



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 20 February – 2 May
2018

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.

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JOINT YOUTH CABINET AT GARNOCK ACADEMY, 20 February

Together with my colleagues in Cabinet, we held another successful Joint Youth Cabinet meeting at Garnock Academy on 20 February. Pupils asked a variety of interesting questions ranging from how young people can become more involved in the work of our Community Councils, what can be done to encourage young people to use our public transport more and how it can be improved to how we will be celebrating the Year of the Young People throughout North Ayrshire. Once again, I would like to thank the pupils of Garnock Academy for their enthusiastic engagement and the staff in our Youth Services for organising another useful session.

INTERIM AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC BOARD MEETING, 22 February

On the 22 February the three Ayrshire Councils met in Cunninghame House for an Interim Economic Board meeting. Patrick Wiggins gave a presentation on the Regional Pathfinder and provided a verbal update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

While long overdue, it has been reassuring and much welcome news to hear Prime Minister, Theresa May, assure us that the UK Government is committed to progressing this deal following her visit to Ayrshire on 29th March. This has been undoubtedly due to the hard and persistent work of the three Councils in lobbying the Government and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers who have been involved in this from the outset.

KILWINNING PARTICIPATORY BUDGET, Ayrshire College, 3 March

I went along to the Kilwinning Participatory Budget event held on the 3rd March at Ayrshire College (Kilwinning Campus). These Participatory Budget events have proved to be hugely successful and the Kilwinning one was no exception, having had an amazing 600 people turn up to vote on the day. Twenty local clubs and organisations were able to benefit from funding, including Kilwinning Sports Club, St Luke's Parent Council, Fitba4U and The Warrior Mum Project. These events are a prime example of empowering our local communities.

CONVENTION OF HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS (COHI), 11-12 March

North Ayrshire played host to members of the Convention of Highlands and Islands on the 11th -12th March on the Isle of Cumbrae. We were joined by Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary, Fergus Ewing and the Minister of Transport, Humza Yousaf, to discuss areas which affect island communities, primarily housing and the possible expansion of housing associations into more rural areas and the use of public sector land to build more homes. I am pleased to say that in North Ayrshire we are continuing to work together with housing associations to increase the work on our council housing building programme delivering new homes for the people of North Ayrshire. As part of our Strategic Housing Plan (SHIP), we will be working in tandem with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to identify potential projects throughout North Ayrshire. NAC and its social housing partners are committed to building more than 1500 properties over the coming years, with the potential to create thousands of jobs (up to 6,400). I am delighted to say that 26 of these new homes will be in Brodick on the island of Arran, and that these will be the first council owned properties to be built there in a generation.



(Left to right) Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Fergus Ewing, Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council, Elma Murray OBE, Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane and Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf.

ARDROSSAN TASK FORCE MEETING, 21 March

On 21 March I attended the Ardrossan Task Force meeting in the Scottish Parliament, chaired by Minister for Transport, Humza Yousaf. I am pleased to say that the Taskforce has identified its preferred design option for the Ardrossan harbour upgrade, which will improve the facility's operations and resilience. This option would see the current berth at Ardrossan realigned, a new linkspan installed, a new terminal building constructed and a number of other enhancements made. I remain confident that once the improvement works have been carried out at Ardrossan harbour, it will be the catalyst for the wider regeneration of the Ardrossan area.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 22 March

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board members met at the Fullarton Community Hub on 22nd March to discuss a range of subjects one of these included the subject of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This follows on from the successful Pan-Ayrshire Multi-disciplinary Conference hosted by the Community Justice team on 16th February. I have already confirmed our Council's commitment to set up an ACE's Collaborative and to work with East and South Ayrshire Councils to raise awareness, share learning, align and co-ordinate practice in Ayrshire to promote a consistent and community led approach to working with people who have been affected by ACEs and trauma. I would like to thank the Community Justice team for their hard work so far and for taking this forward.

COSLA CONVENTION AND SPECIAL LEADERS, 23 March

I attended the COSLA Convention and Special Leaders meeting held in Paisley Town Hall on Friday 23rd March. As part of the COSLA Strategic Review agreed by Convention in March 2017, it was agreed that COSLA should introduce a more formal system of planning built around a common set of strategic objectives and introduce a COSLA Progress report. It builds on a wider commitment to actively communicate with our membership and key stakeholders, and is therefore designed to provide as high level and accessible an overview of key work as possible. At this meeting, the first of these progress reports was discussed including the creation of two additional COSLA priorities. The first focuses on the commitment by Leaders in November 2017, and wider work by councils, to a programme of work around improving equality, representation and diversity across Local Government. The second proposed priority recognises significant Local Government activity around housing, welfare reform and social security, and local accountability in community justice and police governance. Leaders agreed that these would be implemented.

BASIC INCOME COUNCILLOR GROUP MEETING, 23 March

Later on the 23rd March I attended a Basic Income Group meeting attended by Councillors from the four authorities involved in piloting this scheme. The Group has been established to provide feedback on the progress of the Steering Group and to give senior Local Authority input into the feasibility research work programme and the subsequent business case development. Reports will be provided to COSLA boards as and when appropriate. So far it has been agreed that a “basic income” (also known as Universal Basic Income or Citizen’s Basic Income) is defined as an unconditional, non-withdrawable income for every individual as a right of citizenship. The key elements of a basic income have also been agreed and will be as follows:

- Basic: A minimum payment, sufficient to meet basic needs
- Universal: Paid to everyone, based on rights of residency
- Unconditional: Without conditions, and non-withdrawable, irrespective of other sources of income
- Individual: Assessed and paid individually (including to children) rather than by household

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE AYRSHIRE CONFERENCE, 27 March

On the 27 March I was invited to attend the “Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire Conference held in the Hallmark Hotel in Irvine. This was a worthwhile event which brought young people, employers, schools and other stakeholders together to discuss jobs and training opportunities. The Conference was also attended by Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Employability and Training who spoke about what is being done on a national level to grow and develop our young workforce. Conference attendees also heard about what can be done on a regional level to help and the aims of a Regional Improvement Collaborative.

ISLANDS TRANSPORT FORUM, 28 March

I took part in the Islands Transport Forum on the 29th March, chaired by Minister of Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf on the 28th March. Agenda items included an update on Island Project Opportunities and the progress of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) Review. The NTS Review has established collaborative partnerships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders which are meeting regularly through working groups and partnership forums. The review will culminate in a formal public consultation in early 2019 and the publication of an updated strategy in summer 2019. The new strategy will establish the strategic direction for transport in Scotland for the next 20 years, as well as delivery and monitoring frameworks.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD CEREMONY, 29 March

On the 29 March I was invited to attend the Award ceremony for the Duke of Edinburgh participants at St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats. These awards are a great reminder of the talented and inspirational young people we have in North Ayrshire especially when you listen to how they have evolved as individuals during their Duke of Edinburgh journeys.

At North Ayrshire Council we actively encourage our young people to take part in the projects and work offered by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and I would like to thank again those involved, our Youth Groups and our staff in our Connected Communities teams for their continued support.

EGLINTON CLEAN UP, 3 April

I joined forces with members of the Kilwinning Community Council (Nairn and Aaran McDonald) on the 3 April, who together with other local community groups collected a total of six bags of litter in Eglinton park. This is a fine example of what our communities can achieve when they work together, truly a great effort by all of those that took part.

CARE LEAVER EXEMPTION, 5 April

On the 5 April I had the opportunity to meet with an inspirational young woman, Kelsey Logan, who told me what it meant to her to have been given exemption from paying Council tax. Kelsey explained in great detail how, as a care leaver, she has had to manage adult life and all the challenges that brings including making ends meet financially. She has had amazing support from NAHSCP staff, in particular Jean Cullen, who I would like to thank for having guided Kelsey so well in helping her to cope with these life challenges. It is humbling experiences like these that reassure me that our work in NAC is making a positive difference to the lives of real people. Kelsey, you are a role model to so many young people and I wish you every success and happiness for the future.



(Left to right) Councillor Joe Cullinane, Jean Cullen (NAHSCP Senior Manager) and Kelsey Logan

AYRSHIRE REGIONAL PATHFINDER MEETING, 12 April

The three Ayrshire Authorities met on 12 April for a workshop in Cunninghame House to discuss in more detail the creation and make-up of the Regional Pathfinder proposals and their fit with Economic Development/Growth and Inclusive Growth. The workshop was attended by the three Leaders, Directors and Portfolio Holders and supported by Professor Alan McGregor. The implementation of this Regional Pathfinder will be crucially important now following the announcement by the Prime Minister that the UK Government will support the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD).

CHALLENGE FUND VISIT, 20 April

On the 20th April, together with my colleague and Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Councillor Robert Foster, I visited Greenwood Academy and Elderbank Primary schools to meet members from the Challenge Fund team and hear first-hand how the work they are doing is having a positive impact on the lives of young people and their families. The money that has been set aside in the Challenge Fund has enabled staff from our NAHSCP and Education directorates to work together to identify strategies to help young people who may be struggling and who need someone to talk to, to help them overcome any issues. The essence of this work is intervention at an early stage and to use preventative measures to help young people and families. Thanks again to all those involved, in particular Mark Inglis, Senior Manager in HSCP and Challenge Fund Team leader, Martin McAdam.

VISIT TO GLENCAIRN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS, 26 April

I visited Glencairn Primary School and Early Years in Stevenston on the 26th April to learn more about the Council's Early Learning and Childcare Expansion programme. To date, our Education Directorate has made progress with the introduction of the programme at these two pilot sites which are delivering 1140 hours of early learning and childcare (ELC) to the children and families who attend these facilities. Work is also underway to develop the plans for the phased implementation of 1140 hours at eight further establishments from August 2018. The proposed delivery model for the expanded ELC hours in North Ayrshire makes provision available from 8.00am till 6.00 pm over 49 weeks of the year in all ELC establishments. The model provides options for parents/carers to receive the 1140 hours over term time - 38 weeks - or over a full year - 49 weeks. Thank you to the staff in Education for sharing your thoughts on the programme and explaining the positive results it is having on the lives of some of our families in North Ayrshire.

COSLA LEADERS, 27 April

I attended COSLA Leaders in Edinburgh on 27 April for a meeting to discuss a packed agenda on subjects including, range of subjects including Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP), funding for the Early Learning and Childcare expansion and a strategic review of the Improvement Service.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council