

Cabinet
20 December 2016

IRVINE, 20 December 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie, Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus and Elizabeth Higton (Church Representatives) and Gordon Smith (Teaching Representative).

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; J. Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); C. Hatton, Executive Director and C. Nelson, Divisional Manager (Place); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) (Economy and Communities) and E. Troup, Regeneration Manager; L. Friel, Executive Director and A. Lyndon, Team Manager (Corporate Procurement) (Finance and Corporate Support); J. Hutcheson, Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

D. McLean, Land Use Consulting

Chair

Councillor Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara and Mark Fraser (Church representative).

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. School Estate - Secondary School Improvements

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the proposals to upgrade and refurbish Irvine Royal Academy, Kilwinning Academy and Auchenharvie Academy. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the main components of the design schemes and high level costs estimates for each of the schools.

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

- a letter from Kilwinning Academy Parent Council expressing their views on the request from Ayrshire College to rent space at the school for the College's trades provision; and
- the terms of an email from the Principal, Ayrshire College on the implications for the future plans for the College' trades provision as a result of priority being given to the construction of an all weather pitch.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the high level design proposals for each school; and (b) to fund the projects from within existing capital allocations.

4. Education Governance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the Scottish Government's review: Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education, which highlighted key components of good governance of education systems and themes vital for effective governance and successful reform. The governance review set out 15 questions with responses required by 6 January 2017. Appendix 1 to the report set out the Council's response to the National Governance Consultation.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the response, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, to the Scottish Government's National Governance Consultation.

5. Irvine High Street Public Realm

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the design principles and proposed consultation strategy in relation to the public realm improvements at Irvine High Street and Bank Street, Irvine. A plan of the study area was provided at Appendix 1 to the report and the Engagement and Communication Strategy was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Regeneration Manager provided a presentation on the following:-

- the key project issues;
- project progress;
- stakeholder consultation;
- site boundary;
- the preferred options; and
- the next steps.

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

- the high level work undertaken by LA Architects that informed the design brief;

- further development of the design solution by the new design team, Land Use Consulting (LUC) who will lead a multi disciplinary design team for the further development of the project; and
- a questionnaire that has been hand delivered to businesses in Irvine town centre.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve (i) the design principles to be presented to Cabinet ahead of wider community consultation in early 2017; (ii) the content of the proposed Engagement and Communication Strategy; and (iii) the intention to minimise disruption to retailers associated with the construction phase by commencing work on-site in early 2018; and (b) that the Executive Director (Place) provide the questionnaire that has been delivered to businesses in Irvine town centre to Members for their information.

6. Energy Efficiency within the Council's Non-Domestic Estate

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposal to invest in energy efficiency within the Council's non-domestic built estate on an 'invest to save' basis. The report provided information on the new Scottish Government Non Domestic energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) which is a newly established route to deliver energy efficiency interventions at scale within the Council estate. Details of the short-list of buildings for the project were outlined at Section 2.9 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to undertake energy efficiency improvements to a number of buildings within the Council's non-domestic build estate on an 'invest to save' basis as part of the first phase of a Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Programme.

7. Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the humanitarian commitments and support provided to vulnerable groups resettled in North Ayrshire. The report provided information on the Syrian resettlement programmes, widening dispersal - asylum seekers, and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), unaccompanied asylum seeking children from Calais and the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the support offered to asylum seekers through the Home Office contract that does not meet the standard provided to refugees in North Ayrshire and would result in vulnerable people receiving differing levels of support around their well-being and integration.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the work to date in meeting the Council's commitment to support the resettlement of refugees and UASC from Calais; (b) await the development of legislation to enable the transfer of UASC from within England and Wales to Scotland; and (c) to pause progress on the widening of asylum dispersal beyond Glasgow to North Ayrshire while officers explore how appropriate support can be developed.

8. Award of Contract - New Build Office Accommodation, Quarry Road, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Design and Build Contract for New Build Office Accommodation, Quarry Road, Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Clark Contracts Limited at a cost of £2,591,122.32.

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.