

Cabinet
27 September 2016

IRVINE, 27 September 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 3.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie.

Also Present

Donald Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; C. Hatton, Executive Director and C. Nelson, Divisional Manager (Place); I. Colvin, Director of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership; M. Hogg, Head of Finance, D. Forbes, Senior Manager - Financial Management and M. McTeague, Category Manager/Team Leader - Supplies and Services (Finance and Corporate Support); C. MacAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager (Economy and Communities); A. McClelland, Senior Manager (Education and Youth Employment); J. Hutcheson, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara.

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 13 September 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Revenue Budget 2016/17: Financial Performance to 31 July 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 31 July 2016; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 10; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 11; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 31 July 2016 at Appendix 12.

Councillor Cullinane proposed that the £1.756m underspend detailed at section 3.1(b) be utilised for the Learning Environment at Kilwinning, Irvine Royal and Auchenharvie Academies. The proposal was unanimously supported by Cabinet Members.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the transfer of £1.756m to the Learning Environment for Kilwinning, Irvine Royal and Auchenharvie Academies; (c) approve the carry forward of £0.189m identified at section 2.3 (viii); (d) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; and (e) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 11.

4. Capital Programme Performance to 31 July 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 31 July 2016.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the higher level of SFT funding secured for Largs Academy which has reduced the original anticipated amount of borrowing.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.5 and 2.7 of the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure and revised budgets to 31 July 2016; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2017.

5. Submission of Evidence: A Scottish Approach to Taxation

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on North Ayrshire's submission to the Scottish Government's Call for Evidence on A Scottish Approach to Taxation centering around 7 main questions. The full response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the process in connection with any clarity which would be received from the Scottish Government once consultation responses are reviewed.

The Cabinet agreed to submit Appendix 1 as North Ayrshire's submission to the Scottish Government's Call for Evidence on A Scottish Approach to Taxation.

6. Submission of Evidence on the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on North Ayrshire's submission to the Scottish Government's Call for Evidence on the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016 centering around 4 main questions. The full response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to submit Appendix 1 as North Ayrshire's submission to the Scottish Government's Call for Evidence on the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016.

7. Sundry Write Off

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised of sundry debtor write offs under delegated powers; and (b) requested authority to write off balances which exceed the delegated powers threshold of £10,000.

The Cabinet agreed to authorise the write off of balances over £10,000, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

8. North Ayrshire Economic Development and Regeneration (EDR) Strategy Refresh

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the refreshed Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy outlining 4 strategic outcomes and 6 strategic objectives as detailed in the report; and (ii) associated 2 year action plans. The full Strategy Refresh document was attached at Appendix 1 to the report with the draft final action plan detailed at Appendix 2.

Members indicated their appreciation for the work carried out by Officers in connection with the refreshed Strategy.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the refreshed North Ayrshire Economic Development and regeneration (EDR) Strategy and the 2 year actions place as detailed in the report.

9. Public Realm Improvements Associated with Largs Masterplan

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the proposals for the implementation of the Largs Masterplan following a review of priorities as detailed in the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to other possible funding sources which could be accessed to take forward the additional improvement works detailed at Table 2 within the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of the review of priorities for implementation of the Largs Masterplan; (b) approve the proposed improvements utilising funds from the town centre regeneration capital budget; and (c) note the additional improvement works which require to be funded from an alternative source of funding such as Largs Car Park.

10. Ayrshire Growth Deal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and on the submission of the Strategic Business Case (SBC) to the Scottish and UK Governments, including a range of projects with North Ayrshire as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Members indicated their appreciation for the work carried out by Officers in connection with the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The Cabinet agreed to the submission of the Ayrshire Growth Deal Strategic Business Case to the Scottish and UK Governments.

11. Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the flood protection scheme for the Upper Garnock Valley and requesting that Cabinet consider taking "a preliminary decision to confirm" the scheme with unresolved objections as detailed in the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) take a preliminary decision to confirm the preferred scheme with unresolved objections; and (b) notify objectors and the Scottish Government in line with the process detailed at section 2.12 of the report.

12. Widening Asylum Dispersal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the UK Government's plans to widen Asylum Dispersal in Scotland.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the range of services provided by the multi-agency Syrian Refugee Task force in relation to providing a strategic response to the resettlement of refugees.

The Cabinet agreed that Officers develop for further consideration proposals with the Home Office and COSLA to disperse asylum seekers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children, within North Ayrshire.

13. Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2016/17 and 2017/18

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2016/17 and requirements identified for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The Cabinet agreed to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed in the plan detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

14. Award of Framework - Print Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender for the Framework Agreement for Print Services and seek approval to award.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to legislation limiting the length of time of a contract to 4 years.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the Framework Agreement to Brown Bros (Irvine) Ltd, Fasprint Services (Irvine) Ltd, MacKay and Inglis Ltd, Potts Print (UK), Print Plus (UK) Ltd, Publicity Printing Group, The Kestrel Press (Irvine) Ltd and CG Print Ltd for a period of four years at a total estimated cost of £671,000 over the maximum duration of the contract.

15. Award of Contract - Saltcoats Public Realm Improvement Works

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the outcome of the tender exercise and award of contract for Saltcoats Public Realm Improvement Works, Countess Street, Saltcoats.

The Cabinet noted the award of the contract to Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited in line with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts clause 18.7.

The meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.