

Cabinet  
20 April 2015

**Irvine, 20 April 2015** - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson and Ruth Maguire; Elizabeth Highton and Mark Fraser (Church Representatives) (Agenda Item 3) and Erin McAuley (Youth Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

**Also Present**

Donald Reid.

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, S. Humphries, Senior Manager (Revenue and Benefits), T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and D. Hammond, Senior Manager (Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) (Economy and Communities); I. Colvin, Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools) and L. Santarosa, Research Officer (Education and Youth Employment); C. Hatton, Executive Director, R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial Services) and D. Mackay, Waste Services Manager (Place); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, M. Davison, Senior Manager (Democratic Services), S. Ross, Senior Manager (Service Reform), A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

**Also In Attendance**

P. Craig, Audit Scotland.

**Chair**

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

Tony Gurney and Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus

**1. Order of Business**

The Cabinet, in terms of Standing Order 9.2, agreed to the withdrawal of Agenda Item 8 - Irvine Enterprise Area Strategic Investment Site – Purchase of Land and Investment in Infrastructure.

**2. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed Caitriona McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth), Thelma Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health) and Margaret Davison, Senior Manager (Democratic Services) to their first meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

### **4. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **5. Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2014**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations of 2014, including the current position in relation to improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (Appendices 1a- 1d); Improving Attainment for All (Appendices 2a - 2d); Attainment vs. Deprivation (Appendices 3a - 3b); and Increasing Post-School Participation (Appendix 4).

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

- the continued work with Ayrshire College and across schools to provide a wider range of option choices for senior phase pupils; and
- different data sets used in the online performance evaluation tool (INSIGHT) and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) analysis that has resulted in a statistical discrepancy in respect of the percentage of school leavers moving into positive destinations three months after their school leaving date.

The Cabinet agreed to note the content of the report and the achievements of school leavers in last year's SQA examinations and the measures being taken to improve attainment in 2015-16.

## **6. Directorate Plans 2015/18**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council's Directorate Plans for 2015/18.

Services have produced their Directorate Plans for 2015/18 in accordance with the revised Directorate Planning and Budgeting Guidance. There are five Directorate Plans in total, as set out in the Appendices to the report. Appendix 6 provided information on the Social Services and Health Service Plan that has been replaced with the Strategic Plan 2015/18 which was approved by the North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board at its meeting on 2 April 2015.

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

### Place

- processes in place to manage and resolve customer complaints; and
- the provision of an annual complaints report that provides information on the volumes and trends of complaints and the improvement actions undertaken by Services.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the five Directorate Plans 2015/18 as set out at Appendices 1 - 5; (b) receive 6-monthly progress reports; (c) to note the Strategic Plan of North Ayrshire Integration Joint Board; and (d) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for further scrutiny.

## **7. Performance Management Strategy**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the revised Performance Management Strategy (Appendix 1) which focuses on continuing to support and underpin the Council's Good to Great journey by embedding a high performance management culture across the Council.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the refreshed Performance Management Strategy; and (b) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration on the 27 May 2015.

## **8. North Ayrshire Council - Benchmarking**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the Local Government Benchmarking data for 2013/14, including key themes that have emerged from the data at a national level; and (b) the improvements North Ayrshire Council is making across all groups of indicators.

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

- an examination of the indicator in respect of the costs of parks and open spaces per 1000 population that has not performed as well as other councils; and
- further work that requires to be done to improve performance in relation to the indicator for A, B and C class roads that should be considered for maintenance

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the current position with the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF); (ii) that the Framework is being used to support continuous improvement and self-evaluation by the Council; and (iii) the performance and progress achieved in moving from a Good to Great council; (b) receive a future report detailing the work undertaken across the full suite of indicators used by Council services detailing how we intend to improve further in 2015/16; and (c) refer the report to Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its information.

## **9. Revenue Estimates 2015/16 - Common Good and Trusts**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the anticipated annual income and expenditure in respect of the Common Good Funds and Trusts administered by North Ayrshire Council, and the proposed levels of grant funding to be made available for disbursement in 2015/16.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the 2015/16 revenue estimates for (i) the Common Good Funds of Ardrossan, Irvine, Largs, Millport, Saltcoats and Stevenston and (ii) the Spier's Trust, the Margaret Archibald Trust and the Town Trusts; (b) delegate authority for approval of the individual disbursements from all Common Good and Trusts to the Area Committees, provided that the annual budgeted level of expenditure is not breached; (c) invest cash received from the redemption of government stock in the Council's loans fund; and (d) to delegate authority to the Area Committees for approving proposals in relation to dormant trusts later in the year.

## **10. Corporate Social Responsibility**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) on the proposed Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (Appendix 1) and the Action Plan (Appendix 2) which will allow the Council to capture, monitor and report on how the Council approach Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy and Action Plan as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

## **11. Welfare Reform activity in 2014/15**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the actions taken in 2014/15 to mitigate the welfare reforms contained in the Welfare Reform Act 2012; and (b) progress made against the Council's Welfare Reform Action Plan, as outlined in the appendix to the report.

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

- the estimated number of people who will claim Universal Credit in North Ayrshire during 2015/16;
- the payment of Universal Credit one month in arrears and the availability of advance payments;
- arrangements in place by a variety of organisations to provide customers with the support they require to complete an online application form and personal budgetary support;
- the development of an automated solution to transfer Universal Credit award information to Councils by September 2015;
- processes in place between Jobcentre Plus and Universal Credit Service Centres to process applications;
- monitoring and evaluation of the turnaround times of the Universal Credit Service Centres; and
- work by the Welfare Reform Working Group to progress the Council's welfare reform action plan.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the welfare reform activity in 2014/15; (ii) the progress made against the welfare reform action plan as set out the appendix to the report; and (iii) that a Universal Credit Delivery Partnership Agreement has been entered into with the Department for Work and Pensions for 2015/16.

## **12. Local Scrutiny Plan 2015/16**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the Local Scrutiny Plan for 2015/16 (Appendix 1) prepared by the Local Area Network of external scrutiny bodies; and (b) that no scrutiny risks had been identified for North Ayrshire which required specific scrutiny in the year ahead. Pau Craig of Audit Scotland spoke to the terms of the report and advised that the overall position was positive.

Noted.

### **13. Audit Scotland Report: An Overview of Local Government in Scotland 2015**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the recent Audit Scotland report (Appendix 1) on how local authorities are responding to the main challenges that they face; and (b) Audit Scotland's recommendations for Councillors (Appendix 2)

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report; (ii) the current position in North Ayrshire; and (iii) further actions being taken to address the issues within the report.

### **14. Glasgow Prestwick Airport Spaceport Bid**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the UK Government's proposals for the UK's first spaceport, and the Glasgow Prestwick Airport Spaceport (GPA) bid.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the operation of Prestwick Airport as a spaceport alongside the existing commercial airport.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) recent developments in the UK Government's spaceport site selection process; and (ii) the recent actions undertaken to advance the GPA bid.

### **15. Update: Waste Management Strategy 2012 - 2016**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) the implementation of the Council's Waste Management Strategy 2012 - 2016; (b) details of the key actions for the development of services to meet the targets and objectives of the Scottish Government's national waste agenda; and (c) statistical information in respect of the household waste recycling performance (Appendix 1).

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

- the recording of information in relation to domestic waste management; and
- work by the Waste Awareness Team to guide and support residents to reduce, reuse and recycle more of the waste they generate.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the progress made with the implementation of the Council's Waste Management Strategy; (ii) the current position with the development of a Waste Management Strategy for Arran; (iii) the progress to date with the Clyde Valley Waste Partnership in procuring residual waste treatment facilities; and (iv) the creation of a national Zero Waste Task Force and the work streams being progressed to create a more circular economy.

**16. North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) Medium Term Financial Plan - Due Diligence and Risks**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the current position with the financial governance, planning and management in respect of the Health and Social Care Partnership; (b) the key issues that the Council requires to be alert to as the Partnership becomes operational; and (c) the potential future financial implications of the 2015/16 to 2017/18 budget of the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the due diligence undertaken in establishing the NAHSCP budget for 2015/16 to 2017/18; (b) the risks associated with the current level of funding and the potential future financial implications for North Ayrshire Council; and (c) future financial monitoring and reporting.

**17. Award of Contract - Replacement of Central Heating and combined Central Heating and Electrical Re-wiring to various dwelling locations within North Ayrshire**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the tender exercise for the replacement of Central Heating and combined Central Heating and Electrical Re-wiring to various dwelling locations within North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to McTear Contracts Ltd. at a cost of £2,672.963.81.

**18. Award of Contract - Framework Agreement for the Provision of Mechanical and Electrical Design Consultancy Services**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the tender exercise for the renewal of the framework agreement for the provision of Mechanical and Electrical Design Consultancy Services.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the work of the Community Benefit Officer in monitoring the delivery of community benefits.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the award of the framework agreement to the Hawthorne Boyle Partnership, Clancy Consulting Ltd, Forbes Leslie Network T/A FLN Consulting Engineers and Hulley & Kirkwood Consulting Engineers Ltd; and (b) note that the sum of £1,000,000 is included in the Council's General Services Capital and Revenue budgets to meet the costs of any requirements arising from the framework agreement.

**19. Physical Environment Advisory Panel: Minute of the meeting held on 9 March 2015**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minute of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 9 March 2015.

Noted.

**20. 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee and Corporate Health and Safety Group: Draft Minutes of meetings held on 16 March 2015**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the draft minutes of the 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee and Corporate Health and Safety Group held on 16 March 2015.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 4.35 p.m.