

Cabinet
25 September 2013

IRVINE, 25 September 2013 - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 9.30 a.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine.

Present

Willie Gibson, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson and Tony Gurney.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Corporate Director and G. Macgregor, Head of HR and Organisational Development (Finance and Corporate Support); I. Colvin, Corporate Director, A. Adrain, Interim Head of Housing and J. McCaig, Interim Head of Community Care (Social Services and Health); A. Sutton, Head of Community and Culture (Education and Skills); K. Yeomans, Head of Development and Planning and R. McCutcheon, Head of Environment and Related Services (Development and Environment); A. Todd, Policy and Performance Officer, K. Dyson, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Democratic and Administration Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill and Alex McLean.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Dickson, having supported Garnock Valley Allotment Association in its application for funding, declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 (Projects Funded from Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) 2013/14) and took no part in the determination of the application in question.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minute of the Cabinet, held on 10 September 2013, was agreed and the Minutes signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Public Performance Reporting 2012/13

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) provided information on the Council's performance against the four Council objectives; and (b) set out a draft Annual Council Performance Report 2012/13, incorporating the end of year Council Plan Action Plan 2012/13 progress report.

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

- the continuing reduction in the number of active volunteers who have participated in training delivered by Community and Culture;
- the frequency with which targets are set and the mechanism for changing targets;
- any areas of particular concern within the performance information reported;
- the target for the volume of respite care provided to older people;
- the decline in the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days and the Council's performance when compared with other Scottish local authorities; and
- any factors contributing to the significant decrease in the percentage of Council buildings which are accessible to disabled people.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the status of the Council's performance indicators at Appendices A and B; (b) to approve the draft Annual Performance Report 2012/13 set out at Appendix C; (c) that the Annual Performance Report 2012/13 will be published on North Ayrshire Performs on the 27 September 2013; and (d) that the report be referred to Scrutiny and Petitions for consideration.

4. Call In : Consultation on a Proposed Members' Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the outcome of consideration of a Call In Request in relation to the consultation on a proposed Members' Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill, which invited the Cabinet to consider a recommendation by the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee to amend the Council's response to the consultation.

Councillors Bruce and Burns joined the meeting at this point.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on whether the recommendations of the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee had the effect of committing the Council to unbudgeted expenditure.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) reject the recommendation of the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee to amend the response to the consultation on a Proposed Members' Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill in respect of Questions 1 and 8 as set out at Section 2.9 of the report; and (b) refer the matter to the next meeting of the full Council for determination.

5. Regional Aid and the Assisted Areas Map 2014-20

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) outlined changes to Regional Aid Guidelines 2014-20; and (b) proposed a response to a UK Government consultation on the Assisted Area Map 2014-20.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the position in terms of the islands within North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the changes to Regional Aid Guidelines 2014-20; and (b) approve a North Ayrshire Council response to the UK Government consultation on the 2014-20 Assisted Area map based on the map attached at Appendix to this report.

6. Hunterston Competitive Advantage Study (Action Plan)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which advised on the preparation of an Action Programme associated with the production of the Hunterston Competitive Advantage Study, which was undertaken by URS Infrastructure and Environment UK Limited to establish the potential for employment opportunities being developed on the site.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the content of the Action Programme set out at Appendix 1 to the report and the associated actions for the Council and its partners.

7. Implementation of Waste Strategy 2012/16

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) advised on the implementation of the Council's Waste Strategy; and (b) set out an updated waste collection policy at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the types of business likely to produce 50kg of food waste per week; and
- the current arrangements for dealing with food waste produced by school kitchens.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the proposal to introduce new commercial waste collection services for businesses, including a new food waste collection service; (b) approve the new food waste collection service charge for businesses and agree that the charge be reviewed annually in line with the Council's fees and charges policy; and (c) approve the revised waste collection policy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Projects from Landfill Communities Fund 2013/14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on a proposed programme of projects to be funded through the Landfill Communities

Fund (LCF) 2013/14, a tax credit scheme which enables the Council as a Landfill Operator to contribute money to projects which meet environmental objectives contained in the Landfill Tax Regulations.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on arrangements for the processing of applications in future years.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the programme of projects set out in Appendix 2 of the report, to be funded from the Council's Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in 2013/14; and (b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Development and Environment), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Regeneration, to award any excess LCF monies from the 2013/14 allocation to any eligible project(s).

9. Housing Development at Eglinton Country Park

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (a) advised of recent developments in relation to the housing development located within Eglinton Country Park; (b) proposed a Minute of Agreement enabling relevant parts of the Country Park to be acquired by the Council; and (c) recommended that officers report further on reinstatement works required as a consequence of development work at the park.

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

- lessons to be learned for any future developments of this type; and
- how the application for planning permission had been determined in this case.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the proposals to be contained within the Minute of Agreement, which enables the relevant areas of the Country Park to be acquired by the Council; and (b) request that officers bring back future reports to Cabinet in relation to reinstatement works which are required as a consequence of the development work at the park.

10. Revenue Budget 2013/14 : Budgetary Control Statement to 31 July 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which set out the Revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 31 July 2013 (Period 4).

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the frequency and robustness of profiling work carried out by Services.

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.

11. Capital Monitoring to 31 July 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) of progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 31 July 2013.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the planning condition requirements surrounding off-site roadworks at Woodlands Primary School and measures to ensure that such requirements are taken into account in future budgeting.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.7 of the report; (b) approve the allocation of £0.473m from the Capital Fund as outlined in section 2.4; and (c) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 31 July 2013 and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 201

12. Reform of Independent Living Fund

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which (a) provided information on the reform of the Independent Living Fund; (b) advised of the proposed consultation by the Scottish Government; and (c) considered the implications arising for the Council.

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

- the potential for a reduction in funding following the reform of the Independent Living Fund;
- the options being considered for the transfer of funds, as set out at Section 2.6 of the report; and
- the position of COSLA with respect to the consultation.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the Council will maintain the current commitment to match funding of existing packages until the transfer of the funds has been determined by the Scottish Government; (b) to authorise participation in the Scottish Government consultation process; and (c) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

13. North Ayrshire Carers Strategy

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval of the proposed Carers Strategy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the likely timescale for the publication of the strategy document; and
- the background to a planned demonstration by members of the national organisation representing kinship carers.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the North Ayrshire Carers Strategy 2013-18 set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) authorise implementation of its recommendations.

14. Housing Support Contracts

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval to negotiate a one year extension to the existing homeless support contracts, to allow time for a full and detailed assessment of the homelessness provision to be undertaken, informed by accurate financial information and clarification from the UK Government on the classification of Scottish local authority temporary accommodation.

The Interim Head of Housing provided a verbal update on the possible reduction to £45 of the management fee referred to in Section 2.16 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to give approval to negotiate a one year extension to the existing homeless support contracts.

15. South West Hub Territory Partnership Board held on 6 June 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Minutes of the Meeting of the South West Hub Territory Partnering Board held on 6 June 2013.

Noted.

16. Economy and Employment Policy Board: Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Economy and Employment Policy Board held on 19 August 2013.

Noted.

17. Ayrshire Economic Partnership: Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 21 August 2013.

Noted.

18. Health and Social Care Policy Board : Minutes of Meeting held on 26 August 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the Minutes of the Health and Social Care Policy Board meeting held on 26 August 2013.

Noted.

19. Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board: Minutes of meeting held on 2 September 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board held on 2 September 2013.

Noted.

20. Brodick Pier Redevelopment Committee: Minutes of meeting held of 2 August 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Brodick Pier Redevelopment Committee held on 2 August 2013.

Noted.

21. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the undernoted item of business be considered as a matter of urgency to allow a decision to be implemented on this matter without delay.

21.1 Local Government Pay Offer for 2013/14

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which sought approval to implement the pay offer for 2013/14.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to implement an increase in pay on all spinal points across all bargaining groups by 1% from 1 April 2013 in a one year settlement; (b) that all associated back-pay and increases are implemented as soon as operationally practicable from October 2013 pay cycles; and (c) that, following final confirmation, of the 2-year pay offer from COSLA, the Council also applies the terms of this revised agreement.

The meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.