

Cabinet (Education)
6 October 2020

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie.

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance), F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT) (Chief Executive's); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), J. Barrett, Senior Manager (Homelessness and Community Safety), G. Robson, Senior Manager (Employability) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Interim), and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Interim) (Connected Communities) (Communities); A. Sutherland, Head of Service (Children Families and Criminal Justice) (HSCP); and M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), E. Gray and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Also in Attendance

G. Johnstone, Arran Youth Foundations, S. Dick, Arran High School, J. McNeish, N. Provan and A. Traill, Arran Highschool Pupils (Agenda Items 1-3).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 September 2020 was confirmed and the Minutes authorised to be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Interim) (Communities) on an application by the Arran Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. A summary of the application was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet received a summary of the proposed project from the applicants, which provided details of the type of mental health support which would be funded should the application be successful, along with information on the work which has already been undertaken in this area.

The Cabinet thanked the young people and the Arran Youth Foundation for their presentation and unanimously agreed to approve the application for CIF funding in the amount of £42,226.

4. Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Temporary Accommodation

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the implementation of the North Ayrshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) which sought approval to move to the next phase of the RRTP by reducing the use of hostel accommodation in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the progress made to date in the implementation of the RRTP; and (b) approve (i) the move to the next phase of the RRTP by further reducing hostel accommodation; (ii) Option 4 detailed at Section 2.14 of the report, which would see the termination of the Housing Support contract with Cunninghame Housing Association for Victoria House hostel; and (iii) the undertaking of renovations to the hostel at Princes Street Ardrossan.

5. Proposal for a “Better Off Hub” – Demonstrator Project

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the development of a demonstrator Better Off Hub, which would seek to test the effectiveness of a more holistic approach to the delivery of financial inclusion services.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the arrangements which would be put in place to facilitate safe face-to-face meetings during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the contingency plans in place should this not be possible.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve (a) the proposals for a 2-year financial inclusion demonstrator project – Better Off Hub; (b) the use of new income recovered for the BONA project to fund the demonstrator, subject to receipt of the final payment from the National Lottery Fund Scotland related to BONA; and (c) the creation of a Public Social Partnership, in order to develop a new model through co-production with the 3rd sector.

6. Islands Renewal Best Practice Pilot

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on an Islands Recovery and Renewal pilot project developed in partnership with the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the Council’s participation in a pilot project focused on the recovery and renewal of islands aligned to the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the National Islands Plan; and (b) receive annual reports on the progress and outputs of the pilot.

7. North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2020-23

Submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Interim) (Communities) and the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2020-23 and the Children's Rights Report 2020-23. The Children's Services Plan 2020-23 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Children's Rights Report 2020-23 at Appendix 2, and the CSP Performance Report 2019-20 at Appendix 3.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the progress made by North Ayrshire in comparison with other Councils.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed (a) to approve the North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2020-23 and the Children's Rights Report; and (b) to submit these reports to the Scottish Government.

8. North Ayrshire Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2019/20

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Interim) (Communities) on the North Ayrshire Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2019/20. The Action Plan and Report were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed (a) to approve the Local Child Poverty Action Plan and Report 2019/20; (b) that the report be submitted to the Scottish Government and published on the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership website; (c) to the establishment of a short life cross party member/officer/CPP partner working group to continue to reduce the cost of the school day; and (d) to accept a report from the working group on approaches which have been co-produced with communities and partners as a result of the working group.

9. Revenue Budget 2020/21: Financial Performance to 30 June 2020

Submitted a report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the projected HSCP financial outturn for the financial year as at July 2020. The report on the Period 4 Financial Performance which was submitted to the IJB was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.