

Cabinet
1 November 2022

IRVINE, 1 November 2022 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Marie Burns, Scott Davidson, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Margaret Johnson, Christina Larsen and Shaun Macaulay.

Also Present

Cameron Inglis and Davina McTiernan.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance); F. Walker, Head of Service (People & ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment), L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration), T. Reaney, Head of Service (Recovery & Renewal), F. Ellis, Senior Manager (Housing Strategy & Development), J. Barrett, Senior Manager (Homelessness & Community Safety), A. Cowley, Senior Manager (Roads) and C. Dempster, Senior Manager (Roads) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities & Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); N. McIlvanney, Senior Manager and M. Ritchie, Regeneration Manager (Growth and Investment); A. Craig, Head of Service, J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, C. Stewart and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 September 2022 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. The proposals from Beith Playpark Action Group (BPAG) were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, with the CIF application from Children 1st and the CIF application in relation to the Localities Priority Officer from North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership being set out at Appendices 2 and 3, respectively, to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the link in with money advice support services as well as third sector partner engagement with the local community.

The Cabinet (a) reviewed the enclosed applications from the Garnock Valley, Irvine, and North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnerships in line with CIF criteria; and (b) agreed to approve (i) the CIF application in relation to Beith Playpark Action Group (BPAG) in the amount of £100,000, (ii) the CIF application in relation to Children 1st in the amount of £97,580 and (iii) the CIF application in relation to the Localities Priority Officer from North Coast and Cumbrae Locality Partnership in the amount of £41,000.

4. Update on Humanitarian Protection for People from Ukraine

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the range of supports being offered by the Council and its community planning partners to those people seeking sanctuary from the conflict in Ukraine.

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

- the range of supports available to help integrate those seeking sanctuary from the Ukraine conflict with the local community; and
- access to education, health, medical care, and translation services for Ukrainian Displaced People.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the support provided to date to Ukrainian Displaced People (UDPs) who have settled in North Ayrshire, (ii) the plans to reinstate 30 decommissioned one bedroom Council properties at Glebe Place, Saltcoats as temporary accommodation for Ukrainian Displaced People, using funding of £0.486m allocated by Scottish Government for this purpose; and (b) that officers would continue to investigate further options to accommodate people displaced by the Ukraine conflict.

5. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport – Regional Transport Strategy consultation

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval for the proposed North Ayrshire Council submission to the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) consultation on the new Regional Transport Strategy. The draft consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the importance of ensuring adequate public transport provision, as well as early engagement with SPT should there be any change to service provision. The Cabinet agreed to approve the submission of the proposed consultation response the new Regional Transport Strategy provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme: Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the latest position in respect of the award of contract for the construction of the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to ensuring good community engagement during the construction works of the Scheme.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the tender position for the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme, (ii) the importance of the scheme, (iii) the position in respect of the volatility in construction costs resulting in tender returns significantly exceeding the budget and (iv) the additional Scottish Government funding of approximately £17m; and (b) to approve the use of flexibility funding already included in the Capital Programme to fund the additional contribution to the Scheme from North Ayrshire Council of approximately £4m.

7. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028 set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- whether the "buy back" programme represented good value for money, given Council policy on sustainability and letting standards; and
- impact of rent levels on delivery of the Investment Plan and financial aspects of the Scottish Government Green Standards regarding new affordable housing.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-2028 at Appendix 1 to the report for submission to Scottish Government; and (b) grant delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Place to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects, as required.

8. Estates Based Regeneration Programme (EBRP) Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the delivery of the HRA Estates Based Regeneration Programme (EBRP) and seeking approval for a refreshed programme for 2022-2029. The EBRP to March 2022 and the EBRP scheduled for delivery in 2024/25 and beyond, was detailed at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

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

- engaging with tenants on individual proposals; and
- the identification of key development options with Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners and estimated timescale on the outcome of these discussions.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) progress on, and revisions to, the EBRP to March 2022 as noted in Appendix 1, (ii) the revised programme for 2022/23 to recognise slippage in previous years, (iii) that the remainder of the projects in the Estate Based Regeneration Programme scheduled for delivery in 2024/25 and beyond, as shown in Appendix 2, may be subject to revision; and (b) to approve the detailed programme for 2023/24 as outlined in the body of the report.

9. Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan Progress

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the implementation of the North Ayrshire Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and seeking approval for the priorities identified for year four of the plan.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to hostel accommodation.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the progress made to date in the implementation of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, and (ii) the priorities set for delivering the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan during 2022/2023.

10. Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2022/23

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2022/23. The Winter Preparation Action Plan 2022-23 and the Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2022-23 was set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

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

- adequate stock levels of grit for this winter; and
- what contingency arrangements were in place in the event of staff shortage and/or a sudden and unexpected change in short term priorities.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2022/23 set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) to note the preparations and developments contained in the Winter Preparation Action Plan set out at Appendix 2.

11. i3 – Sale of Land at Strategic Investment Campus

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth & Investment) on the proposal for the sale of 2 acres of land at the Strategic Investment Campus, i3, Irvine, subject to appropriate conditions.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the proposal for the sale of 2 acres of land to System Five Off Site Ltd at the Strategic Investment Campus at I3 Irvine; and (b) note that appropriate related conditions to the sale and deed of conditions would be prepared and that the final sale price would be negotiated in conjunction with the Council's Estates and Legal Teams.

12. 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 Paragraphs 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

13. Island Accommodation

Submitted a report by the Director (HSCP) on Island Accommodation on Arran.

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

The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.