

Cabinet
30 January 2013

IRVINE, 30 January 2013 - At a Special Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Joan Sturgeon, Robert Barr, John Bell, Ian Clarkson, Joe Cullinane, John Easdale, Alex Gallagher, Jean Highgate, John Hunter, Catherine McMillan, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol, Ruth Maguire, Tom Marshall, Jim Montgomerie, David O'Neill, Donald Reid and Robert Steel.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director, Yvonne Baulk, Head of Finance and Property and G. Macgregor, Head of HR and Organisational Development (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Kirk, Corporate Director; I. Colvin, Corporate Director and O. Clayton, Head of Community Care and Housing (Social Services and Health); C. Hatton, Corporate Director and K. Yeomans, Head of Service (Development Planning)(Development and Environment); and Andrew Fraser, Head of Democratic and Administration Services, M. McKeown, Committee and Members Services Manager, K. Dyson, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. General Services Revenue Estimates 2013/14 to 2015/16

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the Council's revenue spending requirements and anticipated funding available for the years 2013/14 to 2015/16, and the efficiencies and savings options proposed to address the funding shortfall; and (b) the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council.

The report invited Members to approve a balanced budget for 2013/14 which considered pressures, net of the adjustment in respect of the national police and fire services, totalling £9.691m, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; efficiencies and savings totalling £6.555m, as contained in Appendix 3 to the report; the allocation of £1.162m to the Capital Fund; and Members' priorities to be included in the budget for 2013/14. The report also invited Members to consider efficiencies of £6.345m in 2014/15 and £2.958m in 2015/16 to ensure an appropriate lead-in for service transformation to support future funding gaps.

The Leader made reference to representations he had received about the detrimental impact on community associations and councils with responsibility for community halls, of the proposed £30,000 budget efficiency ref. SP-ES-13-33 (Reapportion letting commission income return from Community Associations from 33% to 50% share to Council) contained in Appendix 3 to the report. The Leader circulated a paper containing the Administration's investment proposals for 2013/14. He suggested that the £150,000 Community Development Fund referred to in that paper be reduced to £120,000 and that the proposed budget efficiency ref. SP-ES-13-33 be removed.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) support the proposals outlined in the report, subject to (i) the removal of budget efficiency SP-ES-13-33 and (ii) the adoption of investment proposals contained in Appendix CAB1 to this Minute; and (b) refer the report to Council for determination.

3. General Services Capital Investment Programme 2013/14 to 2022/23

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the updated Capital Asset Strategy and the 2013/14 to 2022/23 General Services Capital Investment Programme.

The draft capital investment programme set out in the report reflected the highest priority projects and proposed additional investment of £126.418m, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report. It brings the total investment programme in the Council's core assets over the next 10 years to £233.256m. The report provided summaries of major projects under the broad headings of Regeneration, the School Estate, Culture and Community, Social Services and Health, Property Rationalisation, Life Cycle Maintenance and Flood Management.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the need for further investment in the Council's roads infrastructure; and
- the location of the Meadowside Park facility referred to in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) support the proposals outlined in the report; and (b) refer the report to Council for determination.

4. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme, Revenue Budget and Rent Levels for 2013/14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme and revenue budget for 2013/14 and the consequential rent levels for 2013/14.

The proposed 2013/14 HRA capital programme was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and a summary of major repair or improvement works was provided at Section 2.4 of the report. Appendix 2 to the report set out the proposed 2013/14 HRA Revenue Budget. The report proposed a rent increase of 3.5% for 2013/14 in order to meet the investment needs of the 30-year HRA Business Plan, the council house building programme and the requirements of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015. Rent increases of 3.5% and 4.5% for 2014/15 and 2015/16, respectively, were proposed in the Business Plan. Appendices 3 and 4, respectively, contained the rent consultation document issued to tenants and a summary of the outcome of that process.

Members were advised of corrections to Appendix 1 to the report, revising (i) the figure of £763,000 where it appears against the HRA House Building Fund, to £492,000 and (ii) the figures of £6.962m and £13.909m against Prudential Borrowing to £7.233m and £14.180m, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) support the proposals outlined in the report; and (b) refer the report, as amended, to Council for determination.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
INVESTMENT PROPOSALS 2013/14**

Early Intervention

A number of proposals have been developed to develop further the council's early intervention and prevention strategy. By 2014/15 a further £1.4 million will be invested in a number of new services including;

- 1.1 provision of home-based practical support to vulnerable families;
- 1.2 more information, training and opportunities for parents to develop their parenting skills;
- 1.3 a "Stop Now and Plan" programme to reduce behavioural problems in children aged 6 to 8 years;
- 1.4 recruitment of supported carers to look after young people 16 to 19 year old who are leaving care, offering support before they move into their first home;
- 1.5 / 1.6 improvement to services in Early Years Centres to provide support and advice with Money Matters, with Home Inclusion and Social Services staff being based in the Centres

These new services are designed to provide help at as early a stage as possible and to prevent the damage to children in their early years which can cause negative outcomes in later life.

Education and Skills

These initiatives will support individuals and groups within our communities to reach their full potential. The new community development fund of £300,000 each year from the capital programme, and £150,000 per annum from the revenue budget for community development support, will assist communities to identify projects and initiatives which are important at a local level. It will also provide match funding for external funding applications for groups who wish to develop more ambitious projects. This initiative reflects North Ayrshire's ambition to strengthen community participation, unlock enterprising community development and renew communities.

Employer engagement funding of £120,000 per annum will facilitate the development of links between schools and businesses, building on the Council's successful co-ordinator approach.

Removal of savings proposal to increase the letting commission income return from Community Associations from 33% to 50%, £30,000. (Cabinet 30/1/2013 General Services Revenue Estimates 2013/14 to 2015/16, Appendix 3 ref. 3m))

Finance and Corporate Support

A small investment in information and records management will assist the Council to strengthen and develop its approach in line with current regulations and legislation and modern ways of working.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL				
GENERAL SERVICES BUDGET 2013/14 TO 2015/16				
INVESTMENT PROPOSALS				
Ref. No.	Subject heading	Funding Requested		
		2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
		£	£	£
1	Early Intervention			
1.1	Vulnerable Children Support (0-5 years)	265,000	360,000	360,000
1.2	Capacity Building with Parents	190,000	228,000	228,000
1.3	Stop Now and Plan (SNAP)	232,000	307,000	307,000
1.4	Supported Carers Scheme	104,000	141,000	141,000
1.5	Integrated Support in Early Years Centre	289,000	372,000	372,000
1.6	Peripatetic Early Years Practitioner Support in Early Years Classes	22,000	27,000	27,000
	Sub Total	1,102,000	1,435,000	1,435,000
2	Education and Skills			
2.1	Community Development Fund *	120,000	120,000	120,000
2.2	Employer Engagement	90,000	120,000	120,000
2.3*	Letting Commission from Community Associations * (Ref appendix 3m))	30,000	30,000	30,000
	Sub Total	240,000	270,000	270,000
3	Finance and Corporate Support			
3.1	Information and Records Project Officer and Admin Assistant	60,000	60,000	42,000
	Sub Total	60,000	60,000	42,000
	Total Bids	1,402,000	1,765,000	1,747,000
	Available Resources	1,402,000	1,804,000	1,804,000
	Balance (gap) in funding	0	39,000	57,000
* amendment to savings proposals at Cabinet 30 January 2013				