

Cabinet
11 November 2014

Irvine, 11 November 2014 - 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, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

Also Present

A. Gallagher.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, L. Friel, Executive Director and T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director and J. Miller, Senior Manager Planning (Economy and Communities); M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer and R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. 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.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2014 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Petition: Fairlie - Safe Roads and Pavements

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of consideration by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee of the Petition in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie.

At its meeting on 8 October 2014, the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee received a report setting out the background to a petition, containing 622 signatures with 38 personal statements from Fairlie residents, in respect of safe roads and pavements in Fairlie. It was noted that the petitioners, through their presentation, changed their requests to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee from those contained in the petition to the following:-

- (a) obtaining a 20mph limit through Fairlie by (i) formally writing to Keith Brown, Minister for Transport endorsing this; (ii) chairing a meeting between Transport Scotland and Fairlie to support the 20mph implementation; and (iii) supporting promotional road safety awareness signage;
- (b) the implementation and management of a Transport Partnership with major industrial traffic users;
- (c) continuing to support the avoidance of Fairlie when considering any traffic impact strategy in relation to industrial planning consent; and
- (d) a Bypass for Fairlie.

The Scrutiny and Petitions Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet that support from North Ayrshire Council be provided in relation to all of the petitioners requests.

The Cabinet was advised that the recommendation from Scrutiny and Petitions in respect of chairing a meeting between Transport Scotland and Fairlie to support the 20mph implementation, did not relate to the whole village of Fairlie, but to the Fairlie Safer Roads group.

Following discussion, the Cabinet therefore agreed to support recommendations (a), (b) and (c) with Fairlie Safer Roads Group. The Cabinet noted that in respect of recommendation (d) that planning permission had been granted for the development of a large section of the area that has previously been identified for the location of a bypass.

4. Corporate Fraud Team

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the proposed establishment of a Corporate Fraud Team to investigate council tax reduction and other non-benefit fraud (Appendix 1); (b) the transfer of the responsibility for the investigation of Housing Benefit fraud to the Department of Work and Pensions Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) on 1 February 2015; (c) human resource implications; and (d) revisions to the Internal Audit Plan.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the establishment of a Corporate Fraud Team as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

5. Welfare Reform activity in 2014/15

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the (a) progress made 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 2014 - 2017, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the Department of Work and Pensions intention to accelerate the roll out of Universal Credit across all UK Jobcentre Plus offices and Council areas; and
- that Phase 1 of the roll out will commence in February 2015 and that the implementation date for North Ayrshire is anticipated to be April 2015.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the welfare reform activity in 2014/15; (b) note the progress made against the 2014 to 2017 welfare reform action plan as set out at Appendix 1; and (c) increase the threshold on grants from medium to high with immediate effect.

6. Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme Progress Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on a proposed public consultation on a number of options to mitigate flood risk within the upper Garnock Valley, as detailed in the appraisal summary report (Appendix 1).

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to discussions that will take place with Garnock Valley Ward members on the proposed venues for the formal public consultations.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the progress in developing a flood protection scheme for the Upper Garnock Valley; (b) that subject to reaching agreement in principal with appropriate landowners, public consultation be undertaken in respect of options 2a, 7 and 8 as the constituent parts of a full scheme (Option 9); and (c) that property level protection be developed further should a formal scheme not be confirmed by Government.

7. Demolition Order - 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which (a) provided information on the condition of the property at 2 Montgomerie Road, Saltcoats; and (b) sought approval to serve a Demolition Order on the property.

The Cabinet agreed, given the condition of the property, to approve the serving of a Demolition Order in terms of Section 115 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987.

8. Planning Controls, Pay Day Lending and Betting Offices - Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Changes to Planning Legislation

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) the consultation paper from the Scottish Government on possible changes to the planning legislation in relation to pay day lending (PDL) and betting offices; and (b) the proposed response to the consultation as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the content of the consultation response from the Council as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) approve its submission to the Scottish Government.

9. Award of Contract - Replacement Sheltered Housing Unit, Montgomery Court, Kilbirnie

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the works to provide a replacement Sheltered Housing Unit and Amenity Bungalows, Montgomery Court, Stoneyholm Road, Kilbirnie.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd., at a contract value of £4,045,405.37.

10. Minutes of Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 24 September 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economies & Communities) on the minutes of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 24 September 2014.

Noted.

11. Minutes of Economic Development & Regeneration Board held on 1 October 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economies & Communities) on the minutes of the Economic Development & Regeneration Board held on 1 October 2014.

Noted.

12. Minutes of 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health & Safety Group held on 23 October 2014

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the minutes of the 1st Tier JCC and Corporate Health and Safety Group held on 23 October 2014.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.