

Cabinet
3 June 2014

Irvine, 3 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 and Ruth Maguire, Very Reverend M. Canon McManus, Elizabeth H. Highton and Mark Fraser (Church Representatives), Nairn McDonald and Joshua McCormick (Youth Representatives).

Also Present

Elizabeth McLardy

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director and T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); A. Sutton, Head of Service (Community and Culture), S. Quinn, Head of Service (Development), M. Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18), F. Rodman, Senior Manager and A. MacMahon, Quality Improvement Officer (Education and Skills); C. Hatton, Corporate Director (Development and Environment); A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic and Administration), K. Dyson, Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tony Gurney and Gordon Smith.

The Minute is subject to the call-in procedure per the Council's Scheme of Administration. No action will be taken to implement decisions until the expiry of five working days following circulation of the Minute.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Dickson, as the spouse of a Director of a nursery in North Ayrshire, declared an interest in Agenda Item 4 - 600 Hours and Provision for Two Year Olds, and took no part in the discussion thereon.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meetings held on (i) 29 April and (ii) 6 May 2014 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Proposal to Develop Irvine Royal Academy as an Ayrshire College and North Ayrshire Council Skills Centre of Excellence

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Community and Culture) (Education and Skills) which provided information on proposals to (a) develop an Ayrshire College Centre of Excellence at Irvine Royal Academy, providing an opportunity to offer the delivery of a range of vocational programmes up to and including SCQF level 6 skills in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence; (b) lease the relevant areas of the Irvine Royal Academy building to Ayrshire College; and (c) fund works to relocate classrooms to a maximum of £1m from the school estate fund.

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

- a project that will be undertaken to map the learner journeys and flexible pathways from broad education into the senior phase and beyond; and
- work that is already underway with Irvine Royal Academy and Ayrshire College in order to deliver provision in two phases, commencing in September 2014 with sport/fitness, health and social care and if possible, catering for students;

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the proposals outlined in the report; (b) remit to officers to progress work to develop the Ayrshire College Centre of Excellence at Irvine Royal Academy; and (c) receive a progress report in October 2014.

4. 600 Hours and Provision for Two Year Olds

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Education 3-18) (Education and Skills) which provided information on (a) the progress made with provision of early learning and childcare for two year olds from households where families are seeking employment for August 2014; (b) the current provision of early learning and childcare within North Ayrshire for children under the age of three referred through the Partnership Forum; (c) the eligibility criteria from COSLA to be used when allocating places for two year old children; (d) a national marketing campaign that will be undertaken to encourage self-referral; and (e) an estimate of the number of children who will be eligible in North Ayrshire.

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

- work that has been done to ensure the required early learning places are available for all eligible two year olds from August 2014; and
- the use of registered childminders where required and a campaign that will be undertaken to recruit more childminders.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the implementation of the progress made and the plans in place for August 2014; and (b) receive an update on progress in July 2014.

5. Scots Language

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Community and Culture) (Education and Skills) which (a) provided details of the use and promotion of Scots Language in North Ayrshire; (b) funding from the Scottish Government as part of the 1 + 2 agenda; and (c) information on the work being done in schools to support the development of Scots language.

The Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the use and promotion of Scots that allows young people to use both English and Scots when and where appropriate

Noted.

6. Curriculum for Excellence

Submitted report by the Head of Service, (Education 3-18) (Education and Skills) which (a) provided an update on the progress made in implementing Curriculum for Excellence, including continued support for curricular development across the three areas of numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing, the development of skills for learning, life and work, a range of opportunities for senior pupils to develop as responsible citizens, a review of the Work Experience Model as a result of feedback from local employers and the launch of the benchmarking tool 'Inspire' to evaluate educational attainment.

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

- the Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool (SPBT), now called Inspire, that is a new approach to evaluating educational attainment and achievement;
- 16+ Co-ordinators that provide support for schools leavers; and
- work with young people at an early stage to match their skill-set and aspirations to further education and employment opportunities.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made in North Ayrshire in implementation of Curriculum for Excellence; and (b) receive progress reports at future meetings.

7. Promoting the STEM Agenda in North Ayrshire Schools

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Education 3-18) (Education and Skills) which (a) provided details of the level of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) provision across all schools in session 2013/14; (b) funding to support STEM activities; (c) a number of projects and programmes that are underway with STEM partners; and (d) success in a variety of STEM related competitions.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to arrangements that could be made for Members to visit primary schools to look at some of work that is being done in maths and science.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the Head of Service (Education 3 - 18) make the necessary arrangements for Members to visit primary schools to see the focus on STEM subjects; (b) to note the information provided; and (c) to receive regular updates at future meetings.

8. Valedictory

On behalf of the Cabinet (Education), the Chair thanked Mary Docherty for her contribution to the work of the Cabinet and the Council.

9. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee- Changes to Minute of Agreement

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on changes to the Minute of Agreement setting up the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the revised Minute of Agreement relating to the Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee.

10. Gypsy/Traveller Policy on Unauthorised Encampments

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the terms of a draft Policy for managing unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments (Appendix 1); (b) information on the existing permanent site for travellers in North Ayrshire and work by the Gypsy/Traveller Services Co-ordinator; and (c) the number and location of unauthorised encampments in North Ayrshire for 2013 and 2014 (Appendix 2).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the responsible service for unauthorised encampments is Housing Services; (b) approve the proposal to appoint a temporary post to deal with the issues surrounding unauthorised encampments; and (c) approve the new draft Policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

11. North Ayrshire Legacy 2014 Fund

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Community and Culture) (Education and Skills) which provided information on (a) the planning and delivery of the community applications to the North Ayrshire Council Legacy Fund 2014; and (b) the process that will determine the applications.

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

- a number of late applications that have been received from the community and a required deadline for applications; and
- an increase in funding that may be required to fund late applications.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the implementation of the local Legacy Funding to community organisations; (b) receive a further evaluation report on the programmes delivered by the Fund; (c) a deadline for receipt of applications by 16 June 2014; and (d) the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) monitoring the funding allocated to support groups and organisations in delivering the Legacy Plan.

12. Kirktonhall, West Kilbride

Submitted report by the Head of Service, (Community and Culture) (Education and Skills) which provided information on (a) Kirktonhall Creative Media Group's current proposals for Kirktonhall; (b) the findings of the review report by the Tourism Resources Company that identified and examined risks and issues on behalf of the Council; and (c) funding in place to develop Kirktonhall Creative Media Group's project.

The Cabinet was advised of a letter from Councillor McLardy that had been circulated to all Cabinet Members.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the continuation of the preferred bidder status for Kirktonhall Creative Media Group; and (b) that the Head of Service (Community and Culture) review progress after a 6 month period and provide an update to Cabinet in December 2014.

13. Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract (MTC): Water Quality Management

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for Water Quality Management.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Hertel Solutions Ltd, at a contract value of £97,500.

14. Award of Contract - St Luke's Primary School extension works

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for St Luke's Primary School extension works.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd, at a contract value of £827,029.90.

15. Award of Contract - New Day Care Centre and Flats (former Stevenson Institute site) Largs

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the new Day Care Centre and Flats (former Stevenson Institute site), Largs.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contact to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd, at a contract value of £1,942,546.41.

16. Welfare Reform Activity in 2013/14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on welfare reform activity in 2013/14, including Spare Room Subsidy, Scottish Welfare Fund, Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP), Impact on Local Support Services, Single Fraud Investigation, Universal Credit, Employability Initiatives, Payday lending and Welfare Reform action plan and baseline indicators for 2014/15 to 2016/17.

The Cabinet noted (a) the progress on welfare reform in 2013/14; (b) the 2014 to 2017 Welfare Reform Action Plan as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (c) the 2014 to 2017 baseline indicators, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

17. Community and Lifelong Learning Advisory Panel : 3 April 2014

Submitted report by the 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 3 April 2014.

Noted.

18. Brodick Pier Redevelopment Group : 11 April 2014

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Brodick Pier Redevelopment Group held on 11 April 2014.

Noted.

19. Ayrshire Economic Partnership : 23 April 2014

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 23 April 2014 .

Noted.

20. 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.

21. Millport Pier

A structural survey has recently been undertaken of Millport Pier. Its early findings are that the pier is deteriorating at a greater rate than previously expected as a result of severe storms experienced over the winter.

The estimated costs for repair are £650,00 plus materials of £200,000 for extensive repairs to the timber section of the pier and an increase in the annual maintenance budget of £125,000. An intrusive survey of the masonry section of the pier is required at a cost of £60,000

It is therefore necessary to restrict access to the pier as follows:-

- no restrictions beyond the existing cordoned off area for foot traffic;
- prohibit vehicular traffic from all sections;
- no restrictions to the berthing of leisure and small craft although they will not be able to berth at low tides due to the cordoning off of the low level landing point;
- no restrictions for the typical Clyde estuary fishing vessels and sporadic visits by 'puffer' vessels;
- prohibit visits by vessels in excess of 100 tonnes - this includes the Waverley.

The Cabinet agreed that the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) make the necessary arrangements to (a) restrict access as outlined above; (b) commission an intrusive survey of the masonry section of the pier; (c) upon receipt of the masonry survey develop a suitable plan for the future provision of the pier for consideration by Cabinet; and (d) provide a briefing note to local Members outlining the current situation.

The meeting ended at 4.35 p.m.