

Cabinet
25 May 2021

At a Special Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2:30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Andrew Bruce and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) and Jackie MacKenzie (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 1-5).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Commercial), Y. Baulk, Head of Service and A. Piatek-Bednarek, Senior Manager (Physical Environment), C. McAuley, Head of Service, J. McLachlan, Senior Manager (Economic Policy) and D. Brennan, Graduate Economist, (Economic Development and Regeneration (Place)); A. Sutton, Executive Director and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) (Communities and Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), K. Yeomans, Director and A. Laurenson, Senior Manager (Growth and Investment); and J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, A. Little, H. Clancy and C. Stewart, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies

Robert Foster.

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Chair's Remarks

In terms of Standing Order 9.4, the Chair advised that Item 8. Inclusive Economy Dashboard would be considered following Agenda Item 4.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 April 2021 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. School Attainment Results 2019 and 2020

Submitted report and presentation by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the overall performance of the 2019 and 2020 North Ayrshire Council school leavers as highlighted in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool, and Curriculum for Excellence attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for 2019. Graphs appended to the report provided information in respect of Improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (Appendix 1), Improving attainment for all (Appendix 2), Attainment vs. Deprivation (Appendix 3), Increasing Post-School Participation (Appendix 4), Attainment in Broad General Education – Attainment of Curriculum for Excellence Level (ACEL) in P1, P4, P7 and S3 (Appendix 5) and the gap between pupils living in the most deprived vs. those living in the least deprived SIMD areas, in primary schools, largely in line with national levels in 2019 (Appendix 6).

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

- a dip in attainment of Literacy at Level 5 (attained through internal assessment) in 2020, that could be as a result of fluctuation in cohort groupings, and work by schools to maximise attainment at all levels, including Level 5;
- North Ayrshire continuing to outperform locally, regionally and with its virtual comparator and being close to reaching the national performance; and
- information in respect of domestic abuse for 2020 that was not available but would be included in future reports.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the content of the report, including the progress being made by learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy; and (ii) the achievements of school leavers in SQA examinations in 2019 and 2020; and (b) approve the measures being taken to implement learning recovery and to make further improvements to attainment and achievement levels across all schools.

5. Inclusive Economy Dashboard

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Inclusive Economy Dashboard, developed to measure social, economic and environmental wellbeing in North Ayrshire. The Draft Inclusive Economy Dashboard was attached at Appendix 1 and the Inclusive Economy Dashboard Technical Note at Appendix 2 to the report.

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

- the lack of metrics for community wealth-building across all local authorities in the UK and work with partners, including the Centre for Economic Strategies (CLES), in exploring the development of a set of indicators for community wealth-building; and
- work by the Business Development Team to identify metrics for community wealth-building when gathering information from local businesses on traditional metrics.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the activity outlined as part of the Council's Inclusive Economy journey, including the delivery of the Community Wealth Building strategy as a practical means to achieve an inclusive and wellbeing economy; and (b) approve the proposed Inclusive Economy Dashboard set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Educational Achievement of Care Experienced Learners in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on Curriculum for Excellence Broad General Education (BGE) attainment levels of care experienced learners in 2019, Senior Phase attainment of care experienced learners for 2019 and 2020, and post-school participation of care experienced learners. Graphs appended to the report provided information in relation to the total number of care experienced young people in North Ayrshire at the annual census date in September (Appendix 1) and by primary and secondary (Appendix 1a). Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy in Broad General Education for care experienced learners was illustrated at Appendix 2. Appendix 3 provided information in relation to Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy and overall attainment in all qualifications at Senior Phase level for care experienced school leavers. Appendix 3a showed that since 2012, North Ayrshire performance has been above the national figure every year. A comparison between North Ayrshire/National care experienced school leavers in terms of levels of qualification achieved, was outlined at Appendix 3b. Appendix 4 detailed information on post-school participation of care experienced school leavers.

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

- 17% of North Ayrshire care experienced learners who attained 1 Higher compared to the national attainment rate of 10%;
- plans for care experienced learners that included the roll out of the successful intensive support network developed jointly by HSCP and Education at Greenwood and Elderbank Primary schools;
- the appointment of a Quality Improvement Officer who would have an overview of all care experienced learners and their educational outcomes;
- funding from the Scottish Government to support care experienced learners and the involvement of care experienced learners to identify the supports that they required; and
- the introduction of a Mentoring Programme through MCR Pathways in Auchenhavie Academy for additional support needs and care experienced learners that had now been expanded to 6 further schools.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the content of the report and the progress being made by care experienced learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy and (ii) the achievement of school leavers SQA examinations.

7. Education Service Standards and Quality Report 2019-20 and Future Performance Reporting Update

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) to seek approval for the Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the academic year 2019-20 and to update the Cabinet on the future approach to performance reporting. The Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the 2019-20 academic year was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the Education Service's Standards and Quality report for the 2019-20 academic year provided at Appendix 1 and (ii) the proposed revised approach to aligning Education Service's annual service planning to the National Improvement Framework priorities.

8. Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 and Equality Outcomes 2021-2025

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 and Equality Outcomes 2021-2025. The Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report 2019-20 was attached at Appendix 1 and Employee Statistics at Appendix 1a. Appendix 2 provided information on the four-year review of outcomes, worked as part of the Ayrshire Equality Partnership to develop new Equality Outcomes for 2021 – 2025 and the Equal Pay Statement was outlined at Appendix 3 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the content of the Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes Report for 2019-20 set out at Appendix 1 to the report, (ii) the Equality Outcomes for 2021– 2025 at Appendix 2 and (iii) the Equal Pay Statement 2021 – 2024 at Appendix 3 to the report.

9. Procurement Annual Activity Report (2019-20)

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on Procurement activity for the period 2019/20 and outline progress during 2020-21 on the use of local suppliers in Procurement activity. The Procurement Activity Report 2020-21 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and provided information on the number of procurement exercises undertaken in the last year, the number of contracts awarded, the total procurement expenditure by the Council and the categories of goods and services purchased.

Cabinet was advised of an error in the table at Section 2.8. The spend analysis for Hub South West Largs DBFM Co Ltd should be shown as £4,104,000.

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

- accurately reporting our local spend and tracking the spend with other businesses within and further down the supply chain;

- top suppliers that include the South West Hub (SWH) which was procured as a Lot to achieve cross development benefit in terms of cost and work that would be done to identify the spend with Ayrshire based businesses within the SWH Lot;
- work to capture the spend across Ayrshire as a region, the spend on services and contracts that had been brought back in-house, sub-contractors and supply chain opportunities and the postcode location of where invoices were paid;
- the setting of a new target if not part of the SWH; and
- details of the combined spend of the pan-Ayrshire authorities within Ayrshire that was provided at Section 2.15 of the report.

Noted.

10. Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the progress and next steps in relation to the Second Cycle of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress to date in developing the Second Cycle of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan; (b) approve the list of 'Prioritised Measures' for North Ayrshire for inclusion in the forthcoming Second Cycle Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan; and (c) delegate to the Executive Director (Place) authority to approve the subsequent publication of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management Plan (Supplementary Part) prior to 31 July 2021.

11. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS) 2021-23

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2021-23, which provided a roadmap of actions to achieve net-zero carbon status across North Ayrshire by 2030. The Strategy was attached at Appendix A to the report

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

- work with the Youth Participation Team on attendance at the Steering Group to capture their views; and
- plans for a launch event for the Strategy that would be announced shortly.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the positive climate impacts of the previous 2006 Carbon Management Plan and two previous Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies which had been in place since 2014 and 2017, and; (b) approve the proposed third Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2021-23 attached at Appendix A to the report.

12. North Ayrshire Council Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy (2021-2025)

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Council's first Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy (2021-2025) and the introduction of a tariff for the public use of Electric Vehicle charging points. The Strategy was attached at Appendix A and outlined the actions to achieve an increase in the number of EVs being used throughout North Ayrshire by creating a robust network of EV charge points. Appendix B provided a detailed description of EV charge point tariff proposals

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to details of how to pay at electric vehicle charge points, tariffs and overstay fees that was outlined at Appendix B to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the draft Electric Vehicle Strategy for implementation and publication and (ii) the introduction of a tariff and overstay fee for Council owned publicly available charge points

13. The Great Harbour, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on the development of proposals for Ayrshire Growth Deal investment in the Great Harbour, Irvine. The report noted that the Maritime Mile proposals would be the first phase of development within the wider Great Harbour area and would involve an investment in placemaking, destination development and tourism through three activity hubs. Appendix 1 to the report illustrated the plan/visuals for the Maritime Mile.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the further development of proposals to the Full Business Case or tender stage following formal approval of the Outline Business Case by the Scottish Government, with associated expenditure of up to £635,000; and (ii) further engagement with the community on a development framework and detailed designs for the Great Harbour.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.