

The Executive of North Ayrshire Council
10 April 2012

IRVINE, 10 April 2012 - At a Meeting of the Executive of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

David O'Neill, John Reid, John Bell, Alex Gallagher and Peter McNamara.

Also Present

Robert Barr, Matthew Brown, Anthea Dickson, Jean Highgate and R. McNicol.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; I. Colvin, Corporate Director, S. Gault, Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice and O. Clayton, Head of Community Care and Housing; C. Kirk, Corporate Director, M. Armstrong, Head of Logistics and Infrastructure and S. Storrie, Project Manager (Education and Skills); Y. Baulk, Head of Finance, C. Hatton, Head of Environment and Related Services, A. Bodie, Head of Infrastructure and Design, J. Wraith, Energy Officer (Finance and Infrastructure); J. Montgomery, General Manager, M. Adams, Policy and Performance Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor O'Neill in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Reid.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor Bell, as a Ward Member for Kilbirnie and Beith, declared non-financial, non-significant interest in Agenda Item 9 (Meadowside Pavilion and Football Ground and Orr's Trust Public Park Pitches, Beith).

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Executive held on 27 March 2012 were signed in accordance with paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Waste Management Strategy 2012-2016

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Waste Management Strategy and implementation plan for the period 2012-16.

The Head of Environment and Related Services gave a presentation on the Council's current and planned strategy for waste management, its performance in recent years, the principal drivers for change and actions aimed at delivering the Waste Strategy.

The Council's Waste Strategy Working Group has reviewed current and likely future waste management issues to inform the development of a new Waste Strategy 2012-16 and implementation plan. The draft strategy was contained in Appendix A to the report.

Section 2.3 of the report highlighted a number of local, national and international drivers for change in waste management and Section 2.4 provided an analysis of the residual waste managed by the Council. The draft strategy identifies the following key actions in response to the issues identified:-

- Increase the level of education and promotion;
- Increase the participation in the service provided;
- Improve awareness of waste services delivered by the 3rd sector;
- Provide new services to support re-use;
- Increase the range of materials collected for recycling and composting, including food waste collections in respect of the mainland and Cumbrae;
- Develop facilities and long-term options to dispose of/treat residual waste, including the procurement of services to support the management of leachate during the remaining operational life of the Shewalton landfill site; and
- Reduce the net cost of providing waste management services.

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

- the composting of food waste and, in particular, meat products;
- waste management arrangements on Arran;
- the financial implications of meeting the Scottish Government's targets in respect of waste management and the availability of Zero Waste Scotland funding;
- options for managing residual waste beyond the lifetime of the Shewalton landfill site;
- the availability of guidance for householders on increasing the capacity of the kerbside recyclables 'blue bin';
- proposals for managing the weekly, year round collection of food waste via the 'brown bin' currently used for garden waste only;
- the current position with regard an energy from waste facility for Irvine, which was the subject of a planning application;
- the background to low rates of recycling by business users and factors likely to influence their take-up of food waste recycling;
- measures to seek to reduce the amount of packaging used by manufacturers and businesses; and
- plans for promoting householder participation in the proposed food waste collection service.

The Executive agreed to (a) approve the Waste Strategy and Implementation Plan 2012-2016 set out the Appendix A to the report; and (b) a procurement exercise in relation to the treatment of organic waste, a third sector partner for the delivery of re-use services and disposal of leachate for the operation life of the Shewalton landfill site.

4. North Ayrshire Council Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2012-2015

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on details of the housing investment priorities identified through the annual Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) process and seeking approval of the SHIP.

The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2012-2015 is part of the Local Housing Strategy process and sets out North Ayrshire Council's investment priorities for affordable housing over a three year period. The SHIP requires to be submitted to the Scottish Government annually.

Sections 2.4-2.5 set out the 'Priority A' areas for the allocation of development funding and the lower demand 'Priority B' areas within each of the 5 sub-housing markets in North Ayrshire. The programme will also take account of other relevant factors, including the ensuring that housing meets any 'particular' needs which are present in the local population and the Council's commitment to piloting a 'cluster' housing model for people with learning disabilities or experiencing mental ill-health.

In terms of funding support, the Scottish Government invited applications to their Innovation and Investment Fund in 2011. Cunninghame Housing Association, in partnership with Cordale Housing Association has identified an innovative funding model which would deliver a total of 700 homes across North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire. Potential sites for delivery through the innovative funding model were set out at Section 2.12 of the report.

With regard to Council Innovation Projects, Housing Services are currently exploring two 'recyclable loan' innovation schemes, one directed at the owners of empty homes and the other scheme for home-owners whose property is below the tolerable standard. If deemed viable, they could offer loans at reduced interest rates, with terms which encourage the recipient to repay the finance within an agreed timescale. An initial fund would require to be identified, and thereafter, income from repaid loans would provide the source for future lending.

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

- the cost associated with making a new 2-bedroom properties suitable for wheelchair users, when compared with that of adapting properties on a retro-fit basis;

- the £1m funding allocation to the Council for the purchase of second-hand properties from the open market;
- the extent to which the 'buy back' initiative was applicable on Arran;
- the variation between the potential sites identified by Cunninghame Housing Association at Section 2.12 of the report and the priorities contained in the SHIP;
- potential measures to generate land for housing on the North Shore;
- the option of using prudential borrowing to secure funds for building homes; and
- progress in respect of property condition improvement loans.

The Head of Community Care and Housing undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Executive on progress in respect of the property condition improvement loans initiative.

The Executive agreed to approve the content of the Strategic Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

5. Vineburgh Regeneration Project, Irvine (Phase 3)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the proposed sale of land comprising Phase 3 of the Vineburgh Regeneration project, to Cunninghame Housing Association.

The Vineburgh Regeneration Project is a £36,000,000, 6-year programme of demolition and redevelopment. A total of 306 Council houses will be demolished and replaced with a similar number of social rented and shared equity housing, developed and managed by Cunninghame Housing Association. The Vineburgh Regeneration area is being redeveloped in four 'phases'. 176 new homes have been developed in Phases 1 and 2 of the Vineburgh project. A further 63 are to be constructed in Phase 3, as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.

Subject to the approval of the Executive and the Scottish Government, the land shown at Appendix 1 to the report would be disposed of to Cunninghame Housing Association (CHA) for £865,127. Within the terms of sale, there would be a clawback clause which will ensure that for every unit of shared equity housing not delivered (under the proposed figure of 10 units), the Council would be paid an additional £7,500.

Negotiations have been held with CHA in relation to a maximum (capped) level of extraordinary development costs for which the Council will accept a claim from CHA for recompense in relation to the development of the site. The details were set out at Sections 2.8-2.10 of the report.

The Executive agreed that (a) subject to Scottish Government approval, the land forming Phase 3 of the Vineburgh project, is sold to Cunninghame Housing Association (CHA) for £865,127, including additional clawback, if required; and (b) following the sale of the land, recompense be paid to CHA of extraordinary development costs totalling no more than as detailed at Section 2.7 of the report.

6. Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011: Area Support Teams

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in relation to the formation of an Ayrshire Area Support Team.

At its meeting held on 11 October 2011, the Executive received a report on the implications arising from a consultation paper issued by the National Convener of Children's Hearings Scotland (CHS), Bernadette Monaghan, on proposals for the establishment of Area Support Teams (ASTs), including proposals for an Ayrshire AST. This stemmed from the requirement under the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 that the National Convener must establish ASTs in collaboration with local authorities to replace the existing system of Children's Panel Advisory Committees (CPACs).

At a recent meeting of the Children's Panel Advisory Group held on 2 March 2012 in Edinburgh, officers from the Scottish Government/CHS again reiterated their determination that ASTs will be up and running by September 2012. Decisions, therefore, require to be taken to:-

- finalise the structure of the Ayrshire AST and begin to identify its membership;
- put in place a Partnership Agreement (or Agreements) between the Ayrshire authorities and CHS;
- identify the Lead Authority (if any) to assume the role of supporting the AST and finalise an Agreement/SLA between the three Authorities thereon; and
- identify and put in place the administrative support required to underpin the operation of the AST.

Officers from the three Ayrshire authorities will continue to take forward discussions on the introduction of an Ayrshire AST in line with the emerging national position.

The Executive agreed (a) to note the position to date; and (b) that Officers continue to work to resolve the points raised in Section 3.2 of the report.

7. Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 - Adoption Service Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the requirements of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007: Adoption Services Plan.

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 - Section 4 requires local authorities to prepare and publish a plan for the provision of adoption services. The Adoption Services Plan must set out the aims of North Ayrshire Adoption Service and describe the range of services which are currently in operation or planned to support children and families.

The Adoption Services Plan 2012/2013 completed in respect of North Ayrshire Council Social Services was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the balance between seeking to facilitate permanency planning and ensuring that children are matched with the appropriate adoptive family; and
- measures to ensure that the views of children themselves are fully taken into account.

The Executive agreed to approve the Adoption Services Plan 2012/13 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Ayrshire Private Partnership (Taste Ayrshire): Request for Support

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the establishment of a private sector driven Taste Ayrshire Initiative and the proposed award of a match funding contribution of £15,000 to the initiative.

The Ayrshire Economic Partnership has identified the Food and Drink sector as one of the five that could grow in the Ayrshire and Arran area. An organisation known as the Ayrshire Private Partnership has now been established with the aims of working collaboratively with partners from the public and private sector. The Ayrshire Private Partnership is a company limited by guarantee which comprises 7 key food and drink business leaders, including two based in North Ayrshire. Their Taste Ayrshire Initiative proposes to realise the significant potential which exists in the region across the value chain for food productions, manufacturing, retailing and hospitality.

The Partnership has secured private sector funding of £10,000, together with a considerable "in-kind" commitment. Submissions have been made for grant assistance from numerous sources including the Scottish Government and Visit Scotland. A business plan is currently being finalised. In the meantime, the Partnership has already been invited to take the lead role in delivering an EU Leader programme project known as TORE (Taste of Rural Europe).

The Partnership has now approached all three Ayrshire Councils for a contribution of a one off £15,000 each to assist them to achieve their aims and objectives. East Ayrshire Council has already agreed its contribution and South Ayrshire is positively progressing its request. Section 2.3 of the report summarised the key objectives likely to impact on the North Ayrshire area, including an increase in the number of jobs in the food and drink industries.

The Executive agreed to (a) to welcome the establishment of an Ayrshire and Arran wide food and drink initiative; (b) make a one off grant to the Ayrshire Private Partnership of £15,000 from the current Economic Development Services budget, subject to (i) all the other funds being agreed and (ii) receipt of a satisfactory business plan; and (c) delegate to the Economic Development Manager the role of overseeing the initiative and reporting back to the Executive at six-monthly intervals.

9. Meadowside Pavilion and Football Ground, and Orr's Trust Public Park Pitches, Beith

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the proposed renunciation of the leases by North Ayrshire Leisure Limited and granting of a new lease to Beith Community Development Trust for Meadowside Pavilion and football ground and Orr's Trust Public Park pitches, Beith. Appendices 1-4 to the report provided layout plans of the areas in question.

Beith Community Development Trust has been formed by representatives of the various users of Meadowside Pavilion and the football grounds and they have requested that the property be leased directly to them to enable them to apply for lottery and other funding to carry out improvements to the facilities. Following this request and subsequent discussions with Council Officers, North Ayrshire Leisure Limited has confirmed that it is willing to renounce its current lease agreements with the Council.

Prior to concluding the lease, it is essential that Beith Community Development Trust provides the Council with a robust Business Plan, setting out their short, medium and longer term investment plan for the facilities. In addition, appropriate governance mechanisms require to be put in place to ensure that the Trust delivers on its stated aims.

The proposed terms of the lease were set out at Section 3.2 of the report. Additional conditions were outlined at Section 3.3.

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

- the proposed condition requiring the pricing structure of the facilities and activities provided by the Trust to be benchmarked against other similar undertakings;
- the requirement for the Trust to prepare a satisfactory Business Plan and progress in this regard; and
- the appropriateness of the conditions associated with the proposed lease.

The Executive agreed to (a) approve the renunciation of the leases of Meadowside Pavilion and football ground and Orr's Trust Public Park playing fields, Beith by North Ayrshire Leisure Limited; (b) grant a new lease to Beith Community Development Trust subject to there being an appropriate business plan and terms and conditions; and (c) note that an annual progress report will be submitted on the operation of the new arrangements.

10. Equality Action Plan 2012/13

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the development of the Equality Action Plan 2012/13 and the Minutes of the Corporate Equality Group meeting held on 19 March 2012.

Each service has contributed to developing the Equality Action Plan for 2012/13 which is attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The plan describes the key actions proposed over the next year to prepare for the implementation of the new public sector equality duty and other activities to promote equality in North Ayrshire.

The Minutes of the Corporate Equality Group meeting held on 19 March 2012 are attached at Appendix 2.

The Executive agreed to (a) approve the Equality Action Plan 2012/13 set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) note the Minutes of the Corporate Equality Group meeting on 19 March 2012 as contained in Appendix 2 to the report.

11. Energy Management and Carbon Reduction

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Council's actions in relation to efficient energy use and reduction of carbon emissions in the delivery of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.

The Council is a major consumer of utilities, spending £4,099,030 on electricity, gas, water, coal and oil in 2010/11. Among the actions being taken by the Council to improve the energy efficiency of its premises and reduce carbon emissions, are the following:-

- Energy and water consumption reduction projects;
- Energy and water usage control and monitoring;
- Utility account management; Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs);
- Energy self audits;
- Energy lessons and eco schools;
- ISO 50001;
- The work of the Carbon Management Team; and
- Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme and Carbon Trading

The Council will continue to pursue the actions described above and also take advantage of any forthcoming central funding or grants which may contribute towards these. Proposals being considered for future developments include the use of biomass (wooden chips or pellets) as a heating fuel, the installation of geothermal heat pumps, air-source heat, photovoltaics and solar thermal panels (for water heating). Utilisation of land for biomass fuel production and energy generation by wind or solar means and hydro-electric generation has been the subject of an initial investigation and will be further developed.

Noted.

12. Energy Issues in North Ayrshire Housing

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the Council's support for reducing fuel poverty, maximising fuel efficiency in its housing stock and supporting efficient energy use in housing generally.

"Fuel Poverty" is regarded as existing when 10% of a household's disposable income is expended on energy bills, and the term "super fuel-poor" is used for those spending 20% or more of their income. The Scottish House Condition Survey 2008 - 2010 (updated in July 2011 to reflect increased utility cost) indicates that 36% of households in North Ayrshire are fuel poor.

The report provided information on actions to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's own housing stock, including the installation of energy efficient boilers and improvements to the fabric of existing dwellings.

In terms of private housing, the Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS), which is a central government grant targeted for specific areas of high fuel poverty, awarded £370,000 to North Ayrshire in 2011/12 and this was matched by Carbon Emission Reductions Target Funding. A bid for UHIS funding for 2012/13, covering the whole of North Ayrshire, has been confirmed at a value of £440,000.

The Energy Team is currently carrying out a pilot for the Voltage Optimisation Project. This identifies the benefits of minimising the supply to individual properties with the intention of an overall reduction of 10% of electricity usage. The Team also contributes to the Local Energy Saving Scheme by providing an advocacy service for private sector participants. In addition, the Energy Team facilitates improvements in private sector domestic properties by negotiating with credit unions, energy generators and suppliers and installers or proposed improvements.

Further areas of sustainable energy in housing will be considered and piloted, in particular the installation of photovoltaics (PVs) in area energy schemes. Based on the activities currently underway and those planned, an Energy Strategy will be developed for the Council's housing stock and will be submitted to the Executive later in 2012.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on issues associated with improving the energy efficiency of the Council's timber housing stock.

The Head of Community Care and Housing undertook to submit a report to a future meeting of the Executive on the outcome of work to examine options for improving the energy efficiency of the Council's timber housing stock.

Noted.

13. Impact of Charges for the Special Uplift Service and Controls at Household Waste Recycling Centres

This item is the subject of a call-in and will be referred to the Council for consideration.

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the impact of charges for the Special Uplift service and controls at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The revised operating model and charging structure for the Special Uplift service was introduced on 1 April 2010. The introduction of the revised operating and charging structure has realised a significant reduction in service requests and a commensurate reduction in the amount of material collected which fell from 2,919 tonnes in 2009/10 to 1,424 tonnes in 2010/11 and is projected to fall further to 1,360 tonnes in 2011/12.

Improved controls to prevent the illegal disposal of commercial waste at HWRCs were introduced in September 2011. Surveys had identified that 12% of vehicular traffic visiting the centres were of a commercial type. Following introduction of the controls the amount of waste deposited at the sites has fallen from 16,820 tonnes in 2010/11 to a projected total of 14,000 tonnes in 2011/12.

The number of reported instances of fly-tipping recorded by the Contact Centre fell from 1007 in 2009/10 to 844 in 2010/11 and is projected to increase to 1045 in 2011/12. The weight of fly-tipping is not recorded separately, but is included within the amount of amenity waste, including litter etc., collected by the Council and has not altered significantly and is recorded as 1,478 tonnes in 2009/10, 1,470 tonnes in 2010/11 and is projected at 1,400 tonnes in 2011/12 (excluding grass cuttings recycled and abandoned vehicles waste).

The number of recorded instances of fly-tipping collected by the Streetscene service has fluctuated during this period and is recorded as 1,024 instances in 2009/10, 2,785 instances in 2010/11 and projected instances of 1,850 in 2011/12. However, the weight of fly-tipping collected has not increased and no additional resources have been required to collect these apparent additional instances.

The impact upon the annual revenue budget of the operational arrangements, excluding the one-off costs of £47,600, of erecting barriers and installing CCTV systems at the HWRCs, was £388,185, as detailed in the table at Section 2.7 of the report.

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

- the need to facilitate the reporting of fly-tipping; and
- measures to improve communication with complainants reporting fly-tipping on private land.

Noted.

14. Scottish Futures Trust - Development of Hub Initiative

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on progress in relation to the Scottish Futures Trust South West Territory Hub Partnership.

North Ayrshire Council now forms part of the South West Territory Hub Partnership. The hub will be created by the Private Sector Development Partner (PSDP). Each Participant is required to appoint a Participant's Representative on to the Territory Partnering Board who should be appropriately empowered to agree matters on behalf of the particular Participant. In addition, each Participant's Representative will act as the effective point of contact with Hubco.

Following completion of the PQQ selection stage, three bidders were selected, one of which subsequently withdrew, as detailed in Section 2.4 of the report.

The shortlisted bidders will now go on to prepare more detailed applications which will be submitted in June 2012 and it is expected that the Territory Partnering Board (TPB) will select the preferred appointed Private Sector Development Partner PSDP in August 2012, with the hubco being formed in October 2012.

SFT has confirmed that financial support will be provided to assist with the hub set-up and procurement costs for the South West Territory. Funding of £1.4m is available over 5 years to address set-up/procurement support, public sector recurrent scheme development, programme management and organisational development activity. A further £5.67m will be available from the Scottish Government in capital enabling funds, for land acquisition, site enabling works, clearance and services works, etc. North Ayrshire has submitted applications in relation to Garnock Campus and Montrose House, Arran.

Sections 3.5-3.6 provided background information on arrangements in relation to the establishment of Hubco (the working title for the company).

Noted.

15. Education and Skills South West Hub - Garnock Campus Outline Project Plan

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the outline project management plan to take forward the Garnock Campus.

The Council has been awarded revenue funding support equivalent to a capital contribution of £18.8m to deliver a new Garnock Academy secondary school. In March 2010, the Education Executive agreed to plan for a more ambitious project of a Campus to include a new Garnock Academy, the replacement and amalgamation of Moorpark and Glengarnock Primary Schools and the replacement of Garnock Pool in Kilbirnie.

At its meeting on 24 May 2011, the Executive approved a proposed governance structure to deliver the project, which was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

In order to enable the Garnock Campus project to make continued progress it is necessary to prepare and submit key information to the Scottish Government. The Council is required to submit a business case to the Scottish Government, develop a detailed project plan and establish a Project Delivery Structure.

It is anticipated that the overall timescale for completing the project will be 3 years with an expected site start date of summer 2013. An outline project programme was set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Sections 2.5-2.7 set out the composition of the internal project team, the Services which will support it, and the key elements of its remit.

Further updates will be provided at future meetings, as the project progresses through key milestones.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the condition of Largs Academy and the need to plan for its future replacement.

Noted.

16. Education and Skills: St. Luke's Primary School: Requirement for Extension

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the outcome of the tendering process for the St. Luke's Primary School extension project.

At its meeting on 22 November 2011, the Executive approved the project to extend St. Luke's Primary School through the addition of a single classroom extension with cloak area. This enhancement was required as a result of the roll for session 2012/13 increasing to 210 pupils.

The project was commissioned via Infrastructure and Design Services on behalf of Education and Skills. The successful bidder is Clark Contracts Ltd with a contract price of £210,366. This was within 2% of the estimated cost of £206,800. Further costs including fees and furniture amount to £36,841 bringing the total cost of the project to £247,207.

Work will begin on site on 23 April 2012 further to Construction Design Management and Pre-Commencement meetings with the headteacher and contractor.

Noted.

17. Education Services to Children with Additional Support Needs

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on proposals in relation to the provision of education services to children and young people with Additional Support Needs who require to be placed outwith the resources of North Ayrshire Council.

The existing Framework Agreement operates until August 2012 and now requires to be re-tendered. At present the contract does not include transportation of young people to and from their homes, which is currently the subject of separate contractual arrangements (amounting to approximately £140,000 per year).

The report proposed that Education and Skills enters into new Framework Agreements with service providers who meet the Council's requirements and who can deliver an educational package appropriate to the needs of the young person placed there. The duration of the Framework Agreements would be three years, with the option to extend for a further year. It is intended to issue the invitation to tender (ITT) under the European Union procurement process for Open Tendering and to request return of tenders through the secure tender submission facility on the Public Contracts Scotland website (full electronic tendering).

Once the Framework Agreements have been awarded, best value would be secured by commissioning services using an Individual Placement Agreement, under a Framework Agreement, for a duration that meets the service user's educational needs whilst not committing the Council to a contractual relationship which fails to provide ongoing best value.

The Executive agreed to authorise the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) to invite tenders from suitably experienced and competent service providers for the provision of education services to children and young people with Additional Support Needs who require to be placed outwith the resources of North Ayrshire Council.

18. Streetscene Operations - Procurement of Scheduling Software

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the proposed use of the negotiated procedure to procure scheduling software to support Streetscene Operations.

An ICT based waste management system has already been procured and implemented. The system has additional modules that can be utilised to schedule Streetscene operations. The purchase of additional modules to the Waste Management system provides a number of benefits, which were summarised in Section 2.2 of the report.

The value of the system, including in-cab units, but excluding implementation costs is not expected to exceed £100,000 and, therefore, falls below the threshold at which the European Union procurement regulations apply. The Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts allows for the Negotiated Tendering procedure to be utilised to extend an existing contract.

The Executive agreed that the Head of Environment and Related Services, in consultation with the Council's Procurement Service, negotiate terms with Whitespace Work Software Ltd to procure workflow scheduling software to support Streetscene Operations.

19. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the Executive in the current administration and took the opportunity to record his thanks to Elected Members and to former and current Officers for their contribution to the work of the Executive.

The meeting ended at 12.05 p.m.