



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

5 February 2015

Cabinet

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Page 7)

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 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 Leaver Destination Return 2013/14 (Page 13)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on the publication of the annual School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) and further progression in North Ayrshire (copy enclosed).

EDUCATION ITEM FOR INFORMATION

4. Self Evaluation and Quality Assurance Procedures in North Ayrshire Schools (Page 25)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on updated procedures to broaden and extend the approach to self-evaluation (copy enclosed).

5. ICT Strategy for Educational Establishments Update February 2015 (Page 31)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress in relation to the ICT Strategy for Educational Establishments (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Executive Director (Place)

6. Empty Homes Strategy: Empty Homes Loan Fund (Page 41)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on the amended use of the Empty Homes Loan Fund (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities)

7. Kirktonhall, West Kilbride (Page 47)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the progress made by the Kirktonhall Creative media Group toward the preparation of a business plan (copy enclosed).

8. Community Asset Transfer

8.1 Community Asset Transfer Application: Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club, Blacklands Hall, Kilwinning (Page 51)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the assessment of Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club lease of Blacklands Hall, Kilwinning transfer to them (copy enclosed).

8.2 Community Asset Transfer Application: ANCHO, Redburn Community Centre (Page 57)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the assessment of ANCHO's application to have the lease of Redburn Community Centre, Dickson Drive, Irvine, transferred to them (copy enclosed).

8.3 Community Asset Transfer Application: Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine, Irvine Pilot House (Boyd's Patented Tower, Grade B Listed Building) (Page 63)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the assessment of Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine, application to have the lease of the Irvine Pilot House, transferred to them (copy enclosed).

8.4 Community Asset Transfer Application: North Ayrshire Staff Association, Littlestane Hall, Irvine (Page 69)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the assessment of North Ayrshire Staff Association application to have the lease of Littlestane Hall, transferred to them (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

9. ICT Strategy Update February 2015 (Page 73)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress to date in relation to the ICT Strategy.(copy enclosed).

10. Urgent Items

Any other item which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Cabinet

Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)
Marie Burns
John Bruce
Anthea Dickson
Tony Gurney
Ruth Maguire

Church Representatives

Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus
Ms Elizabeth H. Higton
Mr Mark Fraser

Teaching Representative

Mr Gordon Smith

Youth Council Representatives

to be advised

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Cabinet
27 January 2015

Irvine, 27 January 2015 - At a meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Alex Gallagher.

In Attendance

L. Friel, Executive Director, L. Aird, Head of Finance, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management), T. Reaney, Procurement Manager and P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit and Risk Management) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director; Y. Baulk, Head of Physical Environment (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and S. McKenzie, Senior Manager (Protective Services) (Economy and Communities); D. Carracher, Senior Manager (Inclusion) (Education and Youth Employment); M. Adams, Programme Manager (Early Intervention and Prevention) and I. Kelly, Team Manager (Money Matters) (Social Services and Health); M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

L. Cairns, Chief Executive; L. Barrie, C. Glencorse and L. Campbell (North Ayrshire Leisure Limited).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Burns, as a North Ayrshire Leisure Limited Board Members declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting held on 9 December 2014 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; and (ii)) the special meeting held on 16 December 2014 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, subject to the following amendment in respect of Item 7 - Provision of Schools Meals During Holidays.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that a holiday meals service, including the fund activities programme, be provided for the Easter, Summer (3 days a week), October and Festive holidays each year at the **10 hub** schools detailed in section 3.1 of the report; (b) that the service be **extended to all primary school children in North Ayrshire**; (c) **that the meals** provided will be free of charge to those children entitled to a free school meal and at the costs of a standard school meal to other children; and (d) that school meals will be provided free of charge to the Church of Nazarene as part of the holiday meals service to accommodate pupils of Winton Primary and Ardeer Primary who will be able to attend the Church of Nazarene "Making a Meal of it" community meals service.

3. KA Leisure Annual Progress Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan incorporating Budget 2015-16 and Progress Report, December 2014, progress in terms of performance and financial projections and the current status of specific company commitments. The Cabinet also received a presentation by the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Leisure Limited.

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

- programmes developed for groups and individuals, including older people, in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran predominately based around the development and maintenance of referral pathways from GPs and hospitals, including a weight management programme, an exercise referral programme and fall prevention programme;
- the use of customer forums and feedback mechanisms to develop services and products;
- targeted investment and programmed maintenance of the Magnum Leisure Centre and Garnock Pool; and
- the free summer swim programme delivered in partnership with North Ayrshire Library Service and the "Make your Mark" project that rewards children and their families for accessing and taking part in a range of leisure activities over the summer holiday period.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the NALL Progress Report on the Business/Service Plan at December 2014 and Budget for 2015/16 as set out in the appendix to the report.

4. Revenue Budget 2014/15 : Budgetary Control Statement to 30 November 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2014; and (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 9.

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

- a contamination payment to contractors as a result of the treatment of excessive contamination being presented in blue bins; and
- an ongoing campaign to inform residents of the range of recyclable items that can be put in the blue bin in order to reduce contamination of recyclable items.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the action being taken by the Health and Social Care Partnership to reduce the current projected overspend; (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 10; and (d) approve the new carry forwards identified at 2.19 of the report.

5. Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2014; (b) information on the progress of all projects, with explanations for the carry forwards detailed in Appendix 1; and (c) information on the programme for the Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in Appendix 2

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to an underspend of £0.428m projected within the capital expenditure programme that requires to be carried forward to 2015/16.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.7 - 2.10 of the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 30 November 2014; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2015.

6. Codes of Financial Practice: Amendment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on a routine VAT inspection by HM Revenue and Customs and their recommendation that the Code of Financial Practice be amended to provide appropriate resource for services encountering tax issues.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the amendment to the Codes of Financial Practice, as detailed at Page 15 of Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Scottish Maritime Museum Trust - Pension Fund Liability

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposal that the Council acts as guarantor for the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust in respect of its Strathclyde Pension Fund Liability and, if required, take a security over the Trust's assets to the value of the outstanding deficit.

The Cabinet agreed to support the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust by acting as guarantor for its Pension Fund liability, with appropriate security over Trust assets being put in place.

8. Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) a proposed new 'Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy' for the Council; (b) five key steps in managing its approach to tackling fraud and corruption; (c) and a triple-track response to any instances of fraud or corruption which are found to be proven; and (d) a range of related policies and procedures which staff and elected members are required to adhere to.

The Cabinet approved the new Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

9. Review of Education Services Additional Support Needs (ASN)

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the proposals for the development of educational provision for pupils with significant Additional Support Needs that included (i) the decision of the former Education Executive in respect of the closure of Stanecastle school by 2018; and (ii) consultation with parents, carers, young people, staff and other stakeholders on the future provision of specialist education and care for pupils with ASN, including the option of developing new facilities for the education and care of children and young people with complex additional support needs.

The Cabinet agreed that the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) (i) consult on the future of provision for pupils with Additional Support Needs; and (ii) report to a future meeting on the outcome of those consultations, with recommendations about future provision.

10. Child Poverty

Submitted report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on (a) the levels of child poverty in North Ayrshire and activity to address them; (b) the impact of child poverty; (c) definitions of child poverty; (d) the child Poverty Strategy for Scotland: Our Approach 2014-17 and the Government's commitment to tackle child poverty; and (e) a Members' seminar that will be held on 10 February 2015 to consider the strategy for tackling poverty and identify key priorities.

Members discussed the range of information provided at 2.1 and 2.2 of the report and whether this information could be further broken down to the towns in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) investigate whether a further breakdown of data by towns in North Ayrshire could be made available to Members; (b) to consider further action on child poverty at the seminar to be held on 10 February 2015; and (c) to otherwise note the report.

11. Food Information for Consumers Legislation

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) new European legislation which introduced new requirements regarding the provision of information on allergens; (b) the support being offered by the Council to facilitate business compliance with the new Food Information for Consumers legislation; and (c) the proposed graduated approach to enforcement.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the West of Scotland Food Liaison Group that consists of representatives from 10 local authorities and work that has been done by this group to devise a common Communications Strategy to deliver and promote the new legislation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the use of a graduated approach to enforcement, provided public health is safeguarded; and (b) note the support mechanisms in place to aid business compliance.

12. Leadership Development

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposed contracts for the delivery of the High Impact Leadership Programme using the negotiated tendering process.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the request to undertake contract negotiations with the Keil Centre, to (i) extend the contract for delivery of the Leadership Development Programme until the programme ends in 2018, and (ii) to extend the requirements for Chief Officer and Senior Manager Assessment Centres until the same date.

13. Minutes of the Economic Development & Regeneration Board

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 10 December 2014.

Noted.

14. Minutes of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 17 December 2014.

Noted.

15. Minutes of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the meeting of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 15 December 2014.

Noted.

16.1 Social Work Complaint Review Committee: Complaint by Mr R.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting held on 28 November 2014.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to accept the Committee's decision not to uphold the complaint; and (b) that the Social Work Complaints Review Committee's recommendations, outlined at 3 (b) and (c) of the report, related to operational matters and should therefore be referred to the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) for consideration.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **School Leaver Destination Return 2013/14**

Purpose: To inform the Cabinet of the publication of the annual School Leaver Destination Return (SLDR) and to report on further progress in North Ayrshire.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to (a) note the information set out in the School Leaver Destination Return; (b) supports the continued focus of our schools and Education and Youth Employment on improving outcomes for young people.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The School Leaver Destinations Return (SLDR) is a statistical return undertaken each year by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government. The SLDR is based on a follow-up of young people who leave school between 1 August and 31 July each year. This year this exercise was carried out during September and part of October and the statistical findings were published in December.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government uses the data on the destinations of leavers to report against the National Indicator. The National Indicator is to increase the proportion of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations.
- 1.3 North Ayrshire Council uses the data to inform initiatives developed as part of the Youth Employment Strategy and the Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy. The data provides evidence of the success of initiatives, measures progress against targets and identifies areas to target resources to improve the post-school outcomes for young people. As we now receive learner level data in addition to the statistics, we are able to analyse outcomes for individual young people and ensure that those who are listed as "negative" at the time of the measure, are signposted for the appropriate advice and support. Our data will help to inform local approaches to "developing Scotland's Young Workforce" (Wood Report).

- 1.4 The data on leaver destinations is also used by SDS as an outcome measure for its projects, in particular early intervention projects that have a focus on improving the school leaver destinations of young people who otherwise would have difficulty in making the transition from school to the labour market. Those who are not in a positive destination as at the point of leaving school are “case managed” by SDS with a view to moving them into suitable provision.
- 1.5 The following categories are used by the Scottish Government to record the destinations of school leavers:
- higher education
 - further education
 - employment
 - training
 - voluntary work
 - activity agreements
 - unemployed and seeking
 - unemployed and not seeking
 - not known.
- 1.6 The first six of the above are classified as positive post-school destinations and the last three as negative post-school destinations. A breakdown of the numbers and percentages in each category is at Appendix 1.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Across Scotland, 92.3% of 2013/14 leavers are in positive destinations (higher education, further education, employment, voluntary work, training or activity agreements). This is up from 91.4% in the previous year. In North Ayrshire, comparable figures are 94.1% and 93.8%, a continued improvement in our secondary schools and Extended Outreach. This year's performance is an all time high for us in North Ayrshire. A table showing all local authorities' performance is attached at Appendix 2. This highlights that North Ayrshire is the 5th best performing authority in Scotland. A graph illustrating the progress made in North Ayrshire is attached at Appendix 3.
- 2.2 Our overall positive figure is higher than the Scottish average, however, in the employment category we continue to perform at slightly lower than the national average – 18.6% -v- 21.7%. This is reflective of the employment market generally in North Ayrshire. We have, however, closed the gap by a further 1% this year. Compared with last year, this represents 54 more school leavers in North Ayrshire moving into employment directly from school.

- 2.3 School-business links continue to develop and all of our schools are now offering a variety of activities involving local (and national) employers including careers information events, support with CV preparation, mock interviews. Authority led initiatives such as leavers' employment events and Girls into Stem events are successfully informing pupils about the range of options open to them.
- 2.4 A more flexible and targeted model of work experience has been developed which better meets the needs of individual learners. Feedback from employers on our revised model is positive, and our model is well placed to provide the basis for further developments recommended in the Wood Report.
- 2.5 All our schools have an embedded approach. Pastoral/ guidance team, school senior management, SDS and other external partners ensure that all leavers have the best possible advice and information. We continue to prioritise those most at risk including those with additional support needs and Looked After young people.
- 2.6 Early identification of learners at risk of not achieving a positive post-school destination is a priority for schools and their partners in North Ayrshire. As a result, a range of effective early intervention programmes continues to be offered by the Council and its partners to assist young people in need of more choices and more chances. These include bespoke winter leavers' provision offered by Ayrshire College, input by SDS to targeted learners, a range of Community Services provision including the 3 Towns Motor Project, and the flexible provision offered by Education and Youth Employment Extended Outreach Team. Third Sector partners, including Enable Scotland and Impact Arts (funded by Inspiring Scotland), work in partnership with Education & Youth Employment to support targeted young people. Springboard Training secured Lottery funding to deliver hospitality training to a group of young people previously disengaged with learning.
- 2.7 Schools are developing a Senior Phase (S4-S6) that is relevant to all learners. Our Senior Phase strategy articulates very clearly the responsibility of schools in relation to the development of Skills for Learning, Life and Work. This is increasingly important as there continue to be unprecedented numbers of young people choosing to return to school for S5 & S6. The Skills Centres, operating in 3 of our secondary schools, are providing an excellent resource for vocational learning, with a number of Skills for Work courses being delivered in conjunction with Ayrshire College and Argyll College (Arran). The new college annexe at Irvine Royal Academy will further broaden the range of vocational courses on offer to our school pupils, and provide them with industry recognised qualifications.

- 2.8 Our work in this area is increasingly informed by local and national labour market information. For example, a priority is the focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). A successful “Girls into STEM” event raised the profile of careers in related industries. Our link with Springboard and local hospitality/leisure employers is successfully informing young people about the opportunities in those industries. Some pupils are participating in a Performing Engineering Operations course delivered by Ayrshire College. This course is designed to offer a pathway into apprenticeships or further study at college. A partnership with the CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) is providing enhanced employer input to pupils' Skills for Work, Construction Skills course.
- 2.9 The Scottish Government has indicated that the methodology involved in producing this annual statistic will change, This is a work in progress. In addition, the new “Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool” which has replaced STACS (Standard Table and Charts) as the national statistical measure for schools' performance, includes school leaver destinations as one of its measures. This will ensure that this statistic has parity with attainment as an indicator of a school's performance.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet (a) notes the very positive information set out in the School Leaver Destinations Return, (b) supports the continued focus of our schools and Education and Youth Employment on improving outcomes for school leavers, and (c) receives an annual progress report on school leaver destinations (note 3.2 below).

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 National Outcome 2 requires that 'We realise our full economic potential with more and better opportunities for our people.' North Ayrshire's related Outcome is 'More people are in work and training'. The work detailed in this Report contributes to achieving the above.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 School Leaver Destinations are analysed and discussed with secondary Head Teachers, 16+ coordinators and pastoral/guidance staff to agree approaches to better support young people to make a positive post-school transition.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Education and Skills Directorate will continue to increase the proportion of school leavers moving to positive and sustained destinations. This remains a key outcome for North Ayrshire.
- 6.2 Our schools will continue to develop their work with internal and external partners to enhance provision for learners in their senior phase of education and to ensure that all North Ayrshire young people leave equipped with skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life. Our work in this area has been recognised as an area of best practice nationally by a Solace Local Government Benchmarking Framework review group, and other local authorities have visited, learnt from our practice and are implementing aspects of our approach.



JOHN BUTCHER
Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

Reference : JB/LC/JN

For further information please contact John Butcher, Executive Director on 01294 324411

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1

North Ayrshire Council SLDR 2013/14 (Initial Destination Percentages)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education %	Further Education %	Training %	Employment %	Voluntary Work %	Activity Agreements %	Unemployed Seeking %	Unemployed Not Seeking %	Not Known %	% Pos	% Other
Ardrossan Academy	147	42.2	32.0	2.7	16.3		1.4	2.0	3.4		94.6	5.4
Arran High School	40	62.5	7.5		27.5			2.5			97.5	2.5
Auchenharvie Academy	128	27.3	37.5	5.5	23.4		1.6	1.6	3.1		95.3	4.7
Garnock Academy	196	31.6	37.2	5.1	20.4		0.5	5.1			94.9	5.1
Greenwood Academy	294	33.3	35.4	4.8	19.7		0.7	4.8	1.4		93.9	6.1
Invine Royal Academy	113	25.7	44.2	4.4	15.9		0.9	8.0	0.9		91.2	8.8
Kilwinning Academy	157	31.2	38.9	3.2	18.5	0.6	1.3	5.1	1.3		93.6	6.4
Largs Academy	162	50.6	28.4	1.9	15.4	0.6		1.2	1.9		96.9	3.1
St Matthew's Academy	244	34.4	38.1	1.6	16.8	0.8		7.8	0.4		91.8	8.2
North Ayrshire Council	1,481	35.5	35.4	3.5	18.6	0.3	0.7	4.6	1.4		94.1	5.9

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Unknown: Includes leavers whose destination is not known to either SDS or their partners. The term is used where a programme of direct phone calls has not been returned or responded to, and covers a number of circumstances including those who simply do not wish to engage or who may have gone abroad for an extended period after leaving school. Partnership working aims to minimise the number of young people in this category, with professionals working together to identify and provide support to young people who need help to move into learning or work.

North Ayrshire Council SLDR 2013/14 (Initial Destination Figures)

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Activity Agreements	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed Not Seeking	Not Known	Total Positive	Total Other
Ardrossan Academy	147	62	47	4	24		2	3	5		139	8
Arran High School	40	25	3		11			1			39	1
Auchenharvie Academy	128	35	48	7	30		2	2	4		122	6
Garnock Academy	196	62	73	10	40		1	10			186	10
Greenwood Academy	294	98	104	14	58		2	14	4		276	18
Invine Royal Academy	113	29	50	5	18		1	9	1		103	10
Kilwinning Academy	157	49	61	5	29	1	2	8	2		147	10
Largs Academy	162	82	46	3	25	1		2	3		157	5
St Matthew's Academy	244	84	93	4	41	2		19	1		224	20
North Ayrshire Council	1,481	526	525	52	276	4	10	68	20		1,393	88

Unknown: Includes leavers whose destination is not known to either SDS or their partners. The term is used where a programme of direct phone calls has not been returned or responded to, and covers a number of circumstances including those who simply do not wish to engage or who may have gone abroad for an extended period after leaving school. Partnership working aims to minimise the number of young people in this category, with professionals working together to identify and provide support to young people who need help to move into learning or work.

Appendix 2

Section 4: Percentage Destinations by Local Authority

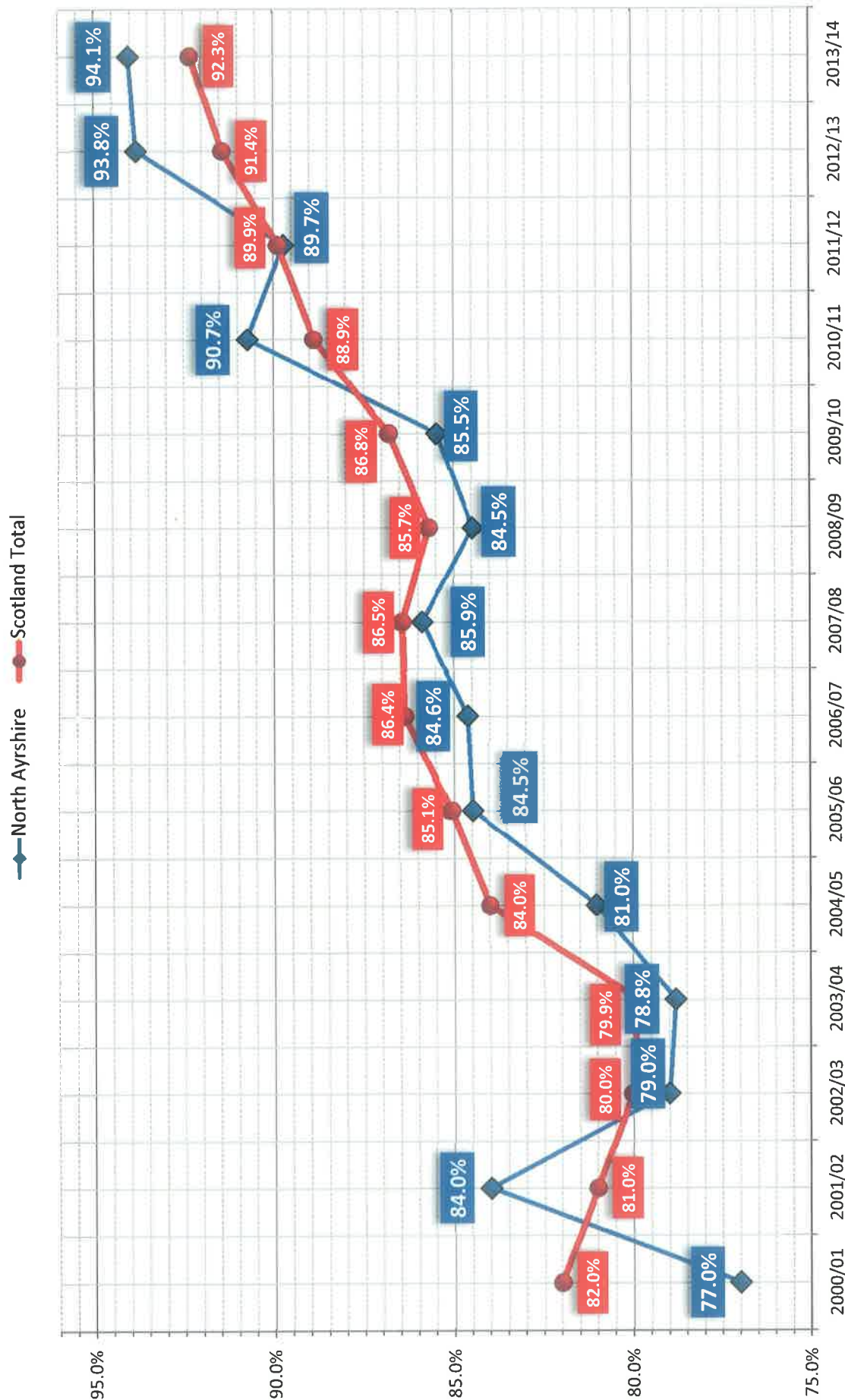
Local Authority	Total Leavers	Higher Education (%)	Further Education (%)	Training (%)	Employment (%)	Voluntary Work (%)	Activity Agreements (%)	Unemployed Seeking (%)	Unemployed Not Seeking (%)	Not Known (%)	Positive (%)
Aberdeen City	1,633	35.4	25.5	2.9	26.1	0.3	0.8	6.9	1.4	0.7	91.1%
Aberdeenshire	2,619	37.6	26.0	1.4	28.0	0.3	0.5	5.0	1.0	0.3	93.7%
Angus	1,026	36.4	28.4	2.2	22.5	0.6	1.0	7.5	1.1	0.4	91.0%
Argyll & Bute	947	40.3	19.1	3.5	26.9	0.5	0.6	7.2	1.7	0.1	91.0%
Clackmannanshire	502	29.9	27.7	6.0	23.9	1.0	4.4	6.6	0.6	0.0	92.8%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,584	36.4	25.4	3.5	24.7	0.5	0.4	7.1	1.5	0.4	91.0%
Dundee City	1,331	32.2	36.7	5.1	16.5	0.5	0.3	6.5	1.9	0.3	91.3%
East Ayrshire	1,169	36.2	37.6	2.7	14.8	0.3	1.5	5.6	1.3	0.0	93.1%
East Dunbartonshire	1,302	56.5	16.2	1.8	21.2	0.5	0.8	2.2	0.6	0.0	97.2%
East Lothian	1,049	38.5	19.4	4.8	27.6	0.8	1.1	6.6	1.0	0.2	92.2%
East Renfrewshire	1,350	66.7	14.4	1.6	12.4	0.6	0.3	3.6	0.4	0.0	96.0%
Edinburgh, City of	3,206	40.9	23.4	5.1	19.2	1.0	1.6	7.2	1.0	0.6	91.2%
Eilean Siar	289	37.7	27.0	3.5	28.7	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.3	0.0	96.9%
Falkirk	1,576	34.2	20.9	10.2	25.9	0.4	0.9	5.6	1.8	0.1	92.4%
Fife	3,679	36.5	34.6	3.8	16.1	0.1	1.3	6.0	1.4	0.2	92.4%
Glasgow City	4,725	32.8	26.5	7.2	20.6	0.7	2.1	8.8	1.1	0.3	89.7%
Highland	2,601	32.3	23.8	2.3	31.9	0.8	1.5	4.8	1.3	1.2	92.7%

SDS National SLDR Report 2013/14 (Initial Results) (Dec 2014)

Local Authority	Total Leavers	Higher Education (%)	Further Education (%)	Training (%)	Employment (%)	Voluntary Work (%)	Activity Agreements (%)	Unemployed Seeking (%)	Unemployed Not Seeking (%)	Not Known (%)	Positive (%)
Dumfries and Galloway	796	36.9	30.7	3.8	21.1	0.5	1.0	5.4	0.6	0.0	94.0%
Dumfries and Galloway	889	28.8	25.2	6.4	30.3	0.9	2.4	5.2	0.9	0.0	93.9%
Dumfries and Galloway	989	38.2	28.7	1.0	25.4	0.3	0.3	4.1	1.3	0.6	93.9%
North Ayrshire	1,481	35.5	35.4	3.5	18.6	0.3	0.7	4.6	1.4	0.0	94.1%
North Lanarkshire	3,824	37.7	26.0	5.4	21.2	0.2	0.8	7.7	0.7	0.2	91.3%
Orkney Islands	208	39.4	20.2	2.9	29.8	0.0	1.4	2.9	2.4	1.0	93.8%
Perth & Kinross	1,296	40.9	28.2	1.7	21.8	0.4	0.8	5.2	0.6	0.5	93.8%
Renfrewshire	1,853	44.0	25.5	3.7	18.7	0.1	0.1	7.0	0.5	0.5	92.0%
Scottish Borders	1,059	41.6	28.7	2.3	20.8	0.5	0.4	4.2	1.4	0.1	94.2%
Shetland Islands	271	29.9	18.1	0.7	41.7	0.0	3.0	4.4	2.2	0.0	93.4%
South Ayrshire	1,256	41.6	32.2	2.4	14.3	0.3	1.4	6.9	1.0	0.0	92.1%
South Lanarkshire	3,359	40.2	24.2	5.4	20.4	0.4	1.7	6.5	1.0	0.1	92.3%
Stirling	992	45.4	19.6	3.5	22.4	0.5	0.2	7.2	1.1	0.2	91.5%
West Dunbartonshire	931	36.9	28.5	3.2	20.0	0.2	1.3	8.8	1.1	0.0	90.1%
West Lothian	1,986	41.1	26.4	4.5	19.4	0.3	1.3	5.9	0.9	0.2	93.0%
Jordanhill School	98	78.6	6.1	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	99.0%
Scotland	51,876	38.6	26.3	4.1	21.7	0.4	1.1	6.3	1.1	0.3	92.3%

Appendix 3

% school leavers into positive destinations 2001-2014



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: Self Evaluation and Quality Assurance Procedures in North Ayrshire Schools.

Purpose: To inform Cabinet of the updated procedures to broaden and extend our approach to self-evaluation to ensure a consistency of rigour which will support schools' ongoing cycle of review and improvement planning.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet notes the progress being made.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Education Scotland (HMI) sample a range of secondary, special, primary and early education centres and focus on the ability of the establishment to evaluate itself against the framework of How Good is Our School? (HGIOS).
- 1.2 Education Scotland also focus on the quality of leadership and management in helping staff to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.3 The inspection team review evidence against key criteria in relation to:
 - How well children learn and achieve
 - How well the school supports young people to develop and learn
 - How well the school improves the quality of its work
- 1.4 Education Scotland produce a published school report and this contributes to the overview of performance across Scottish schools.
- 1.5 It is against this backdrop that Education and Youth Employment is reviewing its procedures to ensure it knows its schools and is continually striving for further improvements.

- 1.6 One of North Ayrshire's Core objectives is: Improving Educational Attainment:

'We have high expectations for North Ayrshire. We will raise the confidence and ambition of our young people from an early age to achieve all that they can. Allowing people to develop, learn and improve their skills will help them in achieving their personal ambitions. We will match the skills of people to emerging opportunities'.

(Council Plan 2012-2017)

- 1.7 The Christie Review of Public Services (2010) set out the "Four Pillars of Public Service Reform". One of these pillars is:

'Greater investment in the people who deliver services through enhanced workforce development and effective leadership'.

- 1.8 North Ayrshire Council is currently undertaking a Strategic Review of Educational Services with the aim of reducing inequality, whilst raising the attainment of our young people.

- 1.9 A key driver in raising attainment is ensuring schools are able to accurately evaluate themselves and understand their priorities so as to positively affect future performance.

- 1.10 A significant re-structure of Education Services in June 2013 resulted in the dis-establishment of a large Quality Improvement Service and the introduction of a small team of Senior Managers. Both the re-structure and the raised expectations at National level has led to the need for a review of current quality assurance and self evaluation procedures.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 All educational establishments produce annual documentation that provides information on quality improvement, attainment and progress.

These include:

- School Improvement Plan
- Standards and Quality Report
- Monitoring Timetable
- School Handbook
- Data analysis reports

This documentation is used by Head Teachers as a catalyst for challenge and improvement.

2.2 Director of Education, Heads of Service and Senior Managers conduct visits to support and challenge schools.

- All schools are visited in September/October by their link Senior Manager and, in addition, all Secondary schools are visited by Head of Schools in September and March.
- Senior managers regularly attend Cluster meetings. (Cluster schools are a secondary school and associated primaries).
- All schools are visited in May/June by their link Senior Manager to support Improvement Planning.
- Senior Managers provide further support visits as and when required e.g. prior to school inspections.

2.3 Prior to Senior Manager visits in September, a range of data is collated and reports produced. This includes data on Curriculum for Excellence levels, SQA achievement, attendance and exclusions and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

This data informs the agenda for the visit and allows:

- comparisons to be made against cluster and local authority results in Broad General Education
- comparison to be made against virtual comparators, local authority and National results in Senior Phase (SQA)
- examination of trends over time
- areas of good practice or concerns to be highlighted

2.4 Senior managers are involved in enhancing Learning and Teaching by organising and supporting a variety of subject networks. This includes eighteen subject networks and a number of strategy groups.

2.5 A sustainable system will be developed, which will include Head Teachers in partnership with Senior Managers, to support schools' self-evaluation. This will involve focused quality assurance visits and peer assessment both within and across schools. Head Teachers will take a greater responsibility as Senior Leaders within the authority to lead change outwith their own schools.

2.6 In order to ensure greater consistency and build capacity across all schools, a new process of self-evaluation will be developed. This will include:

- Production and submission of an annual three page self-evaluation report in line with the format required prior to an Education Scotland inspection
- Collection of evidence to support the narrative of this report

- 2.7 As part of the new process, a review and update of current Improvement Planning will be undertaken. This will include a new three year cycle with an annual maintenance agenda; annual review with detailed impact and peer challenge of the school's improvement agenda before submission.
- 2.8 Schools will be encouraged and supported to use available data to inform future practice and not see it as a mechanism to only analyse past performance. Furthermore, there will be an emphasis on data being understood and utilised by staff at all levels and not only Senior Leadership and Middle Managers.
- 2.9 As part of the new process, a review and update of current Standards and Quality reports will be undertaken. This document will have a changing focus to ensure it meets the requirements of parents and the wider community while able to complement the new school self evaluation report.
- 2.10 Head Teachers and Senior Managers will be supported through on going professional learning in the self-evaluation process. This will include CLPL (Career Long Professional Learning), peer coaching and professional dialogue.
- 2.11 Head Teacher meetings will have a clear focus on the enhancement of Learning and Teaching. This will support improvement in the achievement and attainment of children and young people. It will also provide opportunities for collegiate working and sharing good practice.
- 2.12 In addition to the updated procedures, selected schools will be subject to a focused review visit, led by a Senior Manager or Head of Service. These visits will take place over a number of days and will be carried out by a small team of people from both the centre and schools.

The visits will be determined through a variety of reasons. For example:

- very good/excellent practice has been identified through Self Evaluation process
- weak/unsatisfactory practice has been identified
- areas have been identified where support can be given to raise standards
- evaluation is needed of specific initiatives and if follow up visits are required

In addition, a focused review may also take place prior to, or following an inspection by Education Scotland.

- 2.13 In summary, the revised self evaluation and quality assurance procedures will enhance the professional capacity of all staff leading to further improvements in attainment. The revised procedures will deliver a sustainable model which better fits the central resource. In addition, this new model meets the aims of Education Scotland's (HMI) priority of ensuring schools are able to evaluate their own performance against national and other relevant benchmarks.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet notes the progress being made.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 North Ayrshire Council Plan
Core Objective 3: Improving Educational Attainment

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with all Head Teachers and Senior Managers within North Ayrshire and representatives of Education Scotland. This consultation was conducted through focus groups, collated responses to questionnaires, professional dialogue, cluster meetings and visits to schools.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Schools within North Ayrshire will be able to demonstrate and evidence increased levels of achievement and attainment.
- 6.2 The self-evaluation activities will ensure that robust and accurate evidence is in place to inform decision making and judgement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Butcher', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JOHN BUTCHER
Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

Reference : SQ

For further information please contact Steven Quinn, Head of Service (Schools), on 01294 324413.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 5

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **ICT Strategy for Educational Establishments
Update February 2015**

Purpose: To provide Cabinet with an update on progress in relation to the ICT Strategy for Educational Establishments.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to note progress

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Education and Youth Employment Directorate provides education to children and young people in 36 nursery classes, 5 community nurseries, 50 primaries, 9 secondaries and 4 schools for children with additional support needs. This provision includes establishments on the Isle of Arran and Isle of Cumbrae.
- 1.2 There have been many changes in ICT provision in Education over the years, including an increase in the type and number of devices in schools, libraries and community centres, and with expansion of network and server capacity in schools.
- 1.3 Significant investment is already being made in the establishment of a new Infrastructure, providing modern Local Area Network (LAN) and Wide Area Network(WAN), and the deployment of Wireless Access in schools, allowing schools to take advantage of new technologies and devices.
- 1.4 To date, the procurement of ICT devices has been dependent on the priorities set by each individual school resulting in a wide variation of types, numbers and ages of devices throughout the service.
- 1.5 To ensure the service continues to meet the needs of schools, and other facilities in the future, an Education ICT Strategy was required to ensure the development and use of ICT in educational establishments was embedded within the curriculum.
- 1.6 Approach
 - 1.6.1 IT Services conducted a review of the ICT Managed Service in Autumn 2013 and gained significant feedback from all education establishments. Subsequently, consultants XMA were appointed to develop an Education ICT Strategy.

- 1.6.2 The methodology used included the formation of stakeholder groups covering Secondary and Primary Teaching staff, Education & Youth Employment management, school ICT technicians and ICT staff.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Consultants XMA, have provided a report and the main points and recommendations are detailed below. Further information is also detailed within the ICT Strategy Action Plan at Appendix A.

2.2 Education & Youth Employment and IT Services should maintain central control of the budget for ICT including decisions for procurement, infrastructure, hardware, training and support being centrally managed and delegated to schools on the basis of an allocation formula, based on for example, pupil numbers or need.

- 2.2.1 Education & Youth Employment have reviewed the funding arrangements for Primary schools and retained a central fund to support an allocation of equipment. This will allow establishments to be brought up to an equitable level of resource over the next year. Thereafter, IT, in partnership with Education and Youth Employment, will present a case for ongoing funding to support future developments. Further work is required to establish a similar baseline and equity within secondary schools and early learning facilities.

- 2.2.2 The consultants evaluated 5 Strategic Service Delivery options, ranging from a fully delegated managed service with responsibility for the provision of the infrastructure, hardware, training and support, to individual schools making decisions regarding procurement and management provisioning of infrastructure, hardware and training. Estimate ranged costs for similar externally managed contracts between £3.5 and £5.85 million. On the basis the consultants recommended 2.2 above.

- 2.2.3 The centralisation of funding has already allowed investment in a Council wide Microsoft Campus Agreement, mirroring the successful Corporate Agreement. This will provide standard office software to all devices in schools, the introduction of a home use programme, e-learning for teachers and each pupil having the ability to have free access to up to 5 copies of Office 365. There are further advantages in utilising configuration and asset management software licences as part of the agreement in line with the ICT Asset Management Plan.

2.3 One of the key demands identified from schools and pupils throughout the consultation was that of moving towards mobile tablet devices.

- 2.3.1 The strategy will be to procure mobile devices such as laptops and tablets to integrate more easily with the curriculum requirements and support a more modern future proof education environment.

2.3.2 However, more particularly within Secondary schools where ICT Computer Suites are required, there remains a demand for desktop computers and this will be facilitated. Currently, secondary schools are using existing resources to fund a number of upgrades.

2.3.3 The present infrastructure investment is a prerequisite for allowing more flexible learning options, particularly the implementation of Wireless Access in Schools.

2.3.4 Progress is also being made to ensure a best practice standard approach to ICT provisioning in schools by modelling any facilities within the Garnock and Largs Campus on schools that have already achieved best practice in this area. Site visits are being arranged to schools out-with North Ayrshire that are held in high regard with ICT provisioning and integration with the curriculum.

2.4 ICT devices should be deployed with a core allocation for each school with equality of access adhered to.

2.4.1 All Primary schools have been visited by IT Services and an audit has been undertaken to determine the age and worthiness of the existing ICT assets. This information was used to determine the required baseline provisioning on a core allocation model to ensure equity of allocation at each school. The minimum allocation level agreed at present for each primary school is one laptop per Teaching FTE and one laptop or tablet for every four pupils. A similar exercise will be undertaken within secondary schools and early learning facilities.

2.4.2 Continued investment in modern mobile devices such as tablets will see an increase in the allocation of these types of devices over future years.

2.4.3 Furthermore, the current infrastructure renewal and Wireless Access will allow the investigation of introducing Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) within schools. The provisioning of the technical aspects will allow schools to introduce flexible learning, although consideration on how this will operate at a classroom level will be required. This may reduce the number of devices procured whilst still maintaining or increasing the ratio of devices to pupils.

2.4 A three to four year refresh period should be built into the strategy, to ensure that a situation does not arise in the future as is currently faced, whereby old, out of date, and in some cases obsolete equipment is found in schools.

2.4.1 The centralisation of funding, more effective asset management and continued investment will ensure that this is the case.

2.5 A review of the existing governance and communication arrangements is required to strengthen existing relationships.

2.5.1 An Education/ICT Strategy Review meeting is held quarterly with representation from senior managers. Furthermore, a Head Teacher/IT meeting is held quarterly, chaired by a Head Teacher.

2.5.2 However, these arrangements require to be reviewed to strengthen the governance arrangements and communications between IT Services, Education HQ and schools.

2.5.3 It is proposed that 2 groups are set up. A Technology Strategy Group,(TSG) to monitor, evaluate and review progress and act as the primary liaison body, and an Operations Group to ensure implementation within schools and act as a conduit between schools, teaching staff and the TSG.

2.6 CPD for teaching and technical staff should be a core element and provide a clear development pathway for individuals.

2.6.1 A number of initiatives are currently being established and include;

- Closer working relationships with secondary ICT Technicians and IT Services, including a training programme to ensure the technicians have up to date skills.
- A comprehensive training programme in the use of ipads for teachers to ensure the devices are being used to their full potential.

2.7 The Council should continue to operate a centralised procurement system for schools.

2.7.1 All schools have been reminded that procurement of ICT equipment should be through IT Services in line with the Council's Procurement Guidelines.

2.8 A printer consolidation programme should be established to effectively manage the procurement and management of printers and multi functional devices (MFD).

2.8.1 Schools have an array of printer types and multi-functional devices (MFD's), many of which are old and not economical to operate. A review is required to ascertain the availability and usage of printers in schools, with the strategic direction of centralised MFD and network printers in each school. Security access to printing and monitoring should be in line with corporate printing functionality.

- 2.8.2 Similarly, a review is also underway to identify the age and state of school smartboards. These devices are seen as an integral part of classroom based teaching, however, many are unsupported with no maintenance or support contracts with 3rd party providers. Any replenishment programme will need to align with the ongoing update of ICT assets as described in the ICT Strategy Action Plan at Appendix A.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note progress.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The ICT Strategy is underpinned with an existing capital programme totalling £600,000 for 15/16. Funding of future investment will be considered as part of the wider review of the council's capital programme.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 None

Implications for Key Priorities

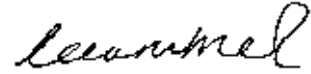
- 4.6 The ICT Strategy continues to contribute to the objectives of the Council Plan.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The development of the ICT Strategy included consultation with teaching staff, technical staff and feedback from focus groups within Primary and Secondary schools, Regular updates are provided to the CMT, the Transformation Board and the Review of Educational Services.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Cabinet is being asked to note progress to February 2015 and receive a further report in 6 months.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Lorna Morley, Team Manager (Strategy and Performance) on telephone number 01294 324254.

Background Papers

None

ICT Strategy for Schools: Action Plan

	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
A	Education and Youth Employment should maintain central budget control for ICT to support strategic decision making.	The deployment and implementation of modern technology to strategically support the Curriculum for Learning.	Funding has been approved for 15/16 to implement the initial stages of the ICT Strategy.	Implement the strategy and develop business cases for future funding.
B	Standardise operating systems and MS Office in schools	Software assurance and compatibility for Office applications and standardisation of operating systems.	Procure 3 year Microsoft Campus Agreement to support the Council's migration from XP and standardisation of operating systems and Office applications.	This agreement runs to June 2017 and software will be upgraded as required.
C	Implement the key benefits included with the Microsoft Campus Agreement which are: Home Use Program, eLearning for staff and Student Advantage for pupils.	Staff and pupils using a common product both at home and in work, integrating with the curriculum to improve learning in school and the community. Provision of online training for staff and improving learning within the community. Standardisation and simplification of data sharing.	90 staff already bought MS Office for home use. eLearning provision has been tested and will be available for staff early 2015. Registered for Student Advantage which provides MS Office 365 on up to 5 home devices for all pupils.	Continue to promote these benefits to teaching staff and pupils. Will be available Jan 2015. Student Advantage to be rolled out in Q1 2015.
D	Installation of MS System Centre Servers and Central Configuration Manager (SCCM)	Allows central device management of desktop devices reducing the need to physically visit school desktops.	Servers and SCCM have been installed allowing MS Office to be deployed remotely to over 50% of all primary school desktops.	Rollout of MS Office will commence in Secondary Schools early 2015.
E	ICT devices will be deployed with a core allocation for each school.	Equality of access to ICT devices and standardisation of IT provision across all schools.	School ICT inventories have been merged into a central master inventory. This has allowed visibility	Where a primary school does not meet the agreed model a number of replacement devices have been

			<p>of IT equipment at a school level. Initial investment is being targeted to align all schools with the minimum base model (ratio of device to pupil and teacher).</p> <p>Using the core allocation model we are now in a position to procure mobile devices such as laptops and ipads for schools.</p> <p>The new Wireless in Schools solution now deployed in 4 phase 1 schools. However, the following issues are delaying further roll-out at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Mobile Device Management (MDM) solution is required and this is being investigated with suppliers and Education and Youth Employment. b. Asbestos surveys in schools underway to facilitate the safe deployment of Wireless Access Points. <p>This is being discussed and will form part of a business case for capital funding.</p> <p>No progress.</p>	<p>procured. Installations will commence early in 2015.</p> <p>Inventory of assets will be updated manually until central solutions replace this manual record.</p> <p>Future investment in schools will be directed mainly at the introduction of more of these types of devices.</p> <p>Procure MDM solution and roll-out mobile devices in line with the Wireless in Schools deployment.</p> <p>Printing solutions are being considered as part of the Largs and Garnock campus projects.</p>
F	Schools to move towards mobile and tablet devices, whilst retaining a presence of ICT Computer Suites for some subjects in Secondary Schools.	Supports flexible and agile working. Use emerging technologies to support curriculum for learning.		
G	A Refresh Programme should be established to more effectively manage school ICT assets.	Improved asset management and focus of ICT support to more current devices.		
H	A Printer Consolidation Programme should be established to effectively manage the procurement and management of printers and multi-functional devices (MFD)	Improved asset management and cost savings with the consolidation of a limited number of MFD's in each school.		

I	A disposal policy specifically for schools should be developed.	Improved asset management and focus of ICT support to more current devices.	The Council's disposal policy should be used until a specific policy for schools is developed.	Discussions with schools already underway.
J	A review of the governance and communication arrangements is required to strengthen existing relationships between IT Services, Education and Youth Employment and Schools	Improved communication and governance will significantly strengthen and enhance the IT environment in schools to support the curriculum for learning.	A number of communication forums are in existence with Secondary ICT Technicians, IT Services, Head Teachers and Education HQ Project Teams. The remit of all groups and their outcomes is currently being reviewed.	These arrangements require to be reviewed to strengthen the governance arrangements and communications between IT Services, Education HQ and schools.
K	Continued Professional Development for teaching and technical staff should be developed.	Skilled Teaching staff to underpin the use of technology within the curriculum.	A comprehensive training programme in the use of emerging technologies for teachers is being considered to ensure the assets are being used to their full potential. IT Services technical training is also being reviewed.	IT Services technical training will be reviewed in line with the new technologies being procured as part of the Schools Projects and alongside the Council's PPD process to ensure staff are skilled to support the current and future needs of schools.
L	The procurement of ICT equipment must be through the existing procurement process through IT Services.	Standard route to procure ICT Assets and better manage and control the ICT estate.	Corporate Procurement has issued a reminder to schools regarding procurement procedures and in particular ICT being procured via IT Services.	Complete

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **Empty Homes Strategy: Empty Homes Loan Fund**

Purpose: To seek Cabinet approval for the amended use of the Empty Homes Recyclable Loan Fund

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees that income secured from the Scottish Government's Empty Homes Loan Fund may also be used for a) the purpose of offering loans to owners to allow them to sell their properties on the open market, and b) purchasing empty homes, which were previously subject to right to buy, and which will then become part of the overall Council housing stock.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Empty Homes Strategy defines an empty home as a property in the private sector which has been unoccupied for more than 6 months. It is not a second or holiday home.
- 1.2 The strategy notes that empty homes are a wasted resource. They don't contribute to the local housing market, nor do they address housing need. They are often the target of antisocial behaviour, such as vandalism, fly tipping, graffiti and break-ins, and in turn place a burden on the resources of the Council and the emergency services, who must address these issues.
- 1.3 The North Ayrshire Empty Homes Strategy seeks to bring empty homes back into use, and to stop currently occupied properties becoming empty.
- 1.4 In November 2012, following approval from the Cabinet a successful bid was submitted to the Scottish Government for £200,000 funding from its Empty Homes Loan Fund.
- 1.5 In line with Government guidance, the resulting funds were used to introduce 0% interest loans to owners of empty homes in North Ayrshire to help them improve the condition of their properties and bring them back into use as affordable private rented accommodation.

- 1.6 Of the £200,000 funding North Ayrshire secured from the national fund, 60% must be repaid to the Government by 2019/20 (ie. £120,000), and the remainder by 2023/24.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 To date, nationally, there have been no successful applications to any 0% interest loan schemes. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this may be due to potential applicants being deterred by:
- applications for funding being a lengthy and complicated process;
 - a reluctance to take on further debt; and/or
 - the stipulation that applicants utilise their homes as private lets (reluctance to become landlords).
- 2.2 Consequently, the Scottish Government is now exploring alternative methods for utilising money realised from the Empty Homes Loan Fund. One such option is to allow the loan fund to be used when selling or purchasing a property.
- 2.3 In the North Ayrshire context, and subject to approval, owners wishing to sell their homes could apply for a loan to carry out works to bring the property up to standard and make it a more attractive, 'sellable', prospect. The loan would be repaid to North Ayrshire at the point of sale.
- 2.4 The Government has set a condition against using the funding for this purpose. The property could not be sold for more than the 'property cap' for that area - which is based on the Scottish Government's Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers scheme (see Table 1).

Table 1: Low Cost Initiative for First Time Buyers Scheme (maximum property prices for North & East Ayrshire)

Property Size (apt size)	Max Price
2	£65,000
3	£70,000
4	£80,000
5	£100,000
6	£180,000

- 2.5 The Scottish Government has also agreed, again subject to approval, that the funding secured by the original bid may be used by Housing Services to purchase empty homes which were previously subject to right to buy. These homes would then be returned to the Council's overall housing stock.

- 2.6 It is anticipated that 2 homes, at an average cost of £65,000, could be purchased in the first instance. If there remains very little interest in 0% interest loans from local residents (either for rental or sale purposes) it is proposed that a third property could be purchased.
- 2.7 The benefit of this model to the Council is through securing a 0% interest loan to fund the full cost of the property purchase. Prudential borrowing interest rates are currently around 5%. Therefore, for the purchase of two properties, this model saves the Council c.£6,500 per annum in interest payments for the first 4 to 5 years of the loan (£9,750 per annum if a third property is purchased).

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Cabinet agrees that income secured from the Scottish Government's Empty Homes Loan Fund may also be used for a) the purpose of offering loans to owners to allow them to sell their properties on the open market, and b) purchasing empty homes, which were previously subject to right to buy, and which will then become part of the overall Council housing stock

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposal to use the Empty Loans Fund, to purchase empty homes which were previously subject to right to buy from the open market, will result in a maximum additional expenditure of either £130,000 or £195,000 (dependent on number of units purchased). This one off expenditure can be accommodated within the HRA 30 year business plan financial model.
- 4.2 The use of the Empty Homes Loans Fund as an interest free loan will result in savings to the HRA of £6,500 per annum (£9,750 per annum if a third property is purchased) for the first four years, compared with the normal interest that would be payable on this capital expenditure.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.3 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.4 Housing Services already carry out purchases from the open market, and have a approved process for doing so, which includes input from Legal Services. The same process would apply to this proposal.

Equality Implications

- 4.5 By bringing poor quality empty homes back into use and, in turn, increasing the affordable housing supply, there is likely to be a positive impact on residents who are vulnerable or living in poverty and who need to find an affordable housing solution.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.6 By bringing empty homes back into use, and removing a property which may be having a detrimental impact on the surrounding neighbourhood, or which may be subject to vandalism or anti social behaviour, there is likely to be a positive environmental impact.
- 4.7 This intervention is also likely to increase the lifespan of the property in question, by addressing disrepair and retaining the asset for future generations.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.8 This proposal supports the Single Outcome Agreement between North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government. Specifically, the National Outcome “we live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need” and the North Ayrshire Outcome 10(b): “availability of affordable housing has increased”.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Housing Services has consulted with the Scottish Government in the preparation for this proposal.
- 5.2 Legal Services and Financial Services have also been consulted in the preparation for this proposal.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Cabinet approval is sought to amend the previously agreed terms for the use of Empty Home Loan Funding which was secured from the Scottish Government.
- 6.2 It is proposed the funding is now also available to support the sale and purchase of empty homes within North Ayrshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', is written over a horizontal line.

CRAIG HATTON
Executive Director (Place)

Reference :

For further information please contact Yvonne Baulk, Head of Physical Environment on 01294 324542

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **Kirktonhall, West Kilbride**

Purpose: To inform Cabinet of the progress made by the Kirktonhall Creative media Group toward the preparation of a business plan and in attracting support from funders.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to approve continuation of the preferred bidder status for Kirktonhall Creative Media Group until a decision has been made by the external funders (Historic Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund) in respect of future funding, expected by the end of the financial year 2014/5, at which time a determination on the future for Kirktonhall can be made.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kirktonhall is a prominent category 'B' Listed "at risk" property, owned by North Ayrshire Council situated within the creative town of West Kilbride. It has been vacant since being declared surplus to the Council's need in 2008.

The Kirktonhall Creative Media Group (KCMG) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and social enterprise and was established as a S.C.I.O : SC043711, on the 17 January 2013.

It has a Board of Trustees elected by the membership, superseding the original organisation, the Kirktonhall Business Centre Development Group, which was granted preferred bidder status in the context of the Council's asset transfer policy in 2012. Membership is open and currently stands at 120 members.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 There are two main strands to the project: one is the physical retention and restoration of the building; the other is the related business plan and project activity which is set to provide a sustainable and productive future for Kirktonhall as a digital media and commercial business centre.

- 2.2 A due diligence report was commissioned by North Ayrshire Council from the Tourism Resources Company (TRC) in February 2014. The purpose of this work was to assimilate and assess the various strands of the Kirktonhall project and to review the viability of the initial business case. TRC identified and examined 36 risks/issues on behalf of the Council.
- 2.3 TRC were further engaged by the Creative Media Centre project team to review their work in addressing the risks/issues contained within the due diligence report and following a further period of study to assess the changes within the project business plan the findings were very positive, with TRC commending the improved business plan as potentially viable as a result of the development of a clearer strategy for use of the Kirktonhall. The position is now much improved, following the work of the Trustees and members of the Creative Media Group and their extended project team.
- 2.4 The Creative Media Centre will bring together creative people working in the digital media field including film, music, ICT, web based technologies, digital design and small scale fabrication. The Centre will incorporate serviced office space alongside laboratory facilities for the design and fabrication of prototype jewellery or ceramics, a computer training suite, music recording and rehearsal facilities and a video suite for making and editing film. Each space will be designed to operate as flexibly as possible to allow the building to grow and evolve with its market and users and Kirktonhall will also become a registered training centre and provide certificated learning and apprenticeship opportunities for young people and adults.
- 2.5 The revised project and funding application has four core drivers:
1. To create a supportive environment for young creative digital businesses to grow;
 2. To make high end digital packages and computer power available to small businesses and individuals who cannot afford them so that they can develop their business ideas and skills in an accessible, non-threatening and supportive environment;
 3. To provide training and access to ICT for those who have difficulties obtaining that access for themselves or who are in some way intimidated by the digital world; and
 4. To secure a viable future for Kirktonhall and the Simpson sundial, by providing a historical interpretation centre and encouraging cultural tourism.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Kirktonhall Creative Media Group be allowed to continue their preferred bidder status until a decision in relation to Stage 1 Lottery funding has been made by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund and other external funding organisations. It is expected that this information will be available by the end of the financial year 2014/5, but the timescale for this process is not within the control of the Council.
- 3.2 It is further proposed that recommendations be brought to Cabinet at that stage as to the determination of the future use of the building.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council is continuing to keep Kirktonhall wind and watertight.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no Human Resource Implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications at this stage.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications at this stage.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications at this stage.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6
- Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased;
 - Levels of educational attainment and achievement have improved;
 - More young people are leaving school for positive destinations;
 - Partnership working between the public, community and voluntary sector has improved.
 - Supporting business to grow.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Extensive consultations have taken place with members of the Kirktonhall Creative Media Group and with the local community.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Kirktonhall Creative Media Group and their project team have completed a robust business plan; reviewed and met the recommendations of the TRC due diligence report commissioned by the Council; finalised drawing, plans and costings for the property upgrade; and are now completing discussions with potential funders.
- 6.2 It is recommended that recommendations for a determination on the future use of Kirktonhall be brought to Cabinet pursuant to the decision by Historic Scotland and Heritage Lottery Fund in relation to their support for the project.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : AS/JN

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

Background Papers

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8.1

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **Community Asset Transfer Application: Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club, Blacklands Hall, Kilwinning**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the application by Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club to have the lease of Blacklands Hall, Kilwinning transferred to them within the terms of the Council's Community Asset Transfer arrangements.

Recommendation: That Cabinet approves in principle the transfer of the Blacklands Hall with associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Community asset transfer provides an opportunity for people to be involved in developing and providing opportunities or services for their local communities. It may also allow groups to develop commercial ventures which will support community benefit. Asset transfer also may mean that public assets get used more frequently and more effectively. Community-led ownership may also allow additional opportunities for groups to secure extra funding or resources.
- 1.2 Where the Council transfers assets to community-based groups it will continue to promote public value and will evaluate each proposal in terms of its ability to contribute to the following:
- Community Empowerment
 - Local community benefits
 - Building the capacity of, and encouraging a sustainable voluntary and community sector
 - Economic development and economic well-being
 - Social enterprise and social well-being
 - Environmental improvement and environmental well-being
 - Improvements to public services
 - Value for money

1.3 Any applicant seeking to take on a Council asset must be able to:

- Provide a well-prepared and sustainable business proposal
- Demonstrate a clear community/social demand for the proposed activity to be delivered from the asset
- Demonstrate that they have the capacity to manage the asset and have directors or management committee members who have the necessary skills and experience
- Show they have good governance and robust financial systems in place along with all necessary policies expected of an organisation such as training plans, health and safety policies, comply with relevant equalities legislation, etc.
- Show how their proposal contributes to the achievement of the Council's outcomes
- Prove that the proposed project will not duplicate activities, services or facilities already provided in the local community.

1.4 Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club has been operating since 2009 and have built their membership from 12 to over 700 currently, with qualified coaches delivering high class training that is resulting in successful outcomes at local and national levels.

1.5 Having proven the need for professional gymnastics coaching, the club is now ready to meet the increased demand for their services, by meeting the needs of pre-school children, school age children, local partner groups, disability gymnastics coaching and general fitness provision.

2. Current Position

2.1 The club currently operates from premises at Quarry Road, Irvine and has been highly successful in building, maintaining and progressing their membership to achieve a very high standard in gymnastics. Additional benefits that accrue from the work of the club include an improved health and well-being for its members, a close working relationship with the community in which the club operates leading to opportunities for volunteering and engagement.

2.2 Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club wishes to lease the former Blacklands Hall, Kilwinning, which has lain empty for some considerable time. The club wants to bring gymnastics, play and fitness provision to the town of Kilwinning and the hall would be particularly suitable in terms of location, size and layout to meet the exacting needs of the club. It is ideally located for access by train, bus, car or by foot.

- 2.3 Given a lease of the property, the Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club would offer gymnastics classes, daytime play sessions and fitness programmes for young people. The facility could also offer accommodation to other gymnastic groups. The local community would also have access to this quality sports and play facility and by offering early years classes and recreational gymnastics, the club can offer good quality and fun sports intervention which will help tackle childhood obesity and inactivity. The club is well known in the community and has provided displays at local gala days and other community events.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet agrees in principle to the transfer of the Blacklands Hall and associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.
- 3.2 At Stage 4 of the process, for applicants who have progressed beyond Stage 3, the Council asset transfer group will continue to manage the transfer of the asset. Representatives from Property, Management and Investment (PM & I) and Legal will work with the applicant to agree the terms of transfer. Terms and conditions will be agreed for acceptable use of the asset. Each party's responsibilities will be clarified by either lease agreement or conditions of sale. At any stage in the process, an organisation can cancel a transfer if their circumstances change and they no longer wish to pursue the issue. At any stage in the process, the council can cancel the transfer where suitable justification exists.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications will be considered within Stage 4 of the asset transfer process.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Stage 4 of the Community Asset Transfer Policy will require the terms of transfer and use to be agreed. If the property is to be sold or transferred on a long lease at less than market value, it will be necessary to comply with the terms of the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities(Scotland) Regulations 2010. These regulations permit a disposal at less than the best price achievable where either (a)the property is valued at less than £10000, or (b) the Council has compared the financial cost of transfer against the community benefits and determined that the transfer is reasonable and promotes either economic development or regeneration, health, social well-being or environmental well-being. This will be the subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 **Worklessness is at the Scottish level and there is less inequality within North Ayrshire:**

The number of jobs is increased through a coordinated approach that encourages start-up, supports existing business to grow and attracts businesses to North Ayrshire.

Children's health and wellbeing is improved through breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes:

Children and young people are nurtured and parents are supported. Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving.

The life chances of vulnerable children and young people are improved.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultation with schools and local community groups has been undertaken, the group are well known and respected for their professional approach.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The transfer of the property would enable the club to continue to expand its provision, build its local and national reputation for excellence in gymnastics and encourage linkages to health strategies which challenge obesity and inactivity, particularly in children and young people. The transfer of the lease is recommended in principle subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : AS/JMcH/BA

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Service,
Economy and Communities, Connected Communities on 01294 324414.

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8.2

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: **Community Asset Transfer Application: ANCHO, Redburn Community Centre**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of ANCHO's application to have the lease of Redburn Community Centre, Dickson Drive, Irvine, transferred to the organisation within the terms of the Council's Community Asset Transfer arrangements.

Recommendation: That Cabinet approves in principle the transfer of the Redburn Community Centre to ANCHO, subject to:

- the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase; and
 - authorise Legal Services to petition Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for authority to grant the lease.
-

1. Introduction

1.1 Community asset transfer provides an opportunity for people to be involved in developing and providing opportunities or services for their local communities. It may also allow groups to develop commercial ventures which will support community benefit. Asset transfer also may mean that public assets get used more frequently and more effectively. Community-led ownership may also allow additional opportunities for groups to secure extra funding or resources.

1.2 Where the Council transfers assets to community-based groups it will continue to promote public value and will evaluate each proposal in terms of its ability to contribute to the following:

- Community Empowerment
- Local community benefits
- Building the capacity of, and encouraging a sustainable voluntary and community sector
- Economic development and economic well-being
- Social enterprise and social well-being

- Environmental improvement and environmental well-being
- Improvements to public services
- Value for money

1.3 Any applicant seeking to take on a Council asset must be able to:

- Provide a well prepared and sustainable business proposal
- Demonstrate a clear community/social demand for the proposed activity to be delivered from the asset
- Demonstrate that they have the capacity to manage the asset and have directors or management committee members who have the necessary skills and experience
- Show they have good governance and robust financial systems in place along with all necessary policies expected of an organisation such as training plans, health and safety policies, comply with relevant equalities legislation, etc.
- Show how their proposal contributes to the achievement of the Council's outcomes
- Prove that the proposed project will not duplicate activities, services or facilities already provided in the local community.

1.4 Redburn Community Centre was developed from the former Redburn Primary School, which was closed in the 1980s. It has been managed by Redburn Community Association for over 30 years. A service level agreement (SLA) is in place with the Council. Over the past 18 years the building fabric has been improved but the SLA outcomes achieved by the Community Association have reduced, with their commitment now being to manage the staff and centre activity programme. The main building and associated costs are met by North Ayrshire Council's Community Facilities department following Redburn Community Association's decision to give up the lease.

1.5 It should be noted that whilst the building is owned by the Council, the land belongs to the Irvine Common Good Fund and is leased by them to Council for educational use.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 An SLA has been in place with the Redburn Community Association for more than 30 years and the key requirements of the agreement are that the voluntary community association:
- Employs the staff members who clean and take care of the property (potential TUPE/redundancy/partnership arrangement);
 - Engages with the local community and determines what the programme of activities should be to reflect local need and aspiration;
 - Has systems in place to ensure that HASAWA and other statutory requirements are in place; and
 - Reports on the efficient and effective use of public funds and demonstrate added value for the local community.
- 2.2 In 2012 the report submitted to Scrutiny Committee indicated that the Council was not receiving best value and a review of the Association's management of the building and the use of Council funds was undertaken.
- 2.3 Following the publication of the Council's Community Asset Transfer arrangements, ANCHO, a local registered social landlord, made application to work in partnership with Redburn Community Association to improve the breadth of community provision within the Community Centre. ANCHO wish to create a Community Hub within the Centre, where they can provide a one-stop shop, for their tenants and partners to access all of the services they currently have available and can add new provision to their portfolio within the Centre and its immediate environs.
- 2.4 Over the past 7 years ANCHO have provided a range of services from two small premises. ANCHO have an extensive programme, along with their annual fun day, which is usually held at the Redburn Community Centre. They run finance and debt advice services, including benefit checks and income maximisation, budgeting workshops and daily job clubs. ANCHO provide free internet access and IT training to anyone who wishes to use their facilities and since December 2006 ANCHO have received over £1.4m in grant funding for community work, which has meant that they have outgrown the space allocated for this work.

- 2.5 ANCHO have a very ambitious plan to help local residents build their capacity and skill to improve their prospects of either finding employment locally or through new provision developed by ANCHO. There is significant scope for helping local people to develop an opportunity to become self-employed or to form a co-operative approach to developing employment. Two projects for a Youth Arts and Film Project have been approved in principle by funders, totalling £140,000. Other applications are currently being processed for a financial inclusion project and an employability programme - funding has been approved in principle by the Lottery and Children in Need.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet agrees in principle to the transfer of the Redburn Community Centre, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase and to authorise Legal Services to petition Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for authority to grant the lease
- 3.2 At Stage 4 of the process, for applicants who have progressed beyond Stage 3, the Council asset transfer group will continue to manage the transfer of the asset. Representatives from Property, Management and Investment (PM & I) and Legal will work with the applicant to agree the terms of transfer. Terms and conditions will be agreed for acceptable use of the asset. Each party's responsibilities will be clarified by either lease agreement or conditions of sale. At any stage in the process, an organisation can cancel a transfer if their circumstances change and they no longer wish to pursue the issue. At any stage in the process, the Council can cancel the transfer where suitable justification exists.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1. The financial implications will be considered within Stage 4 of the asset transfer process.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 Stage 4 of the Community Asset Transfer Policy will require the terms of transfer and use to be agreed. If the property is to be sold or transferred on a long lease at less than market value, it will be necessary to comply with the terms of the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities(Scotland) Regulations 2010. These regulations permit a disposal at less than the best price achievable where either (a)the property is valued at less than £10000, or (b) the Council has compared the financial cost of transfer against the community benefits and determined that the transfer is reasonable and promotes either economic development or regeneration, health, social well-being or environmental well-being. This will be the subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet.
- 4.3.2 Redburn Community Centre is owned by Irvine Common Good. In order to grant a lease of over 20 years it will be necessary to raise a court action to petition the Sheriff to grant consent to the transfer. If there are objections to this petition, a court hearing will be required, extending both the timescale for transfer and the cost. In light of this potential delay it is recommended that Cabinet authorise Legal Services to raise and pursue the court action as part of stage 4 of the process, once terms have been clarified.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 ANCHO have expressed a desire to work in partnership with the Redburn Community Association. The Council will require to ensure that a minute of agreement or memorandum of partnership is agreed to ensure that the planned outcomes of partnership are maintained and evaluated as part of the SLA.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 ANCHO also wish to develop sustainable food production through allotments and community growing projects at Redburn Centre..

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 **Worklessness is at the Scottish level and there is less inequality within North Ayrshire:**
The number of jobs is increased through a coordinated approach that encourages start-up, supports existing business to grow and attracts businesses to North Ayrshire.

Children's health and wellbeing is improved through breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes:

Children and young people are nurtured and parents are supported. Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving.

The life chances of vulnerable children and young people are improved.

North Ayrshire residents feel safer and communities are empowered:

More residents engage in community activities and volunteering.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultations have taken place with Redburn Community Association and the centre's user groups and the ANCHO Board and a community consultation was undertaken in the summer of 2014.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 ANCHO have a clear vision of future employability and training opportunities and have identified a range of additional programmes and projects which will enhance the quality of life for local residents. The ANCHO Board has expressed a clear desire to work in partnership with the current Community Association and North Ayrshire Council's Connected Communities to deliver community benefit for the neighbourhood. The transfer of the lease is recommended in principle subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase, and to authorise Legal Services to petition Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for authority to grant the lease.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : AS/JMcH/BA

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Economy and Communities, Connected Communities on 01294 324414.

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8.3

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject:	Community Asset Transfer Application: Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine, Irvine Pilot House (Boyd's Patented Tower, Grade B Listed Building)
Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of the application by Coastwatch (Scotland), Irvine to have the lease of the Irvine Pilot House transferred to them within the terms of the Council's Community Asset Transfer arrangements.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves in principle the transfer of the Pilot House with associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Community asset transfer provides an opportunity for people to be involved in developing and providing opportunities or services for their local communities. It may also allow groups to develop commercial ventures which will support community benefit. Asset transfer also may mean that public assets get used more frequently and more effectively. Community-led ownership may also allow additional opportunities for groups to secure extra funding or resources.
- 1.2 Where the Council transfers assets to community-based groups it will continue to promote public value and will evaluate each proposal in terms of its ability to contribute to the following:
 - Community Empowerment
 - Local community benefits
 - Building the capacity of, and encouraging a sustainable voluntary and community sector
 - Economic development and economic well-being
 - Social enterprise and social well-being
 - Environmental improvement and environmental well-being
 - Improvements to public services
 - Value for money

- 1.3 Any applicant seeking to take on a Council asset must be able to:
- Provide a well-prepared and sustainable business proposal
 - Demonstrate a clear community/social demand for the proposed activity to be delivered from the asset
 - Demonstrate that they have the capacity to manage the asset and have directors or management committee members who have the necessary skills and experience
 - Show they have good governance and robust financial systems in place along with all necessary policies expected of an organisation such as training plans, health and safety policies, comply with relevant equalities legislation, etc.
 - Show how their proposal contributes to the achievement of the Council's outcomes
 - Prove that the proposed project will not duplicate activities, services or facilities already provided in the local community.
- 1.4 The Irvine Branch of Coastwatch (Scotland) wish to create a new station to join the Scottish network of stations (there are four currently). They are able to call upon support from other established branches and have several volunteers with the necessary skills and experience to develop the project. The Head of Unit has successfully managed a range of assets previously and sustained them over many years.
- 1.5 The purpose of Coastwatch is to assist in the preservation and protection of life at sea and along the coastline, in particular, by the provision of a look-out station for the public benefit and by providing training to the public to increase awareness and enhance safety at sea.
- 1.6 The Irvine Coastwatch Unit will assist the local authority Ranger Service and Emergency Services where possible, by establishing and maintaining an organisation of skilled volunteers to provide a service ashore and afloat in the interests of the safety of the general public. Coastwatch (Scotland) (CWS) also seek to advance the education of the public by teaching them maritime skills and by offering assistance in safeguarding the local coastal and marine wildlife in partnership with the R.S.P.B. and the Scottish S.P.C.A.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine wish to take a 25-year lease of the derelict Pilot House, with an option to purchase, to refurbish the historic local landmark to create a base/observation platform for Coastwatch's activities. Exploratory discussions have already begun with the Big Lottery to determine the potential for funding the restoration and refurbishment of the building.
- 2.2 In addition to the observation platform there will be a:
 - R.S.P.B. wildlife observation and monitoring station;
 - Community meeting facility and interpretation centre for local groups such as school groups/youth groups/fishing clubs, bird watching etc;
 - First aid station; and
 - Registered R.Y.A. training facility.
- 2.3. The historical significance of the Pilot House and its function is recognised and it has been protected by giving it category B (regional importance) listing status by Historic Scotland. The building is currently listed on the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland.
- 2.4 The unique form and characteristics of the building (along with its listed protection) mean that possible alternative uses are limited. CWS Irvine have a viable and sustainable use for the building which will bring many benefits for North Ayrshire Council and the local community and make the harbour more attractive to visitors and locals.
- 2.5 Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine have a clear vision of future employability and training opportunities for all ages including volunteer support and hope to be in a position to set up a training facility to improve the prospects of young people and others seeking a route into employment.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet agrees in principle to the transfer of the Pilot House with associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.

- 3.2 At Stage 4 of the process, for applicants who have progressed beyond Stage 3, the Council asset transfer group will continue to manage the transfer of the asset. Representatives from Property, Management and Investment (PM & I) and Legal will work with the applicant to agree the terms of transfer. Terms and conditions will be agreed for acceptable use of the asset. Each party's responsibilities will be clarified by either lease agreement or conditions of sale. At any stage in the process, an organisation can cancel a transfer if their circumstances change and they no longer wish to pursue the issue. At any stage in the process, the council can cancel the transfer where suitable justification exists.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications will be considered within Stage 4 of the asset transfer process.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Stage 4 of the Community Asset Transfer Policy will require the terms of transfer and use to be agreed. If the property is to be sold or transferred on a long lease at less than market value, it will be necessary to comply with the terms of the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities(Scotland) Regulations 2010. These regulations permit a disposal at less than the best price achievable where either (a)the property is valued at less than £10000, or (b) the Council has compared the financial cost of transfer against the community benefits and determined that the transfer is reasonable and promotes either economic development or regeneration, health, social well-being or environmental well-being. This will be the subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 Working in partnership with the North Ayrshire Council's Ranger Service, the Coastwatch (Scotland) Irvine organisation will assist in dune reclamation and management, safeguard the habitat of local wildlife and cooperate with the local authority in the maintenance and management of the Irvine Beach Park.

Implications for Key Priorities

4.6 **Worklessness is at the Scottish level and there is less inequality within North Ayrshire:**

The number of jobs in increased through a coordinated approach that encourages start-up, supports existing business to grow and attracts businesses to North Ayrshire.

Children's health and wellbeing is improved through breaking the cycle of poverty, inequality and poor outcomes:

Children and young people are nurtured and parents are supported.

Children and young people are safe, healthy, active, aspiring and achieving.

The life chances of vulnerable children and young people are improved.

North Ayrshire residents feel safer and communities are empowered.

More residents engage in community activities and volunteering.

5. **Consultations**

- 5.1 Consultations have taken place with local groups and residents including the Fullarton Community Association, Fullarton Futures Group, Irvine Vision, the Scottish Maritime Museum and Fullarton tenants and residents.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 This application is an opportunity to bring the Pilot House back into use and remove this historic property from the historic buildings at risk register. The transfer of the lease is recommended in principle subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : AS/JMcH/BA

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Economy and Communities, Connected Communities on 01294 324414.

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8.4

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: Community Asset Transfer Application: North Ayrshire Staff Association, Littlestone Hall, Irvine

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the North Ayrshire Staff Association application to have the lease of Littlestone Hall, transferred to them within the terms of the Council's Community Asset Transfer arrangements.

Recommendation: That Cabinet approves in principle the transfer of the Littlestone Hall, Irvine with associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Community asset transfer provides an opportunity for people to be involved in developing and providing opportunities or services for their local communities. It may also allow groups to develop commercial ventures which will support community benefit. Asset transfer also may mean that public assets get used more frequently and more effectively. Community-led ownership may also allow additional opportunities for groups to secure extra funding or resources.
- 1.2 Where the Council transfers assets to community-based groups it will continue to promote public value and will evaluate each proposal in terms of its ability to contribute to the following:
 - Community Empowerment
 - Local community benefits
 - Building the capacity of, and encouraging a sustainable voluntary and community sector
 - Economic development and economic well-being
 - Social enterprise and social well-being
 - Environmental improvement and environmental well-being
 - Improvements to public services
 - Value for money

1.3 Any applicant seeking to take on a Council asset must be able to:

- Provide a well prepared and sustainable business proposal
- Demonstrate a clear community/social demand for the proposed activity to be delivered from the asset
- Demonstrate that they have the capacity to manage the asset and have directors or management committee members who have the necessary skills and experience
- Show they have good governance and robust financial systems in place along with all necessary policies expected of an organisation such as training plans, health and safety policies, comply with relevant equalities legislation, etc.
- Show how their proposal contributes to the achievement of the Council's outcomes
- Prove that the proposed project will not duplicate activities, services or facilities already provided in the local community.

1.4 North Ayrshire Staff Association (N.A.S.A.) provide a range of leisure, sports and recreational opportunities for their members. They currently lease a property at Perceton House, Irvine, but have been required to find a suitable alternative property from which to operate following the marketing for sale of Perceton House, Irvine.

2. Current Position

2.1 Following discussion with Connected Communities, N.A.S.A. will make the accommodation in the hall available for a range of community use including, mother and toddler groups, senior citizens groups, youth activities, sports activities and educational courses and classes.

2.2 N.A.S.A. have requested a 25-year lease of the property with the option of purchase. They would also seek to negotiate with K.A. Leisure to use part of the adjacent dressing rooms which back onto the playing fields.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approves in principle the transfer of the Littlestone Hall, Irvine with associated grounds, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.

- 3.2 At Stage 4 of the process, for applicants who have progressed beyond Stage 3, the Council asset transfer group will continue to manage the transfer of the asset. Representatives from Property, Management and Investment (PM & I) and Legal will work with the applicant to agree the terms of transfer. Terms and conditions will be agreed for acceptable use of the asset. Each party's responsibilities will be clarified by either lease agreement or conditions of sale. At any stage in the process, an organisation can cancel a transfer if their circumstances change and they no longer wish to pursue the issue. At any stage in the process, the Council can cancel the transfer where suitable justification exists.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications will be considered within Stage 4 of the asset transfer process.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no human resource implications.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Stage 4 of the Community Asset Transfer Policy will require the terms of transfer and use to be agreed. If the property is to be sold or transferred on a long lease at less than market value, it will be necessary to comply with the terms of the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities(Scotland) Regulations 2010. These regulations permit a disposal at less than the best price achievable where either (a)the property is valued at less than £10000, or (b) the Council has compared the financial cost of transfer against the community benefits and determined that the transfer is reasonable and promotes either economic development or regeneration, health, social well-being or environmental well-being. This will be the subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

4.6 **North Ayrshire residents feel safer and communities are empowered:**

More residents engage in community activities and volunteering.

5. **Consultations**

5.1 Consultation has taken place between the N.A.S.A. Executive and their membership.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 The North Ayrshire Staff Association has been operating successfully for many years and has established a credible and sustainable organisation providing a range of provision for North Ayrshire Council employees and their families. The transfer of the lease is recommended in principle subject to the satisfactory conclusion of Stage 4 of the North Ayrshire Council asset transfer process to agree the terms and conditions of lease or prospective purchase.



KAREN YEOMANS

Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : As/JMcH/BA

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Economy and Communities, Connected Communities on 01294 324414.

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9

10 February 2015

Cabinet

Subject: ICT Strategy Update February 2015

Purpose: To provide Cabinet with an update on progress to date in relation to the ICT Strategy.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to note progress and receive reports on progress every 6 months.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Cabinet approved both the Council's [ICT Strategy 2011-16](#) in December 2011 and the [review of the Strategy in July 2014](#).
- 1.2 This report outlines progress on the ICT Strategy from July 2014 to December 2014.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The strategic focus for the next 2 years is: Digital Services, Reduced Costs and Transformational Change. Progress and next steps are detailed in the attached Action Plan. (Appendix A). However, the key points of note are:
 - 2.1.1 Implementation of the new telephony system to support the Council's agile working programme is underway. The integration with the existing telephony system is complete, as is integration with Voicemail and Call-logging applications. Handsets that utilise the Council's new data network are in use within IT Services and further implementation within Cunninghame House begins in February 2015.
 - 2.1.2 Development of agile working solutions continues. This includes the new remote access solution which is more manageable and easier to use, whilst retaining the required level of security. IT Services have trained over 400 staff who now have the ability to utilise this solution to access council information securely.
 - 2.1.3 Since signing the new national EE (Everyone Everywhere) contract for mobile telephony, over 600 mobiles have been migrated, with the overall contract estimated to realise savings of up to £120k per annum.

- 2.1.4 Staff are now seeing the benefits of the implementation of the new Wide Area Network with increase in performance, leading to faster access times from offices to the Council's main applications. 32 sites, including Social Services and Housing offices have now transitioned.
- 2.1.5 Education & Youth Employment and IT Services with the assistance of consultants XMA Ltd, developed the Education ICT Strategy, the key points of which are detailed in a separate report to Cabinet on the ICT Strategy for Schools.
- 2.1.6 'The Hub' - went live on 6th October which joins all online transactions/reports into the one place, providing customers with easy access to online services and a more integrated approach to reporting for elected members and senior managers, thus making further use of our investment in new intelligent forms and emerging technologies. These technologies will be used to develop further interfaces with Council systems.
- 2.1.7 The Health and Social Care Partnership ICT Workstream and the Technical sub-group have worked closely with NHS colleagues to transition partnership staff to various locations such as Caley Court, Bridgegate and Cunninghame House to allow closer integration and access to Council and NHS applications.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note progress and receive 6 monthly updates.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The ICT Strategy is underpinned with an existing capital investment totalling £3,549,987. However, as initiatives progress, business cases will be further developed for appropriate consideration.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 Consideration of the Council's sustainability objectives is incorporated within ICT projects, e.g. reduced power consumption and air conditioning as part of the virtual server replacement project.

Implications for Key Priorities

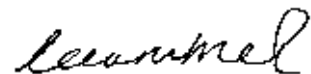
- 4.6 The ICT Strategy continues to contribute to the objectives of the Council Plan.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Regular updates are provided to the CMT and the Transformation Board.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Cabinet is being asked to note progress to December 2014 and receive a further report in 6 months.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference :

For further information please contact Lorna Morley, Team Manager (Strategy and Performance) on telephone number 01294 324254.

Background Papers

None

ICT Strategy Action Plan

	ACTIONS	OUTCOME	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
1	DIGITAL SERVICES			
A	Deliver Customer Focused Services Deliver a Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN)	Secure network for data sharing and collaborative working across Scotland	The Scottish Government SWAN team have been presenting at various events and staff continue to attend to keep up to date with progress on transitioning.	IT Services to discuss transition costs and timeline with Capita.
B	Consider Hosted Services and Cloud Computing	Potential to reduce costs through joined up working	Work is underway for SWAN to host value added services in the Cloud.	IT Services will monitor progress and availability of SWAN to deliver shared resources and secure cloud hosting.
C	Next Generation Access	Superfast broadband provision across all parts of Scotland	Broadband provisioning continues to be rolled-out with the addition of a subsea fibre infrastructure between mainland and islands on the West Coast, including Cumbrae and Arran	IT Services will attend the national meeting and a local update meeting being held in January 2015 and continue to take advantage of broadband provision.
D	Meet the demands and requirements for Public Service Network (PSN) compliance	Retain secure eMail and access to third party systems, eg DWP	Independent annual IT Health Check undertaken and improvements implemented. Compliance submission submitted Dec 2014, compliance decision due January 2015.	Continue to meet compliance requirements through infrastructure and application upgrades and information governance reviews.
E	Integrate Council Systems with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System	Services delivery can be optimised through integrated platforms, through data and information flow, eliminating human intervention	An integration tool, NDL, has been procured to allow development of interfaces between main Council systems and the Council's CRM. Integration between CRM and	Complete CRM/WDM integration. Use NDL integration technology to integrate CRM with Housing Rents and Council Tax Billing. Investigate other interface

F	Increase online services	Enhances further the Council's transactional website and mobile channels making data and information accessible to our citizens and businesses and in turn reducing cost	<p>WDM Roads system is being developed.</p> <p>Creation of "The Hub" to bring together online services and additional functionality. For example, call tracking and responsive design to display on any device.</p> <p>Other new online services include, request and pay for Special Uplifts, registration extracts, change of address, report a housing repair, report a bonfire.</p>	<p>developments for this type of technology.</p> <p>Further developments continue, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View Housing Rents online. • eBilling – View Council Tax Bill • Council Tax and Benefits Forms, including Direct Debit, Change of Circumstances • Request grass cutting service. • Request bin pull out service.
2	REDUCED COSTS			
A	Agile Implement new telephony in main Council buildings	Supports agile working	A new IP Telephony solution is being implemented. Integration with current telephony system, voicemail and call-logging now complete. IP Telephony recently rolled out to IT Services with further service deployment planned for 2015.	Plan the deployment in other main buildings and investigate how the solution can be extended to home and remote workers.
B	Increase availability of Remote Access	Supports remote and home working	IT Services have delivered around 20 staff training sessions to over 400 staff to promote and encourage the use of the Council's new Remote Access solution. The new solution retains 2-factor authentication security using text messaging which is a more cost effective solution. Over 400 staff now have Remote Access and feedback on using the new	Further requests for remote access will be managed accordingly.

C	Expand Wi-Fi throughout the Council	Supports flexible working, with greater speed, resilience and operational efficiencies.	solution has been very positive. The current Wi-Fi solution is at full capacity. Capital funding has been secured for 2015/16 to extend the Wi-Fi facility.	An expansion project will be initiated during 2015.
ICT Asset Rationalisation				
D	Expansion of desktop virtualisation	Potential to reduce cost of installation, decrease security risks and extends the lifespan of the desktop. Supports hot-desking and agile working.	Trial in Bridgegate successful.	Although trial within Bridgegate has been successful, further evaluation on the cost/benefit and potential printing issues will be progressed. The introduction of integration with the NHS is also being reviewed.
E	Expansion of data storage and archiving	To support data growth with document retention on less expensive hardware	Document archiving has been implemented with Capacity Planning reporting regularly to monitor data growth.	IT Services and Information Management will be working together to agree and implement data retention schedules, scanning strategy and corporate archiving policies.
F	Further investment in corporate server infrastructure	Greater resilience, centralised management and reduction in power consumption	Server infrastructure has been expanded to facilitate recent data growth and secondary facility at Bridgegate implemented.	Manage server infrastructure growth by introducing data management policies with Information Management Officer and plan for server refresh programme.
G	Continuation of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	Software assurance and compatibility for Office applications and standardisation of operating systems.	This investment supported the Council's migration from XP to MS Windows 7 and Office application standardisation. The agreement also allowed the Council to meet many of its obligatory PSN compliance issues.	This agreement runs to June 2015. The Council will take a 2 year break potentially re-entering a similar contract in 2017/18

H	Standardise operating systems and MS Office in schools	Standardisation and simplification of data sharing with internal staff and external partners.	This has proved very successful in providing a standard software platform across the Council allowing effective sharing of information.	A review will be initiated in Autumn 2015 to plan the migration to MS Office 2013.
I	Digital Infrastructure Amend contract terms for future procurements to allow sharing and hosting of applications	Potential to reduce costs	<p>As part of the National contract, the Council has signed a new mobile contract with EE.</p> <p>The Council has migrated 50% of out of contract mobiles to EE. To comply with the terms of the contract, a further 2 migrations are planned for February 2015.</p>	Shared contracts form part of the Local Government ICT Strategy and the Council will continue to take advantage of national and shared contracts.
J	Continue to implement the actions of the Infrastructure Review by upgrading the WAN, LAN, telephony and wireless provision in schools.	Provision of infrastructure that is robust, resilient and reliable.	<p>Core infrastructure in place. Individual circuit migration underway with 38 main sites already migrated.</p> <p>The LAN within Cunninghame House, Bridgegate House and the Council's Data Centre are now complete. Further migration to the new LAN infrastructure continues.</p> <p>The new wireless infrastructure has been implemented in Elderbank Primary, St Mathews, Greenwood and Arran High School.</p> <p>Asbestos surveys are underway in a number of schools to determine safe routes for deployment.</p>	<p>The vast majority of sites will be migrated to the new infrastructure by summer 2015.</p> <p>Concentration on school LAN replacement to facilitate the Wireless in Schools project.</p> <p>In line with the ICT Strategy for Education a Mobile Device Management solution is required and discussions are underway with the network supplier and MDM solutions partner.</p> <p>Survey results should be known by end of February and deployment will resume in these schools.</p>

3	TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME			
	Transformation Programme			
A	As part of the Council's Education Review develop and implement an ICT Strategy for Schools	The use of modern technology to support the Curriculum for Learning	ICT Strategy for Schools developed and an update on progress provided in appendix b.	Continue to progress the ICT Strategy for Schools Action Plan.
B	As a key enabler of the Health and Social Care Partnership implement agreed ICT initiatives	Supports partnership and collaborative working and the secure sharing of data.	IT Services lead the ICT Workstream in conjunction with NHS. Technical sub-group already formed and developing connectivity plans for partnership working.	Continue to report to the Partnership Board and lead on the ICT Workstream.
C	Business Applications Review Management Information provision and re-design the Council's Intranet	Improves and supports business continuity. Potential for integration with other systems and easier workflow. Management information is recognised as a valuable Council asset.	IT Services and Customer Services are in the progress of redesigning the Council's intranet.	A focus group has been setup to develop the information and design, with staff feedback being requested in February 2015, with an estimated go live date of April 2015.
D	Review the benefits of migrating from Lotus to Microsoft environment, including eMail, databases and collaboration tools	Use emerging technologies to improve collaboration, communication and online participation, whilst providing an ICT infrastructure that is reliable, flexible and secure, and conforms to appropriate technical standards.	IT Services engaged with consultants to evaluate the benefits and costs associated with migration to both cloud and on premise solutions. Migration would be at a significant cost and as the Local ICT Strategy Board in conjunction with SWAN are investigating the possibilities of secure cloud email provisioning, it is more beneficial to upgrade Lotus Domino to the latest version and await further development in this area.	Planning is underway to upgrade the Lotus Domino infrastructure to the latest version of eMail and Sametime instant messaging The rollout will be staged and awareness sessions/training will be provided to highlight new features of the products. IT Services are also investigating the implementation of an eMail archiving solution.