



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of the **North Ayrshire Council** of North Ayrshire Council will be held in the **Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE** on **Wednesday, 27 March 2019** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.
- 3 Previous Minutes**
The accuracy of the Minutes of (a) the Ordinary meeting held on 13 February 2019, (b) the Special Meeting held on 27 February 2019, (c) the Special Meeting (Planning) (Pre-Determination Hearing) and (d) Special Meeting (Planning) (Determination Meeting) will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copies enclosed).
- 4 Provost's Report**
Submit report by the Leader for the period from 5 February - 18 March 2019 (copy enclosed).
- 5 Leader's Report**
Submit report by the Leader for the period from 5 February 2019 - 18 March 2019 (copy enclosed).
- 6 North Ayrshire Council Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**
Submit, for noting, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 123 December 2018 - 12 March 2019.

7 Congratulatory Motion

In terms of Standing Order 13.3, submit the undernoted motion, duly proposed and seconded, which seeks to congratulate, commend or recognise an individual or group in relation to their achievement or activities within North Ayrshire:-

“Irvine and Dreghorn Band attended the Scottish Brass Band Championships at Perth Concert Hall on Saturday 9 March when they performed to a very high standard and were crowned Scottish Champions. They now go forward to represent Scotland at the National Brass Band Championships in Cheltenham in October this year.

The Council congratulates all the band members, committee and supporters on their musical dedication and teamwork which has resulted in this hallmark achievement and wishes them well when they represent Scotland at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in October 2019.”

8 Outside Body Nomination

Consider a nomination for Councillor Donald L Reid to serve on Scotland Excel.

9 Development of North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-2024

Submit report by the Chief Executive on a draft Council Plan 2019-2024 for formal consultation (copy enclosed).

10 Questions

In terms of Standing Order No. 12 submit:-

(1) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms:-

“The SNP at the last election stood on a manifesto commitment of a maximum increase of 3% on the Council Tax. However at Council in February the SNP Group voted for an increase of 4.79% for 2019/20, and opposed the Conservative Amendment of a 3% increase. Why did the Opposition not support a council tax rise which would have delivered their own manifesto commitment, or was this a manifesto commitment which they never intended to keep?”

(2) a question by Councillor Hill to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

“Does the Portfolio Holder welcome The Scottish Government/COSLA announcement of £1.4m of funding for North Ayrshire to establish a new Town Centre Fund aimed at ensuring our High Streets are more diverse, sustainable and successful?”

(3) a question by Councillor Brahim to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"In light of North Ayrshire Council's pledge to support Keep Scotland Beautiful's Roadside Litter campaign following a motion I lodged last summer, can the Portfolioholder for Place provide an update detailing what steps have been taken to conduct an ongoing publicity campaign, what options have been explored to optimise the presence and location of roadside bins and monitoring roadside litter levels and what other efforts have been made in line with this specific campaign?"

(4) a question by Councillor Brahim to the Cabinet Member for Communities in the following terms:-

"I would like to ask the Portfolio Holder for Communities if she agrees that we must ensure all EU citizens in North Ayrshire have access to Android devices through Council buildings and home visits, to ensure they are have the opportunity to apply for the Settled Status Scheme and if so, what measures the Council will put in place to accommodate this."

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

"Before planning permission was granted for the Decommissioning Site at the Marine Construction Yard at Hunterston in 2018, were all meetings held between North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Marine Scotland minuted and if not why not?"

(6) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

"If the proposal is successful, how many jobs will be created at the Decommissioning Site at the Marine Construction Yard at Hunterston?"

(7) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of Planning in the following terms:-

"In documentation obtained through Freedom of Information relating to the Hunterston Marine Construction Yard, there is a letter from the Enviro Centre dated 10th January 2018 sent to North Ayrshire's Planning Department. Is the Chair of Planning aware of the existence of this letter and if so when did he become aware of it?"

(8) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of Planning in the following terms:-

"Was there a reply sent to the letter dated the 10th January 2018 from the Enviro Centre to North Ayrshire's Planning Department in respect of the Hunterston Marine Construction Yard and why is there no reference in the formal planning report provided to the Planning Committee?"

(9) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

“EDF have recently held two Public Information Sessions at Hunterston B Power Station. Are there any plans to invite EDF to a meeting with North Ayrshire Council to discuss the graphite inspections, modelling and analysis work that has been taking place on the reactors at Hunterston since they have been offline?”

(10) a question by Councillor McClung to the Cabinet Member for Communities in the following terms:-

“The Year 2020 marks the 700th Anniversary of the signing, on 6th April, 1320, of The Declaration of Arbroath.

The importance of this document is acknowledged throughout the world since it is not, as many believe, simply a declaration of Scotland’s right to self-determination, but is also hugely important in that it recognises that the people of Scotland have their own identity. It also asserts that the people of this country are sovereign, and as such have the right to be ruled only by those to whom we give that gift.

The National Records of Scotland describe this document as “foremost among Scotland’s state papers”.

A US Resolution of 10th November, 1997 states formally that the American Declaration of Independence was directly modelled on the Declaration of Arbroath.

Also, in 2016 the document’s huge significance was acknowledged, and its international importance recognised, when the Declaration of Arbroath was placed on UNESCO’s “Memory of the World” Register.

The text of the Declaration of Arbroath is generally ascribed to Bernard, Abbot of Kilwinning, who went on to be Chancellor of Scotland and Abbot of Arbroath. One of the Declaration’s signatories was Fergus of Ardrossan. Add to that the fact that a signatory of the aforementioned American Declaration of Independence, Reverend John Witherspoon, was a Church Minister in Beith from 1745-1758, and it would seem obvious that this upcoming centenary is an unparalleled opportunity for North Ayrshire to capitalise on the area’s historic significance, not the least as a way of reviving our Tourist Industry - an area of development which I have previously mentioned in the Chamber as one which I have been doing all in my power to advance.

As I was asked by members of the Ardrossan Castle Heritage Society to pursue this matter, can I ask the portfolio holder for Communities what plans are being made by North Ayrshire Council to commemorate this important centenary?”

(11) a question by Councillor Gallacher to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

“Over the last ten years, how many employees have left NAC with a non-disclosure agreement?”

(12) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Youth Employment in the following terms:-

“Can the Portfolio holder explain why there are now no North Ayrshire schools in the top 50 state schools in Scotland 2019 as listed, in the Herald of 20th March 2019, by the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ Highers ?”

11 Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

(1) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, in the following terms:-

To propose that North Ayrshire Council request that the Chief Executive at the earliest opportunity:-

(a) convenes a meeting between the Office of the Nuclear Regulator (ONR) and the Elected Members of the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and relevant Officers to enable North Ayrshire Council to understand the incidence of cracking in the graphite core of Reactor 3 and Reactor 4 and be informed as to the methodology of ONR's treatment of the Safety Case made by EDF to restart the Reactors.

(b) given the future closure of Hunterston B Nuclear Station, reconvenes a (restructured) Hunterston Economic Steering Group which last met on Friday 2 May 2014.”

(2) a motion by Councillor Billings, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, in the following terms:-

“The Isle of Arran is one of North Ayrshire’s most buoyant and developing communities, and attracts nearly 800,000 visitors every year. North Ayrshire Council is aware of Arran’s importance and is working with local communities to further develop the island through new housing and business support. The residents of Arran were, therefore, delighted when it was announced that public money would be spent to upgrade and improve all aspects of the ferry link to Arran.

Back in April 2017, the then Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, Keith Brown said

“The Scottish Government is committed to supporting our lifeline ferry links and ensuring that the Arran ferry service is fit for purpose, whilst also getting the best value for the public purse”

Here we are, 3 years later, with a complete shambles of a project that is over spent, running years late, poorly designed and has reliability issues not seen with the previous service. Over £100 million has been committed to this project which is being wasted, and the delays have an adverse effect on the economy of the communities that rely on the ferries.

As representatives of our local communities it is our duty to hold to account those who make decisions on our behalf, in this case the SNP Scottish Government. On behalf of the people we were elected to represent, we demand to know why this project is so far off track and is not delivering the benefits it promised.

I therefore move that Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Transport and the Islands (a) to express in the strongest terms the Council’s disappointment and concern about the current mess and uncertainty that surrounds the upgrade to the Arran and Ardrossan ferry link, (b) for an explanation as to how this situation has been allowed to occur, (c) for an explanation as to how the SNP Scottish Government intends to make good the Minister’s commitment that this project will provide an Arran ferry service that is fit for purpose and is offering best value for money.”

12 Motion to Amend Standing Orders

Submit a motion, by Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor Brahim, to amend Standing Orders in terms of Standing Order 22:-

“Insert a new Standing Order 12.9 as follows:-

"In relation to both a Question submitted in advance of a meeting and a question relating to an item on the agenda, the person answering must ensure there is a reasonable factual basis for any statement of fact made in their response.""

13 Urgent Items

Any other items which the Provost considers to be urgent.

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If you have any queries regarding this and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

Ian Clarkson (Provost)
Robert Barr (Depute Provost)
John Bell
Timothy Billings
Joy Brahim
Marie Burns
Joe Cullinane
Scott Davidson
Anthea Dickson
John Easdale
Todd Ferguson
Robert Foster
Scott Gallacher
Alex Gallagher
Margaret George
John Glover
Tony Gurney
Alan Hill
Christina Larsen
Shaun Macaulay
Jean McClung
Ellen McMaster
Ronnie McNicol
Louise McPhater
Davina McTiernan
Tom Marshall
Jimmy Miller
Jim Montgomerie
Ian Murdoch
Donald Reid
Donald L Reid
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

IRVINE, 13 February 2019 - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 1.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, John Glover, Tony Gurney (from Agenda Item 10), Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director and A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Economy and Communities); S. Brown, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. McClelland, Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum)(Education and Youth Employment); R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. McColm, Senior Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications); H. Clancy and E. Gray, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Margaret George.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, which included an announcement that the Council meeting would be webcast.

On behalf of the Council, the Provost also welcomed Councillor Glover to the meeting, following his recent absence due to ill health. Councillor Glover took the opportunity to thank his fellow Members and Council staff, in particular those in Member Services, for their kind remarks and support during his illness.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19 December 2018, was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

5. Provost's Report

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 10 December 2018 – 4 February 2019.

The Provost highlighted the following elements of his written report:-

- attendance at a number of school Christmas shows in the run-up to the holiday period;
- a reception held in December 2018 to mark the 75th Anniversary of the St John and Red Cross Defence Medical Welfare Service and visits, together with the Scottish Veterans Minister, to the Veterans Breakfast Cub in Saltcoats, the Poppy Scotland Welfare Centre in Kilmarnock and Veterans 1st Point in Irvine;
- attendance at a number of Burns events, including the Eglinton Burns Club Annual Dinner, the Irvine Burns Club Annual Celebration and Elderbank Primary School's Burns Support, as well as a wreath laying ceremony at the Burns Statue on Irvine Moor;
- the launch of the Rural Skills Project and the Digital Defenders launch at Largs Campus and Auchenharvie Academy Stevenston; and
- the forthcoming Civic Pride Awards.

Noted.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader for the period from 10 December 2018 – 4 February 2019.

The Leader highlighted the references within his report to positive developments in terms of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 11 December 2018 – 30 January 2019.

Noted.

8. Congratulatory Motion

In terms of Standing Order 13.1, submitted the undernoted motion, duly proposed and seconded, which sought to congratulate, commend or recognise an individual or group in relation to their achievement or activities within North Ayrshire:-

8.1 Concert Band Successes

"Council congratulates the North Ayrshire Music Service on the success of the 3 entrant bands at the National Concert Band Festival Regional Final held at Garnock Community Campus on Sunday 20 January.

- The Garnock Campus Concert Band achieved a Gold Award
- The North Ayrshire Junior Concert Band achieved a Platinum Award
- The North Ayrshire Schools Senior Concert Band achieved a Platinum Award

This is a fantastic level of success for the pupils in the bands, the leaders of the bands, the Music Service and the families who support them.

Attaining Gold and Platinum awards means that all 3 bands are now invited to attend the UK finals in Manchester in April. Council wishes them good luck on that occasion."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

9. Meeting of the Council held on 19 December 2018: Motion (1)

The Chief Executive reported that, in accordance with the decision of the last meeting of the Council held on 19 December 2019 in respect of Motion (1), he had written to the Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Group to request that the latter make a statement to the next Council meeting in relation to the original source of an April 2016 donation of £100,000 received by the North Ayrshire and Arran Conservative and Unionist Association from the Irvine Unionist.

The Chief Executive further reported that the Leader of the Conservative and Unionist Group had advised that, having previously verbally responded to this matter at the last Council meeting, he had nothing further to add.

Noted.

10. Audit Scotland Report: Local Government in Scotland: Financial Overview 2017/18

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report. Appendix 2 to the report highlighted the key messages identified within the Audit Scotland report and the current position of North Ayrshire Council in relation to these. The actions emerging from the 2017/18 Audit were set out at Appendix 2.

Members asked questions, and were provided with clarification on, the presentation of the report and its appendices, and on any mechanisms in place to track whether Central Government funding had been utilised for its intended purpose.

The Council agreed (a) to note (i) the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report and (ii) the current position in North Ayrshire; and (b) that the report findings be considered as part of the budget deliberations.

Councillor Gallacher left the meeting at this point.

11. North Ayrshire Charitable Trusts

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to (a) seek the Council's approval for expenditure from Kilwinning Town Charitable Trust by Kilwinning Locality Partnership; (b) update the Council on the current balances of the dormant and low value charitable trusts; and (c) seek the Council's permission to allow Locality Partnerships to continue to spend balances from the dormant and low value charitable trusts, which may result in the winding up of trusts, subject to approval by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Members asked a question on a reference which had been made at a Locality Partnership meeting to a 'Dalry and Gateside Trust'. The Head of Service (Connected Communities) undertook to look into this matter and update Members.

The Council agreed as follows:-

- (a) to approve the requested expenditure of up to £40,000 from Kilwinning Town Charitable Trust, as set out in Section 2.9 of the report;
- (b) to note the current balances of the dormant and low value charitable trusts; and
- (c) to grant permission to allow Locality Partnerships to continue to spend balances from the dormant and low value charitable trusts, which may result in the winding up of trusts, subject to OSCR approval.

Councillor Gurney joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

12. Questions

- (1) a question by Councillor Dickson to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

"Can the portfolio holder for Economic Development please update the Elected Members on the work being undertaken at Lochshore, and in particular the contribution and agreement with Scottish Enterprise?"

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

"The 'Go Garnock' charette in 2016 and the Locality Partnership both identified the development of Lochshore as being important to the local community. Since then funding was secured to employ a dedicated regeneration officer and master planning for the site got underway. This has identified a vision to develop the site as a 'Parkland Destination.' A concept layout of the site has been produced which outlines potential uses and is being consulted on.

In addition, a number of projects are already progressing. These include consultation on the design of four active travel routes which would connect the site to the local communities of Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Beith. The Council has also been working with the local rugby club and this has informed an application from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to develop a Community and Tourism Hub. This would provide new facilities for the Garnock Rugby Club, community space and a visitor centre. The application is through to second stage and we expect to hear this month on its outcome. If successful, the hub would act as a focal point for future plans across the site.

80% of the site is in Scottish Enterprise's ownership and discussions with SE are ongoing about the long term ownership and management of the site. The Council facilitated a site visit by the SE Chief Executive, Steve Dunlop in September last year providing an opportunity for him to see and hear first-hand of the plans in progress. Site investigations are currently underway, the results of which will be available in early April 2019 and will be the subject of future discussions between SE and the Council, informing options on ownership and development requirements."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Dickson referred to the short timescales associated with the funding for the regeneration officer post, asked what reassurance the Cabinet Member could provide that it would be possible to finalise a proposal to help to develop a real sense of place for sport and recreation within the available funding timescale and given the new demands on officers' time due to the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

Councillor Gallagher responded by provided an assurance that, if there were any specific project eligible for funding, then it would be looked upon with favour. The Cabinet Member for the Economy then referenced a number of the projects which had already attracted funding within the Garnock Valley.

Councillor Gallacher re-joined the meeting during consideration of this item.

(2) a question by Councillor Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

"What is the current policy for student mobile phone usage within primary and secondary schools in North Ayrshire?"

Councillor Bell responded in the following terms:-

"Education and Youth Employment has a Standard Circular which offers guidance to schools on pupil use of mobile phones and similar equipment in schools.

There may be circumstances where pupils could have a legitimate reason for bringing a mobile phone to school. They might, for example, have to contact their parents to make arrangements at the end of the school day. A universal prohibition of mobile phones in school would not, therefore, be desirable.

However, there is no necessity for pupils to have access to mobile phones during the school day and particularly during class time. Schools will have details of emergency contact information for parents or guardians, normally through the school office. Pupils and parents should be made aware of these arrangements. The use of mobile phones should, therefore, be prohibited during class time and discouraged during the school day.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority has issued specific guidance prohibiting the possession of mobile phones during examinations. The General Teaching Council for Scotland has advised teachers that contact with pupils through texting is inappropriate.

In the Standard Circular, schools are advised to devise their own policy taking account of the following:

- Any use of mobile phones in class time is unacceptable
- Possession of a mobile phone during a prelim or other examination is prohibited
- The use of mobile phones at intervals and lunch times should be discouraged. Use within the school building should be prohibited at these times
- Taking photographs of staff or pupils without consent should be prohibited
- All emergency contact between home and school should be through the school office rather than by mobile phone
- Pupils may be asked to hand in their phones to the office at the start of the school day and collect them at dismissal. Head Teachers, if selecting this option, should consider carefully the administrative demands of such a system and should ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for identifying and returning the correct phone
- As with all valuable items of equipment, parents should be made aware that no liability can be accepted for loss of or damage to mobile phones which are brought to school
- The school policy should be drafted in consultation with parents, pupils, staff and the Parent Council
- Head Teachers may wish to include specific reference to mobile phone use in school handbooks
- Head Teachers should use staff handbooks to remind all staff of GTC Scotland guidance that staff should not use texting, at any time, to communicate with individual pupils.”

(3) a question by Councillor Brahim to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

“Can the Portfolio Holder for Place provide an update on progress of the realignment of the B714 between Dalry and Saltcoats?”

Councillor Gallagher responded as Cabinet Member for the Economy, thanking the Member for her question and advising as follows:-

“Discussions have been held with the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to seek support for improvements and potential trunking designation for the B714. An appraisal in accordance with Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) has commenced in line with Transport Scotland requirements. The Pre-Appraisal and Part 1 Appraisal phases of this are now complete. This had identified the upgrade of B714 as an option to be taken forward for consideration at further stages of the STAG process. This will be taken forward for further consideration through an Ayrshire Regional Transport Appraisal as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The commitment to funding the Ayrshire Growth Deal was made on the 30 January 2019 and Heads of Terms are expected to be completed in March. It is anticipated that the commitment to undertake the Regional Transport Appraisal will be included in the Heads of Terms.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Brahim asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed with her that realignment of the B714 would benefit North Ayrshire residents and the local economy and that the Council should be keen to see it progress as quickly as possible.

Councillor Gallagher so agreed.

(4) a question by Councillor McPhater to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

“The Fraser of Allander Institute recently produced the latest socio-economic briefing for North Ayrshire Council. I understand that, as well as providing an overview on a range of economic and social statistics for our area, the Fraser of Allander scrutinised the analysis used by the Government to determine the main operational locations for the new Social Security Agency. Can the Cabinet Member for Economy tell the Council what the Fraser of Allander's report states in relation to that decision?”

Councillor McPhater undertook to ensure that the Fraser of Allander report would be circulated for Members' information if this had not already been done.

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

“The Fraser of Allander Economic Briefing for North Ayrshire includes analysis of the Scottish Government's decision regarding the location of the new Social Security Agency. The analysis in this report has been conducted independently by the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde.

The independent report outlines the methodology used by the Scottish Government to determine the two locations to base the headquarters of the new Agency. Two phases determined where the headquarters were to be based. Phase 1 shortlisted 15 authorities which had access to a large labour force, either directly or within commuting. This list included North Ayrshire. Phase 2 aimed to further narrow this list by considering 'detailed quantitative evidence against an expanded set of criteria' and led to a shortlist of 4 Local Authorities – Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Dundee City. Dundee was chosen as the eventual site for the headquarters and Glasgow was chosen as a secondary office.

The report states that out of the 43 indicators used for Phase 2 of the process, North Ayrshire was preferential to Dundee in 34. The 43 indicators were split into four categories: Ability to Recruit; Inclusive Growth; Regeneration; and Proximity to Claimants. The Fraser of Allander aggregated the weighted scores of each category to show that this places North Ayrshire third and Dundee seventh. The report highlights that local authorities which ranked low in the 'Ability to Recruit' category were then excluded. This included North Ayrshire – even though it came out top for 'Inclusive Growth' category.

North Ayrshire was allocated a score low in 'Ability to Recruit' category due to scores in factors such as population, working-age economically active population and population density – indicators in which cities will perform well. The Fraser of Allander illustrate that, without this subgroup, the top three rankings would go to Glasgow, North Ayrshire and Inverclyde.

In short, the report summarises that despite North Ayrshire being identified as best choice of location for 'inclusive growth', it was passed over because it was felt that the local authority might struggle to attract people to work there, despite its close travel links to Glasgow.

It is worth noting that the report also illustrates the levels of regional inequality in Scotland and argues that tackling regional inequalities will only be achieved by 'investing significantly in Scotland's more fragile economic communities'. Additionally, the Fraser of Allander state that it is their view that 'given that the Scottish Government has made regional inclusive growth a priority, North Ayrshire should continue to press for recognition of the importance of national interventions to support economic development'".

As a supplementary question, Councillor McPhater asked whether the Cabinet Member had any confidence that Ruth Maguire MSP and Kenny Gibson MSP would lobby on behalf of North Ayrshire for Ayrshire Growth Deal funding, given that, despite their assertions that they had lobbied in favour of the new Social Security Agency being located in North Ayrshire, a Freedom of Information enquiry had revealed that only Councillors Cullinane and McPhater had so lobbied.

Councillor Gallagher responded by asserting that it was revealing that SNP politicians would not stand up to the SNP Government and argue the case for their own area, and expressed surprise that, despite having claimed to have made representations for North Ayrshire in this instance, this did not appear to be the case. As to whether the MSPs would provide support in terms of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, the Cabinet Member for the Economy gave his view that the work had mainly been done by officers of the Council.

- (5) a question by Councillor Davidson to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"Could I ask the Cabinet Member for Place if there are any plans for the building and land at Hazeldene in Kilwinning now that the Cabinet decision has been taken to close the Hazeldene Public Social Partnership with services to be provided at Trindlemoss in Irvine?"

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"Following the Cabinet decision to transfer the services currently provided at Hazeldene to Trindlemoss on its completion, officers are reviewing options for the use of the vacated land and buildings. On completion of the review, a report outlining recommendations for the future use of the site will be submitted to Cabinet for members' consideration."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Davidson asked what safety precautions would be taken to protect the property from vandalism or deliberating fire-raising when not in use and whether consideration would be given to live-in guardians such as had been employed elsewhere.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by advising that no decision had been taken in this regard, but that he would liaise with officers and advise Councillor Davidson of the outcome.

- (6) a question by Councillor Davidson to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"In relation to the closure of the swimming pool and leisure facilities at Harvies proposed by the administration, the Council Leader appears to have provided reassurances to Cllr Sweeney on social media that a public engagement exercise will be held amongst Three Towns residents in regard to the closure.

Can he confirm that is the case and, if so, that this will be extended to residents of Kilwinning and other surrounding towns to ensure that the engagement is as wide as possible, and allows as many users of Harvies facilities to have their views recorded as possible?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"I have not only given Councillor Sweeney that assurance, I voluntarily attended the Stevenston Community Council last week to advise them of the process and to answer their questions on the issue.

I think it is important to be clear that this is an idea for a Campus in Ardrossan at this stage. The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 requires a formal consultation on such projects and we are not at this stage yet. This is an early engagement process that will inform a project proposal which is based on a sound business case and which has been informed by a range of stakeholders through an open, transparent and valued early engagement. This will allow us to enter into the formal consultation period with a confidence that the community have been involved in informing the project and thus allow us to be in a position to obtain Scottish Government funding for the project at the earliest opportunity when the new school funding programme opens.

The Engagement Mandate proposed is extensive and in relation to Harvies includes KA Leisure members of the centre, user groups of the centre and North Ayrshire residents, including Kilwinning residents, who use the facility. I am keen to ensure the widest possible engagement on the issue and continue to discuss this further with officers. I can assure the member that the process will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to share their views.”

In addition to his written response, the Leader referred to a recent social media post by Councillor Davidson in which he had professed surprise at the proposals contained in the Cabinet papers, notwithstanding that these had already been the subject of consideration at a Policy Advisory Panel meeting attended by, if not Councillor Davidson himself, then other members of his political group.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Davidson asked whether a consultation or public engagement exercise would be undertaken on the future of Harvies in particular, or if this would be included solely in the overall consultation exercise around the new campus in Ardrossan.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that the proposals were at pre-engagement stage only and that there would be an opportunity for residents in the wider community to give their views. The Leader cited examples of the Administration’s record in amending proposals in response to consultation feedback.

(7) a question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

“Will the Leader of the Council provide Members with:-

- 1) Details of all deposits made by North Ayrshire Council to Icelandic Banks/Financial Institutions between 2004/2008, to include name of Bank/Financial Institution, amount/term of investment, rate of interest and interest received from each investment?
- 2) The Institution that advised the Council on its Icelandic Investment Strategy?
- 3) The full and final repayment received by North Ayrshire Council in 2014 from the investments of 5 million pounds in Landsbanki and 10 million pounds in Glitnir banks?

- 4) Details of all fees/charges paid to banks, consultants, and individuals in relation to the Icelandic Bank transactions?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and made reference to the following written response:-

- "1) The undernoted details all investments with Icelandic Banks between 2004 and 2008. The rates of return on investment were broadly in line with those secured from other institutions.

Icelandic Bank Deposits								
Institution	Principal Invested £m	Date of Investment	Date of Maturity	Term (Days)	Interest %	Principal Received £m	Interest Received £m	Total Received £m
Singer & Friedlander	5.000	20/10/2005	19/10/2006	364	4.60	5.000	0.229	5.229
Landsbanki	10.000	26/01/2006	25/01/2007	364	4.64	10.000	0.463	10.463
Singer & Friedlander	5.000	03/05/2006	02/05/2007	364	4.90	5.000	0.244	5.244
Landsbanki	5.000	18/05/2006	17/05/2007	364	4.99	5.000	0.249	5.249
Singer & Friedlander	5.000	19/10/2006	18/10/2007	364	5.37	5.000	0.268	5.268
Glitnir	5.000	30/11/2006	28/02/2007	90	5.22	5.000	0.064	5.064
Landsbanki	10.000	25/01/2007	24/01/2008	364	5.83	10.000	0.581	10.581
Glitnir	7.500	18/05/2007	18/02/2008	276	5.80	7.500	0.329	7.829
Landsbanki	2.000	16/08/2007	14/09/2007	29	6.30	2.000	0.010	2.010
Landsbanki	5.000	24/01/2008	14/11/2008	295	6.10	4.784		4.784
Glitnir	10.000	29/01/2008	21/01/2009	358	5.27	9.745		9.745
	69.500					69.029	2.438	71.467

- 2) All investments were carried out in line with North Ayrshire Council's Treasury Management Strategy where investment were only made to banks with ratings of "A" or above for long term investments and "F1" for short term investments. The credit ratings were provided by three recognised rating agencies who assisted in ascertaining the credit quality of banks and similar institutions. Compliance with the policy was confirmed by Internal Audit and reported to The Executive of North Ayrshire Council on 28 October 2008.

No specific advice was provided by any institution on these investments.

- 3) Cabinet reports between June 2013 and March 2015 kept members fully apprised of the approach to secure the best possible return for the Council taking account of:

- Independent professional advice;
- The value, timing and currency of any distributions;
- Foreign exchange risk and Icelandic capital controls;
- Ongoing cost of legal advice.

The table above provides information on the full payments received in respect of Landsbanki and Glitnir, with 95.7% and 97.5% of the principal being recovered. The final position in respect of Landsbanki was reported to Cabinet in April 2014 and Glitnir in March 2015.

- 4) North Ayrshire Council was one of eight Scottish local authorities and a significant number of English local authorities affected by the collapse of the Icelandic Banks. A coordinated approach, led by the Local Government Association, was taken to secure return of funds and minimise the cost of doing so. The principal legal advisor was Bevan Brittan. Over the period 2009 to 2016 this costs the Council totalled £177,382.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor McNicol asked the Leader of the Council to comment on a £10m LOBO loan secured by the then Labour Administration from Dexia Credit Local at an interest rate of 3.89% p.a. redeemable on 31 January 2078 and the investment of that sum on the same day in Glitnir Bank Iceland for 358 days which, due to the banking crisis, had resulted in the Council losing 6 years of interest on the investment and payment of interest to Dexia, a loss of £648,382.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that he was not part of the Council at that time and that he lived in the present, not the past, and urged the 33 Members of the Council to do the same. The Leader then provided examples of areas of current concern in terms of austerity, including the rise in the use of foodbanks, the number of children living in poverty and disconnected communities by a lack of public transport.

- (8) a question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Does the Leader of the Council still cling to the belief that the purchase of a Shopping Mall by the Council, with an asking price of £55 million, was a wise and commercially prudent move, in the light of a shopping centre in Fife put up for auction with a reserve price of only £1, being sold for £310,000?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“Can I thank Councillor McNicol for his question, but I have to say I do despair at the nature of it.

Not only is the figure quoted in the question incorrect - he appears to be referring to the figure leaked to the press by someone in the Council - but he has failed to grasp the advice all Elected Members of this Council were given in advance of the vote.

It was stated several times that the value of a retail centre is driven by the value of its leases. In that regard there was no “asking price” as claimed by Councillor McNicol, there was a valuation calculated on the value of leases.

Secondly, the comparison with the centre in Kirkcaldy is ludicrous. If the value of a retail centre is derived from the value of the leases then let’s look at the Postings Centre in Kirkcaldy.

It was a 21 unit centre, 13 of which were empty.

It had been a distressed centre for a number of years after losing its core tenants.

Last Wednesday's Herald, which reported on its sale, stated that the centre had an annual income of £152,000.

In fact, the Herald article included an assessment from a "property expert" that the site had a "negative value" and suggested the real value of the centre for any buyer may be in demolishing it and redeveloping the site.

So, there is no case that can be made for comparing the Rivergate centre and the one in Kirkcaldy.

Of course, Councillor McNicol has been very selective in his choice of comparator. As the Chamber knows there are many examples of Councils actually purchasing centres, particularly ones in their own area where it is not only a financial asset to the Council but a key asset to the local economy.

He could have chosen Shropshire Council for example who, just a month after our vote, purchased three local centres based on a business case that ownership would derive an annual income of £2.7million for the Council.

Or, Ashford Council, whose, it has to be said, very aggressive property investment strategy is expected to see the Council become financially self-sufficient in the next few years and who have seen annual returns of up to 12.6% on some of their local investments.

And the idea of municipal governments owning such assets is not new across the globe. Take Boston for example, where Faneuil Hall was redeveloped in the 1970s but rather than being privatised it was retained in public ownership and, through a leased arrangement, continues to return millions of dollars each year to the municipal government. The Rivergate Centre was built in the 1970s – imagine if Irvine Development Corporation had the foresight to retain the centre in public ownership!

Provost, the level of due diligence and detail in the business case that was developed by Council officers over the Rivergate was very high. Every 'i' had been dotted and every 't' crossed. We presented a business case that would have funded millions of pounds of investment in regenerating towns in North Ayrshire deriving from the income.

We accept we lost the vote and have moved on but it seems others haven't.

That said, it remains my opinion that it is really sad that some Elected Members simply want to manage austerity and declining investment in our communities.

That is not what this Labour Administration is happy to settle for.

We will continue to look at ideas that stop the extraction of wealth from our local economy – and that includes the issue of absentee private ownership which sees the returns on local assets extracted from our communities.

We use the term “Inclusive Growth” as a Council and indeed it’s used across Scotland these days but the danger for me is that “Inclusive Growth” becomes just another empty term used by politicians and policy wonks - in my opinion a real commitment to “Inclusive Growth” requires us to think about the distribution of economic returns.

Municipal ownership of local assets, and their returns, would see those returns distributed locally, helping create a multiplier effect, where money is re-circulated within the local economy which would help create an inclusive, sustainable economy for the many, not the few.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor McNicol asked how the Administration planned to fund the acquisition had the Council agreed to purchase the Rivergate Centre, and whether he intended to play Russian Roulette with the hard-earned money of the people of North Ayrshire?

Councillor Cullinane responded by referring Members to the notion of ‘invest to save’ and by asserting that the Council sometimes looks into projects that are self-financing, giving as an example investment in energy efficiency measures. The Leader noted that, due to commercial sensitivity around the proposed acquisition, it was not possible to respond to social media concerns and explain in detail how the project would be funded.

(9) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:-

“A question to the portfolio holder for Health and Social Care.

Please list for each of the last five financial years the average number, within North Ayrshire, of

- a. Care home placements - both the total available and the number funded by the Council
- b. Nursing home placements - both the total available and the number funded by the Council
- c. Care at home packages funded by the council and the waiting list at the end of each year.”

Councillor Foster thanked the Member for his question and referenced the following written response:-

“(a) and (b)

North Ayrshire Older People's Care Homes

Capacity at January each year:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
DUAL	631	664	631	631	571
Nursing	312	248	249	249	249
Residential	154	160	160	160	157
Grand Total	1,097	1,072	1,040	1,040	977

5 year % reduction 10.9%

Total registered care home capacity available across North Ayrshire, would include capacity also used by other Council areas and private clients, as client choice determines care home placement.

Average Funded North Ayrshire Placements (resident in NA care home):

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	5 Year Average
Nursing	542	534	473	490	461	500
Residential	223	225	219	222	224	223
TOTAL	765	759	692	712	685	723

Only includes those care home residents who are accessing financial support including FPC from the Council, any residents not requesting financial support would not be included

Additional information:

Average Funded NA Placements (including placed out-with area)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	5 Year Average
Nursing	646	644	638	602	578	622
Residential	252	258	258	259	256	257
TOTAL	898	902	896	861	834	878
% resident NA	85.2%	84.1%	77.2%	82.7%	82.1%	82.3%

Total admissions/discharges in-year (demonstrating movement within homes):

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Admissions	400	385	379	348	255
Discharges	372	363	368	324	234

Includes all residents supported by NA, including those out-with area. 2018-19 is not a complete year, only to January 2019

(c)

Care at Home

Year	Number of service users receiving care at home service	Number of service users on the waiting list for a care at home service from hospital and community
31/03/2015	1,737	36
31/03/2016	1,689	33
31/03/2017	1,791	76
31/03/2018	1,789	52
As at 8/2/19	2,091	53

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall asked for an assurance that the Council would endeavour to fund older people's care home placements in the future.

Councillor Foster responded that he could not envisage a position where funding for care home beds would end, but acknowledged the challenges around risk when care home places are provided private providers.

(10) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

"Question to the portfolio holder for Education.

What is the Council's policy in relation to pupils who

- a. are caught in school in possession of drugs with intent to supply or
- b. are charged/convicted of being in possession of drugs with intent to supply outwith the school premises?"

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"All of our schools operate within the context of the Scottish Government guidance Included, Engaged and Involved, Part 2: A Positive Approach to Preventing and Managing School Exclusion.

Each child or young person and each individual case or incident will be dealt with on an individual basis, given the school's knowledge of the child or young person and his or her context and circumstances. This is particularly relevant if a child/ young person is care experienced or has additional support needs.

In general when a child or young person is caught in school in possession of drugs with intent to supply both the police and parents/ carers will be informed. A school may decide to exclude the pupil. Responsibility for decisions of this nature is delegated to Head Teachers. Schools are asked to be proportionate in their response and exclusions should provide an opportunity for reflection for the child or young person. Also, all children and young people have a right to education; and education authorities have a duty to provide this education. Arrangements to allow the child/ young person to continue his/ her education must be made timeously.

If a child or young person is charged or convicted of being in possession of drugs with intent to supply outwith the premises then the right to education remains the same. The school may be informed of a charge by the police or the child/ young person, or the parent/ carer, however at the stage of a charge there is no compulsion in any of the parties to share information. If the school is informed of a charge, then a decision would be made to assess risk and plan accordingly.

If a young person is found guilty in court of a charge of being in possession of drugs with intent to supply then a decision on the best means to provide education would be made by the education authority after careful consideration of all of the facts and through discussion with the Head Teacher. Again a young person has a right to education and education authorities have a duty to provide this education."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall referred to the previous practice of transferring such pupils to other educational establishment and asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that would be a useful measure in serious cases.

Councillor Bell responded by asserting that every case must be judged on its own merits and that every attempt must be made to include children and young people and provide them with a good education.

(11) a question by Councillor McClung to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

"While I welcome the proposal for a new Ardrossan Academy, can the Cabinet Member for Education give an assurance that issues raised by my constituents will genuinely be taken into account during what I have been assured is simply an initial period of public engagement?"

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

"Yes

All communications received in respect of the current pre-engagement process will be noted and taken into account when officers report back to Cabinet in June 2019."

As a supplementary question, Councillor McClung asked whether communications around the consultation process would be published and available for all Members to scrutinise and not just with Members of the Cabinet.

Councillor Bell responded by advising that the brief answer to this was 'yes', although it would depend how the communications were gathered and processed.

(12) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"A multi million pound contract to build a new ASN school has been awarded by the Labour Administration to Morrison Construction, a company named in the Scottish Affairs Select Committee Report as having used the Consulting Association blacklist to identify, deny employment to or terminate the jobs of trade union members.

The contract was awarded by Hub West Scotland.

However, as it is a North Ayrshire Council led project, can the Portfolio Holder advise me what representations, if any, they have made to Hub West Scotland about Morrison Construction winning the contract and how does the award of the contract conform with this Council's previous commitment that companies exposed as having blacklisted workers should be excluded from Council contracts?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“Following representation to the Scottish Government in January 2016, officers reviewed the Council's engagement with Hub South West and their supply chain and were given assurance that the Hub Programme Office Guidance Note (01/14) "Exclusion from Public Contracts of Companies which Engage in Blacklisting" provides contracts conditions which ensure companies which engage in blacklisting are excluded from these contracts.

In addition, following my instruction, officers sought evidence from Morrison Construction and their parent company, Galliford Try that they do not engage in blacklisting. We received the following statement:

“To the best of our knowledge, Galliford Try and the subsidiaries it manages have never been involved in blacklisting.

We condemn the use of any blacklisting or discriminatory employment practices within our industry and continue to pursue a positive industrial relations policy with our workforce and supply chain.

Following the high profile of the issue in 2013/2014, investigations have been held but we have found no evidence of any involvement by any company managed by Galliford Try.

Galliford Try is not and has not faced any legal action from claimants alleging that they were blacklisted.”

Officers have also spoken directly with the Chief Executive of Hub South West regarding this matter, as a result of which it has been agreed that contractors will be asked specifically about blacklisting in tendering exercises.

Given our policy on backlisters not receiving public contracts I also personally made contact with trade unions to ascertain whether they had evidence of Morrison blacklisting workers – I was advised there were no contemporary cases.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gurney asked whether Members of the present Administration, after 18 months in office, would pledge to stop campaigning and start governing.

On a point of order, the Provost declined to allow the supplementary question as, in terms of Standing Order 12.2, it did not relate to the answer to the original question. Notwithstanding this, the Leader made a statement in response to Councillor Gurney's supplementary question.

(13) a question by Councillor Burns to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

“Recipients of Universal Credit can have a single deduction taken from their benefit to be allocated equally between the recovery of an overpaid Tax Credit, Universal Credit or Housing Benefit. There is a legal maximum set for this but over and above this maximum, NAC is contacting customers to ask them to repay more. Can the Leader confirm how many people are currently repaying on this basis and provide a breakdown of the income it has brought into the council since the introduction of Universal Credit?”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

“Council receiving Direct Deduction

If the resident is repaying Housing Benefit debt by direct deductions from Universal Credit or other DWP benefits, they are not asked to pay additional monies towards this. The debt will continue to be collected in this manner until such time as it is repaid or the Council is advised by DWP it can no longer be collected. On this basis no additional income has been collected from residents where direct deduction from Universal Credit or other DWP benefits applies.

Council not receiving Direct Deduction

It is only when the Housing Benefit debt is not being repaid by direct deductions that the Council will contact the resident and endeavour to secure further information on their financial position and where appropriate enter into an arrangement to collect the Housing Benefit debt. Affordability plus the resident’s circumstances are always taken into consideration to ensure hardship is not caused to that person or their dependants. If the resident cannot or will not enter into a payment arrangement, the debt will follow the regular corporate recovery procedure. No specific information is available on these arrangements as this aligns with the Council’s regular debt recovery process.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Burns referred to confusion between the answer provided and the information contained in a report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and asked if residents already subject to the maximum deduction by the DWP were being asked to pay more.

Councillor Cullinane responded by indicating that the issue was between residents who were subject to direct deductions collected at source by the DWP, which the Council did not pursue for additional monies, and those who were subject to non-direct deductions, where the Council had to contact residents in order to recover Housing Benefit debt in accordance with the normal recovery procedure. The Leader undertook to look into whether any contrary information had been provided to Members.

At the Provost’s discretion, Councillor Burns was permitted to respond, undertaking to discuss the matter directly with Finance Officers.

(14) a question by Councillor Gallagher to the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms:-

“Local SNP MSP, Kenneth Gibson claims North Ayrshire Council have received a 9.5% funding uplift for 2019/20. Does the Leader of the Opposition agree with me that there is a deep dishonesty in the way that the MSP has presented those figures to his constituents with the result being the public being misled on the financial reality faced by this Council?”

Councillor Burns thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“No, I don’t agree with him. I’d also like to say that I think his earlier attack on Kenneth Gibson in relation to the Ayrshire Growth Deal was disgraceful. The Ayrshire Growth Deal has been delivered partly because we have been working on a cross party basis and we’ve kept politics out of it, and Councillor Gallagher just can’t help himself.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gallagher asked whether it was time for the SNP in North Ayrshire to forget about its obsession with Independence and start standing up for those they were elected to represent.

On a point of order, the Provost declined to allow the supplementary question as it did not relate to the answer to the original question (in terms of Standing Order 12.2). A request by the Leader of the Opposition to make a statement in response to the supplementary question, was refused.

(15) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:-

“What dialogue have NAC had regarding the Liaison Committee for the Oil Rig Decommissioning Site at Hunterston since the last Full Council meeting in December?”

Councillor Marshall thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“Planning Permission, subject to conditions, was granted by the Planning Committee in April to vary Condition 1 of Planning Permission (ref 16/00268/PP) to allow use of the site for decommissioning of large marine structures. Condition No. 8 states:

‘That within 3 months of the date of the consent, a draft Code of Practice for the operation of the construction, repair and decommissioning of Marine Structures, hereby approved, shall be submitted for the approval in writing by North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. The draft Code of Practice shall include the formation of a liaison committee, which shall comprise of local councillors, local community group members, the site operator and other interested parties; and should include the timescales for the meetings of the liaison committee. The development shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with any Code of Practice as approved by North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.’

In November 2018, the applicant, Clydeport Operations Ltd., submitted by letter, the proposed Hunterston Marine Yard Liaison Committee – Draft Terms of Reference. The applicant proposed that ‘the meetings of the Liaison Committee are expected to only take place once the Hunterston Marine Yard is fully consented and there is an operator secured by Peel Ports on a contractual basis and business has been secured for the facility enabling the facility to become operational.’

In response at that time, Officers advised that an early meeting of the Liaison Committee should be held and not await the Hunterston Marine Yard being fully consented and an operator secured by Peel Ports on a contractual basis and business has been secured for the facility enabling the facility to become operational.

At the meeting of the Council’s Planning Committee on 5 December 2018, the Senior Manager (Planning) noted and circulated the terms of reference for the Hunterston Marine Yard Liaison Committee as set out in Condition 8 of planning permission (ref. 17/01273/PP) which had been submitted by the applicant. The Committee questioned the reason for the delay in the set-up of the Hunterston Marine Yard Liaison Committee. However, the Members raised no objections to the Draft Terms of Reference

Officers subsequently discussed the matter with the applicant, Clydeport Operations Ltd., on 17 January 2019 to again encourage early dialogue with the respective partners on the Liaison Committee. It is understood that the applicant is progressing with the necessary arrangements and the first meeting is scheduled for 18 March 2019.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked why, if there was no operator for the site, the Scottish Enterprise had allocated £10m to the project and what conditions were attached to the funding. Councillor Murdoch further asked about the identity of the company Sescon Decom and why the company had produced a video illustrating what it intended to do with the site.

Councillor Marshall responded by advising that he understood the £10m of funding had been earmarked to Peel Ports Limited, who would not spend that money until they had a company on board. Various companies had expressed an interest, but no monies would be expended on preparations until a company was in place to undertake the decommissioning.

(16) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:-

“Why are Largs and Skelmorlie Community Councils not included in the Liaison Committee for the Oil Rig Decommissioning Site at Hunterston?”

Councillor Marshall thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“In the submission in November 2018 on the proposed Hunterston Marine Yard Liaison Committee – Draft Terms of Reference, the applicant, Clydeport Operations Ltd., the membership of the Liaison Committee was proposed by Clydeport Operations Ltd.

At the meeting of the Council’s Planning Committee on 5 December, the Senior Manager (Planning) noted and circulated the terms of reference for the Hunterston Marine Yard Liaison Committee as set out in Condition 8 of planning permission (ref. 17/01273/PP) which had been submitted by the applicant.

The members of the Liaison Committee are proposed to be:

- North Ayrshire Council – 2 named Local Councillors and their nominated deputies when they are unable to attend in person;
- Cumbrae Community Council – a named representative and their nominated deputy when they are unable to attend in person;
- Fairlie Community Council – a named representative and their nominated deputy when they are unable to attend in person;
- West Kilbride Community Council – a named representative and their nominated deputy when they are unable to attend in person;
- Peel Ports/Operator – up to 3 representatives between the landowner and the site operator. Attendees flexible subject to matters to be discussed;
- Chairperson – the appointment of a named independent chairperson;
- Secretariat – Peel Ports to act as secretariat.

It has been agreed with Peel Ports that invitations are also extended to Largs and Skelmorlie Community Councils.”

As Cabinet Member for the Economy, Councillor Gallagher was able to confirm the proposed date of the initial meeting of the liaison committee and that community groups would be invited to attend.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked about the Council's expectations of the liaison committee and why Largs and Skelmorlie Community Councils had now been included.

The Chair of the Planning Committee responded by advising that Largs Community Council had requested to join the liaison committee and that Skelmorlie had also been included as the adjacent community council. Councillor Marshall further advised that the role of the liaison committee would be liaison.

(17) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

“Will the promotion and operation of tourism be affected by the Oil Rig Decommissioning Site at Hunterston and the operation of industry within Hunterston Park?”

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“Hunterston is a strategic industrial investment site being promoted for development by the Peel Group. The site has been an industrial location for over 60 years and is of national importance as an energy hub and deep water port and as such, has a critical role in the diversification of the economy.

Our approach to developing a more resilient and vibrant North Ayrshire economy is to build upon the area’s strategic assets and ensure that our local residents are equipped to take advantage of good quality local jobs. Tourism is a key component of this strategy and initiatives such as the Coig and the Ayrshire Growth Deal proposals to develop Irvine Harbourside/Ardeer Peninsula as a major waterfront destination and to strengthen our marine tourism offer should attract more visitors. Moreover, investment and job creation in our strategic locations at Hunterston and I3 play a vital part in developing a year round economy, which in turn supports the growth of the hospitality, food and drink sectors.”

Councillor Murdoch then asked a number of supplementary questions. When directed by the Provost to select only one, Councillor Murdoch asked whether the Council was concerned about headlines in the Times Newspaper dated 21 April 2018 about the adverse impact on tourism of oil rig decommissioning in Cromarty.

Councillor Gallagher responded by advising that he was unaware of the press article in question and so could not comment on it, but was able to reassure the Member that, in this case, no oil rigs would be moored offshore, but rather, the rigs would be dismantled in situ and the component parts removed. The Chair of the Planning Committee referenced a similar facility on Orkney which a number of Members had visited.

On a point of order, Councillor Murdoch requested clarification as to why he had, at a previous Council meeting, been permitted to submit a six-part written question, but had not been allowed to ask a multi-part supplementary question on this occasion.

The Head of Democratic Services referred to Standing Order 12.2, advising that the decision to allow a supplementary question was a matter for the Provost’s discretion.

(18) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

“What has been done to implement the decriminalisation of parking and what measures have been taken to create new parking in Largs since the Full Council Meeting held on 9 May 2018?”

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

“A Project Steering Group, has been established to develop the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) and car parking charges. The Steering Group comprises officers from Roads, Economy & Communities, Legal Services, Communications and Customers and Digital Services. Initial preparations have included officers meeting with Transport Scotland. A project plan has also been developed which identifies the key activities and milestones to introduce DPE and car parking charges. Key actions that are being progressed include:- review of the Car Parking Strategy, review and consolidation of Traffic Regulation Orders, audit of car parks, assessment of options for enforcement (in-house delivery, shared service , third party), infrastructure and payment options, including the use of digital technology and cashless payment options. A business case for the introduction of DPE and car parking charges is being prepared and will identify a number of charging options for consideration.

It is proposed to take a paper on proposals to the Policy Advisory Panel on 2 May and following this to take recommendations for approval to the Cabinet meeting on 11 June.

If approved at Cabinet an application will be submitted to the Scottish Government for DPE powers to be introduced in the North Ayrshire Council area. This is a statutory process and it is anticipated that following the application being submitted it will take a year for powers to be granted by Scottish Government. It is therefore anticipated that the introduction of DPE and car parking charges could be introduced on 1st October 2020 depending on the outcome of the statutory process.

With respect to additional parking spaces in Largs I can advise that the shore front car park has been re-marked providing an additional 10 parking spaces within the car park. There are no additional measures currently proposed however as part of the DPE project the Roads Service are currently reviewing existing parking restrictions in all towns with the aim of consolidating our parking restrictions Traffic Regulation Order and maximising parking spaces within our towns. In addition, Officers continue to work with all Largs Elected Members to identify potential sites which could be utilised for additional parking.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether the Council would, as a matter of urgency, consider investing in much needed car parking spaces in Largs.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by confirming that he would look into this matter.

(19) a question by Councillor Murdoch to Councillor Marshall (as a Council representative on an outside body) in the following terms:-

"Why did Councillor Marshall raise the following motion to the Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group at the meeting held on Thursday 6 December?

That Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group issues a press statement saying "Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group has every confidence in EDF and ONR and their staff in the safe and continuing operation of Hunterston B Station."

Councillor Marshall thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"Cllr Murdoch was actually in attendance at the meeting in question and would have heard the debate. I would have thought that rather than asking me this and other previously asked Questions on the Agenda he would have sought in person an explanation from a fellow Ward Member rather than repeated grandstanding

However, to answer the Question. I moved the Motion for the following reasons.

The Motion supported a statement made by Mr Stuart McGhie, Vice Chair and Trade Union representative on the Hunterston Stakeholder Group (SSG) and was subsequently agreed by all the Council appointees to the SSG who are also voting Members and the majority of the other voting Members of the SSG.

Ms Rita Holmes, Chair of the SSG was reported in BBC Online News on 21 November 2018, in local media and in Ferret as stating that "she did not believe that Reactor 3 should be brought into operation." (Reactor 3 is currently shut down awaiting clearance to restart from the Office of Nuclear Regulation)

Mr McGhie, vice Chair and Union Rep, reminded Mrs Holmes that being the chairperson did not give her "dictatorial rights" to make statements on behalf of a democratic organisation. He called upon her to retract her statements as many of the 500 workers were angry at her position. This she refused to do.

North Ayrshire Depute Provost Robert Barr told Mrs Holmes that she should be impartial stating, "I don't think you are because you are antinuclear." Mrs Holmes who attends meetings of a Nuclear Free Zone Committee replied, "I am not totally pro Nuclear"

I was of the belief that Mrs Holmes alleged statements did not reflect the views of the SSG and as a Senior Councillor believed that the workforce should be supported and so moved the Motion which was subsequently agreed almost unanimously.

Mrs Holmes subsequently stated in the Press that she was speaking in a "personal capacity."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch asked whether Councillor Marshall had proposed the motion at the SSG as an individual or on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

Councillor Marshall responded by advising that those who served on the SSG did so as representatives of North Ayrshire Council, but also represented their constituents. Appointees had agreed almost unanimously that workers were being wrongly attacked and made to feel uncomfortable about the future of their jobs and so had felt it important to reset the balance and truly reflect the views of the SSG.

13. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:-

- (1) a motion by Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor Montgomerie in the following terms:-

"Safe Leave for Staff

New Zealand's world leading Victims' Protection Bill requires employers to give victims of domestic violence up to 10 days leave from work, separate from annual leave and sick leave entitlements. A similar policy in North Ayrshire Council, would assist victims to leave their partners, find new homes and help protect themselves and any dependent children. Council is asked to request officers to consider the introduction of up to 10 days 'safe leave' and bring forward a paper outlining the proposals to Cabinet."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

- (2) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, in the following terms:-

"That North Ayrshire Council

- a. supports the comments made by Glasgow Labour Leader Frank McAveety and Glasgow Airport Managing Director Mark Johnston in their campaign to ensure that Glasgow Airport has a direct rail-link to the city centre, Glasgow being the only airport of its size in Europe dependent on road access.
- b. acknowledges that the airport contributes £1.44bn to the economy and supports 30,000 jobs ,both of which contribute to the economy of North Ayrshire, and more so if the Airport capacity is increased.
- c. agrees to write to Michael Matheson, Transport Secretary and to Susan Aitken ,Glasgow City Council Leader expressing support for the provision of a rail link as envisaged in the 2014 Glasgow City Deal."

As an amendment, Councillor Barr moved the direct negative. There being no seconder, the amendment fell.

As an amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, moved as follows:-

“That North Ayrshire Council

- a. supports the comments made by Glasgow Labour Leader Frank McAveety and Glasgow Airport Managing Director Mark Johnston in their campaign to ensure that Glasgow Airport has a direct rail link to the city centre, Glasgow being the only airport of its size in Europe dependent on road access.
- b. acknowledges that the airport contributes £1.44bn to the economy and supports 30,000 jobs, both of which contribute to the economy of North Ayrshire, and more so if the airport capacity is increased.
- c. emphasises that the airport rail link cannot be to the detriment of the Ayrshire line in general, believes that solutions are possible to any capacity issue at Glasgow Central and would welcome North Ayrshire Council and the two other Ayrshire authorities being involved in discussions around the project.
- d. agrees to write to Michael Matheson, Transport Secretary and to Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Council Leader, expressing support for the provision of a rail link as envisaged in the 2014 Glasgow City Deal.”

As a further amendment, Councillor Gurney, seconded by Councillor McMaster, moved as follows:-

“That North Ayrshire Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson, Transport Secretary, congratulating him on preserving our precious rail links to Glasgow and beyond and encourages him to examine what else can be done to further enable efficient transport links to and from North Ayrshire.”

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, Councillors Gurney and McMaster subsequently agreed to amend the terms of their amendment to read as follows:-

“That North Ayrshire Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson, Transport Secretary, encouraging him to preserve our precious rail links to Glasgow and beyond and to examine what else can be done to further enable efficient transport links to and from North Ayrshire.”

Following questions and debate, and in the course of summing up, Councillor Marshall, with the agreement of his seconder, advised that he wished to withdraw his motion in favour of Councillor Cullinane’s amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, the proposed withdrawal of the motion required the consent of the Council. On a division, there voted in favour of allowing the motion to be withdrawn, 17, and against, 11. Accordingly, the motion was withdrawn and the amendment by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, became the substantive motion.

On a point of order, Councillor Gurney asked whether there was a requirement for a 2/3 majority to agree to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the motion to be withdrawn. The Head of Democratic Services clarified that the suspension of Standing Orders was not required and, in terms of Standing Order 14.5, a motion or amendment could be withdrawn prior to debate or, subject the consent of the Council, following debate.

On a further point of order, Councillor Gurney requested, and received, clarification on the competency of the substantive motion and amendment following withdrawal of the original motion.

The Head of Democratic Services suggested that, should the Council so wish, the current provisions within Standing Orders could be included within the next review of governance documents.

Thereafter, there voted for the amendment, 11 and for the substantive motion, 17, and the substantive motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:-

“That North Ayrshire Council

- a. supports the comments made by Glasgow Labour Leader Frank McAveety and Glasgow Airport Managing Director Mark Johnston in their campaign to ensure that Glasgow Airport has a direct rail link to the city centre, Glasgow being the only airport of its size in Europe dependent on road access.
 - b. acknowledges that the airport contributes £1.44bn to the economy and supports 30,000 jobs, both of which contribute to the economy of North Ayrshire, and more so if the airport capacity is increased.
 - c. emphasises that the airport rail link cannot be to the detriment of the Ayrshire line in general, believes that solutions are possible to any capacity issue at Glasgow Central and would welcome North Ayrshire Council and the two other Ayrshire authorities being involved in discussions around the project.
 - d. agrees to write to Michael Matheson, Transport Secretary and to Susan Aitken, Glasgow City Council Leader, expressing support for the provision of a rail link as envisaged in the 2014 Glasgow City Deal.”
- (3) a motion by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, in the following terms:-

“Austerity in Scotland continues to fall disproportionately on Scottish Local Government, with the cuts experienced by Scotland's Councils in recent years being several times greater than the cut to the Scottish block grant from Westminster.

MSPs in the Scottish Parliament have failed to use the powers of that Parliament to offer an alternative to austerity, continuing to cut taxes for business whilst making timid variances to Income Tax bands designed not to offer protection for vital public services but rather designed to fit on a leaflet.

Serious reform of local taxation, that is more progressive and enables local services to be protected, has failed to materialise due to a lack of political vision. The latest budget deal between the SNP and Scottish Greens kicks any prospect of real reform on local taxation into the long grass.

What has been presented as "fiscal empowerment" for Local Government is a Tourist Tax and a Workplace Parking Levy.

North Ayrshire Council has called for the power to introduce a Tourist Tax to be given to Scottish Councils and therefore welcomes any move towards this. However, we acknowledge that whilst a Tourist Tax will raise millions of pounds per year for City Councils it will raise considerably less for the rest and this is therefore not an adequate solution in itself. North Ayrshire Council believes this must be taken into consideration prior to the introduction of the power.

However, North Ayrshire Council believes the idea that "fiscal empowerment" of Local Government should be achieved through means such as a Workplace Parking Levy is a damning indictment of the failure of the Scottish Government to adequately fund Local Government and to devolve real fiscal powers to Councils to end austerity. Having made the political decision not to prioritise and protect Local Government funding, having failed to use its fiscal powers to raise the revenue to protect local services the SNP Government and Scottish Greens are now asking Councils to decide whether to cut vital jobs and services or introduce a car parking tax on workers. A tax that could apply to local government workers from every service we provide including janitors, support staff and teachers in our schools - this could lead to proposing a pay offer in one hand and handing out a bill for several hundred pounds to park at work with the other.

North Ayrshire Council opposes the idea of a Workplace Parking Levy and therefore signals our intention not to introduce one if the power is created. Furthermore, the Council resolves to write to the Scottish Government outlining our position on the Levy.

The Council also wishes to raise, whilst stating our support for the power to be devolved to councils, the disparity between what a Tourist Tax will raise in City areas in comparison to other local authority areas and therefore to emphasise the need for "fiscal empowerment" of Local Government to offer equitable benefits for all local authority areas.

North Ayrshire Council wishes to state, in no uncertain terms, the urgent need to end austerity, to protect local services and jobs and outline to the Scottish Government our opposition to the proposed cuts to be imposed on North Ayrshire Council through the Scottish Budget."

As an amendment, Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor Burns, moved that the Council agree to reject the motion.

On a point of order, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the amendment was procedurally equivalent to the direct negative.

Following questions, debate and summing up, there voted for the amendment 11 and for the motion 11 and, on the casting vote of the Provost, the motion was declared carried.

- (4) a motion by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Foster, in the following terms:-

"North Ayrshire Council opposes any changes to the free television licence for over 75's and resolves that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Director-General of the BBC to outline our opposition."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

14. Notice

Submitted a notice of motion to amend Standing Orders in terms of Standing Order 22:-

"Insert a new Standing Order 12.9 as follows:-

"In relation to both a Question submitted in advance of a meeting and a question relating to an item on the agenda, the person answering must ensure there is a reasonable factual basis for any statement of fact made in their response.""

The Council noted that the motion would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council, in terms of Standing Order 22.

The meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.

North Ayrshire Council
27 February 2019

IRVINE, 27 February 2019 - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director and M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director (Economy and Communities); S. Brown, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. McClelland, Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum) (Education and Youth Employment); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications); E. Gray and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Anthea Dickson, Christina Larsen, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting and dealt with preliminary matters, which included an announcement that the Council meeting would be webcast.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. General Services Revenue Estimates 2019/20 to 2021/22

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Council's revenue spending requirements and anticipated funding for 2019/20 to 2021/22; the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council; and options to address the funding gap.

Members were invited to note the correction of a small typographical error at Section 2.4 of the report where the financial year referred to within the section heading should read "2018/19" and not "2019/20".

Councillor Cullinane thanked officers for their work in preparing the report and addressed the meeting on the Administration's budget proposals.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the proposals set out in the report and approve a Council Tax increase in 2019/20 of 4.79%.

Councillor Burns then addressed the Council on behalf of the Opposition, thanking officers for their work and local residents for their contribution to the budget consultation and reporting on the Group's budget proposals.

As an amendment, Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Macaulay, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the amendments noted below:

Narrative	Reference	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Council Tax increase 3.7%		0.576	0.594	0.612
Reduce hscp additional funding in line with SG settlement terms	NAC additional contribution noted in appendix 1 (£1.389m) - final decision on allocation of resources taken by IJB	-£0.277	-£0.277	-£0.277
Remove contingency from Community Investment Fund	SP - EC - 19-62	-£0.312		
Additional investment		£0.013	-£0.013	
Total Additional Savings		-£0.576	-£0.277	-£0.277
(surplus) / gap		£0.000	£0.317	£0.335

Councillor Marshall then addressed the Council on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Group, thanking officers for their support and reporting on the Group's budget proposals.

As a further amendment, Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the amendments noted below:-

Narrative	Reference	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Council Tax increase 3%		0.951	0.979	1.009
Remove contingency from Community Investment Fund	SP - EC - 19 - 62	-£0.312		
Review Primary and Secondary school staffing formula	SP - EY - 19 - 01	-£0.291	-£0.473	-£0.473
Suspension of recruitment to Modern Apprentice programme	SP - EC - 19-63	-£0.348	-£0.348	-£0.348
Total Additional Savings		-£0.951	-£0.821	-£0.821
(surplus) / gap		£0.000	£0.158	£0.188

There being no further amendments, the Provost invited questions of clarification in terms of Standing Order 14.7 and, thereafter, intimated a short recess at 3.05 p.m. to allow Members to consider the terms of the motion and amendments.

The meeting reconvened at 3.30 p.m. with the same Members and Officers present and in attendance.

The Provost sought and received confirmation that there were no further amendments and no alteration or withdrawal of the motion or any amendment in terms of Standing Order 14.5.

On a point of order, Councillor Burns sought and received confirmation that, in terms of Standing Order 15.7, no Member would be permitted to speak more than once during debate.

The Provost then afforded Members a further opportunity to ask any questions of clarification.

Following debate and summing up, on a division, there voted for the amendment by Councillor Burns and seconded by Councillor Macaulay, 9, and for the motion 11.

There then voted for the amendment proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor Ferguson, 6, and for the motion 20. The motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, having considered the equality and socio-economic impact of proposed changes, agreed the proposals detailed in the report as follows:-

- (a) to note the anticipated funding available to meet expenditure requirements;
- (b) to approve the Council's expenditure requirements for 2019/20 and note the indicative requirements for 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- (c) to note the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council and approve any contributions to/from these;
- (d) to approve the application of capital receipts to fund transformation as noted at section 2.4.2 of the report;
- (e) to approve the additional contribution to the IJB noted at section 1.9 of the report;
- (f) to approve efficiencies and savings to ensure a balanced budget for 2019/20, consequential and new proposals in future years;
- (g) to approve increases to Council fees and charges, as detailed in the report
- (h) to approve a Council Tax increase of 4.79% in 2019/20;
- (i) to note the anticipated funding gap for 2020/21 and 2021/22; and
- (j) to approve the budget matrix for 2019/20.

5. Capital Investment Programme 2019/20 to 2027/28

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the draft Capital Investment Programme to 2027/28.

Councillor Cullinane thanked officers for their work in preparing the report.

Thereafter, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

6. Revenue Estimates 2019/20 - Common Good Funds and Trusts

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the anticipated annual income and expenditure of the Common Good Funds and Trusts administered by North Ayrshire Council and seek approval for the level of grant funding to be made available for disbursement in 2019/20.

Members asked questions on the following elements of the report:-

- the capital expenditure from Largs Common Good, referred to within the report;
- the names of the 'Dalry' and 'Beith and Gateside' Charitable Trusts; and
- the potential for putting out to tender grounds maintenance works in respect of Irvine Common Good land at Berry Drive and Gault Avenue, Irvine.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) undertook to investigate whether grounds maintenance works for Irvine Common Good land, currently carried out by the Council, could be subject to a tendering exercise.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

7. Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2019/20

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposed Strategy for Treasury Management and Investment activities within the Council for the financial year 2019/20.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

The meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.

North Ayrshire Council (Planning Pre-Determination Hearing) Agenda Item 3
4 March 2019

Irvine, 4 March 2019 - At a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council (Planning) at 11.00 a.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Tony Gurney, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan, Tom Marshall, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Donald L Reid, and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services and A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) (Chief Executive's Service); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and J. Miller, Senior Manager Planning (Economy and Communities); and E. Gray, Committee Services Officer.

Also in Attendance

G. Pollock, Stevenston Community Council, B. Mortlock and A. Morrison (objectors); C. Amos and L. Cree, North Ayrshire Council, and B. O'Donnell, NORR Consultants Ltd (applicants).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Joy Brahim, John Easdale, Alex Gallagher, Ronnie McNicol, Ian Murdoch and Angela Stephen.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Sweeney, as a local resident who raised queries during the pre-application and application consultation exercises, declared an interest in Agenda Item 3.1. The nature of the interest in the context of the agenda item did not necessitate Councillor Sweeney leaving the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor McTiernan joined the meeting at this point.

2. Pre-Determination Hearing

The Senior Manager (Legal Services) summarised the purpose of the Pre-Determination Hearing process and the procedure which would be followed.

Councillor McClung jointed the meeting at this point.

3. 18/00882/PPM: Auchenhavrie Playing Fields, Boglemart Street/ Saltcoats Road, Stevenston

Ms Caroline Amos, Head of Service (Inclusion), North Ayrshire Council, and Mr Brian O'Donnell, NORR Consultants Ltd, addressed the Council in support of the application for planning permission for (1) the erection of an additional support needs school campus development comprising of nursery, primary and secondary departments together with the provision of vehicular and pedestrian access, parking, external play and sports facilities, polytunnel, landscaping and (2) the erection of residential and respite accommodation together with associated access, parking and landscaping at Auchenhavrie Playing Fields.

Ms Amos provided a brief background into the project and discussed the objective of siting the development in a location in close proximity to an existing school, which has established public transport links and is near a town centre. Making reference to the school and residential and respite accommodation, she said the proposals would allow in excess of 200 users to feel a sense of belonging and inclusion as well as being a home for some. She asked the Council to consider these factors when determining the application.

Mr O'Brien then displayed slides showing maps and drawings of the proposed development and made reference to the changes which were made to the siting of the school building, site boundary and vehicular access point to the residential and respite units following a pre-application consultation. He went on to provide responses to concerns which had been raised due to the scale of the development resulting in the loss of open space and grass football pitches by highlighting that a large area of the site would remain accessible to the public, including the grass and all-weather sports pitches. He also made the point that the all-weather pitch would allow for greater use than the current pitches which have seen bookings reduce due to poor surface conditions and advised that sportscotland were supportive of the application.

Mr O'Brien also discussed other factors which had been subject to consultations and studies, including road traffic levels, public transport provision, environmental factors including flooding and noise and dust pollution during construction, ecological impact and the design of the development. He informed the Council that consultation had taken place with the following organisations with no objections raised: sportscotland, North Ayrshire Council Roads, North Ayrshire Council Flood Prevention, SEPA, Scottish Water and North Ayrshire Council Environmental Health.

Councillor Montgomerie joined the meeting at this point.

Mr Bill Mortlock and Mr Alastair Morrison, local residents, and Mr Gerard Pollock, Stevenston Community Council, then addressed the Council in support of their objections to the application.

Mr Mortlock informed the Council he would be raising the concerns which were originally intimated in a letter of objection submitted in October 2018 and these concerns could be divided into two categories: those which affect the residents to the north of the site, and those which affect Stevenston as a whole. He began by outlining the concerns for residents of properties neighbouring the site, including the anticipated levels of noise associated with construction and the ongoing use of a school and the

potential for increased anti-social behaviour in the wooded area between the site and Capon Craig Avenue, such as trespassing, vandalism to property and public consumption of alcohol. He went on to detail issues which would affect Stevenston as a whole, including poor drainage on the site which, following development, would lead to increased flooding, subsidence, increased road traffic in an area which currently experiences congestion at peak times and the impact this would have on road safety, loss of green space and sports facilities at a time where there is a national obesity crisis, and the impact on wildlife in both the grassy and woodland area. Mr Mortlock also referred to confusion around who owns the land, as well as a lack of publicity of the proposal and consultation with residents.

Councillor Larsen joined the meeting at this point.

Mr Pollock began by thanking the Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) and the Project Manager for their attendance at Stevenston Community Council meetings to discuss the proposal. He went on to explain that the Community Council was not opposed to the project in general; however, there was a belief that the chosen site was not optimal for residents or pupils. He raised concerns over the loss of green space and sports facilities in the area, requires special pumping, past mine workings, playing fields underused because of neglect, and the effect of air pollution on vulnerable pupils of an ASN school. He also raised concerns about a feeling of neglect within Stevenston and lack of consultation on the proposal. He stated his belief that concerns around congestion associated with the proposed development had been glossed over by the applicant and that consultation with the wider public had been poor. Finally, Mr Pollock suggested that if planning permission were approved, then a working group should be established between the applicant, neighbouring residents and the applicant to ensure that ongoing concerns were addressed.

Councillor Bell joined the meeting at this point.

Mr Morrison indicated that he shared the concerns raised by the other speakers, adding that there was evidence of subsidence of the ground at his property which neighbours the proposed site.

Members then asked questions and received responses (shown in italics) from the parties in attendance, in relation to the following:-

- The location of sites which objectors believe would be more suitable for the development as mentioned during their representation.
Quarry Park, Ardeer Recreation Ground, Tracy's Yard, the shorefront or the former Kerelaw School site.
- The proposed all-weather pitch and whether it meets the minimum size requirements as set out by sportscotland.
The pitch would comply with all regulations including the minimum dimensions.
- *Ownership of the site.*
The Council has title to the site which is appropriate for the proposal.

- The water holding tank which would be used to minimise the risk of flooding.
Underground attenuation tanks would be included in the development. These tanks collect rain water from the site and filter it to a degree before discharging it safely to the surface water sewers at a rate which would not cause flooding.
- The concerns around increased traffic at peak times.
A road traffic survey was undertaken in conjunction with NAC Roads and this took account of the start and end time of the school day when traffic levels would be expected to increase. The results did not raise any reasons for NAC Roads to object to the application.
- The footpath from Glen Crescent to Auchenharvie Academy and whether this would have street lighting.
The proposal includes street lighting for the path. A planning condition has been recommended which requires the applicant to provide in writing details of all external lighting for the site within 12 months of approval.
- The consultation exercises which were carried out.
Details of the consultation exercises were provided along with confirmation that the met all requirements for a development on this scale.
- The sportscotland playing field protection policy, whether or not this had been adhered to and where the policy can be found.
The proposal adheres to the field protection policy and that a copy of the policy would be made available to Member's prior to the determination meeting.
- Concerns which had been raised about the quality of the ground and instances of subsidence around the site.
Extensive ground surveys have been carried out around the site and have provided no results which would suggest the ground is not suitable for a development of this scale and size.

On a point of order, Councillor Cullinane requested clarification on the material planning considerations which could be used to determine an application for planning permission and whether or not the presence of other potential sites in the area was relevant.

The Senior Manager (Planning) confirmed that the Council must consider the application as presented when making a determination.

The meeting ended at 11.55 a.m.

North Ayrshire Council (Planning Determination Meeting) Agenda Item 3
4 March 2019

Irvine, 4 March 2019 - At a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council (Planning) at 1.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Tony Gurney, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Davina McTiernan, Tom Marshall, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Donald Reid, Donald L Reid, and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services and A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) (Chief Executive's Service); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and J. Miller, Senior Manager Planning (Economy and Communities); and E. Gray, Committee Services Officer.

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Joy Brahim, John Easdale, Alex Gallagher, Ronnie McNicol, Ian Murdoch and Angela Stephen.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Sweeney, as a local resident who raised queries during the pre-application and application consultation exercises, declared an interest in Agenda Item 3.1. The nature of the interest in the context of the agenda item did not necessitate Councillor Sweeney leaving the meeting during consideration of this item.

2. Three Towns

18/00882/PPM: Auchenharvie Playing Fields, Boglemart Street/ Saltcoats Road, Stevenston

North Ayrshire Council (Education and Youth Employment) have applied for planning permission for (1) the erection of an additional support needs school campus development comprising of nursery, primary and secondary departments together with the provision of vehicular and pedestrian access, parking, external play and sports facilities, polytunnel, landscaping and (2) the erection of residential and respite accommodation together with associated access, parking and landscaping at Auchenharvie Playing Fields. Eight letters of objection were received and detailed in the report.

The Senior Manager Planning presented the officer's report on the application, responding to the points raised in the Pre-Determination hearing before the Council earlier that day and in the objections, representations and consultation responses received, and highlighting the policy and other material considerations leading to the recommendation that the application be accepted subject to conditions.

Reference was also made to a site visit which took place on 25 February 2019 and which was attended by nine members.

Members then asked questions of the Senior Manager Planning and received responses (shown in italics) on the following:-

- The recommendation by the Coal Authority that a condition is added to the planning permission requiring further intrusive site investigations to be carried out and for the results of these tests to be reported to the Coal Authority prior to the commencement of works.
The Coal Authority will seek further information on the geo-techno make-up of the site prior to work being carried out. The applicant has given indication that the site ground is satisfactory for this type of development. This would also be a requirement for a building warrant.
- The recommendation by the sportscotland that a condition is added to the planning permission requiring the construction of the all-weather pitch to be carried out by a specialist contractor and the reason that this has not been included in the recommended conditions set out in the report.
Assurances have been given by the applicant that this work will be carried out by a specialist contractor. This would be necessary to meet other legal requirements and does not, therefore, require to be the subject of a planning condition.
- The footpath from Glen Crescent to Auchenharvie Academy and whether this would have street lighting.
A planning condition has been recommended in the officer's report which requires the applicant to provide in writing details of all external lighting for the site within 12 months of approval. It was noted that this is not a material consideration.
- The loss of sports pitches and whether consultation has been carried out with existing users of the facilities.
No information is available as to whether this consultation was carried out. The range of facilities in the surrounding area would suggest more than adequate availability.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Marshall, moved that the application be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the report.

Councillor Billings recommended that an additional condition be added to ensure that the all-weather pitch is constructed in accordance with sportscotland's minimum requirements.

Councillors Cullinane and Marshall agreed to incorporate the proposed change into their motion.

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to grant the application, subject to the following conditions:-

1. That, prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, a scheme of further intrusive site investigations shall be undertaken, the scope of which shall be adequate to fully assess the ground conditions and inform any required remedial works. Once complete, a report detailing the findings arising from the further intrusive site investigations, including details of the extent and nature of any remedial works, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. Thereafter, any remedial works that are required for ground stability purposes shall be implemented only in accordance with such details as may be approved prior to the commencement of the development.
2. That the development hereby approved shall be implemented in accordance with the recommendations contained in the supporting documentation submitted with the planning application unless otherwise indicated below, all to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
3. That the developer shall secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief for the northeast part of the site, to be carried out by an archaeological organisation acceptable to North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority during the phase of land engineering and site preparation works. The retained archaeological organisation shall be afforded access at all reasonable times and allowed to record and recover items of interest and finds. Terms of Reference for the watching brief shall be supplied by West of Scotland Archaeology Service. The name of the archaeological organisation retained by the developer shall be given to North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority in writing not less than 14 days before the development commences.
4. That the presence of any significant unsuspected contamination that becomes evident during the development of the site shall be brought to the attention of Environmental Health. Thereafter a suitable investigation strategy as agreed with North Ayrshire Council shall be implemented and any necessary remediation works carried out prior to any further development taking place on the site, all to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
5. That, prior to the commencement of any building operations, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority a detailed schedule of the proposed external finishes to be used on the buildings in the development. Thereafter, the development shall be implemented only in accordance with such details as may be approved, unless otherwise agreed in writing with North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.

6. That, within 12 months of the date of approval, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority a scheme of landscaping, which shall include details of species, planting densities, soil treatment and aftercare. Thereafter, the landscaping scheme as may be approved shall be implemented prior to the development becoming operational to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
7. That, within 12 months of the date of approval, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority a biodiversity action plan, which shall include details of bat hibernacula, bird boxes, wildflowers and other measures to promote/safeguard biodiversity and nature conservation. Thereafter, the action plan as may be approved shall be implemented prior to the campus becoming operational to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
8. That, within 12 months of the date of approval, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority details of all external lighting and signposting within the site. Thereafter, the external lighting and signposting scheme as may be approved shall be implemented prior to the campus becoming operational to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
9. That prior to the development becoming operational, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority details of a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Thereafter, the SWMP as may be approved shall be implemented upon the campus becoming operational to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority and reviewed at 5 yearly intervals thereafter, unless otherwise agreed in writing with North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
10. That prior to the development becoming operational, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority details of a Travel Plan for the development. Such a Travel Plan shall include details of active travel proposals for all users of the site and an indication of the measures which shall be undertaken to reduce car journeys. Thereafter, the Travel Plan as may be approved shall be implemented upon the development becoming operational to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority and reviewed at 2 yearly intervals thereafter, unless otherwise agreed in writing with North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.
11. That, prior to the development becoming operational, a right turn lane shall be formed to serve the ASN school access on Boglemart Street, the design of which shall be confirmed with North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority beforehand.
12. That visibility splays of 2.5 metres by 70 metres, in both directions, shall be provided and maintained at the junction of the ASN school access with the public road. No item with a height greater than 1.05 metre above adjacent carriageway level shall be located within these sightline triangles.

13. That, within 12 months of the date of approval, details of a replacement bus shelter and associated hardstanding for the existing eastbound bus stop on Boglemart Street to the south of the application site shall be submitted for the written approval of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority. The hardstanding shall be located to the rear (north) of the existing footway and the shelter type shall be a DDA compliant enclosed 3 bay model (as a minimum) that meets the standards of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). Thereafter, the works shall be implemented in accordance with such details as may be approved prior to the development becoming operational and permanently retained thereafter.
14. That the sports pitches to be provided within the development shall be constructed in accordance with the consultation response of sportscotland dated 8th October 2018, to the satisfaction of North Ayrshire Council as Planning Authority.

The meeting ended at 1.40 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 5 February 2019 – 18
March 2019

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 5 February 2019 – 18 March 2019

Since the last meeting of the Council I have attended various events throughout North Ayrshire.

North Ayrshire Young Musician and Young Singer of the Year, Garnock Campus, 5 February

On 5 February I attended the North Ayrshire Young Musician and Young Singer of the Year event in Garnock Campus. This event was an overwhelming success providing our music students with a platform to showcase their exceptional musical talents.

Elderbanks Burns Supper, Elderbanks Primary School, Irvine, 6 February

I was delighted to join the pupils of Elderbanks Primary School at their Burns Supper on 6 February. This was a thoroughly enjoyable event with pupils celebrating and learning about our National Bard.

Chinese New Year - Reception and Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 9 February

On 9 February, I attended a reception and concert hosted by the Chinese Consul General in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Civic heads and special guests from throughout Scotland were invited to join the Chinese community at this special celebration.

Glasgow Chinese New Year Civic Reception, Glasgow City Chambers, 10 February

The Lord Provost of Glasgow City Council hosted a reception in the City Chambers on 10 February to celebrate Chinese New Year. The Glasgow Chinese New Year Celebration Committee arranged a showcase performance of Chinese culture in George Square on the day. The event, as well as celebrating the Chinese New Year, celebrated cultural diversity here in Scotland.

North Ayrshire Traditional Musician of the Year, Garnock Campus, 13 February

On 13 February, I visited Garnock Campus for the North Ayrshire Traditional Musician of the Year event, it was outstanding. I never fail to be impressed by our talented musicians and those who work so hard behind the scenes to make events like these happen.

Provost's Awards Finalist Event, Saltcoats Town Hall, 19 February

I had the pleasure of attending Provost's Awards Finalist Event in Saltcoats Town Hall on 19 February. This gave me the opportunity to meet all the finalists in each of the five categories prior to the Civic Pride Awards. All were deserving winners and it was an honour to meet those who are willing to make a positive contribution to the community and to the lives of others.

Launch of Arran High Cycle Maintenance Project, Arran High School, 22 February

On 22 February I visited Arran High School for the launch of their innovative Cycle Maintenance Project. The Project is supported by Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Princes Trust Scotland.

Express Yourself: An art exhibition by care-experienced young people in North Ayrshire, Irvine Town House, 28 February

On 28 February I visited the Express Yourself exhibition in Irvine Town House. The project was arranged by Impact Arts and North Ayrshire Throughcare and offered free tuition in creative techniques to young people in North Ayrshire with experience of the care system. The Exhibition showcased their amazing artwork.

Launch of Kilwinning Academy Credit Union Project, Kilwinning Academy, 1 March

I visited Kilwinning Academy on 1 March for the launch of their innovative Credit Union project. Students will work alongside 1st Alliance to develop their skills and knowledge in finance, communication and customer service. The project is supported by Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire and Prince's Trust Scotland and encourages pupils to get involved to develop their employability skills.

Opening of New Beginnings Cafe, Irvine, 6 March

On 6 March I was delighted to officially open the New Beginnings Café in Irvine. The initial idea of opening the Café was first suggested by the young adults who are supported through Cornerstone's Shared Lives Service. They wanted to reach those that are most at risk of isolation within the local community and provide a comfortable, welcoming space for them to come in and enjoy fresh food. The group were part of the whole setting up process from picking a name to designing the menu and have all been trained in health and hygiene, customer service and are taking turns in learning new skills within the café environment. The café has been a success since it first opened and well worth a visit.

Young Rock and Pop Musician of the Year, Civic Centre, Ardrossan, 7 March

I enjoyed an excellent evening of contemporary music at Ardrossan Civic Centre on 7 March where the Young Rock and Pop Musician of the Year event took place. The event, supported by the Ardrossan Music Experience, showcased our talented rock and pop musicians at their very best.

Launch of Largs Picture House Project, Largs Campus, 8 March

On 8 March I was delighted to launch the Largs Picture House Project at Largs Campus. The idea from the project came from pupils and with the support from Developing Young Workforce Ayrshire and Prince's Trust Scotland has become a reality. The project will see the screening of retro films every second Friday which will be open to all the community. The young people have also secured additional funding for the project.

Visit by Elderbank Primary School Pupils, Cunninghame House, 8 March

It was a pleasure to host a visit in Cunninghame House on 8 March from pupils of Elderbank Primary School. I had earlier tasked the pupils to come up with a specific drawing or painting and the winners would get a tour of Cunninghame House and hold a question and answer session with myself.

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Trump Turnberry Hotel, Turnberry, 8 March

I attended this year's Ayrshire Chamber Annual Dinner which was held in Trump Turnberry on 8 March. This was an excellent networking event with many North Ayrshire businesses represented.

St Patrick's Day Reception, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 14 March

On 14 March, Mark Hanniffy, Consul General of Ireland in Scotland together with Enterprise Ireland and Ireland Tourism held a reception in the Assembly Rooms Edinburgh to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. I was delighted to attend this celebration, meet up with my fellow civic heads, make new contacts and be able to promote North Ayrshire to a wider audience.

Provost's Civic Pride Awards, Portal, Irvine, 15 March

The Civic Pride Awards took place on 15 March in the Portal, Irvine. The public again voted in their droves, with over 16,700 votes cast this year, and I had the honour of revealing the winners of each of the five categories before announcing the winner of my own Provost's Award to the guests.

It was a fantastic night yet again, and a fitting celebration of the work being done in our communities by each and every one of our inspirational finalists. We are so fortunate to have these individuals and groups giving their own time so freely to help others, making North Ayrshire an even better place for us all to live and work. The night gave us the opportunity to show our appreciation for all that they do, and we hope that they had a night to remember. We also raised over £9000 which will be split between Cash for Kids and Ayrshire Hospice.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ian Clarkson". The script is fluid and cursive.

Councillor Ian Clarkson

Provost North Ayrshire Council



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 5 February – 18 March
2019

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.

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 5 February – 18 March 2019

VISIT TO PRESTON – COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING, 14 February

I visited Preston on 14 February to hold further discussions with their Council Leader, Councillor Matthew Brown regarding Community Wealth Building. The visit also provided the opportunity for me to visit some of the buildings in the town centre which have been transformed following the social and economic benefits that community wealth building has brought to the area.

I am a strong advocate of Community Wealth Building and am keen to look at this further, as it has the potential to harness wealth more effectively and bring much needed economic, social and environmental benefits for our communities throughout North Ayrshire.

COUNCIL HOUSING SOLAR PANEL REFIT PROGRAMME, 18 February

On 18 February, together with the Cabinet Member for PLACE, Councillor Jim Montgomerie, I visited one of North Ayrshire Council's houses in Stewart Avenue in Irvine, which will benefit from the Council's solar panel refit programme.

North Ayrshire Council is currently fitting solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on up to 500 houses as part of an ongoing commitment to tackle fuel poverty. The initiative will produce major financial benefits for residents who are likely to save up to £115 in the first year alone with continued, annual savings.

Not only will residents reap the financial rewards but the programme will help to tackle the important issues of Fuel Poverty and Climate Change.

VISIT TO ARRAN, 19 February

On 19 February, myself and the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Councillor Alex Gallagher travelled to Arran to attend a business meeting with Sheena Borthwick from the Arran Economic Group and Barry Mochen, Chairman of the Arran Development Trust.

The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss ongoing developments on Arran and also to discuss housing on the island. I am proud of North Ayrshire Council's commitment to build more than 1500 new houses over the coming years as part of our ambitious Strategic Housing Plan (SHIP), with 26 of these being built in Brodick, the first council owned properties to be built there in a generation.

KILWINNING CHARRETTE, 20 February

After securing Scottish Government funding for a Charrette in Kilwinning, I attended the first meeting held on 20 February in Kilwinning Library. It is hoped that the Charrette will help us to engage with the public to identify and renew the Kilwinning Locality Partnership. My thanks to the Kilwinning Charrette team and of course to Neil Fergusson (Ice Cream Architecture), Nick Wright (Nick Wright Planning) and Willie Miller (Urban Design) for your help in taking this forward and valuable input into future planning.

DEPOPULATION MEETING, 22 February

Prior to the start of COSLA Leaders' on 22 February, I and other Council Leaders from Highland and Island authorities, attended a depopulation meeting with the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development, Ben MacPherson. This meeting was in response to a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, Derek Mackay outlining our concerns regarding population decline and its particular impact on the west coast of Scotland.

COSLA LEADERS, 22 February

I attended COSLA Leaders in Edinburgh on 22 February for a meeting to discuss a range of subjects including the Local Government Settlement 2019/20, the Planning Bill (following the amendments at Stage 2), recognizing the rights of the Gypsy/Travelling communities and a post-Brexit Immigration system. It is anticipated that North Ayrshire may see a population decline over the next 20 years and that inward migration will be crucial in helping to combat this. COSLA will continue to lobby and engage with the UK Government, for a post-Brexit immigration system that can meet Scottish Local Government's needs.

CITIZENS BASIC INCOME FEASIBILITY STUDY COUNCILLOR GROUP, 22 February

Following COSLA Leaders on Friday 22 February, I attended a Citizens Basic Income Feasibility Study Group meeting for Councillors from the participating Local Authorities. This is the 3rd time the Group has met and it provided the opportunity for members to discuss the draft Basic Income update Report due to be submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2019. The Group also had the chance to discuss the findings contained in the report entitled "Exploring the practicalities

of a Basic Income pilot” prepared by the Carnegie UK Trust. The Carnegie UK Trust were sponsors of a study visit to the BIEN Congress 2018 held in Finland, a hub of international learning about basic income pilots underway and currently in planning. Much of the findings from the BIEN Congress have been included in the report and make interesting reading.

EXPRESS YOURSELF EXHIBITION, 28 February

On 28 February I visited the “Express Yourself” exhibition at the Townhouse in Irvine with Councillor Robert Foster, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care. The exhibition features the work of young people taking part in Impact Arts’ and North Ayrshire Throughcare Service’s “Express Yourself” project. The project offers free tuition in creative techniques to young people in North Ayrshire with experience of the care system.

I was greatly impressed by some of the work on display which included pieces the group had worked on with artist Laura Froom. Congratulations to all those involved in putting together such an inspiring and thought provoking exhibition.

LAUNCH OF KILWINNING ACADEMY CREDIT UNION PROJECT, 1 March

I was delighted to be invited along to the launch of the Kilwinning Academy Credit Union project on the 1 March. The project is part of the Innovative Schools Project run by Developing Young Workforce (DYW) and the Prince’s Trust Scotland. Kilwinning Academy pupils will now be able to learn key financial and employability skills while at the same time develop community links.

School pupils throughout North Ayrshire always tell me that they need more support with financial education and it is my opinion that there is no better way to do that than via a Credit Union.

ECONOMIC, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION BOARD, 7 March

On 7 March the Economic Development and Regeneration Board met in Cunninghame House and heard updates on regional partnership collaboration and final steps in securing our Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The Board were also provided with an update on Strategic Transport issues and received a presentation from the Fraser of Allander Institute following the issue of their latest economic report. The report provides an assessment of economic key trends for North Ayrshire and takes into consideration the overall Scottish economic and policy context, including Brexit, the Scottish budget and inclusive growth. Regional economic performance is a key focus of the report given the stark levels of regional inequality in Scotland and to provide context to the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Regional Partnership developments.

SIGNING OF HEADS OF TERMS FOR AYRSHIRE GROWTH DEAL, 8 March

It's been a long time coming, but it was a truly momentous day when I joined the Leaders from East and South Ayrshire, together with our respective Chief Executives and other representatives from the Ayrshire Growth Deal team to welcome the Secretary State for Scotland, David Mundell MP and Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity for the signing of the Heads of Terms for the Ayrshire Growth Deal at Ayr College on 8 March.

The signing of the £250 million Ayrshire Growth Deal will mean the delivery of a range of projects throughout Ayrshire including:

- £80m investment into aerospace and space
- £23.5m Ayrshire manufacturing investment corridor
- £21m in i3 area of Irvine
- £16m Ayrshire engineering park
- £14m tourism investment at Irvine harbourside and ardeer peninsula

The vision is for Ayrshire to be a vibrant, outward looking and confident region that is an even better place to live and attractive to investors and visitors. There is huge potential in Ayrshire, one Ayrshire can make a major contribution to Scottish and UK growth.



FAIR FOR ALL ADVISORY PANEL, 13 March

On 13 March I attended the Fair For All Advisory Panel held in the Ardrossan Civic Centre. The panel were provided with an update on the work to date of the Fair For All Steering Group and then heard about some of the place based work that has been happening. It was particularly interesting to hear from some of the different local organisations and people about the work that they are doing in Ardrossan and the impact it is making.

KILWINNING HOUSING OFFICE OPENING CEREMONY, 15 March

I was delighted to attend the opening of the new Kilwinning Housing Office on Friday 15 March. The previous Housing office was no longer fit for purpose, with the location and design making it difficult for staff and tenants to access. This project has allowed the office to be relocated through the renovation of an empty retail unit into a fantastic and modern housing office on the Main Street of Kilwinning. Well done to the Council's Building Services team on carrying out an excellent job and of course, to the Housing Office staff there who did much of the hard work clearing out the old offices.

NORTH AYRSHIRE UNISON BRANCH OFFICE OPENING, 15 March

On 15 March I was invited along to the opening of the North Ayrshire UNISON Branch office in Irvine Royal Academy. Thanks to all those who have taken this forward in particular to Louise McDaid, Branch Secretary for UNISON in North Ayrshire.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Joe Cullinane'.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

27 March 2019

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Development of North Ayrshire Council Plan 2019-2024**

Purpose: To agree a draft Council Plan 2019-2024 for formal consultation.

Recommendation:

- (i) That Council agree the draft Council Plan 2019-2024, attached at Appendix 1, and that formal consultation be undertaken with communities, partners and other agencies.
- (ii) That following the collation and consideration of feedback through formal consultation a final Council Plan be considered for agreement by Council prior to the summer recess.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current Council Plan 2015-2020 is nearing the end of its life-cycle and requires refreshing.
- 1.2 A collaborative approach has been undertaken, working across the Council, to develop revised priority outcomes along with a new vision and mission to form a new Council Plan for the period 2019 to 2024. Community Engagement has helped further inform and develop this work enabling the creation of a draft Council Plan 2019-2024 (attached at Appendix 1) for consideration and formal consultation with communities, partners and other agencies.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Plan is the Council's most important strategic document setting out our vision for the area and key priorities to support achievement. In turn these priorities will form the key basis upon which we allocate and target resources over the next five years.
- 2.2 Our current Council Plan was approved at a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council in March 2015 and set out the Council's Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities for 2015–2020 as detailed below:

Mission

“To improve the lives of North Ayrshire people and develop stronger communities”.

Vision

“To be a leading organisation defined by excellence and innovative services”.

Strategic Priorities

- Growing our economy, increasing employment and regenerating towns.
- Working together to develop stronger communities.
- Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work.
- Supporting all of our people to stay safe, healthy and active.
- Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.

2.3 A collaborative approach has been taken to develop a new Council Plan for the period 2019-2024. This has included Chief Officer Development Workshops, wider staff Leadership Conference, the Executive Leadership Team and with Elected Members through the Policy Advisory Panel.

2.4 Further public engagement was undertaken during January, alongside work to inform the budget setting exercise for 2019/20, to ascertain views on a revised vision, mission, strategic themes and priority outcomes. This included presentation and discussion at each of the six Locality Planning Partnership meetings, an online questionnaire and face-to-face discussions in community buildings. Further promotion of the opportunity to comment was made through social and traditional media channels, partner websites, community engagement reference networks and in Council buildings.

2.5 Over 750 responses were received through the engagement work. 91% of respondents supported the priority outcomes, the most important priorities overall were:

- Children and Young People experience the best start in life (28.3%)
- Active and strong communities (16.5%)
- People enjoy good life-long health and well-being (13.7%)
- People and communities are safe (11.6%)
- Affordable, modern and well-designed housing that meets residents' needs (8.3%)
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy (8%)
- Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places (5.5%)
- A sustainable environment (4.6%)
- Effective infrastructure and digital connectivity (3.4%)

Further qualitative 'free text' responses were used to refine priorities and help inform actions for delivery for each of the priority outcomes.

2.6 A key element of the developing Council Plan is our relationship with communities seeking to empower, enable and support them in developing service delivery that meets their need. The engagement process also asked how communities and the Council could work better together and where, with the right approach, communities could develop initiatives and undertake work and tasks.

2.7 Following collation and consideration of feedback a draft Council Plan has been completed for agreement and formal consultation with communities, partners and other agencies pending final agreement of a new Plan prior to the summer recess.

2.8 The Council's Vision and Mission in the draft Plan are:

Vision – A North Ayrshire that is 'Fair For All'.

Mission – Working together to improve well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire.

2.9 The draft Plan is constructed around three strategic themes. The first two are outward looking whilst the third sets out how this Council will work moving forward. This forms the basis of our approach to transformation

- **Aspiring Communities** – A society where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

Priority Outcomes:

- North Ayrshire has active and strong communities.
- North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life.
- North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy.
- North Ayrshire's residents and communities enjoy good, life-long health and well-being.
- North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe.

- **Inspiring Place** – An enterprising, vibrant and sustainable environment, appealing to investors, attractive for visitors and a place our residents are proud to live and work in.

Priority Outcomes:

- North Ayrshire is well connected with effective infrastructure.
- North Ayrshire has homes that meet our residents' needs.
- North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment.
- North Ayrshire is a sustainable environment.

- **A Council for the Future** – Our Council is forward-thinking – motivated to transform and improve services for our communities through innovation, reshaping our approach and focusing investment to our priorities.

Priority Outcomes:

- An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do.
- An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money.
- A valued workforce that delivers high quality services.
- A powerful and respected voice.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 (i) That Council agree the draft Council Plan 2019-2024, attached at Appendix 1, and that formal consultation be undertaken with communities, partners and other agencies.

(ii) That following the collation and consideration of feedback through formal consultation a final Council Plan be considered for agreement by Council prior to the summer recess.

4. Implications

Financial:	The Plan will set the priorities for investment and allocation of resources over the next five years.
Human Resources:	The Plan recognises the important role of our workforce in achieving our ambitions.
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality:	Treating people respectfully, fairly and equally is included as key to the delivery of our strategic priorities.
Children and Young People:	Children and Young People form one of the key priorities within the Plan.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The environment and sustainability form key priorities within the Plan.
Key Priorities:	The Council Plan will set the Council's key strategic priorities for the future.
Community Benefits:	The role of the community will be key to successful delivery of the Plan.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Engagement has taken place with Chief Officers, a range of Managers via the Council's regular Leadership Conference programme, Elected Members and communities.
- 5.2 Further consultation will now take place with communities, partners and other interested parties.



Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Craig Hatton, Chief Executive** on **01294 324124**.

Background Papers

North Ayrshire Council Plan 2015-2020

A COUNCIL
THAT IS FAIR
FOR ALL



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



A COUNCIL THAT IS FAIR FOR ALL

Our Council Plan sets out our ambitions, vision and mission for the next five years - but we want it to be so much more than that. We want our Council Plan to tell you about the kind of Council we are, what we stand for, what we value and what makes us tick.

We want you to know what drives us to deliver the best possible services we can for you - our residents and communities.

It's no secret that we are hugely ambitious for our people, our places and our economy. We will do everything within our power to be bold, innovative and pioneering, so we can attract investment, create employment and build a North Ayrshire which makes us proud.



FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

So what does make us tick? Well that's simple - fairness and equity. We strive for a North Ayrshire where everyone has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

We value a North Ayrshire which has kindness and community spirit at its heart, where we look out for our neighbours and vulnerable members of our community and we take pride in our towns and villages. A place where we all play our part in shaping our lives and our future.

We're absolutely committed to supporting our young people and we'll do all we can to make sure their voice is heard loud and clear. We'll make sure everything we do is firmly centred on their well-being as well as their hopes, dreams and ambitions.

And finally, we'll back our businesses to be the best. By investing locally and spending locally, we'll play our part in making sure our economy is strong and supports vital jobs.

We hope that sounds like the kind of Council you value and chimes with the type of society you would like to live in.

We recognise that these are our ideas, you may have different thoughts and alternative views - that's a good thing. We want to hear your views. So please join us and help shape an ambitious North Ayrshire that is fair for all as we set out our Council Plan for the next five years.

You can comment on North Ayrshire Council's plan at: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/councilplan

We will also make paper copies available in libraries, community buildings and public offices.



Our Vision:-

A North Ayrshire that is 'Fair for All'.

Our Mission:-

Working together to improve well-being, prosperity and equity in North Ayrshire.

Our Council:

- ▶ Recognises there is strength in doing things together.
- ▶ Engages with, listens to and supports communities to be active partners in what we do.
- ▶ Believes in fairness, tackles inequality and bases its decisions on these values.
- ▶ Is ambitious, determined and committed to improving North Ayrshire.
- ▶ Acts early taking a preventative approach.
- ▶ Focuses resources towards our priority outcomes.
- ▶ Innovates and drives positive change, embracing technology, to provide valued and cost effective services for our communities.
- ▶ Makes sure its voice is heard – locally, regionally and nationally – to influence decision-making and to attract investment.

VISION
MISSION





266
new business
start-ups

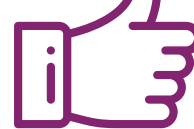
644
businesses supported in
2017/18



1,243
jobs created
by Council's Business
Development Service
in two years

81%

of our customers
were delighted with
the Customer
Service they received



community asset
transfers completed
in three years

OVER
95%



of school leavers go into
further education,
training or employment.



91%
increase

in the number of unemployed
people who have progressed to
employment through Council -
funded or operated schemes over
the last three years.



TARGET OF
1,732
new build social homes by
MARCH
2024

(1,176 NAC, 556 RSLs).

260 new homes have been
completed so far



received in external
funding for
employability and
regeneration
projects in
2017/18

Over
£5million



24%

reduction in our carbon
emissions over the last
five years through 'green'
projects such as district
heating systems, solar
panels, electric car
chargers, LED lampposts
and pool cars.

7th in Scotland

for recycling with almost
56% of household waste
recycled in 2017 -
35,121 tonnes, that's
equivalent to



2,780
double decker
buses



almost
800

community groups accessing support
and guidance in 2017/18

35% increase in
three years

Over £1million

put back into the pockets of
our most vulnerable
residents through

Better Off
North
Ayrshire



Ageing population
30,000

people are currently aged 65+ and this
is likely to increase to 35,000 within
10 years - that will be a quarter of
our population



children are living in poverty
in North Ayrshire

North Ayrshire's
unemployment rate is

5.7%

it's halved in
5 years from

12.2%

CHALLENGES

Life expectancy
gap between
wealthiest and
poorest areas



males
17.6
year gap



females
7.5
year gap

SECTOR LEADING COUNCIL POLICIES

Overall Council
of the Year 2017



First to commit
to becoming a



1st

for eradicating period poverty
by providing free sanitary
products in all council buildings



First to create holiday hunger
programmes to provide food
and activities for school pupils

First to establish Health
and Social Care Partnership



First to exempt care-
experienced young
people from Council
Tax until they
reach the

age of 26



First to provide rent exemption to care-
experienced students living in Council
housing

First to provide our
own counsellors in
every secondary
school to support
pupils' mental
health and wellbeing



First to remove the 'extra room'
criteria for Foster Carers



- allowing all residents to apply

We all want to live in a North Ayrshire we can be proud of – a place where no one lives in poverty, where our economy is growing, building wealth and prosperity for everyone and we support each other. A caring society which values kindness and fairness, where we actively look out for our neighbours, our communities our towns and villages and we all contribute and do our bit.

It's therefore only natural that our priorities reflect this vision and are centred on our people and places.

To help deliver our Council Plan, we need a fresh approach and a closer relationship with you, our communities and residents. We need everyone's help to make positive change happen.

Here are our priorities:

Aspiring Communities

- ▶ Active and strong communities
- ▶ Children and young people experience the best start in life
- ▶ Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- ▶ People enjoy good life-long health and well-being
- ▶ People and communities are safe

Inspiring Place

- ▶ Effective infrastructure and digital connectivity
- ▶ Affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs
- ▶ Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places
- ▶ A sustainable environment

OUR
PRIORITIES



Aspiring Communities

A society where everyone, has the same life chances to grow, prosper and have fulfilling and healthy lives.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire has active and strong communities

- ▶ We will build stronger relationships between the council, communities and partners.
- ▶ We will co-produce a local charter with our communities which sets out the things we jointly commit to do for each other, to help each other create a better North Ayrshire.
- ▶ We will extend our participatory approach, offering communities more opportunities to lead in local decision-making.
- ▶ We will support communities to achieve what's important to them through strong local networks.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life

- ▶ We will expand our early learning and childcare provision to make sure all eligible children are able to access 1140 hours of free care each year.
- ▶ We will support our children and young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- ▶ We will offer opportunities to our young people and their families to play a more active role in school life and encourage more participation in learning opportunities.
- ▶ We will work with our young people to build their resilience, supporting their mental and physical well-being.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe

- ▶ We will work with partners to support our vulnerable residents and communities.
- ▶ We will extend the 'Housing First' pilot to help reduce homelessness.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy

- ▶ We will work with schools, colleges, universities, businesses and partners to deliver education, skills and training, helping people into work and sustaining employment.
- ▶ We will make sure that everyone has the ability and knowledge to participate in the digital world.
- ▶ We will support our local businesses to become more innovative and competitive.
- ▶ We will promote fair employment practices.
- ▶ We will develop and implement a Community Wealth Building strategy.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire's residents and communities enjoy good life-long health and well-being

- ▶ We will tackle poverty and inequality throughout our society.
- ▶ We will continue our work with partners, including the Scottish Government, to pilot a Basic Income scheme.
- ▶ We will let people decide how best to manage their own care needs and support people to live in their own homes for as long as possible.
- ▶ We will work with individuals and communities to support positive lifestyle choices which improve health and wellbeing.

WE KNOW WE WILL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WHEN...

- ▶ Local decision making has increased, enabling communities to address their local priorities.
- ▶ Educational outcomes for all young people have improved and the attainment gap has closed.
- ▶ The number of school leavers going into further education, apprenticeships or jobs has increased.
- ▶ The number of children living in poverty has reduced.
- ▶ The value of spend with local businesses has increased.
- ▶ There are more jobs and more people taking part in training.
- ▶ More people are supported to live independently at home.
- ▶ More people, who were previously homeless, sustain their tenancy.



Inspiring Place

An enterprising, vibrant and sustainable environment, appealing to investors, attractive for visitors and a place where our residents are proud to live and work.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire is well-connected with effective infrastructure

- ▶ We will provide well-maintained travel and transport networks, supporting alternative and sustainable transport.
- ▶ We will work with partners to make sure there is sustained investment in our roads, ports and harbour infrastructure to ensure that travel is resilient and reliable.
- ▶ We will work with partners to extend public wi-fi and improve our digital connectivity.
- ▶ We will manage an appropriately-sized, fit-for purpose, energy-efficient and digitally-enabled property portfolio, including our schools.
- ▶ We will attract investment, through the Ayrshire Growth Deal and other means, to support regeneration and job creation at our key development sites of i3 Irvine, Hunterston, Lochshore, Ardrossan Marine Quarter and the Irvine Great Harbour.
- ▶ We will support our communities to maximise the use of community assets (including our schools) and encourage Community Asset Transfers.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire has homes that meet our residents needs

- ▶ With our social landlord partners, we will build new, modern, energy-efficient homes for life, tailored to the needs of tenants.
- ▶ We will actively promote a mix of homes by facilitating private housing development.
- ▶ We will work with property owners and landlords to make sure our private housing is suitable for the needs of our residents.
- ▶ We will form a partnership with other councils to introduce a low-cost energy offer.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire is a sustainable environment

- ▶ We will support a circular economy by re-using, recycling and generating energy from the waste we manage.
- ▶ We will develop additional low carbon renewable energy schemes and networks.
- ▶ We will protect our communities by delivering the Local Flood Risk Management Plan, the Shoreline Management Plan and the Millport and Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Schemes.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment

- ▶ We will provide well-kept public places and town centres which will benefit our residents, visitors and businesses.
- ▶ We will, where possible, bring empty properties back into use.
- ▶ We will work with communities to improve the quality of the local environment through a participatory approach.
- ▶ We will develop North Ayrshire as a coastal and island destination, attracting tourism investment and visitors.

WE KNOW WE WILL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WHEN...

- ▶ The condition of our roads, buildings and homes has improved.
- ▶ The number of new homes constructed has increased.
- ▶ The quality of homes, meeting the needs of our residents and future residents, has improved.
- ▶ The appearance of the area has improved.
- ▶ Carbon emissions have reduced.
- ▶ Residents spend less of their income on heating their homes and fuel poverty is reduced.
- ▶ More people visit the area.



A Council for the Future

Our Council is forward thinking - motivated to transform and improve the services we provide for our communities, through innovation and reshaping our approach. We will focus investment towards our priorities.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do

- ▶ We will work with communities and key stakeholders to radically review what we do and how we do it, to deliver cost-effective services.
- ▶ We will provide joined-up services across the Council and with partner agencies and communities.
- ▶ We will use technology to improve access to and delivery of our services.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money

- ▶ We will focus on early intervention and prevention to manage demand for services.
- ▶ We will use our spending power to drive value, maximising the opportunity to support communities and local businesses.
- ▶ We will use the principles of municipal entrepreneurship, by making the most of our assets, increasing the income we generate and creating fair employment.
- ▶ We will seek to secure external funding to support our priorities.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

A valued workforce that delivers high quality services

- ▶ We will empower and invest in our workforce to develop new and innovative ways of working.
- ▶ We will support our workforce to be customer-focussed, aiming to get it right first time.

PRIORITY OUTCOME:

A powerful and respected voice

- ▶ We will make our case nationally, regionally and locally to secure investment to support delivery of our priorities.
- ▶ We will work with partners nationally, regionally and locally to align their strategies and resources to support our priorities.

WE KNOW WE WILL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL WHEN...

- ▶ Satisfaction with Council services has improved.
- ▶ Self-service transactions have increased.
- ▶ We attract more investment to the area.
- ▶ We have financially-sustainable service delivery models.

A COUNCIL FOR
THE FUTURE



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Our Council:

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- ▶ Makes sure its voice is heard – locally, regionally and nationally – to influence decision-making and to attract investment.

SHAPING NORTH AYRSHIRE

Our Priorities

Aspiring Communities

Priorities

- ▶ Active and strong communities.
- ▶ Children and young people experience the best start in life.
- ▶ Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy.
- ▶ People enjoy good life-long health and well-being.
- ▶ People and communities are safe.

Key Measures

- ▶ Value of decisions taken by communities through participation.
- ▶ Educational attainment and pupils entering further education, training or employment.
- ▶ Children living in poverty.
- ▶ People in work and training.
- ▶ People supported to live independently at home.
- ▶ Repeat homelessness.

Inspiring Place

Priorities

- ▶ Effective infrastructure and digital connectivity.
- ▶ Affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meets residents' needs.
- ▶ Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places.
- ▶ A sustainable environment.

Key Measures

- ▶ Condition of roads, buildings and homes.
- ▶ New homes constructed.
- ▶ Quality of homes.
- ▶ Visitor numbers.
- ▶ Appearance of the area.
- ▶ Carbon emissions.
- ▶ Fuel poverty.

Valuing and investing in our workforce to deliver our services with Passion, Focus and Inspiration.

