



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

26 June 2014

Cabinet

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Page 7)

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership)

3. Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland (Page 13)

Submit report by the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) on the main points arising from the consultation on the Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

4. Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (Page 29)

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on an Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for North Ayrshire (copy enclosed).

CONTRACTS

5. Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract (MTC) for the Design and Installation of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Modular Ramps to Council Houses (Page 65)

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the MTC for DDA Modular Ramps (copy enclosed).

6. Award of Contract - Saltcoats Town Hall Restoration Works (Page 75)

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for Saltcoats Town Hall restoration works (copy enclosed).

MINUTES

7. Economic Development & Regeneration Board : 2 June 2014 (Page 87)

Submit report by Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 2 June 2014 (copy enclosed).

8. Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel : 9 June 2014 (Page 93)

Submit report by Head of Service (Community and Culture) (Education and Skills) on the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel held on 9 June, 2014 (copy enclosed).

9. Urgent Items

Any other item which the Chair considers to be urgent.

EXEMPT ITEM

10. Exclusion of the Public

Resolve 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.

Non Disclosure of Information

In terms of Standing Order 17 (Disclosure of Information) the information contained within the following reports is confidential information within the meaning of Section 50A of the 1973 Act and shall not be disclosed to any person by any Member or Officer.

11. Cunninghame House Refurbishment (Page 99)

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) (copy enclosed).

Cabinet

Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)
Marie Burns
John Bruce
Anthea Dickson
Tony Gurney
Ruth Maguire

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Cabinet
17 June 2014

Irvine, 17 June 2014 - At a Meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; Y. Baulk, Head of Finance and Property, P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit and Risk Management), G. Macgregor, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, D. Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment), S. Humphries, Chief Revenues and Benefits Officer (Finance and Corporate Support); A. Sutton, Head of Community and Culture (Education and Skills); A. Laurenson, Team Manager Regeneration (Development and Environment); S. Cloete, Policy and Performance Officer, K. Dyson, Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Write off 2013-14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the write-off of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debts during 2013-14, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to homologate the write-off of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates for 2013-14, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

4. Write off of irrecoverable and non-recoverable Housing Benefit and former Council Tax Benefit overpayments 2013/14

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on balances written off under delegated powers during 2013/14; and (b) sought approval to write off non-recoverable and irrecoverable Housing Benefit and former Council Tax Benefit overpayments in excess of £1,000.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the sums written off under delegated powers; and (b) approve the write off of Housing Benefit and former Council Tax Benefit overpayments in excess of £1,000, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

5. A Vacant & Derelict Land Strategy for North Ayrshire

Submitted report and presentation by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which provided information on (a) vacant and derelict land in North Ayrshire; and (b) the draft Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy and Action Plan for North Ayrshire.

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

- the use of appropriate legal interventions where other actions fail;
- phytoremediation that can mitigate pollutants in contaminated soils through the use of plants and trees to degrade or eliminate environmental problems
- the prioritisation of investment by the Council and partners in vacant and derelict sites where appropriate;
- the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund which is currently limited to 5 local authorities and does not include North Ayrshire;
- work that will be done by the Scottish Government and Colsa to revisit the focus of the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund to provide more flexibility to local authorities and widen its scope from 2015/16.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy and Action Plan for North Ayrshire as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Benchmarking in the Council

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which provided information on (a) the current progress of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF); (b) how the Framework is being used to support continuous improvement and self-evaluation by the Council; and (c) the benchmarking and best practice activities that the Council has undertaken.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the Council's inclusion in benchmarking families that ensures comparison and measurement of like with like.

Noted.

7. Audit Scotland Report: An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2014

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) summarised the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report on Local Government in Scotland; (b) provided information on the current position in North Ayrshire; and (c) presented further actions being taken to address the issues identified within the Audit Scotland report.

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

- the publication of Members' attendance at Council meetings on the Council's website; and
- the examination of Members' attendance at Council meetings by Audit Scotland where there are concerns around governance arrangements.

Noted.

8. Risk Management Annual Report 2013/14

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) updated the Cabinet on the scope of work carried out across the Council in relation to risk management during 2013/14 and on actions arising from this work; and (b) set out proposed areas for development in 2013/14.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the increased risk rating in respect of Information Governance that reflected the continuing and increasing challenges being faced by the Council in managing data and action that has now been taken to mitigate the risk.

The Cabinet agreed to note (a) the content of the Annual Report, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) progress being made in developing the Council's approach to risk management.

9. Maximising Attendance Performance - March 2014 (Quarter 4 Summary)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on an analysis of sickness absence in Quarter 4 and the quarterly trend from 2011/12 to 2013/14.

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

- a review of the flexible working hours scheme that will be undertaken;
- a review that has been undertaken of the guidance on the Management of Stress;
- absence rates for North Ayrshire that are below the national average;

- a number of factors that are examined to differentiate between stress and work related stress and the use of Stredia (Stress Risk Assessment System) to monitor and analyse information; and
- the integration of health and social care and the similar maximising attendance policies in place in the NHS and the Council.

Noted.

10. Employee Engagement Survey

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided an update on (a) progress of the Employee Engagement Survey Council-wide Improvement Plan; and (b) the next steps in relation to monitoring the impact of improvement plan actions.

Noted.

11. Asset Management Plans

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on progress made in delivering the agreed actions for each of the six themed Asset Management Plans during 2013/14.

The Cabinet agreed that the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) provide information on mobile working and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) directly to Members.

12. Minutes of 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health & Safety Group held on 29 May 2014

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the minutes of the 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health and Safety Group held on 29 May 2014.

Noted.

13. 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 (Items 13.1 and 13.2) of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

13.1 Land at Sharphill, Dalry Road, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which sought approval to dispose of Council owned land at Sharphill, Dalry Road, Saltcoats.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the disposal of the land at Sharphill, Dalry Road, Saltcoats, in the terms detailed in the report.

13.2 Surplus Property - Shiskine Schoolhouse, Shiskine, Isle of Arran

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which sought approval to disposal of the residential property known as Shiskine Schoolhouse, Shiskine, Isle of Arran.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the disposal of the residential property known as Shiskine Schoolhouse, Shiskine, Isle of Arran, in the terms detailed in the report.

14. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the matter to be actioned without delay.

14.1 Spare Room Subsidy and Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) the financial impact of the spare room subsidy and the current position in respect of Discretionary Housing Payments; (b) DHP funding projections; (c) pending legislative changes; and (d) an assurance from the Scottish Government that will allow mitigation of the full impact of the spare room subsidy.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the prioritisation of applications from those tenants who did not previously qualify for DHP.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the payment of DHP to tenants affected by the spare room subsidy, on application and without financial assessment; and (b) otherwise note the report.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the main points arising from the consultation on the Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland.

Recommendation: That Cabinet (a) notes the main changes being suggested in the consultation; and (b) agrees the North Ayrshire response to the questions outlined in the consultation, as outlined in Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Women Offenders' Commission and Audit Scotland reports, which were published in 2012, highlighted flaws and a lack of consistency regarding how community justice was planned and delivered in Scotland through Community Justice Authorities (CJAs). The Scottish Government, in response to these reports, launched their consultation on community justice redesign in December 2012: Redesigning the Community Justice System – A Consultation on Proposals, and this consultation process ended in April 2013. This consultation provided three options:

- An enhanced CJA which would extend the powers of CJAs;
- A local model, which would build community justice into community planning partnerships (CPPs);
- A Single Service Model, which would create a national organisation for community justice and would take Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) out of local authority control.

1.2 In their response to this consultation North Ayrshire Council indicated a preference for the Local Model, but highlighted that 32 Community Justice Planning partnerships could create logistical problems of economies of scale and provided details of an amendment to the Local Model that was based on partnerships between local authorities, with links into each local authority's CPP. This proposal was based partly on our positive experience of working within a formal CJSW Partnership with East and South Ayrshire for over ten years.

- 1.3 The Scottish Government's response to this consultation was published in December 2013 and indicated that the "local model" was the preferred option. However, it was noted that none of the proposed models, including the local model, received complete support and therefore a further consultation would take place on the detail of the local model. This new consultation paper: Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland was published in April 2014.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 In 2003 the Scottish Executive wanted to bring the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and CJSW together into one organisation titled a: "single agency". The Scottish Executive undertook a "Reducing Re-offending" consultation on this and feedback received from this consultation was not supportive of the creation of a single agency and indicated that what was required was to bring a range of agencies together with the shared aim of reducing re-offending. This led to the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005 that established CJAs. The fundamental role of the CJA is to coordinate a strategic partnership approach to reduce re-offending. The South West Scotland CJA comprises representatives from a range of partners and decision making powers rest with the elected members from the four local authorities.
- 2.2 The CJA has a strategic planning function and is responsible for the disbursement of the CJSW ring fenced Section 27 Grant. However, it has no operational responsibilities which lie with the local authorities and other partner agencies.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The consultation paper's proposed model will place community justice planning within CPPs. There will be a defined set of partners including local authorities, NHS Board, Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service and third sector partners. The consultation paper notes that it is "expected" that the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Court Service and Victim Support will be involved. The consultation paper states that the Scottish Government will place an additional statutory duty on local authorities and other statutory bodies in the public sector to focus on preventative approaches to reduce re-offending and this is to include a responsibility to work with third sector partners. Section 78 of the consultation paper states: "How local partners work together within CPPs, for the planning and delivery of services for community justice and improving outcomes is at local discretion". The Scottish Government in conjunction with local government and key partners and stakeholders will produce guidance.

- 3.2 An issue highlighted in the Women Offenders' Commission and Audit Scotland reports was that there was a lack of accountability in CJAs. The consultation paper notes that each partner within the CPP will be held accountable for its performance through existing CPP governance and accountability arrangements. Partners will be expected to challenge each other on their engagement and delivery. The consultation paper notes that the Scottish Government does not want to duplicate the already established lines of accountability which exist in CPPs.
- 3.3 As noted in the introduction in our response to the first consultation in April 2013, North Ayrshire highlighted logistical concerns of economies of scale regarding the local model if it resulted in 32 community justice planning partnerships and suggested a partnership model between agreed local authorities could resolve this issue. Discussion with ADSW colleagues indicated that concerns regarding economies of scale had been raised throughout Scotland. The consultation paper notes that local joint partnership arrangements, or joint services delivered across CPP boundaries, can be continued whenever considered appropriate.
- 3.4 As noted in the introduction, the Women Offenders' Commission and Audit Scotland reports had highlighted a lack of consistency across Scotland. The Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland's most significant addition is the inclusion of a national organisation with the proposed name of Community Justice Improvement Scotland (CJIS). There have been ongoing discussions between the Scottish Government and COSLA regarding the need for and remit of such an organisation.

The proposed functions of CJIS is to:

- provide leadership for community justice in Scotland;
- provide oversight;
- advising how resources could be changed to improve outcomes;
- and the management of any national services.

The issue of national oversight is a source of concern as it could impinge on local accountability and responsibility. CJIS is presented as having a bipartisan assurance approach, but it could be suggested that it will be weighted towards assuring Scottish Ministers. In respect of the management of services, the consultation paper highlights services which currently sit at a national level e.g. national training would be managed by CJIS. However, there is no indication that there will be any limit to this and it could be interpreted as the start of a process of national delivery.

- 3.5 It is proposed that CJIS will have a Board which will be appointed by Scottish Ministers through the public appointment process. The Board will not be involved in the day to day running of CJIS. The Board can have a range of committees with membership from a range of professional agencies. CJIS will have a Chief Executive who will have overall responsibility and oversee the appointment of staff. Staff employed will have a range of skill bases , for example, planning, finance, commissioning, social work adviser. The paper states CJIS will be a relatively small organisation and in addition to Board members CJIS will employ 20 FTE members of staff. However, it states that the Senior Management Team will be the Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Head of Corporate Services & Business Development. Therefore, it does appear that there will be a significant investment in the quality and seniority of the staff in CJIS and it is assumed that with such seniority there will be influential power invested in their roles. The consultation paper suggests the location for CJIS should be Edinburgh or Glasgow.
- 3.6 CJIS' accountability will be through the Chief Executive and the Board to Scottish Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. Scottish Ministers will hold CJIS to account, set a budget, publish a national strategy for community justice, approve CJIS's strategic plan, approve certain CJIS appointments and consider recommendations made by CJIS.
- 3.7 In respect of the relationship between CPPs and CJIS the consultation paper notes that as part of CJIS's "general assurance function" it will provide an overview of local partnership strategic plans and annual reports. CJIS will have the "power to make recommendations" to Scottish Ministers and relevant elected members on areas requiring improvement. CPPs will share plans and annual reports with CJIS to show progress in delivering outcomes. As part of the CJIS's assurance process they can offer targeted support to assist improvements. The consultation report notes that CJIS can, in certain circumstances, recommend that a "rescue task group" is established to drive improvements but this will be with the agreement of Scottish Ministers and local elected members.

However, the consultation paper reaffirms that the responsibility for resolving local issues rests with CPPs and that there "should" be no need for CJIS to have direct involvement in the principles of community planning, as existing channels are in place.

- 3.8 In respect of the transition from CJA responsibility to the proposed new arrangements the consultation paper notes that CJAs will have a key role. CJAs along with Scottish Government are to raise awareness among CPPs of their new responsibilities and will provide training if required. The Scottish Government will establish a change project to facilitate the process of CPPs assuming responsibility. The consultation paper notes that the timing of the changes is uncertain due to the legislative process and “the readiness of partners to take forward the change agenda”, but adds that there is no impediment to commencing the transition process and early work can begin with awareness raising in CPPs. A work-stream will be established for this process and COSLA and CJAs have offered support. CPPs will be invited to establish local partnership arrangements during 2015-16 to come into effect by the end of this year. CPPs will be invited to prepare a plan in conjunction with their CJA for 2016-17, which will shadow the CJA plan. These plans are to be submitted to Scottish Ministers for comment. It is expected that once established CJIS will take on this function. CJAs may remain in place for a short period following the establishment of CJIS to assist transition.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The consultation paper states that the current community justice funding process is not fit for purpose and the Scottish Government led Reducing Re-offending 2 programme is addressing this. It is proposed that funding will be from the Scottish Government who will take advice from CJIS. No mention is made of ring fenced Section 27 funding. There will be additional resource implications for CPPs once they assume responsibility for community justice planning and the consultation does not address this. It has been suggested at the consultation events arranged by the Scottish Government that any funds made available following the disestablishment of CJAs will be used to fund the creation of CJIS. In our draft response to this consultation, which is attached as an appendix, it is suggested that these monies could be better used to support CPPs.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There will be HR implications for CJAs as they will be disbanded.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There will be legal implications as new legislation will be required to establish this new model of community justice.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This will link into to the Single Outcome priority "reducing re-offending."

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 There may be community benefit implications arising from this report.

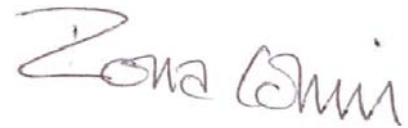
5. Consultations

- 5.1 The Government have launched a series of consultation events across Scotland. In North Ayrshire the salient issues arising from the consultation paper were raised with front-line Criminal Justice Social Work staff on a development day held on May 26th 2014.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The consultation report proposal of a local model for community justice built into CPPs is to be welcomed. However, it is important that CPPs have representation from all relevant partners and the consultation paper does not commit the involvement of some particularly significant partners. As noted there could be logistical issues of economies of scale as we move from eight CJAs to a potential 32 CPP community justice planning partnerships. There will also be resource issues when CPPs assume responsibility for community justice and this is not addressed by the consultation.
- 6.2 The Women Offenders' Commission and Audit Scotland reports highlighted a lack of national consistency and it is prosed that CJIS will have a central role to assure, advise and recommend to address such national issues. Although CJIS will be relatively small it could be suggested that it will have significant power and influence and any CJIS advice or recommendations made to Scottish Ministers will be given considerable weight. This is not surprising as there would be little point in the Scottish Government creating such a body without investing it with some influential power. Nevertheless, it could be suggested that there is the potential of friction between CPPs and CJIS.

- 6.3 In our draft response to this consultation concerns are expressed regarding the need for CJIS and the potential for such an organisation to interfere with local decision making and accountability.



IONA COLVIN

Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership)

Reference : JMcC/KS

For further information please contact Jim McCrae, Senior Manager, Criminal Justice Service on 01294 317784.

Background Papers

None

The Future Model of Community Justice in Scotland

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

North Ayrshire Council

Title Mr ☒ Ms ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Please tick as appropriate

Surname

McCRAE

Forename

James

2. Postal Address

North Ayrshire Council

Social Services and Health

4th Floor West, Cunninghame House

Irvine

Postcode KA12 8EE

Phone 01294 317784

Email jmccrae@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

☐

Please tick as appropriate

☒

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate

☐ Yes ☐ No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Please tick as appropriate

☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Yes, make my response, name and address all available ☐

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address ☐

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address ☐

- (d)** We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Chapter 2

Question 1: Do you have any general comments on the overview of the new arrangements for community justice?

We note the creation of Community Justice Improvement Scotland (CJIS) and have significant reservations regarding the need for such an organisation, as Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), have dual accountability to Scottish Ministers and Council Leaders. We recognise the comments made by the Women Offenders Commission and Audit Scotland regarding the need for greater consistency. However, we believe that a Joint Board, chaired by the Scottish Government and which had representations from a range of agencies, including local government, could have provided this, and at a significantly cheaper cost.

The overview provides a summary of what is contained elsewhere in the paper. We note that in this chapter (Section 31) it notes that it is **expected** that the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Court Service and Victim Support will be involved. We would suggest that they **must** be involved rather than be **expected** to be involved. The use of **expect** is also used for the links that require to be made between Criminal Justice Boards and local partnerships (Section 32). We address this in greater detail in our response to Question 3.

Chapter 3

Question 2: What are your views on the governance and accountability arrangements?

The governance and accountability arrangements for CPPs and CJIS appear to be clear. However, the relationship between CJIS and CPPs is less clear and we believe this could lead to friction and this is dealt with in our response to Question 6.

Chapter 4

Question 3: What are your views on the arrangements for local strategic planning and delivery of services for community justice?

As indicated in our response to Question 1 we have concerns regarding appropriate representation through the new local arrangements and this has to be fully addressed by the Scottish Government to ensure that all necessary partners are in attendance. Audit Scotland in its 2011 overview of the Scottish Criminal Justice System highlighted the lack of a systemic approach in Scottish Criminal Justice. It could be reasonably suggested that not having all relevant agencies involved at a local level through CPPs could undermine this systemic community justice development.

However, we recognise that there may be logistical issues if organisations have to attend 32 such planning partnerships rather than the current 8 CJAs. In our response to the first consultation in April 2013 North Ayrshire suggested a partnership based approach, based on groupings of local authorities. We suggested an all Ayrshire Community Justice Planning Partnership that linked directly into each local authority's CPP. In Ayrshire this makes sound sense due to coterminous boundaries of the three local authorities with one Health Board and two Sheriff Courts. Although the paper notes that such partner arrangements can be continued this could lead to a piecemeal approach which could impact on the development of community justice throughout Scotland.

The additional responsibilities that will be placed on CPPs have not been fully addressed by the consultation paper. The responsibility for community justice will not just be a simple add on to current community safety arrangements in CPPs and to undertake this effectively will require additional resources. At the Scottish Government's consultation event held in Paisley on April 22nd 2014 there was a clear suggestion that CPPs are already adequately resourced to undertake this function and that any savings generated from disbanding CJAs would be allocated to funding CJIS. We have serious concerns regarding both the lack of funding for CPPs for this development and the proposals to use any savings created from disbanding CJAs to fund CJIS. We would suggest that any savings made through disbanding CJAs should go to CPPs to support their new responsibilities, rather than being used to fund the creation of CJIS.

Chapter 5

Question 4: What suggestions do you have on how a national performance framework for community justice in Scotland could operate under the new model?

Outcomes, performance and improvement are dealt with very briefly in the consultation paper. We recognise that as part of RRP2 this is being addressed.

In respect of this performance framework providing assurance to the Scottish Ministers and local government leaders we would suggest that this appears to be weighted towards Scottish Ministers, as local authority leaders will be accountable for performance (as defined in Section 52 of the consultation paper). The challenge will be to develop a performance framework that will deliver clear, meaningful outcomes and has a logical transparent evidence process.

Chapter 6

Question 5: What are your views on the functions to be delivered by Community Justice Improvement Scotland?

As indicated earlier we do not believe that there is a need for CJIS. However, we would agree that the provision of national leadership is important for community justice and we would generally agree with the bullet points made and would suggest that this could be provided through the Joint Board suggested, rather than CJIS.

As noted earlier we have concerns regarding the relationship and potential for friction between CPPs and CJIS. We believe that CJIS' oversight function in respect of performance has the potential to be problematic and through this CJIS could infringe on local accountability and decision making. In recent years there has been a growth in national organisations who oversee local arrangements, rather than the "lighter touch" promised. There are concerns that CJIS would be an addition to this national oversight at a time when greater emphasis should be placed on local self-evaluation methods. Section 69 states that there "should" be no need for CJIS to have direct involvement in the principles of community planning, as existing channels are in place. "Should" suggests that CJIS could be involved?

CJIS' role in advising Scottish Ministers on how resources are best aligned could also be problematic. The local model will allow resources to be aligned where locally it is agreed that they are most needed. CJIS' advisory role to Scottish Ministers carries the potential for disagreement between CPPs, CJIS and ultimately the Scottish Government. We assume that any such advice given by CJIS will be given significant weight by Scottish Ministers.

In respect of the management of services the consultation paper highlights services which currently sit at a national level e.g. national training could be managed by CJIS. However, there is no indication that there will be any limit to this and it could be interpreted as the start of a process of national delivery and any funding could be top sliced from the Section 27 Grant to pay for them. An additional concern is Section 74 which states that if local partners choose not to access such nationally commissioned services this will need to be justified, which suggests that the local decision making process could be compromised.

Question 6: Does the name "Community Justice Improvement Scotland" adequately reflect the responsibilities of the new national body and the functions?

We believe the name is not appropriate and it suggests that CJIS will have an inspection function such as undertaken by the Care Inspectorate. We would suggest that Community Justice Scotland would be sufficient.

Chapter 7

Question 7: Are the skills and competencies in paragraph 105 and referenced in paragraph 106 sufficient to allow the body to fulfil its functions as noted in Chapter 6?

The skills and competencies defined appear to be sufficient.

Question 8: Is the organisational structure shown at Figure 3 and the expected size of the staffing complement sufficient to allow Community Justice Improvement Scotland to fulfil its functions as noted in Chapter 6?

The consultation paper briefly outlines CJIS' functions but at this stage we are not in a position to provide meaningful comment on the organisational structure and size of the staffing complement other than noting that there appears to be a significant investment in the seniority of staff (Chief Executive, Director of Operations and Head of Corporate Services & Business Development) in what is proposed to be a relatively small organisation. The seniority of this management group reinforces concerns that they will be invested with significant influential power that could negatively impact on CJIS's relationship with CPPs.

Question 9: What other suggestions do you have for the organisational structure for Community Justice Improvement Scotland to allow it to fulfil its functions as noted in chapter 6?

We have no other comments to make regarding CJIS' organisational structure other than noted above.

Question 10: What are your views on the proposed location for the headquarters of Community Justice Improvement Scotland?

As indicated we are not supportive of the creation of CJIS. However, on a general point we would suggest that the location of any such organisation or agency should not always be in Edinburgh or Glasgow. We would suggest that when considering locations for new organisations and agencies in the future the Scottish Government considers alternatives and in that respect we would highlight our own local authority as a suitable location.

Chapter 8

Question 11: Are the professional areas noted in the list at paragraph 114 appropriate to allow the Board of Community Justice Improvement Scotland to fulfil its functions?

The professional areas noted generally appear to be appropriate. However, we note that some Board members could be recruited from organisations responsible for the scrutiny and inspection of public services. We have concerns regarding this as we would expect such services to be at arm's length.

Chapter 9

Question 12: What are your views on the arrangements for the national Hub for innovation, learning and development?

The national Hub is not addressed in particular detail in the consultation. However, we are generally supportive of such a development.

Chapter 10

Question 13: What are your views on the arrangements in support of the transition process?

We recognise the important role that CJAs will have in transition and welcome the establishment of the change project and specific work-stream to take it forward. The lack of clarity regarding the timing of the transition process is a matter of concern and we note your comments that this is due to uncertainties in the legislative process. However, we do not believe that any significant delay will be due to: “the readiness of partners to take forward the change agenda”, as is suggested in the consultation document.

Chapter 12

Question 14: What impact on equalities do you think the proposals outlined in this paper may have on different sectors of the population?

It is difficult to say at this stage what impact on equalities the proposals will have, although we assume that it will not have a detrimental impact.

Chapter 13

Question 15: What are your views regarding the impact that the proposals in this paper may have on the important contribution to be made by businesses and the third sector?

We are not aware of any impact that the proposals will have on the businesses. However, we note the significant role that the third sector will have in the new arrangements, which can only have a positive impact on them.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy**

Purpose: To seek approval for an Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for North Ayrshire.

Recommendation: That Cabinet (i) approve the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy attached at Appendix 1; and (ii) agree to the Council becoming a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scottish Government views progress on the sustainability agenda as central to the delivery of a more successful country. In support of that assertion, sustainability influences a wide range of government level strategies and policies, as well as environmental targets. Given its broad ranging nature, the definition of 'sustainability' can have varying interpretations, but the Scottish Government defines it as enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.
- 1.2 Sustainability is also generally agreed as having three broad pillars: social responsibility; economic opportunity and environmental management. Sustainability is not solely the responsibility of the Council. Success requires a joined up response across a range of partners, including communities and businesses.
- 1.3 A further consideration for North Ayrshire as we continue on the journey to greater sustainability is the need to use opportunities, such as green job creation and affordable warmth, which might arise to help address the issues connected with multiple deprivation in some of our communities.

2. Current Position

2.1 As the focus on the sustainability agenda increases, the impetus is on local authorities to interpret what the sustainability agenda means for their area, in partnership with other stakeholders, and also lead the way by example. To that end, an Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (see Appendix 1) has been prepared in order to align, under one umbrella strategy, the work that different services are doing to further the sustainability agenda, as well as to provide a co-ordinated vision to stimulate further initiatives to build on success to date.

2.2 The strategy at Appendix 1 provides a vision for sustainability within North Ayrshire. The vision is that:

- We inspire positive environmental behaviour change across North Ayrshire, by improving the awareness and understanding of the sustainability agenda and its importance;
- We maximise the access to clean, affordable renewable energy for everyone in North Ayrshire;
- Our business base has a well-developed local supply chain, a low carbon footprint, and contains more companies operating within the green industry;
- We shift more and more journeys from the private car to sustainable forms of travel such as walking and cycling, and that we make electric vehicles a more attractive option where car journeys are essential;
- We use our natural and built assets sustainably, for example through increased local food production, encouraging biodiversity and balanced land use policy; and
- We, as a Council, lead the way in making our operations more sustainable by reducing the carbon emissions of our operations, and making sustainable thinking a part of our decision making.

2.3 This vision is then articulated through separate workstreams which form part of the strategy. For each workstream, the strategy describes the contexts/drivers, achievements to date, and priorities for action to 2017. Longer term actions are noted where applicable as 'future aspirations' to work towards. Some examples of the priorities are:

- Installation of a pilot district heating scheme targeted at those in most need of affordable warmth;
- Develop our existing, and attract new, clean energy companies to expand that business base and develop supply chain linkages; and
- Develop a renewables strategy to understand how to maximise the potential of renewable energy generation within North Ayrshire. N.B. Specialist support is being procured for this work.

- 2.4 The priorities have been translated into an action plan for delivery, which forms part of the strategy.
- 2.5 The intention is that the strategy will be monitored quarterly, and progress reported annually to Cabinet. Appropriate performance indicators are being developed with the relevant services, and will likely include, for example, level of carbon emissions from the Council's operations, and megawatt hours of renewable energy generated.
- 2.6 The Covenant of Mayors is a collection of local authorities across Europe, who, in signing the covenant at Appendix 1, agree to exceed the 20% reduction target for CO₂ emissions within the authority by 2020. This is achieved by preparing a Baseline Emissions Inventory, outlining total emissions in the area, as well as a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), which must be completed using a prescribed format, and contain the specific actions that will be undertaken to achieve the emissions reduction targets. The two documents must be completed and submitted to the Covenant of Mayors within one year of becoming a signatory of the covenant. A progress report on implementation of the strategy must be submitted every two years,

The benefits of the covenant include the following:

- It provides an overarching framework to address sustainability from an emission led perspective, and, via the SEAP, would provide the Council with clear vision and roadmap for addressing emissions to 2020.
 - It would consolidate the work being undertaken on emissions, internally and externally to the Council, by bringing these different workstreams under one framework. Examples of such work include the biomass and solar photovoltaic retrofit work currently being procured, and also the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment;
 - It provides access to international innovation and expertise in the sustainable energy field;
 - It represents an internationally recognised commitment to going above and beyond in furthering the sustainable energy agenda within North Ayrshire.
- 2.7 There are some 29 authorities across the United Kingdom who are currently signatories of the covenant.

- 2.8 An appropriate target for the Council to aim for in respect of greenhouse gas emissions reduction to be achieved by 2020 will be informed by the SEAP. Currently, the Scottish Government's target for reduction is 42% by 2020, based on 1990 levels. As of 2010 (latest figures available), emissions have reduced within North Ayrshire by 18%, based on 1995 levels. The SEAP will capture specific existing and new actions that the Council and partners can undertake to build on reductions achieved to date. Examples of actions include improvements to the energy efficiency of public buildings, specific measures to encourage the shift from motor vehicles to public transport or active travel, and installing renewable energy generating technologies.
- 2.9 The strategy has been considered by the Physical Environment Advisory Panel who have indicated their support to the strategy and for the Council to become a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 That Cabinet agree to the Council becoming a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are financial implications for implementation of the various priorities. The majority relate to planned initiatives by various services which are provided for within requisite capital and revenue budgets. However there are a number where the financial implications will be developed as part of a business case.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 None.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out when the strategy is finalised.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 The principle of sustainability is that environmental assets are protected and enhanced, in balance with economic and social priorities. The strategy is therefore expected to have positive implications for the environment.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 The Council Plan notes that we need to reflect sustainability 'in our decision-making' by 'ensuring that the environment is enhanced and protected and that we have environmental monitoring systems in place'. The strategy at Appendix 1, once finalised and approved, will help embed that value.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken with services across the Council as the strategy has been developed. The consultation included the exchange of information on current and planned activities by individual services, as well the setting of outcomes and targets, all as outlined within the proposed strategy at Appendix 1.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The proposed Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (draft at Appendix 1), responds to the current sustainability agenda by providing clarity in terms of the Council's vision for a sustainable North Ayrshire through various priorities for action across five separate workstreams. These workstreams are (1) Affordable Warmth; (2) A Green Economy, (3) Transport & Travel; (4) Natural and Built Environment; and (5) Sustainable Operations. In committing to action by approving the strategy, the Council will make a clear statement of intent on sustainability, as well as setting out a roadmap for achieving its aims.



CRAIG HATTON
Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : CH/DH/LB

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324764

Background Papers

x

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017

Introduction

The Scottish Government defines sustainability as the process of 'enabling all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations'. At the 2005 World Summit on Social Development it was noted that this requires the reconciliation of environmental, social equity and economic demands - the "three pillars" of sustainability. In making headway on sustainability, we will be better equipped to mitigate the impacts of climate change which include increased flooding and rising temperatures.

A further consideration for North Ayrshire as we continue on the journey to greater sustainability is the need to use opportunities, such as green job creation and affordable warmth, which might arise to help address the issues connected with multiple deprivation in some of our communities.

This strategy represents the Council's vision and roadmap to achieving greater sustainability across its own operations, and North Ayrshire as a whole.

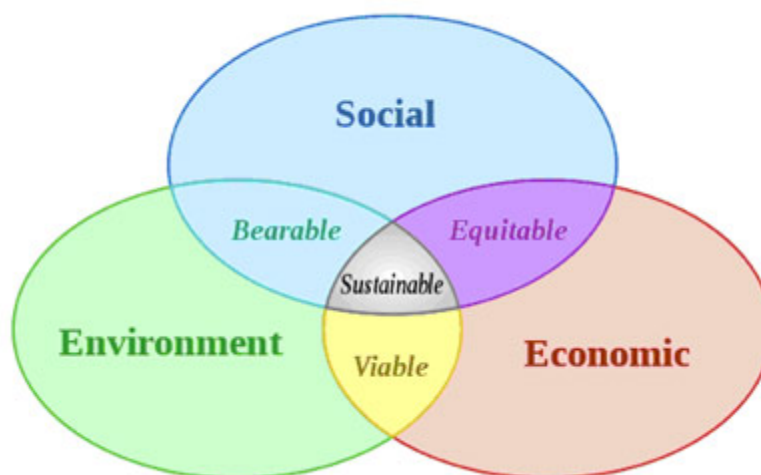


Fig. 1 Sustainability Venn Diagram

Purpose

"A local authority which secures Best Value will be able to demonstrate a contribution to sustainable development - consideration of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities and decisions both in the shorter and longer term."

- The Local Government in Scotland Act (2003)

While sustainability is not the sole responsibility of the Council, we do have a major influence in the sustainability of the area through the provision of our services and functions, which includes energy use, travel patterns, the form of new development, and the procurement of services.

The Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy will be used to 'start a conversation' on sustainability, internally and externally. True sustainability will only be achieved by a range of partners working together with a common understanding of what sustainability looks like and what

we are aiming to achieve. The Council can lead on this in a variety of different ways, including making the issue locally relevant, and also through the specific actions outlined within the strategy.

The message is clear: sustainability must be an integral part of our business operations.

What is our Vision for Sustainability?

Our vision is that:

1. We inspire positive environmental behaviour change across North Ayrshire, by improving the awareness and understanding of the sustainability agenda and its importance;
2. We maximise the access to clean, affordable renewable energy for everyone in North Ayrshire;
3. Our business base has a well-developed local supply chain, a low carbon footprint, and contains more companies operating within the green industry;
4. We shift more and more journeys from the private car to sustainable forms of travel such as walking and cycling, and that we make electric vehicles a more attractive option where car journeys are essential;
5. We use our natural and built assets sustainably, for example through increased local food production, encouraging biodiversity and balanced land use policy; and
6. We, as a Council, lead the way in making our operations more sustainable by reducing the carbon emissions of our operations, and making sustainable thinking a part of our decision making.

This vision is articulated through separate workstreams which form part of the strategy, with specific actions under each workstream set out within the Action Plan at Appendix 1.

This strategy will provide a co-ordinated direction for our sustainability initiatives, and highlight the key actions over the next three years which we see as contributing the most to furthering sustainability within North Ayrshire. The document will be updated annually, so that progress is monitored, and to ensure that priorities remain up to date.

What is the scope of the strategy?

This strategy considers the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainability. The key actions identified have been arrived at by thinking of the Council as:

- Energy user: consumption of energy in Council offices, schools, management of Council fleet vehicles, waste management etc;

- Developer: design of new Council properties such as affordable housing, and installation of renewable energy capacity;
- Customer: sustainable procurement and life cycle costing; and
- Enabler: leadership, education, advice and guidance, land use policy, business support.

The Council expects this strategy to evolve over time: as new opportunities are discovered, as new initiatives come forward, and as understanding and technology advances. The strategy is therefore a starting point, rather than an exhaustive list of opportunities. Resources should be prioritised on those actions which provide the most sustainable return on our investment.

Awareness raising and education about the sustainability agenda is a vital first step in establishing an effective strategy, and will also raise the capacity for more ambitious sustainability action.

Policy Context

National Context

In *Choosing our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy* (2005) it is stated that the public sector has a vital role to play in delivering sustainable development, and that local authorities and their Community Planning Partners can lead the way locally.

The Scottish Government asks local authorities to sign up to a Climate Change Declaration, which seeks a commitment to action to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 sets in statute a target to reduce Scotland's emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. It also establishes an interim target for 2020 of at least a 42% reduction in emissions.

In January 2013 the Scottish Government published 'Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027'. This stated that by 2010 Scotland was more than halfway to meeting the 2020 target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 42 per cent. It also confirmed that the Scottish Government will invest over £1.14 billion over the next three years on measures to address climate change.

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) sets out how the principles of sustainability are woven through national planning policy. The land use planning system should create sustainable places in a variety of ways, including enabling the use of renewable energy, meeting the needs of different sectors and sizes of business, promoting more sustainable patterns of travel (public transport, walking, cycling), advocating the re-use of redundant brownfield land and ensuring the right locations are available for facilities to reduce and manage waste.

2020 Challenge is a supplement to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2004) focused on desired outcomes for biodiversity:

- Protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems;
- Connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment; and

- Maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

Local Context

The Council Plan 2012-17 contains as a value 'reflecting sustainability in our decision-making' by 'ensuring that the environment is enhanced and protected and that we have environmental monitoring systems in place'. This statement has major implications and provides a starting point for a sustainability strategy.

The Council has drawn up a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan which includes actions to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 14.5% by 2014/15.

The Local Development Plan sets a positive framework for future sustainable development, by promoting the reuse of our vacant and derelict land and buildings, as well as policies for protecting our natural and built heritage assets for future generations.

The Local Housing Strategy 2011-16 is working towards the outcome that housing is sustainable and contributes to stable communities.

The Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy sets out actions to be undertaken so that the goods and services we purchase are more sustainably sourced. This includes life cycle costing and ensuring that all goods purchased have the best or most up to date emissions/energy efficiency ratings.

The Local Transport Strategy looks to develop present transport infrastructure to meet present and future needs sustainably and to focus on sustainable travel modes.

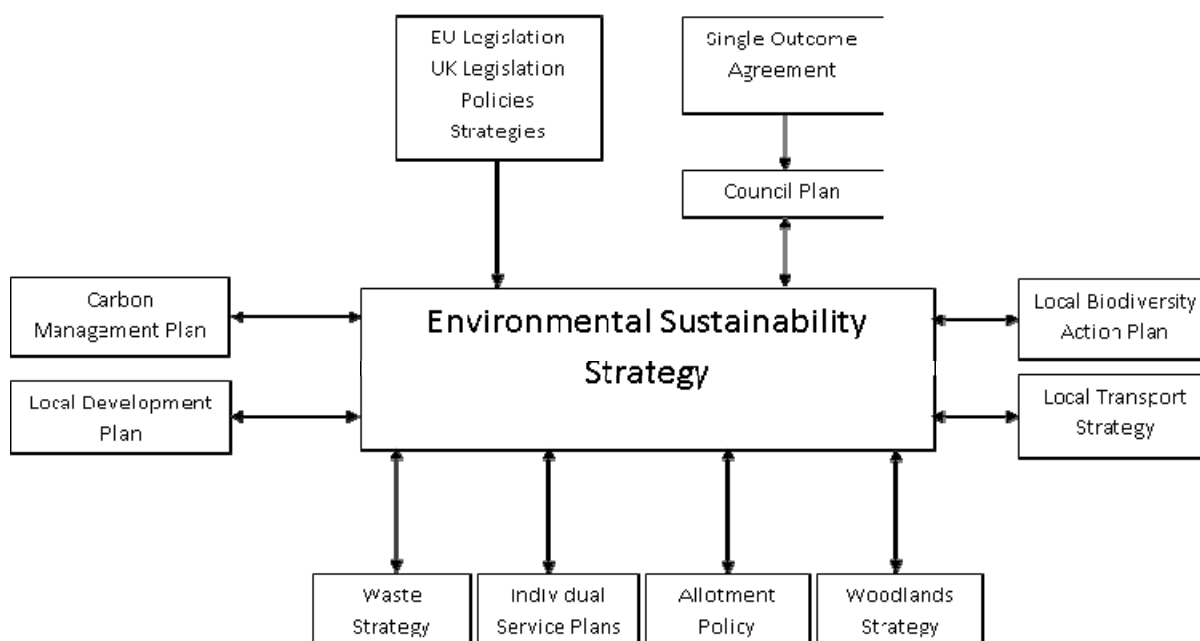
The Waste Strategy recognises that there is a strong correlation between the economic prosperity of an area and sustainable waste management practices. Increased promotion of sustainable methods of waste management is advocated throughout.

As a signatory to the SG Climate Change Declaration, North Ayrshire Council reports annually on five headings including: governance, leadership and management; corporate greenhouse gas emissions; emissions from the wider local authority area; adapting to climate change; and, partnership working on climate change.

Given the policy context set out above, it is clear that sustainability is woven throughout the Council's various strategies.

Relationship with other Strategies

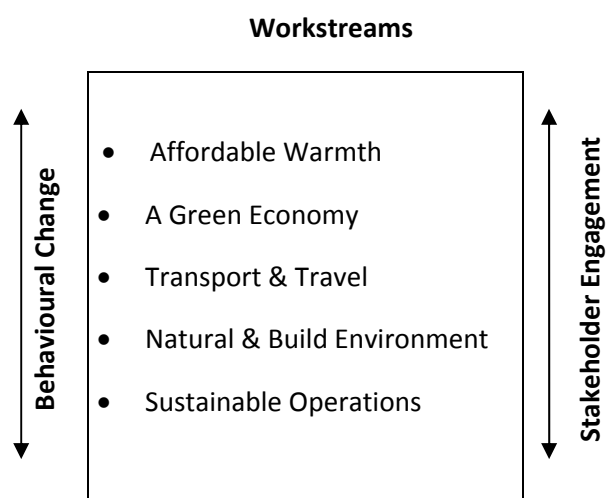
This sustainability strategy is an ‘umbrella’ strategy, and both informs and is informed by other Council strategies, as illustrated in the following diagram:



This strategy does not mark the beginning of the Council’s work on sustainability. The Council is already active in protecting the environment, building community capacity and promoting sustainable business within the area, along with other partners.

To deliver the strategy, five workstreams have been created, which reflect the priorities within the vision statement on pINSERT. A common theme across the workstreams is behavioural change, which will require engagement at all levels.

Each workstream lists context, drivers, achievements to date and priorities for action. These actions are summarised within the Action Plan at Appendix 1.



Workstream 1: Affordable Warmth

Context and Drivers

The 2008 Scottish House Condition Survey told us that:

- 23% of North Ayrshire residents are fuel poor (i.e. more than 10% of income to maintain adequate heating); and
- 6% of North Ayrshire residents are extreme fuel poor (i.e. more than 20% of income to maintain an adequate heating)

Living in a cold home can worsen conditions such as asthma and bronchitis, and lead to other respiratory issues. More people die in winter than the rest of the year due to the effects of the cold. All European countries see a greater number of deaths in the winter than in the summer, but in the UK the difference is much greater. The additional deaths in this period are called Excess Winter Deaths. According to the World Health Organisation, between 30% and 50% of Excess Winter Deaths can be attributable to cold indoor temperatures.

Even where people can maintain a warm home, this may be at the cost of other necessities due to the rising costs of fuel. This issue is not necessarily restricted to those on lower incomes.

Clearly then, affordable warmth must be a priority for the Council.

Achievements to Date

98.69% of all Council housing stock meets the Scottish Housing Quality Standard for efficiency. Funding for energy efficiency schemes through the ECO programme will generate further benefits in terms of the Council's CO₂ footprint and remove families from fuel poverty. The Council has set aside £1.5m to add to ECO funding for external insulation, cavity/loft insulation and boiler replacement programmes in 2014-15 for vulnerable households.

The new Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing has been published, which sets new targets for minimum energy efficiency ratings for social housing properties to be achieved by 2020. This will involve implementing further energy efficiency measures to social housing stock (e.g. micro-renewables, underfloor heating). There are a number of established funding streams to help local authorities and registered social landlords to achieve the necessary ratings. The Council has set aside £0.5m per annum to help reach the 2020 target.

A Council housing development at Copeland Crescent in Cumbrae achieved a Silver Active Accreditation in Sustainable Building design, and will form the benchmark for future housing projects such as redevelopment of the former Fencedyke Primary School, Irvine and Montrose House Care Home in Brodick. The Copeland Crescent homes include water conservation measures, triple glazing and air source heat pumps.

Assistance has been provided through energy advice from the Council's Energy Team to households across North Ayrshire (over 3000 homes so far). The Energy Team have also facilitated grants to householders through UHIS/HEEPS – providing insulation to almost 2000 homes so far and saving some 55,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Top Priorities to 2017:

1. Lead by example in the Council Housing Building Programme, by ensuring that all houses completed under the programme are to the Eco-Homes 'Very Good' or, where possible, 'Excellent' standard;

2. Continue to provide energy advice and administration of HEEPS to improve the energy efficiency of private and Council owned housing stock;
3. Make significant headway in the number of dwellings meeting the new Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing; and
4. Develop a business case for a pilot district heating scheme in North Ayrshire to provide affordable warmth.
5. Prepare and implement a Renewable Energy Strategy for North Ayrshire, including opportunities for provision of affordable warmth.

Future Aspirations:

- Explore and capitalise on opportunities for collective purchasing of energy and other community energy schemes.

Workstream 2: A Green Economy

Context/Drivers

‘Partnership for a Better Scotland’ sets economic growth as the Scottish Executive’s top priority and puts sustainable development at the heart of everything we do.

The prevailing economic growth model is focused on increasing Gross Domestic Product above all other goals. While this system has improved incomes and reduced poverty all over the world, it often comes with significant and potentially irreversible social, environmental and economic costs.

A Green Economy can be thought of as an alternative vision for growth and development; one that can generate growth and improvements in people’s lives in ways consistent with sustainable development. A Green Economy promotes a triple bottom line: sustaining and advancing economic, environmental and social well-being.

Achievements to Date

The Council’s Economic Development Service is delivering a partnership project with the Crichton Carbon Centre to deliver advice, analysis and support to companies in North Ayrshire keen to assess and reduce their environmental impact. They are also delivering a ‘Skills for Growth’ programme that has been utilised by some businesses to train their employees in installation, operation and maintenance of renewable products.

Through the Council’s procurement processes, over £18m was spent procuring goods and services from local suppliers, representing almost 20% of the Council’s overall procurement expenditure. In addition, some 7 jobs or apprenticeships were created through community benefit clauses as part of contract award.

The Council commissioned the Hunterston Competitive Advantage Study to explore the technical and commercial feasibility of various potential future uses for the Hunterston site. The focus is on renewable energy potential, building on the existing test beds for offshore turbines, and the potential for offshore renewables manufacturing. The site has been designated as an ‘Energy Hub’ within National Planning Framework 3.

Top Priorities to 2017:

1. Develop existing, and attract new, clean energy companies to expand that business base and develop direct and supply chain linkages;
2. Support our businesses in reducing their carbon footprint, including helping them to take advantage of new and emerging renewable technologies;
3. Develop closer links between the Council’s Procurement Unit and local businesses through the Team North Ayrshire approach;
4. Engage with clean energy businesses and further education institutions to understand skills gaps and enable courses, training schemes and apprenticeships to be developed to respond to those gaps;

5. Investigate ways in which our physical assets can be utilised for clean energy businesses, e.g. Ardeer Peninsula, Hunterston; and
6. Explore specific opportunities to capitalise on testing and development of emerging renewable technologies such as wave and tidal generation.

Workstream 3: Transport & Travel

Context and Drivers

Nationally, transport and travel emissions accounted for 22% of greenhouse gas emissions in 2008. The Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Plan states that we require almost complete decarbonisation of road transport by 2050 with significant progress by 2030 through wholesale adoption of electric cars and vans, and significant decarbonisation of rail by 2050.

Scottish Planning Policy states that we need to:

- reduce the need to travel and prioritise sustainable travel and transport opportunities; and
- encourage the use of and enable access to active travel networks and public transport.

The Scottish Government has identified a vision for 2020, via the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland, that 10% of all everyday journeys made in Scotland are by bicycle.

The Council has an influence on transport and travel within North Ayrshire, for example through work with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and other partners on the location and management of public transport infrastructure, the Local Transport Strategy, parking strategy, land use decision making, use of its own vehicle fleet, and the core paths network.

Achievements to Date

The Council has procured seven hybrid fuel vehicles, which now form part of the fleet. As part of the vehicle procurement strategy, the business case for each vehicle is more carefully assessed, and options for alternative fuel vehicles assessed where appropriate. The Council also now bulk buys commonly used spare parts for its fleet, which not only saves money, but reduces carbon emissions through reduced deliveries. A tracking system has been introduced to aid optimisation of use of the Council fleet.

Two electric vehicle charging points have been installed at Cunninghame House, and an electric pool vehicle has also been trialled for staff business travel.

New and expanded park and ride accommodation is being provided at various sites near rail stations across North Ayrshire. Increasing the quality of bus corridors has been a priority, this includes a rolling scheme for raised kerbs and improvements to bus shelters (where possible) to make bus travel more attractive.

In partnership with Sustrans, the Council has extended and enhanced the National Cycle Network within North Ayrshire, and identified pilot projects such as Irvine Cycle Friendly Town.

The Council operates the 'cyclescheme' initiative, which allows staff to purchase bicycles for use for travel to work as part of a salary sacrifice scheme.

Top Priorities to 2017:

1. Complete the Business Mileage Review, and implement recommendations arising. These may include rolling out alternative fuel pool vehicles, and encouraging the use of video-conferencing instead of travelling to meetings;
2. Roll out vehicle speed limiters (to 56mph) on all Council light goods vehicles to increase fuel efficiency;
3. Pilot the introduction of low-floor buses and smart travel scheme on Arran;
4. Work in partnership with government agencies to explore the potential for further electric vehicle charging points within North Ayrshire;
5. Implement the Irvine Cycle Friendly Town Project; and
6. Develop an action plan for walking and cycling.

Workstream 4: Natural & Built Environment

Context and Drivers

It could be argued that the environmental element of sustainability is perhaps the most well developed of the three pillars. There are a variety of statutory and non statutory environmental designations which are operational in North Ayrshire, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and Local Nature Conservation Sites. These afford varying levels of protection to habitats and species. In terms of biodiversity, the Council is currently updating its Local Biodiversity Action Plan, which will outline specific actions to conserve and enhance those species and habitats at greatest risk within the area.

Other stakeholders are particularly active in furthering sustainability in this area, such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency through co-ordination of River Basin Management Planning and Sustainable Flood Risk Management. Scottish Natural Heritage is responsible for promoting the sustainable use of our natural heritage assets.

Scottish Planning Policy states that ‘the planning system should promote development that supports the move towards a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society’. The Council’s Local Development Plan contains policies promoting the reuse of our vacant and derelict land and buildings, as well as policies for protecting our natural and built heritage assets for future generations. SPP also notes the role of the planning system in seeking sustainable building design and layouts through passive energy efficiency measures in new development, such as the use of microrenewables and passive solar gain.

The Central Scotland Green Network is a national initiative designed to connect up our green and blue spaces, for the purposes of biodiversity, outdoor recreation, active travel, and habitat enhancement. The Council is part of an Ayrshire wide Green Network. Our woodland areas also play an important role in carbon sequestration, and there may be potential for short rotation coppicing on areas of land within Council ownership, for biomass feedstock.

North Ayrshire has several operational community gardens and allotments, including Sersley Drive in Kilbirnie and the Organic Growers of Fairlie site.

Achievements to Date

- Completion of a project led by Ayrshire Rivers Trust to remove non-native invasive Giant Hogweed from the banks of the Rivers Irvine and Garnock;
- Completion of projects under the CSGN banner, including path network upgrades at Beach Park, New Town Trail and Ardeer Quarry, as well as tree planting, wildflower meadows and access improvements within Irvine Enterprise Area.
- Establishment of an allotment at Sersley Drive, Kilbirnie, which will have 75 allotment plots when complete, and is managed by the local community.

Top Priorities to 2017

1. Prepare and implement a Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy, which may include scope for growing of biomass feedstock, or greening of sites for biodiversity and carbon sequestration;
2. Increase local food production by establishing new allotments (including community gardens and community orchards) within North Ayrshire;
3. Prepare a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and enhance the quality of our habitats, and the resilience and breadth of our species;
4. Review the Local Development Plan to enshrine greater emphasis on sustainability;
5. Prepare a Coastal Management Strategy to ensure that our coastal assets are managed in a co-ordinated and sustainable way;

6. Progress a Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme;
7. Prepare a new Woodland Management Plan; and
8. Complete an Open Space Strategy.

Workstream 5: Sustainable Operations

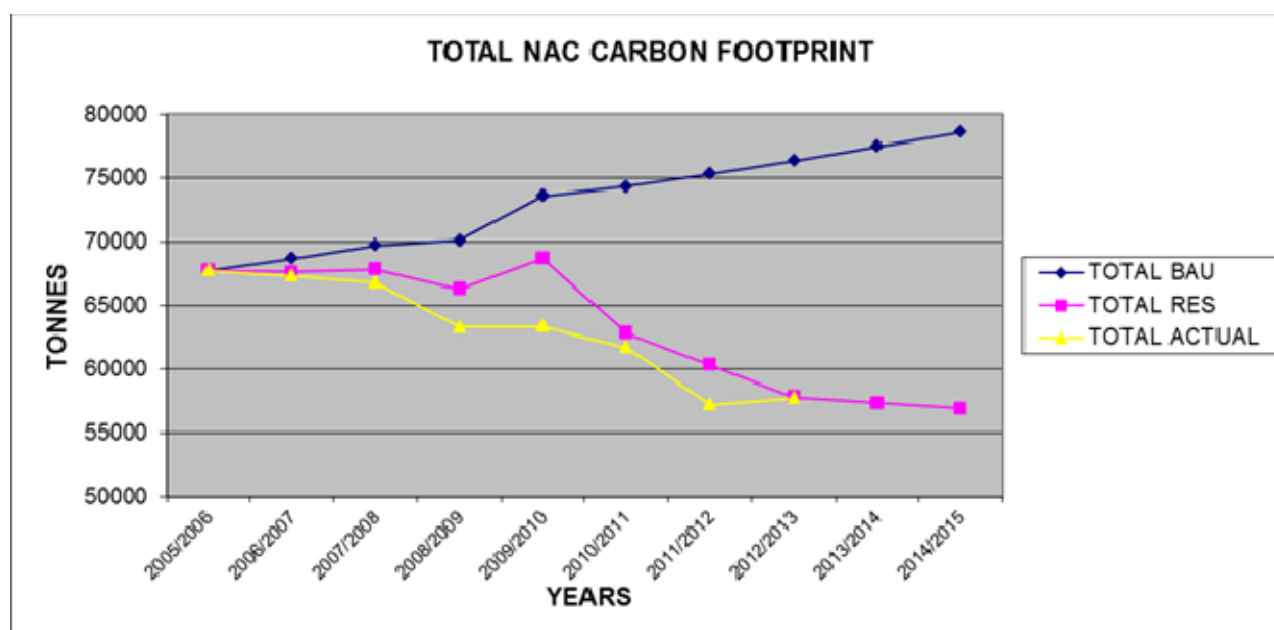
Context and Drivers

The Council plays a vital role in demonstrating leadership on the implementation of the sustainability agenda. We must set a sector leading example to our communities and businesses, by raising the bar for sustainable operations by ensuring that we are optimising the use of our assets, and providing support and advice to the public, businesses and other stakeholders.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK-wide trading scheme introduced in April 2010. The scheme is designed to incentivise large public and private sector organisations to take up cost-effective energy efficiency through the application of financial and reputational drivers and thereby drive down carbon emissions throughout the UK. The Council participates in the CRC scheme, and paid £230,000 in tax for its carbon emissions in 2012-2013.

Achievements to Date

The Council's Carbon Management Plan, published in 2007, has realised carbon reduction targets in excess of those originally envisaged. We are well on target to realise in excess of a 14.5% reduction in CO₂ emissions by March next year (based on a 2005/06 baseline).



Graph shows:

Total BAU – What our usage would be if none of the projects currently undertaken had been implemented

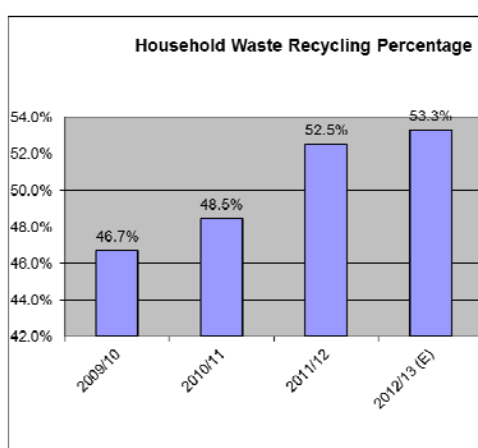
Total RES – What our targets are

Total ACTUAL – What our actual usage is

In 2011/12 the Council spent £3.5M on energy through heating and lighting, a reduction of more than £600k over the total spent in 2009/10. Energy savings from selected Council services in the period 2009/10 resulted in overall savings of some £1.5M. Estimated financial savings for the year 2010/11 were therefore more than £2m, with an associated carbon saving of almost 600,000 tonnes.

The Council has budgeted £5m for an energy efficiency retrofit programme. This project includes retrofit of solar photovoltaic panels, and biomass boiler systems, to selected Council buildings. These works are estimated to secure cumulative revenue savings approaching £13.5m over 20 years from inception, with payback periods for projects ranging from 3.5 to 12 years.

The Council is meeting the requirements of national and European waste management legislation and targets from the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and the Waste Framework Directive. The Council's Waste Strategy seeks to move waste along the waste hierarchy towards more sustainable methods. The amount of household waste managed by the Council has reduced by 15,000 tonnes since 2008, whilst recycling levels have increased to 56.1%, exceeding the Zero Waste target to recycle 50% by 2012/13. As well as increasing recycling there is an initiative for the utilisation and energy recovery of landfill gas from Shewalton Area 2 Landfill Site. The percentage of waste re-used is increasing, from 0.42% in 2011/2012 to 0.58% in 2012/2013.



The Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy has been in place since 2012. This has achieved a number of quick wins, such as reduced packaging and deliveries to the Council for stationery and other consumables. This not only reduces our carbon footprint, but has also resulted in financial savings. A total of 14 young apprentices were taken on through construction contracts let by the Council in 2012/2013 as part of a contractual obligation inserted by the Council.

The Eco Schools Programme raises awareness and encourages all pupils to participate in eco programmes, which can include recycling, energy efficiency, and using organic products. Current Eco Schools Accreditation levels:

- 92% Bronze
- 78% Silver
- 65% Green Flag

In 2013, the Council achieved the Gold Food for Life Catering Mark from the Soil Association. This achievement demonstrates the Council's progress in serving environmentally sustainable and ethical food- by using seasonal produce and meat, and using organic ingredients.

Furthermore, a 'Sow to Grow' initiative was piloted at Mayfield Primary School. The initiative involved the installation of poly tunnels within the school grounds, where fruit and vegetables are grown. The produce is used in the preparation of school meals, and the pupils are currently investigating the scope to sell some of the produce grown to the local community. In addition, the children benefit from learning about the principles and benefits of sustainable produce.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Once a local community or school declares itself as a Fairtrade partner it must be committed to continuing campaigning and awareness raising. Two schools in North Ayrshire have achieved Fairtrade status to date, as well as three communities- Fairlie, Largs and Kilwinning.

Top Priorities to 2017:

1. Update the Council wide audit of sustainability initiatives, and set up a monitoring framework;
2. Refresh the Council's Carbon Management Plan;
3. Prepare and implement a renewables strategy to understand how to maximise the potential of renewable energy generation within North Ayrshire, including opportunities for provision of affordable warmth;
4. Undertake a programme of biomass and solar PV installation within the Council estate;
5. Increase the number of young people and long term unemployed that are taken on as apprentices through contract clauses;
6. Continue to implement the Council's Waste Strategy and in particular the identification of a facility to recover energy from waste and the use of landfill.
7. Raise Eco school Accreditation levels to 100% Green Flag status;
8. Achieve Fairtrade Status for: North Ayrshire, 100% of schools, and five separate communities;
9. Complete street lighting business case;
10. Raise the energy efficiency ratings of the Council's buildings to a maximum standard;
11. Continue to develop a property rationalisation programme.

Monitoring Performance

Monitoring performance is essential to measure the success of any strategy. A series of indicators are being developed in conjunction with various services across the Council, as well as stretching targets. A progress report on implementation of the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy will be published annually.

The performance indicators are likely to include:

- Council carbon emissions (such as overall energy consumption, fleet travel, street lighting etc.);
- Levels of fuel poverty;
- No. of households taking advantage of HEEPS programme;
- Average fuel consumption of Council fleet; and
- Energy generated from renewables (MWH).

Appendix 1- Sustainability Strategy Action Plan

Affordable Warmth

Workstream	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?	When will we do it by?	Who will do it?
Affordable Warmth					
We maximise the access to clean, affordable renewable energy for everyone in North Ayrshire	% of affordable homes completed to Eco Homes 'Very Good' or 'Excellent' standard; No. of homes with additional energy efficiency measures as a result of national/local schemes; Delivery of at least one pilot district heating scheme.	Ensure that affordable homes built under the Council house building programme or by RSLs are constructed to Eco-Homes 'Very Good' or 'Excellent' standard.	Ensuring that the specification within the Council's Affordable Housing Design Guide reflects Eco-Homes requirements and is enforced as housing development programmes are brought forward.	Ongoing	Head of Physical Environment
		Continue to provide advice on energy efficiency to the public, and install energy efficiency measures under HEEPS.	Implement programme of advice and insulation installation.	Ongoing	Head of Physical Environment
		Make significant headway in the number of dwellings meeting the new Energy Efficiency Standard for	Establish a programme of retrofit works to social housing properties.	Q4 2015	Head of Physical Environment

		Social Housing.			
		Develop a business case for a pilot district heating scheme.	Identify feasible opportunities as part of the Council's Renewables Strategy.	Q4 2017	Head of Physical Environment
		Explore and capitalise on opportunities for collective purchasing of energy and other community energy schemes.	Identify feasible opportunities as part of the Council's Renewables Strategy.	Q4 2017	Head of Communities
		Develop a Renewable Energy Strategy for North Ayrshire	Procurement of Specialist Support	Q3 2014	Head of Physical Environment

A Green Economy

Workstream	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?	When will we do it by?	Who will do it?
A Green Economy					
Our business base has a well-developed local supply chain, a low carbon footprint, and contains more companies operating within the green industry;	<p>No. of new clean energy and green companies;</p> <p>% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within North Ayrshire;</p> <p>No. of new courses, training schemes or apprenticeships established for clean energy/green business skills.</p>	Develop existing, and attract new, clean energy and green companies to expand that business base and develop direct and supply chain linkages.	<p>Prepare an International Strategy which includes consideration of renewable energy sector opportunities.</p> <p>Use the 'Team North Ayrshire' account managed approach to enable growth of existing renewable energy businesses.</p>	Ongoing	Head of Economic Growth
		Support our businesses in reducing their carbon footprint, including helping them to take advantage of new and emerging renewable technologies.	<p>Use the 'Team North Ayrshire' account managed approach to enable growth of existing renewable energy businesses.</p> <p>Continue roll out of 'Skills for Growth' and Crichton Carbon Centre projects to help upskill</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Head of Economic Growth

			<p>individuals in renewable technology installation, and to help businesses reduce their environmental impacts.</p> <p>Identify opportunities through the Council's Renewables Strategy to enable businesses to take advantage of renewable technologies to reduce energy bills.</p>	Q4 2014	
		Develop closer links between the Council's Procurement Unit and local businesses through the Team North Ayrshire approach	Use the 'Team North Ayrshire' account managed approach to arrange events such as 'Meet the Supplier'.	Ongoing	Head of Economic Growth
		Engage with renewable energy businesses and further education institutions to understand skills gaps and enable courses,	Collaboration between Economic Development Service and Ayrshire College through the Ayrshire	Ongoing.	Head of Economic Growth

		training schemes and apprenticeships to be developed to respond to those gaps.	Economic Partnership.		
		Investigate ways in which our land use assets can be utilised for green energy businesses, e.g. Ardeer Peninsula, Hunterston.	Prepare an International Strategy which includes consideration of renewable energy sector opportunities. Prepare an Action Plan for the delivery of development at Hunterston.	Q1 2015	Head of Economic Growth
		Explore specific opportunities to capitalise on testing and development of emerging renewable technologies such as wave and tidal generation.	Identify opportunities through the Council's Renewables Strategy	Q1 2015	Head of Economic Growth

Transport & Travel

Workstream	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?	When will we do it by?	Who will do it?
Transport & Travel					
We shift more and more journeys from the private car to sustainable forms of travel such as walking and cycling, and that we make electric vehicles a more attractive option where car journeys are essential.	% reduction in the no. of business miles travelled; % of Council fleet with speed limiters; No. of electric vehicle charging points within North Ayrshire.	Complete the Business Mileage Review, and implement recommendations arising.	Prepare and implement review.	Preparation Q1 2015, implementation ongoing thereafter	Head of Commercial Services
		Roll out vehicle speed limiters (to 56mph) on all Council light goods vehicles to increase fuel efficiency.	Install speed limiters.	Q4 2015	Head of Commercial Services
		Pilot the introduction of low-floor buses and smart travel scheme on Arran.	Work in partnership with SPT and bus operator to procure vehicles, real time passenger information, raised bus boarders, improved shelters and smart ticketing scheme.	Q1 2015	Head of Economic Growth
		Work in partnership with government agencies to explore the potential for further	Prepare and submit funding bids for further grant funding for electric vehicle	Ongoing	Head of Economic Growth

		electric vehicle charging points within North Ayrshire.	infrastructure.		
		Implement the Irvine Cycle Friendly Town Project.	Prepare and submit funding applications for implementation of 3 year action plan of Irvine Cycle Friendly Town project.	Q1 2017	Head of Economic Growth
		Develop an action plan for walking and cycling.	Develop and implement action plan in partnership with North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum, Sustrans, Scottish Cycling, and Cycling Scotland.	Q1 2017	Head of Economic Growth

Natural & Built Environment

Workstream	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?	When will we do it by?	Who will do it?
Natural & Built Environment					
We use our natural and built assets sustainably, for example through increased local food production, encouraging biodiversity and balanced land use policy.	No. of allotments/community gardens; Preparation and implementation of various strategies.	Prepare and implement a Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy.	Prepare and implement strategy.	Preparation Q4 2014, implementation ongoing thereafter	Head of Economic Growth
		Increase local food production by establishing new allotments (including community gardens and community orchards) within North Ayrshire.	Review the Council's Allotment Policy. Review Council land ownership for suitable sites for allotments/community gardens. Provide guidance to community groups to facilitate development of allotment and community gardens development	Q4 2014	Head of Physical Environment/Head of Communities

			Engage with the Head of Communities.		
		Prepare and implement a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	Prepare and implement the LBAP.	Preparation Q1 2015, implementation ongoing thereafter	Head of Physical Environment/Head of Communities/Head of Economic Growth
		Review the Local Development Plan to enshrine greater emphasis on sustainability.	Commence review of the Local Development Plan, and create policies and proposals which reflect the Council's sustainability aspirations.	Review to commence Q4 2015	Head of Economic Growth
		Prepare a Coastal Management Strategy to ensure that our coastal assets are managed in a co-ordinated and sustainable way.	Prepare and implement the strategy.	TBC	Head of Physical Environment
		Implement the new Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme.	Implement the scheme.	TBC- dependent on external funding	Head of Physical Environment
		Prepare a Woodland Management Plan.	Prepare and implement the Woodland Management Plan (including an Action	Preparation Q1 2015, implementation ongoing thereafter	Head of Physical Environment

			Plan for Woodland Management and new Woodland Development)		
		Complete an Open Space Strategy	Review open space and prepare action plan	Q3 2014	Head of Physical Environment

Sustainable Operations

Workstream	How will we measure success?	What will we do?	How will we do it?	When will we do it by?	Who will do it?
Sustainable Operations					
We, as a Council, lead the way in making our operations more sustainable by reducing the carbon emissions of our operations, and making sustainable thinking a part of our decision making.	No. of installations of renewable technologies within the Council estate;	Refresh our Council wide audit of sustainability initiatives, and set up a monitoring framework.	Update the audit.	Q4 2014	Head of Physical Environment
	% of young people and long term unemployed taken on as apprentices as a result of procurement contracts;	Prepare and implement a Renewables Strategy	Prepare and implement the strategy.	Preparation Q4 2014, implementation ongoing thereafter	Head of Physical Environment
	% recycling rate for household and municipal wastes;	Undertake a programme of biomass and solar PV installations within the Council estate.	Appoint contractors to install the apparatus.	Q3 2014	Head of Physical Environment
	% of schools with Eco School accreditation Securing Fairtrade Zone status for North Ayrshire; Amount of waste disposed of through	Increase the number of young people and long term unemployed that are taken on as apprentices through contract clauses.	Consideration of contract clauses for apprenticeships for young people and long term unemployed as part of Council's Procurement Strategy.	Ongoing	Head of Finance

	landfill.	Implementation of the Council's Waste Strategy.	Identify a waste facility to recover energy from waste and reduce reliance on landfill.	Q4 2016	Head of Commercial Services
		Raise Eco School Accreditation levels to 100% Green Flag status.	Programme of awareness raising in schools and sharing of best practice. Develop community links with schools to provide expertise and support	Q4 2016	Head of Schools
		Achieve Fairtrade Status for: North Ayrshire Council, 100% of schools, and three separate communities.	Support and enable existing Fairtrade groups (including Zone steering group). Programme of awareness raising in schools.	Q4 2016	Head of Communities/Head of Schools
		Implement 'Sow to Grow' initiative at a further two schools	Secure funding, identify second stage schools, implement project.	Q1 2015	Head of Commercial Services/Head of Schools/Head of Communities

		Complete street lighting business case	TBC	TBC	Head of Physical Environment
		Raise the energy efficiency ratings of the Council's buildings to a maximum standard.	Implementation of retrofit programme	Q2 2016	Head of Physical Environment
		Continue to develop and implement the property rationalisation programme.	Reduction in number of Council properties.	Ongoing	Head of Physical Environment

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 5

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract (MTC) for the Design and Installation of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Modular Ramps to Council Houses.**

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for the MTC for DDA Modular Ramps and present a recommendation for the award of the contract.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to approve the award of the contract to William P Whiland and Son.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council requires to put in place a contract for the design and installation of DDA Modular Ramps. The Council currently purchases these works on an ad hoc basis.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts a formal tender exercise was advertised under the Restricted procedure on the Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) portal, as the estimated value of the requirement is under the OJEU threshold for works.
- 1.3 The duration of the contract is for three years with the option to extend annually for a further two years.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Contract Notice attracted sixteen expressions of interest of which six submitted a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ).
- 2.2 The PQQs were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria which resulted in three companies being short-listed to receive an Invitation to Tender.
- 2.3 Three tenders were received by the due return time and date and were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of lowest compliant price.
- 2.4 The tender outcome report, which provides details of the tender process and award recommendation, is appended to the report.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the contract is awarded to William P. Whiland and Son, as detailed in the tender outcome report provided at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The sum of £150,000 per annum is included in the Housing Revenue Account Capital Budget to meet the cost of the measured term contract. The annual contract price is £127,500 which represents a saving of £22,500 per annum against the available budget.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The tender exercise was conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This contributes to the Council Plan Core Objective 4 "Operating more efficiently and effectively".

Community Benefit Implications

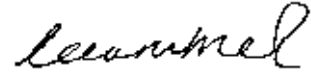
- 4.7 None due to the value of the requirement.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 None.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is recommended that the award of the contract is made to William P Whiland and Son at an annual contract price of £127,500.



LAURA FRIEL
Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : TR/CG

For further information please contact Thomas Reaney, Procurement Manager on 01294 324097

Background Papers

None



NORTH AYRSHIRE

COUNCIL

Tender Outcome Report
For Recommendations
over £350K

HO/150 (NAC/2004)

Measured Term Contract
for Design & Installation of
Modular DDA Compliant Ramps

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HO/150 (NAC/2004)

For the procurement of

Measured Term Contract for

Design and Installation of Modular DDA Compliant Ramps

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to summarise the invitation to tender process and present a recommendation for Contract award. The recommendation is based on the results of the tender evaluation carried out on the responses to the measured term contract for Design and Installation of Modular DDA Compliant Ramps Invitation to Tender. The report will provide assurance that the tender evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with EU Procurement Directives, Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/88) (as amended) and the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules for North Ayrshire Council.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This report has been compiled on behalf of the Tender Evaluation Team following the completion of the evaluation of responses to the Invitation to Tenders for the measured term contract for Design and Installation of Modular DDA Compliant Ramps.

3 Background

- 3.1 North Ayrshire Council requires to establish a measured term contract for Design and Installation of Modular DDA Compliant Ramps.
- 3.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders and Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/88) (as amended) a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 3.3 The initial contract term is to 31st March 2017 plus the option to extend for up to an additional two (2) years.
- 3.4 The budget for the overall contract (including any possible extensions) is seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds (£750,000). The estimated annual cost of the contract is £127,500.

4 Tender Notice, Interest and Returns

A formal contract notice was advertised under the restricted process in the Public Contracts Scotland Procurement Portal on 13th September 2013 with a return date of 16th October 2013 at 12 noon.

- 4.1 The contract notice attracted sixteen (16) expressions of interest from a wide range of potential providers of which six (6) submitted offers.
- 4.2 Following evaluation of Expressions of Interest the following three (3) potential providers were short-listed to receive Invitation to Tenders documents:
- Mears Limited
 - ARF Ltd
 - Wm P Whiland & Son Ltd
- 4.3 The return date for completed Invitation to Tenders was 21st February 2014 at 12 noon.

5 Evaluation Process

- 5.1 The evaluation of Tenders was single stage – lowest compliant price 100%
- 5.2 The assessment of the tenders was undertaken by Finance and Property – Housing Assets and Investment technical staff

6 Evaluation Results

- 6.1 Tenderers were asked to submit a percentage adjustment (plus or minus) to be applied against a pre priced schedule of rates which gave the following results and scores:

Company	Adjustment
ARF Ltd	-20%
Mears Limited	+325%
Wm P Whiland & Son	-15%

The evaluation of tender responses of compliance with the specification was carried out by the Tender Evaluation Panel. A summary of which is as follows:

ARF LTD

This tender was deemed to be non-compliant with the specification as it failed to demonstrate that the ramps would be constructed in compliance with the required Building Regulations.

Mears Ltd

This tender was deemed to be compliant but well over budget.

Wm P Whiland & Son

This tender was deemed to be compliant and within budget.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 The recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel is that a Contract be awarded to William P Whiland & Son.
- 7.2 Subject to approval, Letters of Intent will be issued to all successful and unsuccessful tenderers.

8 Authority to Approve

- 8.1 In line with Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules for North Ayrshire Council, the Tender Evaluation Panel seeks to obtain authority from the North Ayrshire Council Cabinet to accept the Tender and award a Contract to the Tenderer identified in section 7.1.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: Award of Contract - Saltcoats Town Hall Restoration Works

Purpose: To advise the Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for Saltcoats Town Hall restoration works and present a recommendation for the award of the contract.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to approve the award of the contract to Taylor and Fraser.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council requires to put in place a contract for Saltcoats Town Hall restoration works.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts a formal tender exercise was advertised under the Open procedure in the Public Contract Scotland (PCS) portal, as the estimated total value of the requirement is under the OJEU threshold for work.
- 1.3 The duration of the contract is sixty five weeks commencing in August 2014.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The contract notice attracted thirty expressions of interest of which eleven submitted a tender submission by the due tender time and return date. Ten companies met the minimum requirements at Stage 1 of the process.
- 2.2 The remaining ten tenders were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of most economically advantageous tender using a price quality ratio of 60% price and 40% quality.
- 2.3 Following the quality evaluation five companies failed to meet the required quality level and were not considered any further in the process. The remaining five companies who met the quality level required had their price considered and evaluated.
- 2.4 The tender outcome report, which provides details of the tender process and award recommendation, is appended to the report.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the contract is awarded to Taylor and Fraser as detailed in the tender outcome report provided at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The sum of £2,935,378 is included in the General Services Capital Budget to meet the cost of the contract within the overall budget. The contract price is £2,843,121.49 which represents a saving of £92,256.51 against the available budget.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 None.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 The tender exercise was conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 None.

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 None.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 This contributes to the Council Plan Core Objective 4 "Operating more efficiently and effectively".

Community Benefit Implications

- 4.7 Taylor & Fraser will deliver the following Community Benefits during the delivery of the contract:

New Entrance Trainees : Tiler (1 x 13 wks), Labourer (2 x 52 wks) & Stonework (1 x 13 wks).

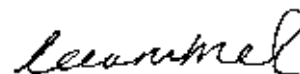
Other Community Engagement: 2 x 5 day work placement for S4,S5 or S6 pupil, 1 x 5 day work placement for teacher, 1 x 5 day work experience for unemployed person, 1 x extended work placement for school pupil & the provision of training/mentoring for staff in the supply chain.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 None.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is recommended that the award of the contract is made to Taylor and Fraser at a contract price of £2,843,121.49.



LAURA FRIEL

Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : TR/CG

For further information please contact Thomas Reaney, Procurement Manager on 01294 32 4097.

Background Papers

None



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Tender Outcome Report
For Recommendations over £350K

NAC/2021

Saltcoats Town Hall Restoration Works

Contents

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NAC/2021

For the procurement of

Saltcoats Town Hall Restoration Works

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to summarise the invitation to tender process and present a recommendation for *Contract* award. The recommendation is based on the results of the tender evaluation carried out on the responses to the Saltcoats Town Hall Restoration Works Invitation to Tender. The report will provide assurance that the tender evaluation has been undertaken in accordance with EU Procurement Directives, Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/88) (as amended) and the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules for North Ayrshire Council.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This report has been compiled on behalf of the Tender Evaluation Team following the completion of the evaluation of responses to the Invitation To Tenders for the Saltcoats Town Hall restoration works.

3 Background

- 3.1 North Ayrshire Council has a requirement for restoration works at Saltcoats Town Hall.
- 3.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders and Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/88) (as amended) a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 3.3 The contract term is 65 calendar weeks.

4 Tender Notice, Interest and Returns

- 4.1 A formal contract notice was advertised under the Open in the Official Journal of the European Union and Public Contracts Scotland Procurement Portal on 11th April 2014 with a return date of 23rd May 2014.
- 4.2 The contract notice attracted thirty expressions of interest from a wide range of potential providers of which eleven submitted offers.
- 4.3 The return date for the Invitation to Tender was 23rd May 2014 at 12 noon.

5 Evaluation Process

5.1 The evaluation of such Tenders was in two stages.

Stage one assessed the responses to the Minimum Criteria. If, during stage one, it was apparent that a Tenderer had submitted a fundamentally non-compliant Tender in respect of any of the Invitation To Tenders requirements, then the Council could choose to reject that Tender. Clarification could be sought from Tenderers at this stage, in order to determine whether their Tender was complete and compliant.

5.2 Following completion of stage one, Tenderers meeting the minimum criteria progressed to stage two of the evaluation. One company failed to meet the minimum criteria and ten tenderers progressed to the quality evaluation.

5.3 Stage two of the evaluation was carried out by a Tender Evaluation Panel consisting of appropriately experienced Council Officers and representatives from the design team (external to the Council) and each Tenderers response was assessed against the following published criteria:

Price 60%

Quality 40%

Quality was evaluated using the following sub-criteria/sub-weightings:

Experience in Delivering Similar Projects - 35%

General Resources – 10%

Specialist Resources – 20%

Methodology – 25%

Community Benefits – 10%

- 5.4 The assessment of the quality criteria took place on 29th May 2014. Representatives from North Ayrshire Council's Corporate Procurement Team were in attendance to facilitate the meeting but did not score the submissions.

6 Evaluation Results

6.1 Quality 40%

The evaluation of the technical aspects of the tender responses was carried out by the Tender Evaluation Panel. A summary of which is as follows;

Taylor & Fraser Ltd

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified. However the panel were confident that the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations.

CBC Ltd

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified. However the panel were confident that the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations.

HJ Martin

The panel identified a major concern regarding their experience in delivering similar projects and felt that this company did not demonstrate the expertise and experience required for this project. This resulted in a fail and their price submission was not considered.

Clark Contracts

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified and a major concern regarding methodology. The evaluation panel had concerns whether the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations. This resulted in a fail and their price submission was not considered.

Fleming Masonry

The panel identified a major concern regarding their experience in delivering similar projects and felt that this company did not demonstrate the expertise and experience required for this project. This resulted in a fail and their price submission was not considered.

WH Kirkwood Ltd

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified and a major concern regarding methodology. The evaluation panel had concerns whether the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations. This resulted in a fail and their price submission was not considered

RR Construction

The panel identified major concerns regarding their experience in delivering similar projects and general resources and felt that this company did not demonstrate the expertise and experience required for this project. This resulted in a fail and their price submission was not considered.

CCG Ltd

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified. However the panel were confident that the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations.

McLaughlin Construction

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified. However the panel were confident that the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations.

Stewart & Shields

The evaluation panel felt the response was well written and there were a few minor concerns identified. However the panel were confident that the Tenderer would be able to satisfy North Ayrshire Council's requirements and expectations.

The summary of the quality evaluation is shown in the table below:

Company	Quality Score	Ranking	Score as % of overall marks
Taylor & Fraser	83.00	2	37.30
CBC Ltd	83.00	2	37.30
HJ Martin	FAIL	N/A	N/A
Clark Contracts	FAIL	N/A	N/A
Fleming Masonry	FAIL	N/A	N/A
WH Kirkwood	FAIL	N/A	N/A
RR Construction	FAIL	N/A	N/A
CCG Ltd	89.00	1	40.00
McLaughlin Construction	64.00	5	28.76
Stewart & Shields	66.00	4	29.66

6.2 **Cost 60%**

Tenderers were asked to submit prices which gave the following results and scores:

Company	Price Tendered	Ranking	Score as % of overall marks
Taylor & Fraser	£2,843,121.49	2	55.93
CBC Ltd	£ 2,887,027.29	3	55.08
CCG Ltd	Non-Compliant	N/A	N/A
McLaughlin Construction	£ 2,650,128.83	1	60.00
Stewart & Shields	Non-Compliant	N/A	N/A

CCG Ltd

A list of initial queries was issued to the Tenderer on 2 June 2014, followed, later that day, by a further query on the proposed alternative Lift Installation and, on 3 June, by further queries on the priced Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical Bills (which had not been provided along with the original Tender). The Tenderer failed to respond to these queries. It was, therefore, not possible to conclude the checking of this Tender. As a result CCG Ltd failed the cost evaluation.

Stewart & Shields

The Tenderer has taken no cognisance of the Tender Addendum, which was issued to the Tenderers so as their offers would be based on the office layout which accommodates Social Work Services within the Town Hall. The Tender is, therefore, not on the same basis as the other Tenders received, and, as a result, is deemed non-compliant and failed the cost evaluation.

7 Overall Score

7.1 Following agreement of an overall score for each Tenderer and taking into consideration all qualitative and commercial elements of the responses, a high level summary sheet was completed as shown below:

Company	Quality Score	Cost Score	Total Score	Total Score
Taylor & Fraser	37.30	55.93	93.23	1
CBC Ltd	37.30	55.08	92.38	2
CCG Ltd	40.00	-	-	-
McLaughlin Construction	28.76	60.00	88.76	3
Stewart & Shields	29.66	-	-	-

8 Recommendation

- 8.1 The recommendation of the Tender Evaluation Panel is that a Contract be awarded to Taylor and Fraser.
- 8.2 Subject to approval, Letters of Intent will be issued to all successful and unsuccessful Tenderers.

9 Authority to Approve

- 9.1 In line with Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules for North Ayrshire Council, the Tender Evaluation Panel seeks to obtain authority from the North Ayrshire Council cabinet to accept the Tender(s) and award a Contract to the Tenderer(s) identified in section 8.1.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Economic Development & Regeneration Board**

Purpose: To submit the minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 2 June 2014.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet notes the minutes attached at Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Economic Development and Regeneration Board was established in August 2010 and consists of key stakeholders and agencies including representatives from the private sector business.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Economic Development and Regeneration Board met on 2 June 2014.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note the minutes attached at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications at this time.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no Human Resource implications at this time.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are no legal implications at this time.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are no equality implications at this time

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications at this time.

Implications for Key Priorities

- 4.6 Economic Regeneration is a key priority for the Council.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 No consultation was undertaken in the production of this report.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The attached minutes are submitted for information.



CRAIG HATTON

Corporate Director (Development and Environment)

Reference : KY/AB

For further information please contact Karen Yeomans, Head of Service
(Development Planning) on 01294 324308

Background Papers

NA

Meeting:	Economic Development & Regeneration Board	
Date/Venue:	Monday 2nd June 2014 at 2.00 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House, Irvine.	
Present:	Professor Alan McGregor, Glasgow University (Chair) Elma Murray, Chief Executive, (North Ayrshire Council) Karen Yeomans, (North Ayrshire Council) Councillor Marie Burns (North Ayrshire Council) Councillor William Gibson, Leader of the Council (North Ayrshire Council) Craig Hatton, (North Ayrshire Council) Malcolm Simpson, Simpslnns Limited Gordon McLean, UPM Caledonian Alasdair Dobson, Taste of Arran Patrick Wiggins, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company Val Russell, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Jackie Galbraith, Ayrshire College Billy Love, The Scottish Government Barbara Hastings, Third Sector Interface Gordon McGuinness, Skills Development Scotland Jim Reid, Scottish Enterprise	
Apologies:	Councillor Peter McNamara, (North Ayrshire Council) Etta Wright, Jobcentre Plus Carol Dutch, Jobcentre Plus	
In Attendance:	Ashleigh Bennett (North Ayrshire Council) Sally Agass, (North Ayrshire Council) Julian Farrar (Ironsides Farrar) Jackie Harvey (Ernst & Young)	
ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Etta Wright, Carol Dutch and Cllr Peter McNamara.	Noted.
2.	Actions arising from the Economic Development & Regeneration Board held on Wednesday 26th February 2014. The Action Note arising from the Economic Development and Regeneration Board Meeting held on 26 th February 2014. P Wiggins noted that at item 6 the URC was waiting for a formal response from the Scottish Government on the Enterprise Area. There were two outstanding actions. Commercial Property Accommodation which will be picked up as the next steps to the International Strategy. Business Support is proposed to discuss the creation of the Business Advisory Group and the Board will be updated later in the year.	Noted.
3.	Developing the Irvine Vision – Presentation by Julian Farrar (Ironsides Farrar) As part of the introduction it was advised that this was an important piece	

	<p>of work which most of the Board members have been involved in.</p> <p>A presentation on Irvine Vision was given to the Board by Julian Farrar.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Julian Farrar for his presentation.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the Board.</p> <p>P Wiggins advised the Board that Irvine Bay Regeneration is a mix of top down bottom up.</p> <p>Discussion took place on how people's experience of being in Irvine Town is important.</p>	
4.	<p>International Strategy – Presentation by Jackie Harvey (Ernst & Young)</p> <p>G Maclean introduced the International Strategy.</p> <p>The three private sector board members focused on three areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attract inward investment; • increase the number of business start-ups; • grow existing businesses. <p>As a consequence, five key areas of improvement were identified which were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new focus on companies with growth potential; • creation of a senior post dedicated to leading an integrated team approach; • improving the North Ayrshire product; • Improving the promotion of North Ayrshire; • development of a dedicated inward investment service to attract new businesses to the area. <p>Ernst & Young had been commissioned to develop an international strategy.</p> <p>This work had now been completed with the following observation on behalf of the private sector board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is really important piece of work and conceptualises the challenges but also the opportunities; • We have to take cognizance that most of this is not easy and will be transformational; • It is a complex issue and we have to be smarter and targeted; • Every individual visiting North Ayrshire is a potential investor ; • This is also not just about inward investment but also export led activities. <p>A presentation was given to the Board by Jackie Harvey.</p> <p>The chair thanked Jackie for her presentation.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the group.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Building a Better Business Case</p> <p>A Dobson updated the board on the development of the Business Support Offering.</p> <p>Business Engagement continues to develop and current projects indicate a new increase in jobs of 416.</p> <p>Five Business Breakfasts are being held to further update and inform the Account Managed Businesses. Kilbirnie was held on 27th May and Largs breakfast briefing was held on 29th May both received good feedback. Irvine 3rd June, Arran 4th June and Ardrossan 10th June.</p> <p>There has been significant effort to build a fit purpose support offering within North Ayrshire. Team North Ayrshire agreed to move more to a delivery focussed model and bring clarity around the expectations.</p> <p>The 3rd sector input was required.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the Board heard any positives? • What university/business collaboration are Board members aware of and how could we increase the levels of activity? • What is our key target? <p>It was suggested that SDT interface may assist.</p> <p>The Board is recommended to note the progress of actions to date and respond to the questions posed.</p>	<p>KY/BH to action</p> <p>KY to follow up</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update on Employability & Skills</p> <p>Cllr Marie Burns updated the group on the progress of Employability & Skills. The five workstreams have now been set up and each workstream has met at least once. Appendix one attached to the paper gives information on each workstream which will be feedback to the Employability & Skills Group next week.</p> <p>The Board is recommended to note the progress of actions to date and respond to the questions posed.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Building Connected Communities</p> <p>K Yeomans provided the Board with background to a new piece of work to develop the concept of 'Building Connected Communities'.</p> <p>The Board agreed that this is a good piece of work. E Murray advised that the consultation should be paused until the linkage between the neighbourhood approach/Ayrshire 21 Leaders Programme could be established.</p> <p>The Board is recommended to note the new work programme and respond to the questions posed.</p>	<p>KY</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Proposals for Irvine Royal</p> <p>J Galbraith provided the Board with a verbal update on proposal for Irvine</p>	

	<p>Royal. J Galbraith advised that part of Ayrshire College will be locating at Irvine Royal Academy. In the first year Health & Social Care courses will be available and the second year Engineering and Hospitality courses will be available.</p> <p>J Galbraith advised this is a very exciting development.</p>	
9.	<p>For information:-</p> <p>The following papers were submitted for the Boards information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Benefits in Procurement Policy • Quarterly Dashboard Indicators • Quarterly report on action plan • North Ayrshire People's Panel 	
10.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting and Future Meetings</p> <p>Wednesday 1st October 2014 Wednesday 10th December 2014</p>	

KY/AB

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8

1 July 2014

Cabinet

Subject: **Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel
- 9 June 2014**

Purpose: To submit the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel held on 9 June 2014.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to note the minutes.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A meeting of the Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel took place on 9 June 2014.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The key issues discussed were:

- STEM
- 1+2 Languages in Schools
- Ayrshire College
- 2014 Community Events
- Community Asset Transfer

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the minutes, which are attached at Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are none.

Human Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are none.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 There are none.

Equality Implications

- 4.4 There are none.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 4.5 There are none.

Implications for Key Priorities

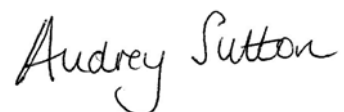
- 4.6
- "Opportunities for lifelong learning have increased;"
 - "Levels of educational attainment and achievement have improved;"
 - "Levels of voluntary action and community involvement have increased;" and
 - "Partnership working between the public, community and voluntary sector has improved".

5. Consultations

- 5.1 There are none required.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 That Cabinet notes the minutes.



AUDREY SUTTON
Head of Service (Community and Culture)

Reference : AS/JN

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Service (Community and Culture) on 01294 324414

Background Papers

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**Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel
Monday 9 June 2014 at 3.00pm
Committee Room 1**

At a meeting of the Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel of North Ayrshire Council held on Monday 9 June 2014 at 3.00pm in Committee Room 1, Cunninghame House, Irvine

Members Present:

Councillor Alan Hill (Chair)
Councillor John Bruce
Councillor Robert Steel
Councillor Catherine McMillan
Councillor Alex Gallagher
Councillor Jean Highgate

In Attendance:

Audrey Sutton, Head of Service, Education and Skills
Mary Docherty, Head of Service, Education and Skills
Steven Quinn, Head of Service, Education and Skills
Rhona Arthur, Senior Manager
Anne MacMahon, Senior Manager (part of meeting)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor John Bell
Councillor Joe Cullinane
Councillor William Gibson
Councillor Peter McNamara
Councillor Ronnie McNicol
Councillor Tom Marshall
Councillor Irene Oldfather
Councillor Joan Sturgeon

Councillor Alan Hill welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the group.

1. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minute of the previous meeting was accepted.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. STEM Update

Anne MacMahon explained that the purpose of the paper, “**Promoting the STEM Agenda in North Ayrshire Schools**” is to focus on the increased requirement for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) across all North Ayrshire schools. This would enable North Ayrshire schools to take advantage of the future job opportunities across the country.

Anne said that performance in North Ayrshire for these subjects mirrors national performance. A widespread interest for schools meant they are already involved in exciting projects, competitions, programmes, etc. North Ayrshire has a number of key partners working in this area – Irvine Bay, Dumfries House, Education Scotland, SSERC, Ayrshire College and SCILT.

The delivery of STEM would also enable a CPD opportunity for teachers as there would be a need to up-skill teaching staff to deliver this. Anne concluded that STEM has had a very successful year with a strong focus.

After a general discussion, it was agreed that this was worthwhile for North Ayrshire in supporting young people and their job prospects.

4. 1+2 Languages in Schools

Mary Docherty described North Ayrshire's responsibility to develop a strategy whereby pupils could engage as global citizens. The aim is to ensure that by 2020, under a Scottish Government policy, that languages are introduced as a norm for language learning in schools based on the European Union 1+2 Model. This means every child will learn two languages in addition to their mother tongue. Children will be taught from P1 (or earlier) up to secondary school. Mary pointed out that this strategy covers Scots Language (and its use in appropriate circumstances) and Sign Language, as well as Modern Foreign Languages. Currently, North Ayrshire offers French, Spanish, German and Mandarin as foreign languages.

Funding has been provided, however, there will need to be continuity given to the languages taught so that children can benefit from learning all the way through school and that brings its own challenges including staffing, modelling and cluster arrangements. Having a teacher who can teach a foreign language will be a basic teaching requirement and this would be a responsibility for teacher training colleges.

5. Ayrshire College

Audrey Sutton was very pleased to report on an exciting new venture with Irvine Royal Academy and Ayrshire College. The Skills Centre of Excellence was approved by Cabinet on Tuesday 3 June 2014 and action has been taken to get work started next week and progressed as soon as possible.

The background of this was the sportscotland funded facilities at Inverclyde were no longer fit for purpose – the Ayrshire College looked at possible relocation to Kilmarnock College in East Ayrshire. As Irvine Royal Academy is currently underoccupied, it was felt that using class space and existing sports space meant that something better could be created incorporating Senior Phase, integrated curriculum and sustained destinations for young people.

Ayrshire College is funding these improvements with £650k – North Ayrshire will also contribute up to £1m from the Retained Schools Capital Programme – agreed from a formal partnership Wood Commission report for Ayrshire College and North Ayrshire Council.

Some concerns were expressed among the meeting attendees regarding how this would affect funding being distributed to other schools in North Ayrshire. Audrey explained that this would be a pilot model with a hope of replicating throughout the authority.

6. 2014 Community Events

Audrey presented an update on the North Ayrshire Legacy Funding – she said there had been a great response to this. She explained that they hoped to fund all requests providing they had a relevance to the Commonwealth Games, Homecoming, WW1 and WW2, Ryder Cup or other events in 2014. She said as soon as the funding is finalised a paper will be prepared outlining organisations to benefit from this fund and money awarded to them (and breakdown by local area).

Audrey explained that the £500k given to the local authority is also to accommodate external companies assisting with the smooth running of the Queen's Baton Relay and other events, not solely to distribute for events around it or other 2014 commemorations.

The Community and Culture team are heavily involved in arrangements for the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Baton Relay

Rhona Arthur made clear that the Council are involved in helping various projects recognise other available funding through the Celebrate Fund, Heritage Lottery, around the arts, sport, languages and history

7. Community Asset Transfer

Audrey Sutton reviewed the various Community Asset Transfers included in the tabled paper in more detail – all at different stages of process. She also spoke about other organisations and which facilities they had expressed an interest in. This has been seen as an increase in engagement within the community. KA Leisure have been involved in the process of some of these asset transfers.

8. AOCB

Steven Quinn provided an update of new appointments within the schools.

St John's and St Anthony's Primary Schools will continue with a shared headship for another year – the Parent Council of both schools have been made aware of this and are happy for this to continue.

Steven explained that recently there has been a recruiting problem with schools, more so primary – he indicated that he had been pleased with the level of applicants for recently appointed heads. Steven advised he is involved with a National Working Group with ADES to overcome the challenges.

Audrey answered questions about various reviews that involve Education and Skills - school estate, audit of pitches and facilities, KA Leisure.