

Cabinet
29 January 2013

IRVINE, 29 January 2013 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, John Ferguson and Alex McLean

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; I. Colvin, Corporate Director (Social Services and Health); L. Friel, Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Corporate Director (Development and Environment); A. Sutton, Head of Service (Community and Culture) and J. McKnight, Manager Community Development (Education and Skills); M McKeown, Committee and Members Services Manager, D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer and E. McDonald, Communications Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

L. Cairns and L. Campbell (North Ayrshire Leisure Limited).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Councillors Code of Conduct, Councillor McLean, as a Council representative on the NALL Board of Directors, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3 (North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan 2012-13: Progress Report December 2012).

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 December 2012, were signed in accordance with paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan 2012-13: Progress Report December 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on progress in terms of the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan for 2012-13.

The Chief Executive of NALL was in attendance and spoke to the detail of the Progress Report, a copy of which was appended. The Report illustrated progress made by NALL towards responding to the Council's requirements, meeting commitments in the Business Plan, and improving the performance of the company.

Members welcomed the positive report and the progress being made by NALL. The representatives of NALL answered Members' questions, including questions about the use of social media to promote activities, the importance of properly maintaining facilities including outdoor spaces, and the success of User Forums.

Arising from discussion, the Head of Service (Community and Culture) advised the Cabinet that the Council would be participating in an Education Scotland pilot of the revised "How Good is our Culture and Sport" framework. This was recognition of the work being undertaken in North Ayrshire in these areas.

Noted.

4. Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2012.

The report illustrated movements in the General Services Capital Programme since it was approved on 1 February 2012. Actual expenditure to 30 November 2012 amounted to £13.259m or 42.1% (compared to anticipated expenditure of £14.201m or 44.9%) of the revised annual budget for 2012/13 of £31.520m. Details of actual spend by project against the revised budget were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, alongside anticipated spend to 31 March 2013. Section 2.3 of the report identified the project which make up the £2.463m carry forward to 2013/14. The table at Section 2.4 of the report outlined the movements in the Flexibility Budget since the report to Cabinet on 20 November 2012.

The report summarised the position of the 2012/13 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Budget as at 30 November 2012. £13.503m or 47.9% of the revised annual budget of £28.182m. Current projections suggest that there will be a net underspend of £1.453m at 31 March 2013.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the further revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.7 and at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 30 November 2012 and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2013.

5. Revenue Budget 2012/13: Budgetary Control Statement to 30 November 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2012.

Since the budget was approved on 1 February, additional funding of £1.837m has been received from the Scottish Government by way of redetermination of General Revenue Grant and details were provided at Section 2.1 of the report. In addition to the redeterminations set out, the core finance settlement funding is £0.144m higher than was assumed when setting the 2012/13 budget. Current financial projections indicate that a net in-year surplus of £2.037m is anticipated for the year to 31 March 2013, i.e. an underspend of £1.882m against the budgeted surplus of £0.155m.

Sections 2.3 - 2.13 summarised a number of significant over and underspends across Council Services, as well as anticipated savings in Loan Charges and expected Council Tax income. Further details were provided in Appendices 1 - 8 to the report. A summary of the proposed carry forward of funds to 2013/14 was set out at Section 2.14 and the further requests for virements referred to in Section 2.15 were details in Appendix 10. The table at Section 2.16 of the report summarised the General Services revenue projections based on variances at the end of November 2012.

The position on the Housing Revenue Account at the end of November 2012 was outlined in the table at Section 2.18 of the report, with further details provided at Appendix 9. A commentary of the projected underspend of £0.796m was provided.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the virements details in Appendix 10; and (c) approve the carry forward of £0.272m as summarised in Section 2.14 of the report.

6. The Food Hygiene Information Scheme

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the proposed introduction of the Food Hygiene Information Scheme within North Ayrshire.

The Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) is designed to provide 'at a glance' information about the outcome of Local Authority food hygiene inspections to the consumer at the point of sale and on the internet. A 'Pass' is awarded to food businesses that have achieved satisfactory compliance, i.e. no major contraventions or no minor, recurring contraventions observed. 'Improvement Required' status will be issued to businesses that fail to achieve a 'Pass' award. Appendix 1 to the report provided examples of the certificates which premises will be invited to display. £6,000 has been secured from the Food Standards Agency Scotland to support the launch of the scheme. No long-term financial implications are anticipated thereafter.

The Cabinet agreed to the introduction of the Food Hygiene Information Scheme within North Ayrshire from April 2013, supported by an appropriate promotions campaign to increase awareness.

7. Progress Report, Kilwinning Community Sports Club

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the progress on delivery of the Kilwinning Community Sports Club Legacy Project.

Information was provided on progress in terms of work to develop the Club's facilities. Revised completion of the building is now scheduled for the end of February 2013, subject to utilities connections and taking account of the delays due to weather prior to Christmas. Remedial action is also being taken to rectify an issued with pre-printed pitch markings.

The project has revised its cash flow and budget to take account of revised utility connection charges from Scottish Power of £38,038, increasing from an original cost of £3,000. An overspend of the total project costs of £2,269 will now be met by Kilwinning Community Sports Club.

Good progress has recently been made in recruiting new volunteers to support this new initiative. Kilwinning Community Sports Club has worked with North Ayrshire Council Active Schools Co-ordinators and Young Sporting Ambassadors from Kilwinning Academy to recruit 30 new volunteers to support the project. Sportscotland are to feature this recent work in a short film demonstrating the impact of volunteering in the development of Community Sports Hubs.

Members welcomed the progress made and the Club's aspiration to be the best community led sports facility in Scotland. Information was sought information in relation to the revised utility connection charges from Scottish Power. The Head of Service (Community and Culture) undertook to seek clarification on this point and provide Members with an update. She further agreed to bring a report to a future meeting on the Education Scotland pilot of the revised "How Good is our Culture and Sport" framework.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress being made in completing the building and ground works, albeit with a delay due to recent weather conditions; (b) receive a future report when all works are completed and Kilwinning Community Sports Club has started to operate the facility; (c) invite the Sports Club to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Cabinet; and (d) receive a report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the Education Scotland pilot of the revised "How Good is our Culture and Sport" framework.

8. Improvements to Bus Route 11

Submitted report by Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the actions taken to award a contract to undertake improvement works to Bus Route 11.

The Council recently secured funding of £624,000 from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to upgrade the signals and pedestrian crossings along Bus Route 11, illustrated at Appendix 3 to the report. Peek Traffic Ltd have been identified as the preferred bidder. SPT has confirmed that they will increase the value of the funding to meet the tendered price of £665,471.50 to undertake the works.

Due to the Christmas recess, Cabinet approval could not be sought in the timescale required to undertake the works during the current financial year as required by SPT. In accordance with the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules for North Ayrshire Council, the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) approved the award to Peek Traffic Limited after consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leader.

The Cabinet agreed to note the actions taken to award a contract to Peek Traffic Ltd to undertake works to Bus Route 11 for which SPT grant funding has been secured.

9. Pan-Ayrshire Election Services

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) seeking approval for a proposed Pan-Ayrshire tendering agreement for provision of various election related services, including aspects of postal voting, e-counting, and the printing of ballot papers and postal packs.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the requirement for this tender for election services; (b) note that the anticipated contract value is above EU Public Procurement Threshold for Services; (c) authorise North Ayrshire Corporate Procurement to lead the collaborative procurement on behalf of North, South and East Ayrshire Councils; and (d) approve a 3-month extension to the term of the existing arrangements in North Ayrshire (if required) to permit the tender process to be concluded.

10. Community Based Addictions Support Service

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on a tendering exercise to appoint a provider to deliver a Community Based Addictions Support Service that will work with individuals with low level alcohol and drugs issues and also provide support to individuals exiting statutory services.

The report provided that a tendering exercise be undertaken for the delivery of a community-based service to support individuals with lower level needs, as well as individuals who have been working with statutory services and who require an exit pathway from those services. The tender is likely to cost between £120,000 and £150,000 per annum and the life of the contract will be three years. The costs will be

covered by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership utilising the monies previously allocated to the Addiction Service, as well as money from Public Health relating to Blood Borne Viruses.

The Cabinet agreed that a tendering exercise be carried out to identify and appoint a provider to deliver a Community Based Addictions Support Service for a three-year period, as set out in the report.

11. North Ayrshire Housing Partnership: Minutes of Meeting of 13 November 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Housing Partnership held on 13 November 2012.

Noted.

12. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: Minutes of Meeting of 27 November 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 27 November 2012.

Noted.

13. Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board: Minutes of Meeting of 3 December 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board held on 3 December 2012.

Noted.

14. Corporate Equality Group: Minutes of Meeting of 3 December 2012

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Equality Group held on 3 December 2012.

Noted.

15. Community Empowerment Policy Board: Minutes of Meeting of 17 December 2012

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Empowerment Policy Board held on 17 December 2012.

Noted.

16. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Committee resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and public for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

17. Social Work Complaints Review Committee: Complaint by L. M.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting of 17 December 2012 in respect of a complaint by L. M.

The Cabinet agreed to accept the findings and recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee as set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.