



**North Ayrshire Council**  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

## **North Ayrshire Council**

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Wednesday, 02 November 2022** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

### **Meeting Arrangements - Hybrid Meetings**

This meeting will be held on a predominantly physical basis but with provision, by prior notification, for remote attendance by Elected Members in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>.

**1 Apologies**

**2 Declarations of Interest**

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

**3 Previous Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary and Special Meetings of the Council held on 21 September 2022 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

**4 Provost's Report**

Submit report by the Provost for the period covering 12 September 2022 - 23 October 2022 (copy enclosed).

**5 Leader's Report**

Submit report by the Leader of the Council for the period covering 12 September 2022 - 23 October 2022 (copy enclosed).

- 6 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**  
Submit, for noting, the Minutes of Meeting of Committees of the Council held in the period 20 June 2022 to 19 October 2022.
- 7 Appointment to Committee**  
The Council is invited to note:
1. the resignation of Councillor S Ferguson from the Licensing Committee and
  2. that, in terms of Standing Order 8.5, the resultant vacancy has been filled, in terms of Standing Order 8.5, by Councillor Inglis, effective from 5 November 2022.
- 8 Appointments to Outside Bodies**  
The Council is invited :
1. in respect of Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group, (i) to note the resignation of Councillor T. Ferguson and (ii) consider a nomination for Councillor Glover to be appointed to fill this vacancy in terms of Standing Order 8.4; and
  2. in respect of the Licensing Board, (i) to note the resignation on Councillor S. Ferguson and (ii) consider a nomination for Councillor Inglis to be appointed to fill this vacancy in terms of Standing Order 8.4
- 9 Medium Term Financial Outlook 2023/24 to 2025/26**  
Submit report by the Head of Finance on the financial challenges facing the Council over the medium-term in order to help inform the development of budget proposals (copy enclosed).
- 10 Locality Planning in North Ayrshire**  
Submit report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) to provide an update on Locality Planning in North Ayrshire and seek approval for revised Locality Partnership Terms of Reference and Standing Orders, as reviewed and agreed by the Locality Planning Working Group (copy enclosed).
- 11 Sevenacres Bridge, Kilwinning - Compulsory Purchase**  
Submit report by the Head of Democratic Services on the proposed compulsory purchase of land required to install a replacement bridge over the Lugton Water at Sevenacres, Kilwinning, and to provide temporary access for those works to be undertaken (copy enclosed).
- 12 Questions**  
In terms of Standing Order 14, submit the following questions for consideration in the undernoted order:-

**(1) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:**

"Noting that Dunoon Grammar has adapted its Curriculum to provide 50 courses which reflect key sectors of the local economy such as tourism and marine studies as well as community projects and as a result was named ahead of runners-up in Brazil and India to win a \$50,000 prize as the T4 Education World's Best School for Community Collaboration, what lessons can the Council learn to apply to its rural and coastal Academies and High School to mirror the success of Dunoon?"

**(2) a question by Councillor Montgomerie to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:**

"After 100 years on Saltcoats High street local businesses Gregor Watsons recently announced that it will close, potentially leaving Saltcoats with another vacant retail unit on our Hight Street. Does the Cabinet Member believe the introduction of parking charges will make it easier or harder for local businesses to survive in the current economic climate, and for the Council to bring vacant properties back into productive use?"

**(3) a question by Councillor Collier to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:**

"What work is being carried out by HSCP to support individuals in accessing residential rehabilitation?"

**(4) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the following terms:**

"To ask the Cabinet Member for Finance how much new capital investment has been made into Springside Primary school since the decision to keep the school open in 2008, not including maintenance and repairs, and not including monies spent on the new Early Years Centre?"

**(5) a question by Councillor Donald Reid to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:**

"To ask the Cabinet Member how many applicants are on the North Ayrshire Housing Register with Kilwinning within their choices of area to be considered."

**(6) a question by Councillor McTiernan to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:**

"Given the current pressures which have been widely reported in the media for Health and Social Care Services across Scotland, there are significant concerns on how the system will cope with the impending winter period. Can the Cabinet Member for H&SC provide an update to Council on the local position and a reassurance on any winter plans in North Ayrshire?"

**(7) a question by Councillor Gallacher to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:**

"Will the new Administration commit to reinstating the disabled fishing platform behind Lamont Drive in Irvine?"

**(8) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Climate Change in the following terms:**

"How many of our residents have received travel passes from the "Public Transport Travel Scheme", approved by Cabinet in June 22?"

**(9) a question by Councillor T Ferguson to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

"To ask the Leader of the Council what discussions have taken place with the business sector to promote and attract employment opportunities to North Ayrshire?"

**(10) a question by Councillor Bell to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the following terms:**

"To ask the Cabinet Member for Finance if staff have received the backdated 2022/23 pay award in their pay packets?"

**(11) a question by Councillor Billings to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

"How can North Ayrshire Council help support the Arran Ferry Committee in its efforts to encourage Transport Scotland, Peel Ports and Calmac to provide a speedy permanent solution to the damaged fenders at Ardrossan which are causing continued cancellation of key early and late ferry sailings?"

**(12) a question by Councillor Sweeney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms;**

"To ask the Cabinet Member where North Ayrshire Council was ranked for recycling performance amongst Scottish local authorities in 2016?"

**(13) a question by Councillor T. Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:**

"To ask the Cabinet portfolio holder for Place to provide an update on the investigation into the paused roll out of Facial Recognition software in our schools."

**(14) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Climate Change in the following terms:**

"North Ayrshire Council agreed its budget for 2022/23 eight months ago. Included in the budget was £1.726million for an energy support fund, now called "Energy Smart", to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis. Eight months on, can the Cabinet Member advise us how many residents have received support from the "Energy Smart" scheme?"

**(15) a question by Councillor McLean to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:**

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Place if he is concerned about the state of the old Dreghorn Primary School building on the Main Street and the incessant vandalism to the site?”

**(16) a question by Councillor Kerr to the Cabinet Member for Finance in the following terms:**

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Finance what impact the current instability in economic markets is having on the Council’s Capital Financing Requirement for the approved Capital Programme, and what subsequent impact that will have on the Loans Fund Principal Repayment?”

**(17) a question by Councillor Billings to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

“Will the Leader agree to organise a Members’ Update on the progress that KA Leisure is making to refocus its activities on exercise as a means to aid health and wellbeing, and to be less reliant on subsidy from North Ayrshire Council for its core exercise facilities?”

**(18) a question by Councillor Foster to the Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Group in the following terms:**

“What does the Leader of the Conservative Group believe will have the worst impact on North Ayrshire residents - the rise in mortgage repayments, the run on pension funds or the imposition of austerity 2.0 arising from the Tories “mini-budget”?”

**(19) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:**

“Does the Education Portfolio holder support the proposal in the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill as debated at Holyrood that will allow people as young as 16 to legally change their gender?”

**(20) a question by Councillor McDonald to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:**

“It has been reported that the Scottish Government want to “reclaim” reserves from Health and Social Care Partnerships. Can the Cabinet Member tell us how much funding for health and social care services in North Ayrshire could be grabbed back by the Scottish Government under this move?”

**(21) a question by Councillor Foster to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**

“To ask the Council Leader whether they “detest the Tories”?

**Motions**

In terms of Standing Order 15, submit:-

**(1) a motion by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Kerr, in the following terms:**

“Council notes that there will be no Wrap, Run and Fun holiday meal and activity programme over the October and festive holidays. Further notes that a voucher replacement will be in place with values of £10 per week for the mainland and £20 for the islands, which represents a 50% cut in the value of mainland vouchers when compared to the voucher replacement scheme that operated during the Covid pandemic. Council believes it would be unacceptable to cut school holiday meal support by 50% during a cost-of-living crisis and therefore agrees to use £145,000 of unearmarked reserves to increase the value of the voucher to reinstate the £20 per week where the Wrap, Run and Fun programme cannot be provided vouchers for children on the mainland during the October and festive holiday periods.”

**(2) a motion by Councillor Inglis, seconded by Councillor Glover, in the following terms:**

“Following the rejected bid for the STEP Fusion Plant at Ardeer Peninsula I move that North Ayrshire Council records its regrets of the loss of millions of pounds of investment and 4500 jobs that would have come to the area of Stevenston if Ardeer was the winning bid and instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister to ask her to prioritise this Council area for inward investment and to explain her Government’s refusal to support nuclear energy as a dependable carbon free method of electricity generation.”

**(3) a motion by Councillor Kerr, seconded by Councillor Sweeney, in the following terms:**

“In light of allegations made in the BBC Scotland Disclosure episode, “The Great Ferries Scandal”, which relates to the procurement of two ferries including the Glen Sannox, Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Chief Constable Sir Iain Livingstone of Police Scotland, requesting that the force carries out a full and thorough investigation into all aspects of the ferries procurement process. Council also instructs the Chief Executive to request that all members of the Ardrossan Ministerial taskforce co-operate fully with any investigation.”

**(4) a motion by Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor McPhater, in the following terms:**

“Council notes recent analysis by the IFS that if benefits were uprated in line with inflation next April they would still be 6% below their pre-pandemic levels due to a below-inflation uprating in April 2022.

Notes with concern that senior Conservative Government Ministers have refused to commit to even uprating benefits in line with inflation this coming April.

Council is concerned that the cost-of-living crisis will push more families in North Ayrshire into poverty and believes that the value of benefits must be restored to pre-pandemic levels to assist families with rising costs.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on the UK Government to not only uprate benefits in line with inflation but to fully restore their value by compensating for the 6% lost value from the April 2022 uprating.”

**(5) a motion by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor McDonald, in the following terms:**

“Council acknowledges that Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides financial support to young people from low income households to stay on in post-16 education.

Council notes that the income thresholds for eligibility (£24,421 for households with one dependent child and £26,884 for households with more than one dependent child) has not been reviewed since 2016 nor has the EMA award been uprated (£30 per week per eligible young person).

Given the pressures on household budgets as a result of the cost of living crisis, Council acknowledges that households above these income thresholds are increasingly struggling financially.

Council believes that the income thresholds for EMA and the award level should be reviewed to ensure that young people are not prevented from continuing in post-16 education because of pressures on their household budgets. Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy First Minister requesting that they increase the income thresholds and the level of EMA in their upcoming budget.”

**(6) a motion by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Billings, in the following terms:**

“That the Council agrees to form a Member Officer Working Group to review the operation of the Housing Allocation system.”

**(7) a motion by Councillor McLean, seconded by Councillor Gallacher, in the following terms:**

“Council agrees to the creation of a Member Officer working group to look into the current and historic issues in the Dundonald Camp/Auchengate area to take a paper to Cabinet acknowledging these issues and attempt to find positive solutions.”

**14 Urgent Items**

Any other items which the Provost considers to be urgent.

**Webcasting**

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## North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

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John Bell  
Timothy Billings  
Marie Burns  
Eleanor Collier  
Joe Cullinane  
Scott Davidson  
Anthea Dickson  
Stewart Ferguson  
Todd Ferguson  
Robert Foster  
Scott Gallacher  
John Glover  
Tony Gurney  
Alan Hill  
Cameron Inglis  
Margaret Johnson  
Amanda Kerr  
Christina Larsen  
Shaun Macaulay  
Jean McClung  
Nairn McDonald  
Matthew McLean  
Louise McPhater  
Davina McTiernan  
Tom Marshall  
Jim Montgomerie  
Ian Murdoch  
Donald Reid  
Donald L Reid  
Chloe Robertson  
Ronnie Stalker  
Angela Stephen  
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending: