

Cabinet
27 October 2015

IRVINE, 27 October 2015 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire; Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus (Agenda Item 3) and M. Fraser (Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5) (Church Representatives); G. Smith (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5).

Also Present

J. Bell and M. Brown (Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5); J. Hunter, R. McNicol and T. Marshall (Agenda Items 3 and 4); A. Gallagher, G. McLean, C. McMillan, R. Steel and J. Sturgeon (Agenda Item 3); and D. Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; J. Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools) and A. McClelland, Senior Manager (Education and Youth Employment); L. Friel, Executive Director, P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit and Risk Management), T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director, C. Forsyth, Team Manager Transportation and C. Dempster, Assistant Network Manager (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities), G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager, A. Laurenson, Team Manager Regeneration and D. Lodge, Supervisory Engineer (Economy and Communities); M. Sugden, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

V. Russell, Chief Executive, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bruce, Elizabeth Higon (Church Representative), Courtney Gemmell and John Shekleton (Youth Representatives).

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 29 September 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Delivering the Young Workforce

A presentation was received by the Chief Executive of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on Delivering the Young Workforce in Ayrshire and detailing measures to reduce youth unemployment and increase the level of positive destinations for school leavers.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- membership of the Shadow Board which will include young people from school, college and employment;
- the 'Invest in Young People' awards and on how young people are integrated into an organisation; and
- barriers faced by young people in relation to transport costs and potential funding sources to support those costs.

Noted.

4. Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the SQA examinations of 2015. A presentation on the key issues arising from the report was also provided to Members.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- the use of INSIGHT being mandatory across all 32 Local Authority schools; and
- the benchmarking methodology used by INSIGHT and the 4 key characteristics which the virtual comparator school is built around.

The Executive Director advised that information in relation to individual schools or cluster schools would be made available to Members on request.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of the pupils in this year's examinations; and (b) to receive a further report in the first quarter of 2016 which will comment on the overall performance of the 2015 leavers cohort in North Ayrshire as highlighted in the INSIGHT annual report.

5. Assessment and Moderation

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on the Council's proposed approach to taking forward the draft National Improvement Framework in respect of assessment and moderation and on the strategic actions required to ensure implementation.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- clear guidance which will be provided to teachers in relation to the range of assessments used; and
- the information gathered by assessment only being used to inform teacher practice across North Ayrshire to support an improved agenda for young people.

The Cabinet agreed to approve North Ayrshire's response to the 'Draft National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education' as detailed in the report.

6. Business Continuity Management Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) outlining the Business Continuity Management Strategy for the Council and on proposals for the initial phase of business continuity development.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Business Continuity Management Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Medium Term Financial Outlook and Financial Planning

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) on (a) the current assessment of the medium term financial outlook for the General Fund Revenue Budget, (b) progress on refreshing the 10 year capital investment programme and (c) current and planned workstreams in the next phase of Transformation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the anticipated funding gap over financial years 2016/17 to 2018/19; (b) approve actions outlined at 2.4.6 to reduce the emerging funding gap; (c) note that current projections will be the basis of discussions with all political groups; (d) note progress in updating the 10 year capital plan; (e) note the medium and longer term action being taken to respond to the financial challenge; (f) accept a presentation to the next Cabinet meeting on next phase Transformation; and (g) approve the timescales for further reports to Cabinet / Council, as detailed in the report.

8. Local Transport Strategy 2015-20

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the Local Transport Strategy for 2015-20 and the actions to (i) strengthen links to Glasgow; (ii) increase the accessibility and awareness of i3 Irvine Enterprise Area; (iii) improve Ardrossan Harbour; and (iv) develop community transport in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the finalised Local Transport Strategy 2015-20 for publication.

9. Development and Regeneration proposals for land at Quarry Road, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on progress with the development of phase one of the project in connection with land at Quarry Road, Irvine and on the submission of a stage two application to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of extensive consultation and project development work undertaken in relation to the project; and (b) the submission of a stage two application to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

10. Review of North Ayrshire Council Grants to Community Organisations

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the outcome of a review to modernise the Council's disbursement of grant to community organisations to provide a clearer and more streamlined approach in preparation for the introduction of Locality Partnerships in April 2016.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- projects applying to the approved body for monies from the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund will be given equal consideration regardless of project type or location, including outwith North Ayrshire; and
- the only proposals for a different approach regarding locality being in relation to the Youth Action Fund.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) accept the proposed arrangements contained within Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report; and (b) receive a future report in relation to the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund.

Councillor Hill left the meeting.

11. Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015.

Members were advised that the brine spraying of priority footways over the winter season will include the area around schools in the priority 1 routes.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approved the Roads Winter Services and Weather Emergencies Plan 2015; and (b) note the continued development and improvement in the winter service.

12. North Ayrshire Council Road Safety Plan 2015-2020

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the North Ayrshire Council Road Safety Plan 2015-2020.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- how feedback is obtained on the road safety education message being delivered within schools;
- national or local campaigns and methods for taking forward the message regarding the 5 common causes of road crashes; and
- heavy flooding on the B714 around bends and dips and on inspections which are carried out.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Road Safety Plan 2015-20.

13. Traffic Management and Car Parking In West Kilbride

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the development of traffic management and car parking proposals within West Kilbride.

Cabinet Members were of the view that bids would greatly outweigh available funding in relation to the Capital Plan and that the best way forward to address traffic management and car parking in West Kilbride would be to proceed with a signing and lining exercise in order to realise as many of the community ambitions as possible.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of the consultation exercise; and (b) move forward with a signing and lining exercise in order to realise as many of the community ambitions as possible in relation to traffic flow and parking availability.

14. Award of Framework – Framework Agreement for the Supply of Bedding Plants, Hanging Baskets and Bulb

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) on the result of the tender for the Framework Agreement for the supply of Bedding Plants, Hanging Baskets and Bulbs.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the Frameworks as follows:-

Lot 1: Summer Bedding Plants to Pentland Plants Ltd;
Lot 2: Hanging Baskets to Pentland Plants Ltd; and
Lot 3: Bulbs to Green Garden and Van Geest Nurseries Ltd.

15. Award of Framework – Framework Agreement for the supply of Agency Staff for Building Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) on the result of the tender exercise for the Framework Agreement for the supply of Agency Staff for Building Services.

Members were advised that community benefit funding contributions were voluntary.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the Framework Agreement to ASA Recruitment, All Needs Recruitment Company Ltd, Blueprint Recruitment Ltd, STR Ltd and Brightwork Limited.

16. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: 16 September 2015

Submit report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Minutes of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 16 September 2015.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Minutes as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) endorse the BPIG's decision to consult tenants on increasing rents by either 1.5% or 2.0%.

17. Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 28 September 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Minute of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 28 September 2015.

The Cabinet agreed to note and endorse the Minute as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

19. Exclusion of the Public

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

19.1 Financial Inclusion North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on financial inclusion funding allocated to North Ayrshire and on progress in developing a strategy to support the bidding process for this funding.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the work done to date to develop a financial inclusion strategy for North Ayrshire; (b) approve the Council as lead partner to submit a tender based on the draft strategy attached at Appendix 1 to the report; and (c) approve the Council to act as lead organisation in the ongoing management of the funding and the partnership if the tender is successful.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.