

North Ayrshire Council
17 January 2017

IRVINE, 17 January 2017 - At a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 4.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, John Ferguson, Alex Gallagher, Willie Gibson, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, John Hunter, Grace McLean, Catherine McMillan, Ronnie McNicol, Ruth Maguire, Jim Montgomerie, Alan Munro, Donald Reid and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; K. Yeomans, Executive Director and A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) (Economy and Communities); L. Friel, Executive Director and F. Walker, Interim Head of Service (People and Transformation) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); Iona Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Butcher, Executive Director and A. McClelland, Interim Head of Service (Learning and Improvement) (Education and Youth Employment); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Support, C. Andrew, Senior Manager (Legal Services), L. McEwan, Corporate Communications Manager, D. Coulter, Communications Officer; and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bruce, Jean Highgate, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, Tom Marshall and Robert Steel.

1. Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

3. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Ardrossan Harbour - Investment Proposals and Lease Agreement

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) which sought agreement on the nature of the Council's support in facilitating the investment required at Ardrossan Harbour to support a continuation of the Arran and Campbeltown ferry services.

The Council, at its meeting on 9 November 2016, unanimously agreed to support the case for the retention of the Arran and Campbeltown ferry routes being served from Ardrossan. Thereafter, at its meeting on 21 December 2016, the Council agreed to submit a Prospectus to the Scottish Government setting out the technical case for this.

The report presented information on the decision-making process surrounding the bid by Associated British Ports, the Prospectus setting out the strong case for the retention of the Arran and Campbeltown ferry services in Ardrossan, the commercial case for investment in Ardrossan, proposals in respect of a lease agreement and the consultation undertaken to date. Members were invited to approve the next steps recommended by the report.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the recommendations contained in the report.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gibson, moved that the Council agree (a) to request assurances from Scottish Government on the methodology to be applied in making a decision on the ferry services, including assessment of the value for money case; and (b) subject to a long term commitment by the Scottish Government to the operation of the Arran and Campbeltown ferry services from Ardrossan, to approve (i) the principle of a lease agreement between the Council and Peel Ports over land at Ardrossan Harbour; (ii) financial support towards the investment requirement at Ardrossan to ensure the continuation of the ferry services and wider regeneration in the town and (iii) delegated authority to the Chief Executive to conclude the submission of the commercial case for investment in Ardrossan Harbour to the Scottish Government. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.