

Cabinet
26 September 2017

IRVINE, 26 September 2017 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater, Jim Montgomerie and Ian Haining (Church Representative) and Arran McDonald (Youth Representative).

Also Present

Donald L. Reid, Christina Larsen, Tom Marshall and Shaun Macaulay.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Executive Director, Y. Baulk, Head of Service, R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial Services), T. Reaney, Senior Manager (Streetscene) and C. Dempster, Team Manager (Network Management) (Place); J. Butcher, Executive Director and A. McClelland, Head of Service, (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum), F. Hopkins, Senior Manager, A Noble and P. Hume (Education and Youth Employment); M. Hogg, Head of Finance, D. Forbes, Senior Manager - Financial Management, A. Lyndon, Team Manager (Corporate Procurement), E. Gunn-Stewart, Head of Service (Customer and Digital); F. Walker, Head of Service (People and Transformation) (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Connected Communities, G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager (Economy and Communities); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, J. Hutcheson, Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Very Reverend Canon Matthew McManus.

1. 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.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 August 2017 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

3. 1+2 Language Policy, focusing on Erasmus+

Submitted report and received presentation by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the work of Erasmus+ in assisting the delivery of language learning in our schools. The presentation provided information on:-

- funding by the Erasmus+ and the British Council of 107,415 euros to allow 53 members of staff to participate in European mobility projects;
- staff investment;
- establishing links abroad - eTwinning;
- pupil impact; and
- how we will measure impact.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to strong self-evaluation and quality assurance processes that will ensure that the learning activities undertaken on this project are reflected upon regularly and their impact reviewed, measured and evidenced through a range of approaches.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) acknowledge the work of Erasmus+ in assisting the delivery of language learning in our schools; and (b) note progress to date.

4. Scottish Attainment Challenge in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the proposed Attainment Challenge long term outcomes to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap by 2020. The Key Attainment Challenge workstream progress was outlined in Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 provided information on the revised long term outcomes. Progress in closing the attainment gap in literacy and numeracy between children living in SIMD Quintile 1 in North Ayrshire compared to the rest of the North Ayrshire school population was detailed at Appendix 3. Appendix 4 gave data supporting the positive impact of Nurture. Appendix 5 outlined the key operational activity.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to a range of overarching performance measures to show the impact of the Attainment Challenge.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve North Ayrshire Council's proposed Scottish Attainment Challenge long term outcomes and 2017/18 planned operational group activity; and (b) receive regular updates on the progress of the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

5. Pupil Equity Funding in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on North Ayrshire Council's approach to supporting schools with the planned use of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the funding allocated to North Ayrshire schools. Guidance to support head teachers with the planning process for the use of the Pupil Equity Fund was provided at Appendix 2. Appendix 3 provided details of how each school plans to use their PEF .

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

- a range of measures to monitor the spending and impact of the Pupil Equity Fund; and
- guidance to support head teachers with the planning process for the use of the PEF.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve North Ayrshire Council's proposed monitoring and reporting arrangements for the Pupil Equity Fund; and (b) receive an annual report on the progress and impact of the Pupil Equity Fund.

6. Smarter Ways of Working: A Digital Strategy for North Ayrshire Council

Submitted report and received presentation by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Digital Strategy for North Ayrshire Council, which details the key priorities and actions that will enable North Ayrshire Council to make best use of data and technology to deliver more effective and efficient high quality services to all. The Digital Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the presentation provided information on:-

- the priorities and principles of the Strategy that will include - digital first, ICT infrastructure, digital by design, open data, digital leaders, one view and digital colleagues;
- the digital iceberg - customer interactions and internal processes;
- our customers - the benefits - customer needs, customer satisfaction, expectations and improved communication;
- our people (skilled, confident and enabled) - the benefits - improved skills, innovation, efficient and staff satisfaction;
- digital participation (access, ability and motivation) - the benefits - financial, improved employability, reduced isolation, tackling inequality and the future;
- collaboration (share, national, savings) - the benefits - savings, faster development, digital office for Scottish local government; and
- smart (analysis, improvement and technology) - the benefits - application review, a single view, smart with technology and data driver decisions.

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

- better data that will assist decision makers;
- affordable wifi and a North Ayrshire wifi mapping exercise that will be undertaken; and
- the increased usage of smart phones and 4G

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Digital Strategy.

7. Lay Representatives on Cabinet (Education)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Roman Catholic Church's representation on the Cabinet when the Cabinet meets to consider Education Authority business.

The Cabinet agreed to note that the Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus will continue to serve as the Roman Catholic Church representative's for the time being, pending the identification in due course of a replacement representative.

8. Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000- Inspection Report

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) and the inspection undertaken by the Office of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the recommendations made in the report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner; and (b) note the measures in place to secure compliance with RIPSA.

9. Public Performance Reporting 2016/17

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the 2016/17 public performance reporting and the draft Annual Performance Report 2016/17. Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the full set of PIs, showing performance trends, along with targets, whether the target level of performance has been achieved, is slightly adrift of target or is significantly adrift of target. The Red/Amber indicators along with management commentary from the relevant Directorate was outlined at Appendix 2. Appendix 3 to the report presented the draft Annual Performance Report 2016/17.

Cabinet was advised that work is being done to check the accuracy of the number of volunteers active in Connected Communities and Third Sector Interface activities. This performance indicator has therefore been removed from Appendix 3.

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

- comparison of performance with previous years that shows performance improvement in 54% of indicators with trend information over the one year period and 63% over the three year period.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the status of the Council's performance indicators at Appendices 1 and 2; (b) endorse the Annual Performance Report 2016/17 set out at Appendix 3; and (c) note that this report will be referred to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

10. Council House Building Programme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which provided information on the increase of the Council's housing building programme from 750 to 1,000 units for delivery by March 2022, the estimated costs of the programme, including funding sources, and Council owned land assets to deliver the new build units.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the increase in the Council's house building programme from 750 to 1,000 units for delivery by March 2022.

11. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018 - 2023

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which provided information on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2018 – 2023 which sets out the priorities for affordable housing investment in North Ayrshire over the next five years, in order to support the outcomes set out within the Local Housing Strategy. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan was appended to the report.

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

- sustainable and future proof design of housing to maximise energy efficiency, reduce running costs, contribute to community stability and promote feelings of safety and inclusion;
- size mix and specialist accommodation to meet existing and future housing needs; and
- that the SHIP will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018 – 2023 at Appendix 1 for submission to Scottish Government; and (b) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for Place to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects as required.

12. Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 and the North Ayrshire Bereavements Charter

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 and the development of a North Ayrshire Bereavements Charter, that includes five commitments and timescales for those parties involved in the process from registering a death and the burial taking place.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the implications from the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016; (b) note that the Bereavement Group and Working Group will continue to consider the implications of the new Act and develop arrangements as appropriate to ensure compliance; (c) receive further progress reports on the Act when as appropriate; and (d) approve a Bereavements Charter designed to ensure service excellence in Bereavement Services across North Ayrshire.

Please note - this item has been call-in by Elected Members and will be heard by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee on 11 October 2017. No action can be taken meantime.

13. Demolition of Shelter within Douglas Park, Largs

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which provided information on the poor state of repair of the shelter and former public toilets within Douglas Park, Largs.

An update was provided regarding the discussions of Largs Community Council to support, then oppose the demolition, and on the drop-in session held on 22 September where Fairlie Growers explained their plans for the park, without the shelter.

The Chair invited local Member, Councillor Marshall, to address the meeting. Councillor Marshall advised of that the former public toilets had become a target for vandalism and anti-social behaviour and the local residents were in support of the recommendation to demolish the former public toilets within Douglas Park, Largs.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the demolition of the Douglas Park shelter and former public toilets held within the Largs Common Good; and (b) that the demolition costs be funded from the Largs Common Good.

14. Memorandum of Understanding with Scottish Water regarding responsibilities for the provision of surface water drainage from new housing developments

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the provision of surface water drainage from new housing developments. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. A Whole Life Cost spreadsheet attached at Appendix 2 provided maintenance task costs, standard rates and suggested maintenance frequencies.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the requirement for Local Authorities to enter into an agreement with Scottish Water under Section 7 of the Sewerage (Scotland) 1968; (b) approve the Council signing of the agreement; and (c) recover the additional maintenance burden imposed on the Council through the imposition of factoring arrangements on new developments through the Road Construction Consent process.

15. Revenue Budget 2017/18 : Financial Performance to 31 July 2017

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 31 July 2017; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 19; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 10; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 31 July 2016 at Appendix 11.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to a range of factors, such as early achievement of savings and loan charges that can impact on financial projections.

Members also noted a minor typographical error in Appendix 10.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the earmarking of £2.608m identified at 2.4 (vi) to meet future year commitments; (c) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; (d) approve the allocation of £1.4m from the Challenge Fund to mitigate an element of the projected overspend within the HSCP; and (e) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 10 as amended.

16. Capital Programme Performance to 31 July 2017

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 31 July 2017 (b) information on the progress of all projects and explanations for the carry forwards (Appendix 1); and (c) further revisions to the budget outlined at Sections 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 and Appendix 2.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA expenditure and revised budgets to 31 July 2017; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2018.

17. Long Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2027/28

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the significant financial challenge that the Council faces over the next 10 years. The Financial Outlook was appended to the report and identified a number of local and national factors which will impact on the Council and the demand for services and reaffirms the complex environment that the Council operates in and the many factors which impact on its services.

The Cabinet agreed to note the Long Term Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2027/28, including the scale of the financial challenge which the Council faces over the next 10 years and the approach to respond to this.

18. Universal Credit Full Service

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the roll out of Universal Credit Full Service, including the preparations by the Welfare Reform Working Group to co-ordinate service responses to welfare reform and plan effectively for Universal Credit implementation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the roll out of Universal Credit Full Service in North Ayrshire; and (b) approve the approach being taken to support services and residents.

19. Proposed Arms' Length Organisation for Connected Communities Services: Options Appraisal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the conclusions of the Options Appraisal for a proposed Arms' Length Organisation for Connected Communities services, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the conclusions reached within the Options Appraisal report attached at Appendix 1; (b) not to set up an arms' length organisation for the Connected Communities Services in scope; and (c) remit to officers to identify alternative savings to replace those which were anticipated to have been delivered by transferring services to an arms' length organisation.

20. Exploration of a Regional Partnership for Economic Development Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on options in relation to a Regional Partnership for Economic Development Services to deliver economic development related services in the future.

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

- the creation of an Ayrshire-wide Steering Group to guide the Pathfinder process;
- the opportunity for a regional partnership to develop a new approach to drive and deliver inclusive economic growth in Ayrshire; and
- the extent to which a Pan-Ayrshire service could promote the interests of North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve Option 4 to be further developed for detailed consideration; (b) proposals being brought forward to a future meeting regarding the potential benefits, efficiencies and risks of joining up some or all of the services listed in section 5 into a single Ayrshire team; (c) approve further engagement being undertaken with key stakeholders and businesses to identify and develop the specific asks of the Scottish Government and its national agencies; (d) proposals being brought forward to a future meeting to establish an interim Ayrshire Development Board as per section 7. This would comprise elected members in the first instance who would in turn consider proposals to widen the participation of other stakeholders; and (e) that work in (a) to (d) above is carried out by the team currently established to drive the Ayrshire Growth Deal over the next three months with a detailed proposal to the three authorities in early 2018.

21. Islands Bill Consultation Response

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) which provided information on the Council's response to the Scottish Government's request for evidence at Stage 1 of the Bill, the Council's engagement with island communities to create a response to the Bill and oral evidence provided by officers to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee. Appendix 1 to the report provided North Ayrshire Council's response to the Scottish Parliament.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the response to the Scottish Parliament from North Ayrshire Council (outlined in Appendix 1), submitted by the consultation closing date of 25 September 2017; and (b) that North Ayrshire Council continues to contribute to the further development of proposals within the Bill.

22. Award of Contract - Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning: Responsive Repairs and Planned Maintenance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Measured Term Contract 2017 / 2020 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning: Responsive Repairs and Planned Maintenance.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of contract to Servest Arthur McKay Ltd.

23. Award of Contract - Supply of a Managed Fleet Stores Service

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Supply of a Managed Fleet Stores Service Contract.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of contract to Flying Penguin Enterprises Ltd.

The Meeting ended at 5.15 p.m.