

Cabinet
26 April 2016

Irvine, 26 April 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

Also Present

(Agenda Items 1-4, inclusive)

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; M. Hogg, Head of Finance, E. Gunn-Stewart, Head of Customer and Digital Services and A. Munn, Team Leader (Policies and Procedures) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Amos, Head of Service (Inclusion) (Education and Youth Employment); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Economic Growth, J. Miller, Senior Manager (Planning) and D. Hilditch, Transportation Engineer (Economy and Communities); C. Hatton, Executive Director and S. Kean, Building Services (ICC) (Place); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 March 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Directorate Plans 2016/19

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the 2016 updates on the 2015/18 Directorate Plans 2016/19 as set out at Appendices 1 - 5 which are closely aligned to the Council Plan and are the main mechanism for reporting progress on the Council Plan throughout the year. The Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategic Plan 2015/18 is currently being refreshed and the revised Strategic Plan will be available in summer 2016.

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

Democratic Services

- costings that were now available for the average hourly rate of the in-house legal team compared to other in-house legal teams per SOLAR benchmarking of £55.18 for 2013/14 and £55.44 for 2014/15;
- information that was now available from the December 2015 survey that 95% of customers were very satisfied or satisfied with Legal services provided; and
- absence rates of 4.5 days lost per employee per annum for 2015/16.

Finance & Corporate Support

- embedding customer delight evidence standards across of Finance and Corporate Support teams which is a new measure to report high levels of customer satisfaction;
- work that is being done in the preparation of a Digital Strategy;
- delivering a channel shift in how the public contact the Council and the streamlining and digitising of back office functions; and
- two senior members of staff that are part of the Scottish Government's Digital Champions Development Programme about the transformational potential of digital tools and technology and two further places that have been secured for Executive Directors on this programme.

Place

- progress that has been made in the Council Housing Building programme, where half of the target of 500 houses has been achieved;
- the Strategic Housing Investment Plan that supports working with Housing Associations; and
- work that will be done in respect of the development of community owned energy.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the five Directorate Plans 2016/17 as set out at Appendices 1 - 5; (b) receive 6-monthly progress reports; and (c) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for further scrutiny

4. Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the new Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP) for the Clyde Marine Region. The report provided details of the CMPP's remit, governance arrangements and relevance to North Ayrshire, the new statutory responsibilities, the legislative requirements of the Clyde Regional Marine Plan, organisations with a permanent position on the Board and the historic arrangements when North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils shared one single position on the Board.

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

- the group Clydeplan that includes East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils;
- that the CMPP meeting in June 2016 would consider the request from North Ayrshire Council for a full permanent position on the Partnership; and
- the pending publication of the sea-level rise report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to North Ayrshire Council participating in the new Clyde Marine Planning Partnership; and (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to (i) select Officer representations from Economy and Communities for the Board and Member Group of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership; (ii) negotiate a full, permanent Board position for the Council; and (iii) that the Chief Executive write to Marine Scotland and the new chair of the CMPP in support of a permanent position for North Ayrshire Council.

5. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) Grant Funding

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the offers of grant funding of £480,000 from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for 2016-17. The projects agreed in principle included:- A841 Brodick to Lochranza Ferry link upgrade, Hawkhill Roundabout improvements, Irvine Town Centre Bus Infrastructure Improvements and General Bus Stop Infrastructure Improvements. In addition, SPT are providing £500,000 funding to Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd for improved bus interchange facilities at the Brodick Ferry Terminal.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to a report to Cabinet on 24 May 2016 on proposals for the annual funding applications to SPT, including the process and timescales.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the acceptance and expenditure of the grant offers as detailed within the report; and (b) that a list of potential SPT funded projects for 2017-18 be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

6. Audit Scotland Report: An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report 'An Overview of Local Government in Scotland'. The report highlighted the key messages and issues of the Audit Scotland Report, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 to the report detailed actions points and the relevant work that has been undertaken, or is planned to be undertaken by the Council to address these. A 'self-assessment toolkit for Councillors' was attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to endorse the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report and the work which has already been done and is planned to be done by the Council in tackling the action points highlighted by Audit Scotland, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report

7. Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which (a) set out the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project: and (b) sought authority to enter into a Post Contract Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) with four Partner Councils, which will involve North Lanarkshire Council, as Lead Authority, entering into a Contract (the Project Agreement) with Viridor Clyde Valley Limited (Viridor) for the Treatment of Residual Waste for a 25 year period.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the Final Business Case attached as Appendix A of the confidential papers; (b) to enter in to the Post Contract Inter Authority Agreement for the joint provision of Residual Waste Treatment and Disposal Services on behalf of North Ayrshire Council attached as Appendix B of the confidential papers (c) to authorise the Project Leader to agree such amendments to the draft Project Agreement and the draft Parent Company Guarantee as he considers necessary to achieve Financial Close, including any adjustments to the draft Payment Mechanism for Foreign Exchange as agreed in the Financial Close Protocol and any adjustments required to reflect any post-tender changes in the First Employee List; (d) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place) to agree such minor amendments to the Post Contract Inter Authority Agreement as may be required and (e) that, subject to the Inter Authority Agreement being executed by the other Partner Councils, the Chief Executive or their authorised delegate, be authorised to execute, [in the presence of a witness], the finalised versions of each of (i) the Project Agreement with [Viridor Clyde Valley Limited]; (ii) the Parent Company Guarantee from Viridor Limited; (iii) the Post Contract Inter Authority Agreement; (iv) a Certificate pursuant to the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 in respect of the Project Agreement and (v) any other ancillary documentation reasonably required in relation to the Project.

8. Framework Agreement for the provision of Central Heating / Combined Central Heating and Electrical Rewiring to residential properties

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Framework Agreement for Central Heating / Combined Central Heating and Electrical Rewiring.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the award of the framework to five contractors (McTear Contracts Ltd, James Frew Ltd, CCG (Scotland) Ltd, Saltire Facilities Management Ltd and Turner facilities Management Ltd) at a total estimated value of the overall Framework Agreement, including any possible extensions, of £9,031,217.65; and (b) award the first phase of the works to McTear Contracts Ltd.

9. Framework Agreement for the provision of Electrical Rewiring Works to residential properties

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Framework Agreement for Electrical Rewiring Works to residential properties.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the award of the framework to five contractors (G.D. Chalmers Ltd, Jordan Electrics Ltd, Maclin Electrics Ltd, McTear Contracts Ltd and Saltire Facilities Management Ltd) at a total estimated value of the overall Framework Agreement, including any possible extensions, of £2,212,671.76; and (b) award the first phase of the works to McTear Contracts Ltd

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.