

Cabinet
26 November 2013

IRVINE, 26 November 2013 - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire

Also Present

Donald Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director, G. Macgregor, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, T. Reaney, Procurement Manager and E. Gunn-Stewart, Customer Services Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); I. Colvin, Corporate Director and J. McCaig, Interim Head of Community Care (Social Services and Health); C. Kirk, Corporate Director and A. Sutton, Head of Community and Culture (Education and Skills); C. Hatton, Corporate Director and J. Smith, Roads Network Manager (Development and Environment); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic and Administration Services, L. McEwan, Corporate Communications Manager, M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service)

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Dickson, as a Director of NACAS, declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 14 (Consumer Advice Service). Councillor Gurney declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 7 (TS James Caird) and 13 (A Games Legacy for North Ayrshire 2014), due to a family member's involvement in, respectively, the Sea Cadets and the Queen's Baton Relay event.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 November 2013, was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Complaint Handling

3.1 Annual Complaint Report 2012/13

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on the volumes and trends of formal comments during 2012/13; and (b) gave an update on the progress of the implementation of the two stage complaint handling procedure.

Noted.

3.2 Customer Complaint Half-Year Report: First Half of 2013/14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on the volumes and trends of formal comments during the first half of 2013/14; and (b) advised on the improvement actions undertaken by Services.

Noted.

3.3 Management of Unacceptable Contact Policy

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposed implementation of an Unacceptable Contact Policy setting out the Council's approach to managing the relatively few customers whose actions or behaviours are considered to be unacceptable.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the inclusion of Elected Members in the proposed policy.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the implementation of the policy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

4. Information Governance and Data Protection

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) identified Data Protection risks to the Council; (b) set out the steps and resources required to deal with such risks; and (c) proposed the consolidation of all Information Governance into a single team within Democratic and Administrative Services.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) recommend to Council that, as part of the budget setting process, the Council fund a new post of Data Protection Officer; and (b) note the consolidation of Information Governance within Democratic and Administrative Services.

5. Results of North Ayrshire Household Survey

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the results of the Household Survey 2013 conducted by ibp Strategy and Research on behalf of the Council.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the possibility of an Elected Member seminar to allow a more detailed examination of the findings of the survey.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the findings of the Household Survey 2013; (b) to note the work underway or programmed by Council services to address the issues raised by the findings of the Household Survey; (c) to conduct an interim assessment of the top level customer satisfaction indicators through the annual People's Panel Survey; and (d) that the Corporate Communications Manager, in consultation with the research consultants, arrange for a seminar to be provided for all Elected Members on the detailed findings of the survey.

6. Scottish Parliament Justice Sub-Committee Call for Evidence - The Impact of Police Reform on Local Policing

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which proposed a response on behalf of the Council to the Justice Sub-Committee's call for evidence on the Impact of Police Reform on Local Policing.

The Cabinet agreed to respond to the Justice Sub-Committee in terms of the response attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

7. TS James Caird

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which advised of a request from the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee in respect of the intended disposal of the TS James Caird, a vessel currently used by Ardrossan Sea Cadets.

Councillor Bruce provided an update on the current location of the vessel and the estimated cost should the Sea Cadets wish to raise funds for its purchase.

The Cabinet agreed to endorse the representations made by the Area Committee expressing support for the retention of TS James Caird for use by Ardrossan Sea Cadets, as set out in the letter at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Capital Monitoring to 30 September 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress in delivering the Council's Capital Investment Programme as at 30 September 2013.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the further revisions to budgets outlined at Section 2.1 and Appendix 1 to the report; (b) approve the offers of external grant funding outlined at Section 2.1.1 of the report; (c) approve the drawdown of £0.216m of funds from the flexibility budget; and (d) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 30 September 2013 and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2014.

9. Revenue Budget 2013/14: Budgetary Control Statement to 30 September 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Council's revenue budgetary control position at 30 September 2013.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the action being taken by Social Services and Health to reduce the current projected overspend and (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 9 to the report.

10. Care at Home and Care Home Pressures

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) advised of the current pressures on the Care at Home Service and the Care Home Budget (Older People); and (b) presented proposals in relation to reduction in Care at Home expenditure.

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

- the implications for care at home staff of the proposed move to flexible contracts across the workforce;
- the implications for service provision of the integration of Adult Health and Social Care;
- hospital discharge times in North Ayrshire compared with other local authorities areas; and
- the budget period referred to in Section 2.12 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the current position; and (b) approve the proposals in relation to the reduction in Care at Home and Care Home expenditure, as set out in the report.

11. Free Summer Swimming in North Ayrshire for Under 18s

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the pilot programme of free summer holiday swimming for 0 -18 years olds in North Ayrshire in 2013.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to provide a free summer swimming programme in North Ayrshire for under 18s in 2014, to be funded as previously by KA Leisure and North Ayrshire Council's Community Development Fund; and (b) that a further report be brought to Cabinet thereafter to review the programme and determine action for the following year.

12. Gaelic Language Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (a) advised of the statutory requirement on the Council to produce for a draft Gaelic Language Plan; and (b) recommended the approval of a draft Plan for consultation purposes.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the Draft Gaelic Language Plan at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) to remit officers to carry out a public consultation on the draft Gaelic Language Plan; and (c) that the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) submit a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet, to review and approve the plan after the public consultation has taken place and before it is submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhig.

13. A Games Legacy for North Ayrshire 2014

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on a proposed Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan, designed to motivate, engage and inspire our young people and communities in the run-up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games and beyond.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the proposed "Look" materials mentioned in the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve (i) the Legacy Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report and the ongoing development of the calendar of events, (ii) their publication on the Council website and (iii) the purchase of appropriate "Look" materials to prepare and dress the Queen's Baton Relay route in North Ayrshire from the 2014 Legacy Fund; and (b) that the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) submit further update reports to the Cabinet as the project progresses.

14. Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on a proposed Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2013 in relation to the Council's statutory duties under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Roads Winter Services and Weather Emergencies Plan 2013 set out at Appendix 2 to the report; and (b) note the continued development and improvement in the winter service.

15. Consumer Advice Service

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on a proposal to cease the provision of the Council's Consumer Advice Service in line with the outcomes of a UK review of consumer protection.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) cease the provision of the Consumer Advice through the Trading Standards Service with effect from the 31 March 2014, with Consumer Advice to be provided nationally through Citizens Advice Scotland and locally through NACAS and its Citizens Advice Bureaux in Irvine, Saltcoats, Largs, Kilbirnie and Arran allowing geographical coverage across the area; (b) develop a promotional campaign to advise consumers of this change supported by an on-going programme to ensure consumers can access the advice they require, with this to include close working and, where appropriate, sharing of information with NACAS; and (c) note that a protocol has been signed to provide and share information in respect of consumer protection with appropriate agencies on a national basis.

16. Upgrade of B714 Between A737 and A78

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the proposed upgrade of the B714 between the A737 and A78 trunk roads and the provision of a more sustainable road network to encourage economic growth and tourism within North Ayrshire.

Noted.

17. Pan-Ayrshire Election Services: Framework Agreement

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised of the result of the tender exercise for the Pan-Ayrshire Framework Agreement for the provision of various election services, including software, systems, project management and printing services; and (b) presented a recommendation for the award of the framework.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the framework agreement for the provision of various election services, to IDOX Ltd., at a contract value of £500,402.

18. Ayrshire Economic Partnership

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 23 October 2013.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.