
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

20 March 2018

Cabinet

Title: **Call In: Communities – Short Life Working Group**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the outcome of a Call In to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet considers the recommendations of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out (i) the background to a Call In Request in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 February 2018 on reconvening the short-life working group comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO) and (ii) the outcome of a Special meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee which took place on 6 March 2018 to consider the Call In.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 20 February 2018, considered a report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the reconvening of a short life working group, from 1 March 2018, comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Associations (NAFCO) to address financial challenges faced by the public and voluntary sector in relation to the role of community associations and how they provide services to our communities.

- 2.2 The Cabinet agreed:-

(a) to reconvene the short life working group from 1 March 2018 comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations and that the format of the Group should be:- • 3 x NAFCO • 3 x NAC Officer • 3 x Elected member (Chair - Cllr McPhater, 1 x SNP; 1 x Scottish Conservative and Unionist - with an Independent Member being offered a place if none of the Conservatives take up the place).;

(b) that the Clerk contact the SNP and Conservative and Unionist Group Leaders asking for their nominations to the Working Group; and

(c) to receive future reports in relation to themes which may emerge from the recommendations of the working group.

- 2.3 A Call A Call In Request, signed by Councillors Barr, McNicol and Donald L. Reid, and referring in particular to (b) and (c) of the above decision, was received in the following terms:-

“Reason for Call In

The working group should have cross party elected membership and that the format of the group should be: 3 NAFCO/3 NAC officers/3 Elected Members (Cllr McPhater, 1 x SNP, 1 Conservative and Unionist —with an Independent Member being offered a place if none of the Conservatives take up the place. Why is an Independent Member not invited to attend the working group?

Desired Outcome

The decision is referred back to Cabinet to reconsider decision and we recommend that all future reports in relation to themes which may emerge from the recommendations of the working group be reported to future meeting of the full Council.”

- 2.4 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee considered the Call In request at a Special meeting on 6 March 2017. The Committee heard from Councillor McNicol on behalf of the Members who had requested the Call In. Councillor McNicol expressed the view that the Independent Members should also be invited to serve on the working group, rather than being offered a place only in the circumstances set out in the Cabinet Minute. Councillor McNicol also intimated that, given the importance of community centres to Elected Members and the communities they serve, any recommendations arising from the working group should be considered by the full Council.
- 2.5 The Leader also addressed the meeting, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Communities. Councillor Cullinane advised that it had been the intention of the Cabinet to extend the invitation to Independent Members and the Conservative and Unionist Group collectively. He intimated that he was not averse to an additional place being offered to allow an Independent Member to serve on the working group, albeit that NAFCO may also wish an additional place in the interests of parity. Councillor Cullinane indicated that he had no objection to the suggestion that the working group report to the Council rather than to the Cabinet.
- 2.6 The Committee also heard from the Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Economy and Communities), who invited Members to consider the importance of parity of esteem in the Council’s work with NAFCO, as well as the issue of manageability given the work to be carried out by the working group within a short timescale.
- 2.7 Members discussed the need for parity between Elected Member and NAFCO representation and considered the implications in terms of timing of the working group reporting to Council rather than to the Cabinet. Thereafter, the Audit and Scrutiny

Committee agreed to accept, in part, the terms of the Call In and recommended to the Cabinet that the Elected Member representation on the working group be increased to four to allow the appointment of an Independent Member, with a further place also offered to NAFCO in the interests of parity, but that no change be made to the decision that the working group report to the Cabinet.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee invites the Cabinet to consider the following recommendations in respect of its decision of 20 February 2018:-

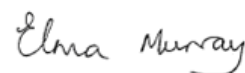
- (a) that the Elected Member representation on the working group be increased to four to allow the appointment of an Independent Member, with a further place also offered to NAFCO in the interests of parity; but
- (b) that no change be made to the decision that the working group report to the Cabinet.

4. Implications

Financial:	None arising from this report.
Human Resources:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	None arising from this report.
Equality:	None arising from this report.
Children and Young People:	None arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	None arising from this report.
Community Benefits:	N/A

5. Consultation

5.1 No further consultation has been undertaken in compiling this report.



Elma Murray OBE
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Melanie Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader** on **telephone number 01294 324131**.

Background Papers

N/A