

Cabinet  
21 January 2020

**IRVINE, 21 January 2020** - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) and Babs Mowat (Church Representative) (Agenda Items 1-5).

**Also Present**

Todd Ferguson, Jean McClung and Davina McTiernan.

**In Attendance**

L. Friel, Executive Director, D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Financial Management), J. Smillie, Senior Manager (HR&OD), A. Lyndon, Senior Manager (Procurement), S. Stewart, L&O Development Adviser, and J. Walls, Team Manager (H&S, Risk & Insurance) (Finance and Corporate Support); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Interim) (Commercial), and J. Wraith, Team Manager (Housing Strategy & CS) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Interim), R. Arthur, Head of Service (Interim) (Connected Communities), and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) (Communities); C. Cameron, Head of Service (HSCP Finance & Transformation), (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Hale, Health Improvement & Equalities Officer, J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, J. Law, Media and Internal Communications Assistant, and E. Gray, A. Little and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

**Also In Attendance**

J. McGeorge, Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team

**Chair**

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

**Apologies**

John Bruce (Church Rep).

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and announced that the Cabinet meeting would be webcast and that all decisions are subject to the Call In Procedure detailed at Standing Order 24.

## **2. 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.

## **3. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 November 2019 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **4. Teaching Representation on Cabinet (Education)**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the appointment of Jacqui MacKenzie to fill the vacancy as the representative of the professional teaching associations on Cabinet (Education).

The Cabinet (a) agreed to appoint Jacqui MacKenzie as the representative of the professional teaching associations on Cabinet when it meets to consider Education Authority business; and (b) record its appreciation of the contribution made by the former teaching representative, the late Gordon Smith.

## **5. Pupil Equity Funding in North Ayrshire – Progress Report**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) in North Ayrshire and the impact this is having on children's outcomes. Full details of the amounts allocated to North Ayrshire schools were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the formula used to calculate the level of funding available to each school which uses the number of pupils receiving free school meals and the fact that this method is outdated;
- the effectiveness of PEF funding in terms of providing new services to pupils rather than offsetting national budget cuts;
- difficulties around crediting improvements in the poverty-related attainment gap to specific initiatives as the successes are linked to a number of different projects working in conjunction with each other; and
- whether the money allocated to PEF funding could be spent more effectively if it was held centrally in the Council's education budget.

The Cabinet agreed to note the progress made to date.

## **6. Attainment Outcomes for Care Experienced Young People**

The Cabinet considered a report by the Executive Director (Communities) and received a presentation by the Executive Director (Education) on the progress being made by care experienced learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy, and the achievements of school leavers in terms of SQA examinations. Data on the number of care experienced young people was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, attainment in literacy and numeracy in broad general education for care experienced learners at Appendix 2, attainment in literacy and numeracy and overall attainment in all qualifications at senior phase level for care experienced school leavers at Appendix 3, and post-school participation of care experienced school leavers at Appendix 4.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the content to the report; (ii) the progress being made by care experienced learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy; and (iii) the achievements of school leavers in terms of SQA examinations; and (b) receive an annual progress report on the performance of care experienced learners as part of a suite of annual attainment reports.

## **7. Radiation Emergency Preparedness, and determination of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for Hunterston A and B Nuclear Power Stations**

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) for Hunterston A and B Nuclear Power Stations and governance arrangements for new Council duties imposed under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2019. A map outlining the proposed and existing DEPZ boundaries was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the proposed new boundary and the fact that all properties which are currently contained in the DEPZ would continue to be subject to the protective measures such as the provision of stable iodine tablets;
- legislative changes resulting in responsibility for setting the DPEZ transferring to the Council from the Office for Nuclear Regulation;
- the Cabinet's scope for deviation from EDF's recommendation in terms of setting the DPEZ; and
- differences between the DPEZ and the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) in terms of the response to a nuclear emergency.

The Cabinet agreed to continue consideration of this item to the next meeting to allow for further discussions to take place between Elected Members and the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

## **8. Council Plan Progress Update: Q2 2019/20**

Submitted a report by the Chief Executive on the progress of performance against the Council Plan 2019-24 as at Quarter Two 2019-20. The Council Plan 2019-24 Progress Update (Mid-Year 2019-20) was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, performance indicators for the Council Plan Performance Framework at Appendix 2, and the actions aligned to the Council Plan 2019 - 24 at Appendix 3.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the performance of the Council Plan as at 30 September 2019; and (b) submit the report and appendices to Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the next available date.

## **9. Revenue Budget 2019/20: Financial Performance to 30 November 2019**

Submit a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the financial performance for the Council at 30 November 2019. Budget reports for each directorate and the Housing Revenue Account were set out at Appendices 1-7 of the report, Virement/Budget Adjustment Requests at Appendix 8 and the HSCP Period 8 Report at Appendix 9.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the progress of the HSCP recovery plan.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at; and (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 8.

## **10. Capital Programme Performance to 30 November 2019**

Submit a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2019. The detailed Capital Investment Programme was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and the HRA Capital Statement at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 30 November 2019; and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2020.

## **11. Our Voice Employee Survey**

Submit a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the results of the recent employee survey.

The Cabinet agreed to note the key findings and next steps of the 2019 Our Voice survey.

## **12. Tackling Funeral Poverty - North Ayrshire Respectful Funeral Service**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on proposals for the procurement of partner funeral directors who will offer to provide a new affordable Respectful Funeral Service package for bereaved families to tackle funeral poverty in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the proposal to identify appropriate funeral directors with whom an agreement will be developed to facilitate the provision of a new Respectful Funeral Service package for bereaved families to tackle funeral poverty in North Ayrshire.

## **13. Climate Change**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on progress on tackling climate change in North Ayrshire.

Further to the recommendation detailed in the report, the Leader moved that the Cabinet should propose the creation of a £5m climate change fund for consideration by full Council as part of the 2020/2021 budget setting process. The fund would be used by the Council to develop and implement low carbon and renewable energy projects.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) the proposed target year of 2030 to achieve net-zero emissions across North Ayrshire; (b) propose the creation of a £5m climate change fund, which will be used by the Council to develop and implement low carbon and renewable energy projects, for consideration by full Council as part of the 2020/2021 budget setting process; and (c) note (i) the progress made in implementing the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017-2020; (ii) the ongoing "Climate Change: Just Cool It" consultation; and (iii) the proposal to review the consultation findings to inform the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023 which is currently being developed for future Cabinet consideration mid-2020.

## **14. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. The detailed proposal was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the capacity of the proposed Men's Shed.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the CIF application in relation to the Irvine Harbourside Men's Shed in the amount of £10,000, subject to satisfactory reports from Legal and Finance Services.

## **15. Small-Grant Awarding Participatory Budgeting**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on proposals to implement small-grant awarding participatory budgeting approaches by Locality Partnerships. Details of the Locality Partnerships' involvement in distributing small grants through participatory budgeting was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the control which will be afforded to Locality Partnerships to set up the voting process at events in their area and whether the proposal would increase the number of organisations who can benefit from the Council's grant funding pots.

The Cabinet (a) agreed in principle proposals for small-grant awarding participatory budgeting approaches by Locality Partnerships; (b) authorised officers to conclude the development of the proposed process for funding disbursement with Locality Partnerships, to be implemented from 2020/21; and (c) agreed to receive a progress report at the end of 2020/21.

## **16. Award of Upgrade of External Building Fabric at Lambie Court and O'Conner Court, Saltcoats**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tendering exercise for the Upgrade of External Fabric at Lambie Court and O'Conner Court, Saltcoats.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to MP Rendering Ltd as detailed in the report.

## **17. Exclusion of the Public**

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 item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Chair noted that confirmation had been received that the Webcast of the meeting had been terminated at this point.

## **18. HR and Payroll Contract**

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the current position with the HR and Payroll Contract.

The Cabinet agreed to the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.