

Cabinet
10 March 2015

Irvine, 10 March 2015 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney; Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus (Church Representative) (Agenda Item 4) and Courtney Gemmell and Erin McAuley (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Item 4).

Also Present

Alex Gallagher and Grace McLean.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; J. Butcher, Executive Director, L. Taylor, Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) and G. Donaldson, Administrative Officer (Education and Youth Employment); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) and D. Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) (Economy and Communities); I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); L. Aird, Head of Finance, G. Macgregor, Head of Customer, People and Corporate Support, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management) and T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); D. Walkinshaw, Project Manager, R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications), H. Clancy and E. Gray, Committee Services Support Officers and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

G. Randall, Sportscotland.

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Ruth Maguire and Mark Fraser (Church Representative).

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, in terms of Standing Order 9.1, agreed to vary the order of business to allow earlier consideration of Agenda Item 7 (Report on the Consultation on the Future of Early Years, Primary and Secondary Education Provision in Largs).

The Chair further agreed, in terms of Standing Order 9.4, to accept an item of urgent business relating to the Icelandic Bank investment. This would be considered under item 13.

2. 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.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2015 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Largs Campus

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) which provided information on (a) the outcome of the statutory public consultation on the proposal to consider the future of early years, primary and secondary education provision in Largs; (b) the proposed partnership with Sportscotland to share sports facilities on their Inverclyde site; (c) the proposed site for the campus, including the costs of the land and legal agreement; and (d) the financial implications of the project.

The Cabinet viewed an animation on the proposed new modern learning facility that will build on strong links with Sportscotland and the Inverclyde Centre and received a presentation by Sportscotland on the design brief for the fully inclusive sports facility.

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

- the extended journey to and from school for young people travelling from Cumbrae and the reinstatement of free school transport on the mainland for these pupils;
- the availability of sporting facilities at the new campus after 5.00 p.m.;
- the additional revenue costs that can be met from resources in the current three year financial plan;
- consideration of the needs of all young people, including those who require specialist facilities;
- the three phase 30 year partnership agreement for access to two professional standard football pitches and one synthetic hockey pitch; and
- an open book renegotiation of the agreement after the first 11 year period and each subsequent 10 year period.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) consider the information contained in the Consultation Report; (b) approve the recommendation to develop a campus in Largs at Inverclyde Sports Centre, by relocating Largs Academy, amalgamating Brisbane and Kelburn Primary Schools, relocating St Mary's Primary School and creating a new early years centre; (c) approve the reinstatement of free school transport on the mainland for young people travelling from Cumbrae with effect from the date of opening of the new campus; (d) approve the revised project budget and agree to fund the additional capital costs as part of a fuller review of the capital plan during 2015/16; (e) approve a thirty year agreement with Sportscotland for staff and pupils to gain access to professional standard sports pitches within Inverclyde National Sports Centre; (f) the Council entering into a formal legal agreement to acquire development land at the National Sports Centre, Inverclyde that will be subject to a number of suspensive conditions; and (g) approve the allocation of additional revenue costs as outlined at 2.10.5 of the report.

5. Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2015/16 and 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2015/16 and requirements identified for 2016/17.

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

- the re-let of the framework agreement for day education for children with additional support needs; and
- that the estimated value of this tender is based on the previous contract spend.

The Cabinet agreed to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed in the plan detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Write off of Tenant Rent Arrears

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised of tenant rent arrears and court costs; and (b) sought approval to write-off irrecoverable amounts, including those that relate to under occupancy arrears for homeless temporary accommodation and rent write offs.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the write-offs totalling £105,944.09, as detailed in Section 2 of the report.

7. 1 Mid-Mayish Cottage and Farmyard Cottage, Mid-Mayish, Brodick, Isle of Arran

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which advised of (a) a Closing Order previously served on 1 Mid-Mayish Cottage; (b) a recent inspection of Mid-Mayish Cottage and Farmyard Cottage, Mid-Mayish, Brodick; and (c) the proposed serving of a Demolition Order on both properties.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the revocation of the Closing Order previously served on 1 Mid-Mayish Cottage; and (ii) the serving of a Demolition Order on both 1 Mid-Mayish Cottage and Farmyard Cottage, Mid-Mayish.

8. Surplus Property - 36 Bank Street, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which advised (a) on the proposed disposal of the property at 36 Bank Street, Irvine and the alienation of the property from Irvine Common Good Fund.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the disposal of the property at 36 Bank Street, Irvine; and (ii) Legal Services progressing the required steps to alienate the property from Irvine Common Good Fund.

9. Brodick Harbour Redevelopment and Arran Economic Plan

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the progress of the proposed redevelopment of Brodick Harbour; and (b) a workshop event planned for April 2015 to produce an Arran Economic Plan and agree the constitution and priorities of the Arran Economic Group that will replace the Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the formation of an Arran Economic Group to replace the Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group; and (b) otherwise note the content of the report.

10. Maximising Attendance Performance - October to December 2014 (Quarter 3 Summary)

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on analysis of sickness absence in Quarter 3 and the quarterly trend from April 2013.

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

- the profile of the duration of absences and absences by duration as a cumulative total; and
- the provision of reports to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) provide future reports on a 6-monthly basis; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

11. North Ayrshire Shadow Integration Board

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on business dealt with by the North Ayrshire Shadow Integration Board during the period from August 2014 to February 2015 and the progress towards formal integration of health and social care.

The Cabinet commended officers and partners for the good work and progress made towards integration.

Noted.

12. Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract (MTC) for Drainage and Sewerage Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the renewal of the Measured Term Contract (MTC) for Drainage and Sewerage Services.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts that provides all relevant information to interested parties, including the scoring criteria that is used.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to DAMM Environmental Ltd. at a cost of £740,000.

13. Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

13.1 Icelandic Bank Investment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Council's Icelandic Bank investment.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) in terms of the recommendations of the report.

14. Urgent Item

14.1 Icelandic Bank Investment: Settlement of Overpayment

Cabinet was provided with information in relation to Icelandic Bank investment and the winding up of Glitnir.

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) in terms of the recommendations of the verbal report.

The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.