

Cabinet
25 November 2014

Irvine, 25 November 2014 - At a Meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, L. Friel, Executive Director and M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director and A. Adrain, Divisional Manager (Housing) (Place); A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic Services) and S. Morley, Research Analyst (Chief Executive's) .

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill and John Bruce.

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 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Affordable Housing Supply Programme: Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-2020

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) revised guidance issued by the Scottish Government in respect of the Strategic Housing Investment Plans; (b) the proposed Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2015-2020 which sets out a five year suggested development programme based on affordable housing investment priorities for North Ayrshire. The Cabinet also received a presentation by Divisional Housing Manager

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

- the ability for slippage projects to be brought forward under delegated authority within overall 15/18 funding;
- the principle of creating an older people's village at Tarryholme; and

- the potential for older people moving into new homes to free up housing stock for younger families and the impact of welfare reform on this.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the SHIP 2015-2020 for submission to the Scottish Government; (b) suspend allocations in sheltered housing complexes which will be scheduled for improvement work; and (c) give delegated authority to the Executive Director, Place and the lead Cabinet member for Housing in order that they may liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme.

4. Revenue Budget 2014/15 : Budgetary Control Statement to 30 September 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 September 2014; and (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 9.

Members asked questions and were provided with examples of major refurbishment.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the action being taken by the Health and Social Care Partnership to reduce the current projected overspend; (c) approve the use of £0.287m of the underspend forecast in General Services to fund an upgrade of contact centre technology; (d) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 10; and (e) approve the carry forward of £1.3m of the HRA surplus to fund major refurbishment works in 2015/16.

5. Capital Monitoring to 30 September 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 September 2014; (b) information on the progress of all projects, with explanations for the carry forwards detailed in Appendix 1; and (c) information on the programme for the Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in Appendix 2.

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

- the accelerated spend on Saltcoats Town Hall;
- that the charging points for electronic vehicles would be in addition to the existing ones; and
- that the new leisure centre would include the provision of renewable energy.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.6 - 2.9 of the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 31 July 2014 and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2015.

6. Scottish Government Consultation regarding the redraw of Data Zones

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the outcome of the Scottish Government's consultation on new data zone boundaries; and (b) the new data zones published by the Scottish Government that incorporated all the changes recommended by the Council.

Noted.

7. Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2014/15

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on a Treasury Management update for the period 1 April to 30 September 2014.

Noted.

8. Scottish Social Housing Charter Compliance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which provided information on (a) progress of (i) the actions taken to ensure compliance with the Scottish Social Housing Charter and the new regulatory framework; and (ii) the development of the new Inspection Panel; (b) the Council's Annual Landlord Report published by the Scottish Housing Regulator (Appendix 1); and (c) the Annual Performance Report to Tenants (Appendix 2).

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on the calculation of cases resolved.

Noted.

9. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: 25 September 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group held on 25 September 2014.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.