Ayrshire's natural capital to be sustainable in the long term, it must be integrated into decision-making across as many organisations as possible. Improving our understanding of natural capital, raising awareness of its value and investing in aspects of our environment that until now we have taken for granted are key to ensuring that our ecosystems will continue to provide these benefits.

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the second of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in **Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 (2015)**:

- 'Investment in natural capital – to ensure the benefits which nature provides are better understood and appreciated, leading to better management of our renewable and non-renewable natural assets.'

This in turn links to chapter 2 'Natural capital' within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's **2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)**, outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - Natural resources contribute to stronger sustainable growth in Scotland, and we increase our natural capital to pass on to the next generation.
- Key messages:
 - Nature supports Scotland's prosperity in ways that are not always visible, but the value is real.
 - Scotland should make the most of its natural assets to support sustainable economic growth.

The economy and wider wellbeing of Scotland's people will benefit from action that enhances nature and ecosystem services.

Themes within this Workstream

1. Implementing Action - Resourcing, Management and Monitoring of the LBAP (Tasks 2.1 and 2.2)
2. People and Communications (Tasks 2.3 and 2.4)
3. Integrating the LBAP into best practice (Tasks 2.5 and 2.6)

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 2.1	Ensure ongoing provision of a Local Environmental Records Centre covering the North, South and East Ayrshire local authority areas.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South and West Scotland Environmental Resources Centre; • Southern Uplands Partnership <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC: Physical Environment, Economic Growth • East Ayrshire Council • South Ayrshire Council 	Ongoing	North Ayrshire's Local Environmental Records Centre (SWSEIC) is the foundation of the NALBAP 2019-31 process, providing essential information on North Ayrshire's species and habitats to enable prioritisation, implementation and monitoring of LBAP work. To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 5 "Knowledge", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapter 7 "Measuring Progress" and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" section 5 "Measuring and Reporting on Progress".
Task 2.2	Facilitate biodiversity education within the curriculum to ensure all primary and secondary pupils, college students and adult learners participate in meaningful biodiversity learning experiences and that key concepts are	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC: Economic Growth, Physical Environment 	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 2 "People", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aim 2 and chapter 2

	communicated effectively to all learners.			"Natural Capital" and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2 "Investment in Natural Capital" and 3 "Quality Greenspace for Health and Education Benefits".
Task 2.3	Launch a publicity campaign to promote NALBAP 2019-2031 as a focus for increased public awareness of and engagement with biodiversity.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, Corporate Communications, Economic Growth 	Spring 2020	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 2 "People", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aim 2 and chapter 2 "Natural Capital" and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2 "Investment in Natural Capital".
Task 2.4	Engage with the Council's Sustainability Board to identify and implement training, procedural and resourcing opportunities to ensure best practice for biodiversity is achieved across all Council Directorates, thereby further contributing to fulfilment of NAC's statutory Biodiversity Duty.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Spring 2020	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 2 "People", 4 "Integration and Co-ordination" and 5 "Knowledge", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 2 and 3 and chapter 2 "Natural Capital" and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's

				Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2 "Investment in Natural Capital".
Task 2.5	Raise awareness and increase active fulfilment of the statutory Biodiversity Duty throughout all public bodies (and any other relevant organisations to which the statutory Biodiversity Duty applies) in North Ayrshire.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Spring 2021	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 2 "People", 4 "Integration and Co-ordination" and 5 "Knowledge", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 2 and 3 and chapter 2 "Natural Capital" and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2 "Investment in Natural Capital".

Workstream 3: Quality greenspace for health and education benefits

Workstream Summary

Greenspace includes parks, allotments, gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries, green corridors like paths, disused railway lines, rivers and canals and even derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed. Quality greenspace in this context provides a range of benefits to people and wildlife. For people this includes opportunities for anybody to exercise whilst experiencing nature, to participate in outdoor learning about wildlife and habitats near where they live, and to understand how the natural world changes with the seasons through daily interactions with a range of resident and migratory species. The benefits to human health and wellbeing from regular interactions with greenspace are well documented. For wildlife this includes provision of a variety of habitats which allow movement through the landscape, sources of food and water, and suitable conditions for reproducing. With the ongoing expansion of urban areas and impact of climate change on the distribution of wildlife across Scotland, the quality of greenspace as stepping stones of habitat for wildlife will become increasingly important.

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the third of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in [Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 \(2015\)](#):

- 'Quality greenspace for health and education benefits – to ensure that the majority of people derive increased benefits from contact with nature where they live and work.'

This in turn links to chapter 3 'Biodiversity, health and quality of life' within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's [2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity \(2013\)](#), outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - Improved health and quality of life for the people of Scotland, through investment in the care of greenspace, nature and landscapes.
- Key messages:
 - Scotland's nature and landscapes are key assets for public health and wellbeing and more should be done to use the natural world to help improve the quality of our lives.
 - There is a strong case for investing more in nature close to where people live, work, or go to school as this can improve public health and reduce pressure on health budgets in the longer term.
 - Sustained investment in good-practice demonstration projects is required if we are to realise the longer-term improvements in physical activity and mental health.
 - Investment in the availability of good quality greenspace in and around schools and other centres for learning will improve educational outcomes.
 - All organisations with responsibility for biodiversity must work towards bringing this into their mainstream policies and practices.

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 3.1	Establish ways in which the Council can measurably contribute to the growth of the Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network (IGNN), which aims to improve pollinator habitat management.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC: Physical Environment; Scottish Wildlife Trust Associated Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2020	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

				"Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 3.2	Consider implementation of planting and management regimes developed through Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network and Garnock's Buzzing projects for vacant land sites and where possible close to coastal habitats such as beach parks.	Lead Partners NAC: Physical Environment	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 3.3	Promote guidance on biodiversity action for North Ayrshire's private sector such as Biodiversity Benchmark accreditation, and investigation of the potential for a biodiversity toolkit for local businesses which can contribute to their Corporate Social Responsibility obligations.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Spring 2021	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Task 3.4	Develop a programme of habitat and awareness raising enhancements to benefit biodiversity across the Core Path and Active Transport networks.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, Economic Growth <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 3.5	Implement priority biodiversity actions from current North Ayrshire Open Space Strategy (2016 - 2026).	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, Commercial Services, Economic Growth <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.

Workstream 4: Conserving wildlife in Scotland

Workstream Summary

Scotland is a stronghold for a range of species, such as the Hen Harrier, which are faring badly in the rest of the UK. Despite this, the populations and ranges of many of our species and habitats, including some which were previously widespread and common, are in decline. Whilst the trend is increasingly towards conservation at the landscape scale based on the ecosystem approach, protected areas such as Local Nature Conservation Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Areas continue to form a vital network which manages and conserves some of the best examples of our natural habitats, providing the conditions needed by a range of our specialist species. Ensuring that protected areas are under appropriate management and bringing vulnerable sites under protection is key to strengthening this network in the face of increasing cumulative human impacts, for example mitigating against the effects of climate change in coastal habitats. In order to effectively conserve our wildlife, an audit of North Ayrshire's biodiversity is needed as an objective assessment to prioritise which ecosystems are most in need of conservation, to bring multiple benefits to a range of habitats and species, including people.

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the fourth of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in **Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 (2015)**:

- 'Conserving wildlife in Scotland – to secure the future of priority habitats and species.'

This in turn links to chapter 4 'Wildlife, habitats and protected places' within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's **2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)**, outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - The special value and international importance of Scotland's nature and geodiversity is assured, wildlife is faring well, and we have a highly effective network of protected places.
- Key messages:
 - Protected areas offer many benefits beyond caring for nature, and provide enhanced ecosystem services, create jobs (especially in rural Scotland) extend recreational opportunities, (which benefit health and wellbeing), and contribute to tourism and our quality of life.
 - An integrated, adaptive approach to the management of protected places, involving the range of land-use interests, will enhance these benefits.

More concentrated work is needed on key species and habitats to target threatened native species, species conflicts, invasive non-native species, and potential reintroductions.

Themes within this Workstream

1. The Continuing Importance of Designated Sites (Tasks 4.1 and 4.2)
2. Biodiversity audit for North Ayrshire (Tasks 4.3 and 4.4)

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 4.1	Undertake a structured, evidence-based biodiversity audit for North Ayrshire as the foundation of a targeted, successful LBAP process.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, South and West Scotland Environmental Resources Centre <p>Associated Partners North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership</p>	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 5 "Knowledge", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" chapters 2, 4 and 7 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2, 4, 5 and 6.
Task 4.2	Complete current review of mainland LNCS sites within North Ayrshire to inform site management and current Local Development Plan; Investigate the potential for an LNCS Review for Arran to inform site management and current Local Development Plan.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Spring 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 4.3	Review environmentally designated sites to prioritise those which require new or updated management plans to address any negative impacts.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, Scottish Natural Heritage <p>Associated Partners</p>	Spring 2025	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 		"Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 4.4	Engage with stakeholders (including members of the public) to gather input on locally valued species, habitats and issues which should be incorporated into NALBAP 2019-2031 where possible.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South and West Scotland Environmental Resources Centre 	Ongoing	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 2 "People" and 5 "Knowledge", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" aim 2 and chapters 2, 4 and 7 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Workstream 5: Sustainable management of land and freshwater

Workstream Summary

Sustainable management of our lowland, upland, woodland and freshwater ecosystems involves balancing human economic and leisure activities, many of which depend on ecosystem services, with the needs of wildlife and species to ensure that ecosystems can continue to function for the benefit of all. From creating mosaics of habitat at the boundaries between managed woodland and moorland to enable Black Grouse to survive and thrive, to re-meandering and naturalising river channels to benefit aquatic communities whilst reducing flood risk, the ecosystem approach can enable a wide range of species to thrive alongside human activity.

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the fifth of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in **Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 (2015)**:

- Sustainable management of land and freshwater – to ensure that environmental, social and economic elements are well balanced.

This in turn links to chapter 5 'Land and freshwater management' within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's **2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)**, outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - Nature is faring well, and ecosystems are resilient as a result of sustainable land and water management.
- Key messages:
 - 'Land managers, public bodies and communities need to work together to address the challenges facing biodiversity.
 - Support and incentives for managing biodiversity need to be better targeted.
 - River basin planning should become the basis of a more integrated approach to land and water management across whole catchments.
 - Woodland expansion and habitat restoration will benefit biodiversity while serving important social and economic objectives, such as flood risk management and contributing to a low carbon economy.
 - More effort is needed to manage arable land in a way that will benefit soil biodiversity and wildlife.

Land and water managers need to be more aware of the important role nature plays in their business.

Themes within this Workstream

1. Freshwater & Wetland (Tasks 5.1 and 5.2)
2. Lowland (Tasks 5.3 and 5.4)
3. Woodland (Tasks 5.5 and 5.6)
4. Upland (Tasks 5.7 and 5.8)

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 5.1	Enhance riparian habitats within the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership Scheme through integrating habitat creation and management options, beneficial for wildlife, into local diffuse pollution control mechanisms.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayrshire Rivers Trust; Scottish Environmental Protection Agency 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 1 "Species and Habitats", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1 and 3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.2	Enhance and restore natural floodplain habitats for wildlife in the Garnock Connections Landscape Partnership Scheme through management of water control measures as part of the 'Garnock Floods' project at SWT's Garnock Floods reserve, implementing works through the 'Meandering the Dundonald Burn' project at SWT's Shewalton Wood reserve and undertaking green riverbank stabilisation and control of non-native plant species through the 'Saving Shewalton Sandpits' project at SWT's Shewalton Sandpits reserve.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objective 1 "Species and Habitats", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1 and 3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.3	Develop management regimes for roadside	Lead Partners	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity

	verges and hedgerows to improve habitat quality and connectivity for a range of species including pollinating insects and farmland birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 		Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.4	Improve habitat for breeding waders on key sites within the Garnock Catchment.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, NAC: Physical Environment <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 5.5	Identify priority actions for implementation from the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2014, ensuring that woodland expansion proposals are appropriate, with	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment, Forestry Commission Scotland <p>Associated Partners</p>	Summer 2021	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and

	reference to policy document The Right Tree in the Right Place (Forestry Commission Scotland, 2010).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 		Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.6	Review management regimes for forest and woodlands against LBAP objectives to ensure that woodlands are managed in a way that supports biodiversity.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment; Forestry Commission Scotland <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Summer 2023	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.7	Develop peatland restoration potential in the Garnock Catchment.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; NAC: Physical Environment <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3

				and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.
Task 5.8	Develop upland restoration projects on North Ayrshire's mainland and islands.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Trust for Scotland Arran Ranger Service; Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment 	Summer 2025	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-5 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-5.

Workstream 6: Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems

Workstream Summary

As with terrestrial habitats, coastal and marine ecosystems are subject to a wide range of economic and leisure activities which have the potential to damage ecosystems. Monitoring of these ecosystems can be challenging, although the availability of marine habitat data is improving. The establishment and management of a network of Marine Protected Areas has been an important step in recognising the conservation value of marine habitats, but more work is needed to ensure that developments are subject to planning processes equivalent to those on land to ensure that development and other activities is carried out appropriately. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership is addressing such issues through the creation of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan, while organisations such as Community of Arran Seabed Trust and Clyde Porpoise Community Interest Company campaign for and conduct research into our marine biodiversity. Shoreline Management Plans can play a role in the conservation and enhancement of coastal ecosystems, relying on engagement with a range of stakeholders in North Ayrshire's biodiversity, whilst local community groups such as FRIENDS carry out a range of coastal habitat creation and management.

Relevance of this Workstream to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

The title of this Workstream refers to the sixth of 6 Big Steps for Nature set out in [Scotland's Biodiversity: A Route Map to 2020 \(2015\)](#):

- 'Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems – to secure a healthy balance between environmental, social and economic elements.'

This in turn links to chapter 6 'Marine and coastal' within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's [2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity \(2013\)](#), outlined below:

- Outcome:
 - Scotland's marine and coastal environments are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse, meeting the long-term needs of the people and nature.
- Key messages:
 - Scotland's seas and coasts provide rich natural harvests and varied ecosystem services, including climate control, coastal protection, nutrient recycling, health benefits and leisure opportunities, as well as supporting a diverse biodiversity that adds value to local tourist economies.
 - Sustainable management of the seas to deliver multiple benefits will be assured through implementation of the Scottish Marine Nature Conservation Strategy and the National Marine Plan.
 - Management of the coastal zone will be increasingly challenged by the impacts of climate change.

Scotland's islands are especially valuable, but vulnerable, havens of biodiversity.

Themes within this Workstream

1. Marine habitats (Tasks 6.1 and 6.2)
2. Coastal habitats (Tasks 6.3 and 6.4)

Task reference number	What will we do?	Who will do it?	When will we do it by?	Why will we do it?
Task 6.1	Engage with organisations involved in the management of North Ayrshire's marine environment to develop implementable conservation measures marine habitats and species.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment; Clyde Marine Planning Partnership; Community of Arran Seabed Trust; Clyde Marine Mammal Project <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Biodiversity Partnership 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 6.2	Undertake research to monitor the health and biodiversity of the Clyde and the South Arran Marine Protected Area.	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community of Arran Seabed Trust <p>Associated Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment; Scottish Natural Heritage; Clyde Porpoise Community Interest Company 	Summer 2031	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats", 2 "People", 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems" and 4 "Integration and Co-ordination", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1-3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 6.3	Prepare a management 'good practice note' for staff on the management of Western Gailes SSSI. By law the SSSI area of	<p>Lead Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment; Scottish Natural Heritage 	Summer 2020	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and

	Western Gales must not be cleaned by mechanical means. As such it was agreed between NAC and SNH that a good practice guide for relevant staff will be issued and monitored on a regular basis.			Habitats" and 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1 and 3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.
Task 6.4	To develop effective and implementable control measures for Japanese Rose (<i>Rosa rugosa</i>) in dune habitats.	Lead Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC: Physical Environment; Ardeer FRIENDS 	Summer 2022	To contribute to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - It's In Your Hands" objectives 1 "Species and Habitats" and 3 "Landscapes and Ecosystems", Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" Aims 1 and 3 and chapters 1-6 and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy "Scotland's Biodiversity - Route Map to 2020" Big Steps for Nature 1-6.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure
Purpose:	To determine applications by Irvine and Garnock Valley Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to a range of proposed projects.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the enclosed applications from the Irvine and Garnock Valley Locality Partnerships.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided a funding allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All strategy.
- 1.2 Locality Partnerships have subsequently continued to work on their local action plans and are refining proposals for expenditure in line with their locally identified needs. This is a challenging process, and it is a testament to the dedication of the Locality Partnerships and their community partners that proposals are now emerging to provide creative approaches to addressing local challenges.
- 1.3 This report brings forward two proposals, each of which respond to the specific needs of the local community and which have been developed based on local circumstances and opportunities.
- 1.4 These proposals have been approved to be submitted to Cabinet through a process of collaboration and consensus by the respective Locality Partnerships.

2. Background

- 2.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided an allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All strategy, to be distributed among Localities as follows:

Locality	Population	Value
Irvine	29%	£754,000
Kilwinning	11%	£286,000
3 Towns	23%	£598,000
Garnock Valley	15%	£390,000
North Coast	18%	£468,000
Arran	4%	£104,000

2.2 It was agreed that the CIF will support proposals and projects that connect with:

- The North Ayrshire Fair for All Strategy;
- The Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
- North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives.
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

2.3 The proposal development and application process has been agreed as follows:

- Locality Partnerships should continue to engage with their communities and stimulate interest in the CIF. The Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round.'
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.

2.4 The enclosed applications have been developed by Locality Partnerships and North Ayrshire Council officers and are now recommended for approval by Cabinet. The proposals are as follows:

2.4.1 Irvine Locality Partnership:

Fullarton and Vineburgh Community Enablers:

The project is seeking £100,000 over 3 years to employ two part time Community Enablers who will engage with the community to find opportunities to tackle issues such as the provision of dignified food, isolation, alcohol and drug addictions and to support lifestyle changes, build confidence and develop support networks. There are critical issues in an area that has high levels of deprivation and unemployment.

2.4.2 Garnock Valley Locality Partnership:

Beith Community Development Trust Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability Project:

This project is seeking £45,000 as part of a wider package of funding support from a range of other organisations to support the role of the development manager whose remit is to continue to develop both Geilsland Hall as an important community asset and a volunteering, learning and employability project aimed at supporting learning and skills development for residents and communities in Garnock Valley.

3. Proposals

That Cabinet approves the enclosed applications from the Irvine and Garnock Valley Locality Partnerships.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The CIF funding has been allocated proportionately across Localities. The attached applications are the next to be drawn down from the existing funds (see 2.1 above). North Ayrshire Council Finance officers will monitor the draw down and spend of the funds.
Human Resources:	<p>Two posts are identified to be recruited to in the Irvine Locality Partnership and NAC will be represented in the recruitment process.</p> <p>NAC officers will continue to work with Beith Community Development Trust to explore the longer term sustainability of the post.</p>

Legal:	There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	<p>There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>The purpose of Locality Planning is to reduce inequalities. Each of the CIF proposals is tested against that purpose before being presented to Cabinet.</p>
Children and Young People:	<p>Children and Young People will be considered and prioritised by Locality Planning Partnerships in each of the projects. These CIF proposals propose particular benefits for children and young people, who have also been consulted as part of the process.</p> <p>Specifically, the Irvine project will assist in ensuring that children and young people's health and attainment is supported through provision of food before school and at weekends, education and support for them and their families in relation to alcohol and drugs and employability.</p> <p>The Beith Community Development project will address employability and training gaps for a range of young people, providing person-centred opportunities for them to gain experience and qualifications.</p>
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no Environmental & Sustainability implications arising directly from this report.
Key Priorities:	<p>The proposal contained within the report supports the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and strong communities • Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy • People enjoy good life-long health and well-being

Community Benefits:	<p>The CIF fund is designed to develop and promote collaborative projects which are community based. The projects within this report will have a wide range of community benefits.</p> <p>The Irvine project will provide resilience and support for families who are living in poverty and/or experiencing addictions. The objective is to reduce the symptoms of poverty through support to those residents experiencing addictions and related issues; and to address the drivers of poverty by supporting people into volunteering, training and work.</p> <p>In Beith, the project addresses the locality priorities, including local facilities, by supporting the development of Geilsland as a community asset. It also provides training for local people, and further provides volunteering and employment opportunities in an area of high unemployment. The telephone befriending project delivered by the Trust will also address social isolation and vulnerability in the local area.</p>
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5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposals contained within this report have been developed and approved by the respective Locality Partnerships, through consultation with local people, including young people.

Karen Yeomans
Executive Director (Economy & Communities)

For further information please contact **Audrey Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities)**, on **(01294) 324414**.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Irvine Locality Partnership: Fullarton and Vineburgh Community Enablers.
Appendix 2: Garnock Valley Locality Partnership: Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability Project

Appendix 1: Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Fullarton Community Association</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>Fullarton Community Association is a voluntary management committee and registered charity with over 40 years community development experience. Fullarton strives to promote the benefits of all inhabitants in conjunction with the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to promote and provide facilities in the interests of social welfare and leisure time occupation of the residents of Fullarton. The Association aims to foster and promote community spirit to inhabitants and to promote life changing opportunities to further self-worth and job prospects.</p> <p>Fullarton will work on this project with Vineburgh Community Association, which has similar aims and objectives within its community and Fullarton will be the lead partner for the purposes of the application.</p>
Locality	Irvine Locality
Amount requested	£100,000 over 3 years
Brief overview of proposal	<p>This project will use a place-based approach to work in Vineburgh and Fullarton to address the needs and aspirations of the residents in both communities. Both areas are identified as having high levels of deprivation, low aspiration and in some cases three generations of unemployment.</p> <p>Fullarton accounts for 8% of the Irvine Locality's population with 100% living in deprivation and is made up of four datazones, all of which fall into the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.</p> <p>Vineburgh accounts for 8% of the Irvine Locality's population and is the 6th most populated intermediate zone in Irvine. 45% live in deprivation two of its four datazones fall into the 10% most deprived areas of Scotland.</p> <p>To enable the Community Associations to carry out this project funding is required from the Community Investment Fund to employ 2 part time "Community Enablers" (one in each area). These Community Enablers will meet the unique needs of the people living, working and volunteering in the areas. By engaging with the community and working collaboratively they will identify gaps and opportunities, including in relation to alcohol and drugs and addictions, and the provision of dignified food, as identified through local engagement via Chit Chat and other meetings, building a network of opportunities in the Locality that will inform Vineburgh Neighbourhood Centre and Fullarton Hub action plans.</p> <p>This approach will empower people to better manage their own wellbeing through:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combating isolation; • Providing motivation for lifestyle change; • Building confidence; • Identifying support networks; and • Linking to resources and helping people identify services within the locality. <p>The associations are already in receipt of funding from the following external funders and will be looking to further match fund the CIF funds through these and other funders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Lottery Community Fund; • The Robertson Trust; • North Ayrshire Ventures Trust; • NAC Festival and Events fund; • Youth PB; • Nurturing Excellence; • Irvine Towns Charitable Trust and • Scottish Foundation Express Grants. <p>North Ayrshire Council will be represented in the recruitment process.</p>
<i>Timescale</i>	May 2019 till March 2022
<i>Contact details</i>	Jim McHarg, Senior Manager, Connected Communities

Appendix 2: Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Beith Community Development Trust</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>Beith Community Development Trust (Beith Trust) is a community anchor organisation operating in Beith but which also reaches out to the wider communities of the Garnock Valley. Beith Trust is a registered Scottish Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee. Only people with a KA14 & KA15 postcode are eligible for full membership, however organisations, clubs and individuals living out-with the area are eligible for Associate Membership and young people aged 12 – 18 can join as Junior Members. Membership is free for everyone. Beith Trust currently has 859 members. It employs 9 full time staff, 15 part time staff and supports 55 volunteers on an annual basis.</p> <p>Beith Trust works between Beith Astro and Geilsland Estate delivering programmes and interventions aimed at developing people and place. Work focuses on providing support, resources & infrastructure which equips individuals to gain skills, attitudes and experiences which support them to progress and develop on their own terms and at their own pace. The work done by the Trust often attracts people beyond the area to the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>The board of Beith Trust is currently made up of 7 full members, meeting a minimum of 5 times a year.</p> <p>Beith Trust was first thought of in 2010 when local sports facilities were threatened with closure. This situation was the catalyst that mobilised local people to come together as drivers of change in the local community. They formed Beith Trust in 2012 to enable the sports facilities to operate under community management. In 2014 Beith Trust topped the RBS SE100 Index for growth and impact in Scotland and Beith Trust was awarded the “Celebrating Community” award at the 2015 Scottish Charity Awards. Sports Leader Academy status was achieved in 2016 in recognition of the leadership pathways developed.</p>
Locality	Garnock Valley
Amount requested from CIF	£45,000
Brief overview of proposal	<p>Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability Project</p> <p>Beith Trust is requesting a contribution towards the costs of our Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability Project. Geilsland Hall will operate concurrently across 2 levels:</p>

- a) As an income generating physical and economic community asset which attracts consumers, visitors and tourists to the area to spend their time and money within events, festivals, hospitality, social occasions and celebrations; and
- b) As a volunteering, learning and employability project which provides the communities of the Garnock Valley with meaningful, quality opportunities for personal growth, support and signposting, experiential learning and development, accreditation, skills development for enterprise, leadership and employment, both within and beyond Beith Trust

Geilsland Hall is an ambitious attempt to utilise a much loved Garnock Valley asset to improve the social condition of the local community. This responds to two of the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership priorities – local facilities and transport. The volunteering and employability programme will facilitate the delivery of quality amenity and services in and around Geilsland Hall. Volunteers will progress and develop at their own rate within an in-house training programme which can include amongst others:

- HSE First Aid;
- REHIS - Elementary Food Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection, Elementary Food and Nutrition, Elementary Cooking Skills;
- Scottish Cert for Licensed Premises Staff;
- Leadership Qualifications - Sports Leader, Arts Award;
- SIA Door steward training;
- John Muir Awards; and
- Saltire Awards.

The project will support many individuals who are affected by complex life situations and circumstances to establish new friendships and networks of support through regular social activities as recognition and rewards. For very vulnerable people the Geilsland Hall project will facilitate a Telephone Befriending Service which reaches out to the most vulnerable people in our community, more often than not isolated within their own homes due to old age or poor physical and mental health.

The CIF funding will form part of a wider funding assembly, including current funding as follows:

- Big Lottery Growing Assets: £575,000
- Big Lottery CLM: £30,000
- DTAS Pockets & Prospects: £15,000
- Resilient Scotland: £250,000
- NAC Festivals & Events: £1,000.

To summarise Geilsland Hall Volunteering and Employability Project will facilitate:

- Volunteering opportunities;
- Volunteer development;
- Volunteer support & social activity;
- Employability coaching, signposting and support;
- Volunteer social activities;
- Work related training, qualifications and accreditation; and
- Income generating services and amenity.

	<p>Beith Trust is seeking funding to support the (new) post of Operations / Development Manager.</p> <p>Main duties will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To line manage, lead, mentor and support project delivery staff; • To maintain and oversee recording systems for monitoring progress towards meeting organisational, project and funder outcomes; • Financial monitoring and reporting of the project; and • Ensure high standards project delivery, quality control and safeguarding; • Completion of funding applications and tenders; and • Development of new services and projects <p>Total salary costs will be £30k p.a.</p> <p>PROPOSED ANNUAL OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES</p> <p>OUTCOME 1 Increased opportunities for personal growth and skills development Activity 1 – Geilsland Hall will support / enable 50 x individuals to participate in skills development courses, classes or workshops. Activity 2 – Geilsland Hall will facilitate 10 x skills development classes, courses or workshops. Activity 3 – 30 x individuals achieve an accredited qualification within Geilsland Hall activity.</p> <p>OUTCOME 2 Improved mental well being Activity 1 - 30 people surveyed will demonstrate an improvement in their perception of their own wellbeing.</p> <p>OUTCOME 3 Garnock Valley is a thriving and enterprising place Activity 1 – 300 people stay and make use of the Geilsland Hall amenity. Activity 2 – 5 new income generating activities are facilitated within Geilsland Hall. Activity 3 – 10 new income generating Geilsland Hall hires are developed.</p>
<i>Timescales</i>	August 2019 – July 2022
<i>Contact details</i>	Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, Connected Communities

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14th May 2019

Cabinet

Title: **Town Centre Fund**

Purpose: This report seeks approval of the approach being developed for the new Scottish Government Town Centre Fund.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet approves the following approach to managing the Council's allocation of the Scottish Government Town Centre Fund proposals, including:

i) the development and implementation of a strategic regeneration programme in Stevenston and Dalry;

ii) the creation of a fund to support a programme of town centre minor improvements, asset acquisition, environmental works or development of community capacity;

iii) the creation of a temporary town centre officer post for 1 year to support the development and implementation of projects;

iv) that delegated authority is given to Head of Economic Growth to progress projects following engagement with Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth and ward members whose ward contains proposals relating to the Fund.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Scottish Government has created a Town Centre Fund, which will make £50million available to Scottish local authorities over financial year 2019/2020. North Ayrshire Council's allocated portion of the fund is £1,418,000, to be claimed within the financial year.
- 1.2 This report sets out an approach to delivering a range of town centre projects that meet the requirements of the fund and impactful improvements. The proposals reflect current and previous town centre investments.

- 1.3 The report recommends that approximately £1m is utilised to prioritise action in Stevenston and Dalry; with the remaining £0.418m being distributed in smaller portions to support a range of other projects and community-led initiatives across North Ayrshire towns. A 1 year temporary town centre officer post would be recruited to support development and implementation of projects.

2. Background

- 2.1 Through the establishment of a Town Centre Fund, North Ayrshire has been allocated a share of a national fund of up to £1,418,000, which requires to be claimed within financial year 2019/2020. This means the Council must secure commitments to incur expenditure within the current financial year either directly (i.e. by spending money or letting contracts prior to 31 March 2020), or through grant schemes directed to third parties having committed project costs.
- 2.2 Scottish Government sets out a range of options for projects that will align with the grant conditions, including projects that support town centre living, digital solutions for communities, land and asset acquisition, transport, greening, environmental improvements and community support. It recommends a balance of larger scale interventions, together with support for some smaller projects, recognising that splitting funds equally amongst all centres will dilute potential impact. It is recommended that town centre audits, charrettes and local knowledge assist to identify appropriate projects.
- 2.3 Recognising the overall intent of the fund, a qualitative scoping exercise has been undertaken to recommend a strategic approach to managing the Fund. This is based on town centre audits, conservation area management plans, charrettes, SIMD data, locality priorities and assets review. Consideration has also been given to prioritising those towns that have not benefited from recent investment or have other planned investments being prioritised. For that reason, not all towns will benefit from the Town Centre Fund.
- 2.4 On this basis, it is recommended that the fund is dispersed through 2 larger projects for around £1m combined value, with the remaining £0.418m being allocated to a series of smaller projects and community-led initiatives. This seeks to maximise the impact of the fund, while supporting a range of smaller initiatives around North Ayrshire. It has been identified that Stevenston and Dalry would potentially benefit most from larger portions of the fund. An overview of the strategic case for strategic town centre regeneration projects is presented below.
- Stevenston has a significant amount of prominent vacant and derelict sites and buildings, condition issues with town centre buildings and public space and a lack of diversity of uses and amenities. A programme of environmental improvements including land acquisition, green space, and grants scheme for buildings could have a transformational impact on the centre and be linked to a wider three towns regeneration programme following works in Saltcoats and planned investment in Ardrossan.

- Dalry has building condition issues and a high town centre vacancy rate. Traffic is a significant physical barrier to town centre movement, however the Dalry bypass will alleviate that issue and create an opportunity to reconsider circulation in the town centre, to improve the vibrancy of the town centre. A conservation area management plan is currently being finalised, which will assist to identify potential regeneration opportunities. Its conservation area status may offer opportunity to lever in historic environment funds to increase the available budget, but this is dependent on Town Centre Fund grant conditions and timing and availability of other grants.
- 2.5 Developing and implementing initiatives will require dedicated officer resource. It is recommended that a temporary town centre officer is appointed for a period of 1 year. Officer costs will be reclaimed from the grant.

- 2.6 Given timescale restrictions and conditions associated with the Town Centre Fund, to be able to claim North Ayrshire's full allocation of grant, it has been essential to develop a provisional project list. Work to progress this is ongoing and consultations with local ward members on the proposals will take place. Examples of projects include support for local town centre business groups, site acquisitions of vacant or derelict property.

Scoping of provisional projects has been informed by compliance with grant conditions, deliverability of projects and known strategic and community-based projects and priorities.

- 2.7 In light of time constraints and to maximise the deliverability of projects from the Fund, it is also proposed that officers are given delegated authority to progress and agree specific town centre projects in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth and relevant ward members, on the basis that these meet the fund requirements as set out at 2.2, and are deliverable within the timeframe.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the following approach to managing the Council's allocation of the Scottish Government Town Centre Fund proposals, including:
- i) the development and implementation of a strategic regeneration programme in Stevenston and Dalry for a combined value of approximately £1m;
 - ii) the creation of a town centre fund to support a programme of minor improvements, asset acquisition, environmental works or development of community capacity;
 - iii) the creation of a temporary town centre officer post to support the development and implementation of projects;
 - iv) that delegated authority is given to Head of Economic Growth to progress projects following engagement with Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth and ward members whose ward contains proposals relating to the Fund.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	Work will progress to secure grant funding through the current financial year.
Human Resources:	Scoping, planning and implementing projects, including administering grants to third parties will require dedicated resource to deliver. It is recommended that a temporary 1-year town centre officer post is created.
Legal:	Individual projects will consider legal implications through their development and will progress in compliance with grant conditions.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	An impact assessment has been undertaken for the proposed strategic management of the town centre fund. It is anticipated that the proposals will have broadly positive impacts
Children and Young People:	As above.
Environmental & Sustainability:	It is expected that the recommendations in the report will have a range of positive environmental impacts. Projects are likely to addressing identified environmental improvement opportunities, including improving the urban fabric of town centres, in line with Scottish Planning Policy and the Scottish Government Town Centre First Principle.
Key Priorities:	<p>The proposals will support the implementation of the Working theme of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan as follows: - “we will provide the best conditions for business, creating a diverse and inclusive economy”; and “we will build the capacity of our communities to promote inclusive growth”.</p> <p>The recommendations support the delivery of the draft Council Plan outcomes under the inspiring places and aspiring people themes, particularly support safe communities and welcoming and attractive places.</p>
Community Benefits:	It is recommended that project development considers opportunities to engage locality planning partnerships, particularly where a larger programme of work is proposed, to maximise community buy-in and support development of community capacity.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Internal consultation has taken place to identify deliverable projects to maximise the benefit of the fund for North Ayrshire communities. Input from locality coordinators has assisted to identify provisional projects. Proposals have been presented to the Policy Advisory Panel for comment and consideration.

Karen Yeomans
Executive Director (Economy & Communities)

For further information please contact **Neale McIlvanney, Strategic Planning Manager**, on **01294 324686**.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14th May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	Award of Phase 2, Kyle Road, Irvine – Building of an industrial Unit
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Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of the result of the tendering exercise for Phase 2, Kyle Road, Irvine – Building of an industrial unit
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Recommendation:	Agree to approve the award of the Contract to Robinsons Scotland Ltd
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council requires to establish a new Contract for Kyle Road, Irvine – Phase 2, Commercial Development.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and public procurement legislation a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 1.3 The Contract term is for 20 weeks.

2. Background

- 2.1 A formal contract notice was advertised on 12th February 2019 under the Open procedure on Public Contracts Scotland and the procurement exercise was carried out via the PCS-Tender System. The return date for the Tender was 12 noon on 7th March 2019.
- 2.2 The contract notice attracted 28 expressions of interest of which 10 submitted a tender response. One tender submission from CBES Limited was submitted after the 12 noon deadline, therefore their submission was rejected, and they did not progress to the next stage.
- 2.3 The 9 tenders received were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 80% Cost and 20% Quality.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Contract is awarded to Robinsons Scotland Ltd.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The total value of the overall Contract is £1,002,604.13. A budget of £1,002,604.13 is available for this requirement.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and public procurement legislation a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	None
Children and Young People:	School pupil work placement and Community Group support – refer to Community Benefits for further details.
Environmental & Sustainability:	A sustainability test was carried out and identified Energy efficiency considerations which were incorporated into the tender process. The contractors were required to hold Health and Safety, Quality and Environmental Management Standards appropriate to this project.
Key Priorities:	Inspiring Place: North Ayrshire Council is well connected with effective infrastructure.
Community Benefits:	<p>The successful tenderer will deliver the following community benefits during the contract period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability Requirements – Bricklayer for 26 weeks and 2 labourers for 52 weeks. • 1 Workshop for an SME and 1 workshop for a Third Sector Organisation (TSO's) and proactive maximisation of opportunities for SME's, TSO's and Supported Businesses. • Extended work placement for a total period of up to 8 days for a school pupil from a North Ayrshire School (1 day per week) • Support for Community Groups by participating in NAC workshops to identify skills that could be shared with Community Organisations

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There was consultation with Economic Growth and Professional and Technical advisors throughout the tender process.

Laura Friel
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

For further information please contact Maurice McTeague (Category Manager) on 01294 324015.

Background Papers

Tender Outcome Report (NAC/2160)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	Award of Contract – Proposed Extension and Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade to Annick Primary School, Irvine
Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for the Proposed Extension and Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade to Annick Primary School, Irvine
Recommendation:	Agree to approve the award of the contract to Emtec Group Limited

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council requires to establish a contract for the Proposed Extension and Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade to Annick Primary School, Irvine. The proposed works will provide a nursery facility and a gym extension to meet the needs of the school pupils and the local community.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules, The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and The Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 a formal tender exercise was advertised via the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal.
- 1.3 The contract term is for a period of 1 year with the proposed award to Emtec Group Limited.

2. Background

- 2.1 A formal contract notice was advertised on Monday 18th February 2019 under the Open Procedure in the Public Contracts Scotland Procurement Portal and the procurement exercise was carried out via the PCS-Tender E-Tendering System. The return date for tenders was 12 noon on Monday 25th March 2019.
- 2.2 The contract notice attracted 16 expressions of interest of which 4 submitted a tender response.
- 2.3 The 4 tender responses received were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 80% Price and 20% Quality.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that a contract is awarded to Emtec Group Limited.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	The total estimated value of the overall Contract is £2,586,860.14. A budget of £3,400,000 is available for the total project.
Human Resources:	None

Legal:	To comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules, The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and The Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 a formal tender exercise was advertised via the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal.
Equality:	None
Socio-economic Duty:	None
Children and Young People:	<p>This Contract contributes to the availability of nursery provision in the Stanecastle area of Irvine and the delivery of Physical Education as required by the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).</p> <p>This contract contributes towards upgrading our learning estate and will ensure children attending this nursery benefit from a safe, modern environment in which North Ayrshire Council can deliver the increase in funded Early Learning and Childcare from 640 hours to 1140 hours each year.</p>
Environmental & Sustainability:	A Sustainability Test was completed which identified a requirement for a Site Waste Management Plan and an Environmental Policy. Bidders were also required to demonstrate compliance with appropriate Health and Safety, Quality Management and Environmental Management Standards.
Key Priorities:	<p>This Contract contributes to the following Council Plan priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspiring Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Ayrshire's children and young people experience the best start in life. - North Ayrshire's residents and communities enjoy good life-long health and well-being. • Inspiring Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Ayrshire is well-connected with effective infrastructure.
Community Benefits:	<p>The successful tenderer will deliver the following community benefits over the duration of the contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of 176 weeks of employability. • Proactive maximisation of opportunities and workshops for SME's, Third Sector Organisations (TSO's) and Supported Businesses. • One work placement for 1 to 2 days for a teacher from a North Ayrshire school. • Support for a community project to be agreed in conjunction with NAC Economies and Communities department involving local people and reflecting local priorities.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation with Property Management and Investment took place throughout the tender process.

For further information please contact **Maurice McTeague (Category Manager)** on
01294 324015.

Background Papers

Tender Outcome Report (NAC/2166)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

14 May 2019

Cabinet

Title:	Award of a Pan-Ayrshire Framework for Provision of Occupational Health and Welfare Services
Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of the result of the tendering exercise for the Pan-Ayrshire Framework for Provision of Occupational Health and Welfare Services
Recommendation:	Agree to approve the award of the contract to Working on Wellbeing trading as Optima Health

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Acting as lead authority for a collaborative procurement, North Ayrshire Council requires to establish a replacement Pan-Ayrshire Framework for Provision of Occupational Health and Welfare Services on behalf of North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council.
- 1.2. To comply with EU Procurement Directives, Public Contracts (Scotland) regulations 2015, The Procurement Reform Act 2014, the Procurement Scotland Regulations 2016 where appropriate and the Councils Standing Orders a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 1.3. The contract is for 3 years with the option to extend by up to 24 months.

2. Background

- 2.1 To ensure wider market consultation for a contract of this size a Prior Information Notice was published on 26/11/2018 to allow potential bidders the opportunity to note interest for the project. Following this, suppliers who registered interest were invited to a contractor information session. This event gave potential bidders the opportunity to engage with service managers and ask questions about the procurement exercise. A formal contract notice was advertised on 21/1/2019 under the Open procedure on Public Contracts Scotland and the Official Journal of the European Union and the procurement exercise was carried out via the PCS-Tender System. The return date for the Tender was 15/2/2019.
- 2.2. The contract notice attracted 15 expressions of interest of which 4 submitted a tender response.

- 2.3. The 4 tenders received were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 60% cost and 40% Quality.
- 2.4. The contract was originally split into 4 lots. 3 lots were allocated to the individual authorities. Bidders were also able to bid for all respective authorities as a combined lot. The most economically advantageous tender has provided a better financial offering for the combined lot compared with the individual lots, therefore only this lot will be awarded.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the framework for Occupational Health and Welfare services be awarded to Working on Wellbeing trading as Optima Health.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Council's total contract value is £1,901,969. North Ayrshire Council's contract will be awarded to the total available budget value of £2,062,500 to allow for potential increases in requirements which may be required through the course of the contract. • South Ayrshire Council's total contract value is £897,572. South Ayrshire Council advised budget is available to meet this. • East Ayrshire Council's total contract value is £735,952. East Ayrshire Council advised budget is available to meet this. • The total contract value up to the available budget is £3,696,024.
Human Resources:	None

Legal:	This procurement complies with EU Procurement Directives, Public Contracts (Scotland) regulations 2015, The Procurement Reform Act 2014, the Procurement Scotland Regulations 2016 where appropriate and the Councils Standing Orders relating to contracts.
Equality/Socio-economic Duty:	An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken by North Ayrshire Council HR.
Children and Young People:	School pupil work placement and Community Group support – refer to Community Benefits for further details.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	This Pan-Ayrshire Framework supports the following Council priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council for the future- ‘A valued workforce that delivers high quality services’
Community Benefits:	The successful tenderer will deliver community benefits to all participating authorities while the following community benefits are offered to North Ayrshire Council during the contract period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work placement for a minimum of 5 days for an S4, S5 or S6 pupil from a North Ayrshire School • Support for Community Groups by participating in NAC workshops - to identify skills that could be shared with Community Organisations to build capacity and improve relationships. NAC will invite the awarded supplier to the relevant events.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation took place with the Human Resources and Procurement functions within the participating local authorities (East Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Council) to determine the needs of each authority for Occupational Health and Welfare Services. Early market engagement and market consultation was facilitated using a prior information notice and a contractor information session

Laura Friel
Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support)

For further information please contact **Maurice McTeague, Category Manager**, on 1294 324015.

Background Papers

Appendix A – Tender Outcome Report

