

Cabinet  
29 September 2015

**IRVINE, 29 September 2015** - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

**Also Present**

Donald Reid.

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management) G. Macgregor, Head of Service (Customer, People and Corporate Support) and E. Gunn-Stewart, Customer Services Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director, R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial), Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) and D. Hammond, Senior Manager (Energy and Sustainability); I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth); A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager (Economy and Communities); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, M. Sugden, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Chair**

Councillor Burns in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Alan Hill and Willie Gibson.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **3. Customer Service Strategy Update**

Submitted report and received presentation by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support) updating on progress with the implementation of the Customer Service Strategy and outlining future plans.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- methods for defining and measuring accuracy;
- the implications for those less able to channel shift to online application methods; and
- the new telephony system and the potential for a further reduction in the time taken to answer calls.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the strategic approach as outlined in the report and presentation; and (b) note the progress to date.

### **4. North Ayrshire Renewables Strategy**

Submitted report and received presentation by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed implementation of the North Ayrshire Renewable Energy Strategy, including a series of renewable energy projects and key policy recommendations.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- the implications for the HRA in association with the proposed District Heating Project;
- whether the Peterborough City and Aberdeenshire Council projects benefitted Council tenants;
- the retrofit social housing rooftops project being spread across all of North Ayrshire;
- the nomination of the Senior Manager (Energy and Sustainability) as the Council representative on the Arran Community Energy Board; and
- the straight talking event to be held on 26 October 2015 at Greenwood Conference Centre.

The Cabinet agreed (a) the North Ayrshire Renewable Energy Strategy for implementation, including the project recommendations at paragraph 2.5 of the report, subject to (i) the availability of capital funding; and (ii) further discussion with the Business Planning Implementation Group regarding those project which fall within the HRA; and (b) that the Senior Manager (Energy and Sustainability) represent the Council on the Arran Community Energy Board.

## **5. Public Performance Reporting 2014/15**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) provided information on the Accounts Commission's evaluation of Council performance information for 2013/14; (b) provided information on the Council's performance against the four Council objectives; and (c) set out a draft Annual Council Performance Report 2014/15, incorporating the end of year Council Plan Action Plan 14/15 progress report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the Account Commission's Evaluation of the Council's public performance reporting for 13/14; (b) note the status of the Council's performance indicators at Appendices B and C to the report; (c) approve the draft Annual Performance Report 2014/15 set out at Appendix D; and (d) note that the report will be referred to Scrutiny and Petitions for further consideration.

## **6. East Road South Car Park, East Road, Irvine**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the appropriation of land presently held in Irvine Common Good for the purpose of car parking for the New Leisure Centre.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the transfer of the land to the Council's General Fund Balance Sheet; and (b) to authorise the payment of the sum of £14,500 to Irvine Common Good.

## **7. Capital Monitoring to 31 July 2015**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support) which provided information on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 31 July 2015.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.8 of the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 31 July 2015; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2016.

## **8. Revenue Budget 2015/16 : Budgetary Control Statement to 31 July 2015**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 31 July 2015; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 8; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 9; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 31 January 2015 at Appendix 10.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership and the requirement to take corrective action to deliver services within available resources; (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 9; and (d) approve the new carry forwards identified at section 2.3 (vii).

## **9. Consultation Response: Pension Tax Relief Proposals**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support) on the Council's consultation response to HM Treasury proposals to review pensions tax relief, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the draft consultation response for submission to the UK Treasury on behalf of North Ayrshire Council.

## **10. Council Housing Rents - Moving to a 52 Week Rent Charge**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposal that a consultation exercise be undertaken with tenants in relation to rents and other housing charges being collected over 52 weeks, rather than the existing 48 weeks, from the start of the 2016/17.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the consultation exercise with tenants on the collection of rents and other housing related charges as detailed in the report.

## **11. Libraries Review: Consultation on Proposed Changes to Library Opening Hours**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the proposed Consultation Mandate and a planned period of consultation in relation to library opening hours.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the consultation mandate; and (b) to remit to the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to undertake the proposed consultation as detailed in the report.

## **12. Locality Planning Approach**

Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the consultation mandate for the Locality Planning Approach and on proceeding to consultation with stakeholders.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the consultation mandate for the Locality Planning Approach in North Ayrshire; (b) remit to the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to proceed to consult with stakeholders as detailed in the report; and (c) receive a report on the outcome of the consultation in early 2016.

## **13. Creating a Fairer Scotland: Employability Support: North Ayrshire Council Response to the Consultation**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on the future of employability and the use of devolved powers, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Council's response to the Creating a Fairer Scotland: Employability Support consultation.

#### **14. Exclusion of the Public**

The Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following items of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

##### **14.1 Selection of Preferred Bidder for the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) providing an update in relation to the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project.

The Cabinet agreed the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 4.05 p.m.