

Cabinet
13 August 2013

Irvine, 13 August 2013 - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. in Cunninghame House, Irvine.

Present

Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney and Alex McLean.

In Attendance

L. Friel, Corporate Director, D. Tate, Senior Manager (Housing, Assets and Investments) and A. Blakely, IT Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Corporate Director and R. McCutcheon, Head of Environment and Related Services (Development and Environment); C. Kirk, Corporate Director (Education and Skills); I. Colvin, Corporate Director and S. Gault, Head of Children, Families and Criminal Justice, A. Adrain, Interim Head of Housing and J. McCaig, Interim Head of Community Care (Social Services and Health); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic and Administration Services, K. Dyson, Communications Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Democratic and Administration Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Hill in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Willie Gibson.

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 accuracy of the Minute of the Special Cabinet, held on 25 June 2013, was agreed and the Minutes signed in accordance with paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Service Plan 2012/13 Year-end Performance Reports

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the performance of all Council Services as at 31 March 2013, with Appendices 1-5 of the report setting out five Service Plans, based on the Council's organisational structures for 2012/13.

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

Chief Executive's Service

- the anticipated timescale for the restructure of the Council's Area Committees in line with the new Neighbourhood Planning Approach; and
- the extent to which HR and Organisational Development contributes to the performance and achievements of individual Services and cascades best practice to other Services.

Education and Skills

- the current position in terms of the availability of supply teachers; and
- the duplication of wording within the Secondary Education and Additional Support Needs sections of Appendix 3.

Finance and Infrastructure

- the potential for the Shewalton landfill site achieving a "very good" rating from SEPA; and
- the background to the reported overspend of £0.237m within Housing Assets and Investments.

Social Services and Health

- whether, in relation to permanency planning, the Council was under any pressure to return children to their families.

The Corporate Director (Education and Skills) undertook to circulate to Members information omitted in error from Appendix 3 to the report, in relation to secondary education provision.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the performance of all Services as at 31 March 2013 against the objectives, key performance indicators and actions in the 2012/13 Service Plans; and (b) refer the Service Plan 2012/13 Progress Reports to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

4. Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme Progress Report

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) outlined the outcome of the first public engagement exercise carried out as part of the on-going development of the Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme; (b) indicated a clear preference for the upstream storage solution (Option 2); and (c) advised on the next steps in the project and key dates in respect of the development of the scheme.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the potential for dredging, as referred to by a number of public engagement exercise respondents.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made to date; and (b) approve the next steps in the process, as set out in the report.

5. Abandoned Shopping Trolley Policy

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) advised of the adoption of Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; (b) provided information on the current informal agreement with supermarkets in connection with the uplift of abandoned shopping trolleys; and (c) sought approval for the proposed Abandoned Shopping Trolley Policy set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the extent to which the problem of abandoned shopping trolleys extended to areas outwith Irvine;
- the continuation of the current informal arrangements for uplifting and charging for abandoned shopping trolleys pending implementation of the new policy; and
- the operation of the informal agreement with supermarkets outwith Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) adopt Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; (b) approve the policy for managing abandoned shopping trolleys throughout North Ayrshire, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, effective from 1 December 2013; and (c) approve the fee of £33 per trolley for removing abandoned shopping trolleys, with this charge to be reviewed annual through the Annual Fees and Charges report presented to Cabinet each year.

6. Creative Scotland: Creative Places and Place Partnership Awards

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which provided information on progress in relation to Creative Scotland: Creative Places and Place Partnership Awards, including the proposed postponement of the Three Towns Creative Place Award application and support for the application currently being developed by the arts community on Arran.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) authorise officers to support the Creative Scotland Creative Place Award 2014 application by Arran for 2014; (b) continue to develop creativity in the Three Towns in preparation for a Creative Place Award application; and (c) continue to work with Creative Scotland in the context of the Creative Scotland Place Partnership, as approved by Cabinet in April 2013.

7. Revocation of the Demolition Order at 20 Castlepark Drive, Fairlie

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the current condition of the property at 20 Castlepark Drive, Fairlie, which was made the subject in 2009 of a Demolition Order, having previously failed to meet a condition that was compliant with the recognised Tolerable Standard as defined by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the removal of the Demolition Order in respect of 20 Castlepark Drive, Fairlie.

8. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Write Off 2012-13

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the write-off of Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax debts during 2012-13, as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to homologate the write-off of Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax for 2012-13, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

9. Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the results of the 2013 Tenant Satisfaction Survey, which allows the Housing service to address any areas of concern, target improvements and ensure it successfully delivers the outcomes outlined in the Scottish Social Housing Charter.

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

- whether the survey afforded tenants an opportunity to provide information on the reason for any dissatisfaction expressed; and
- the number of gypsy/traveller sites consulted.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to accept the findings of the survey; (b) that a summary of the findings be issued to tenants, staff and other stakeholders; and (c) that an action plan be developed to address areas with lower levels of satisfaction.

10. Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill : Call for Written Evidence

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought retrospective approval for the submission of evidence in respect of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the statement submitted on behalf of North Ayrshire Council, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

11. Ayrshire Wide Social Work Out of Hours Response Service

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the first year of operation of the Ayrshire Wide Social Work Out of Hours Response Service hosted by East Ayrshire Council.

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

- the rationale for the application of a management fee by East Ayrshire Council; and
- whether it might be possible to quantify the savings achieved through the early intervention action offered by the Out of Hours Response Service, in terms of avoiding hospital and nursing home admissions.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the progress made in establishing and operating an Ayrshire Wide service and (ii) the positive outcomes of the model for the residents of Ayrshire; and (b) receive a further update as the model is developed.

12. Audit Scotland report: Scotland's Public Finances, Addressing the Challenges (follow-up report)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) summarised the findings of the recent Audit Scotland report on Scotland's Public Finances; and (b) set out both the good progress made by North Ayrshire Council and the issues still to be addressed.

Noted.

13. Millport Marine Biological Station

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which provided information on progress with the proposed operation of the Millport Marine Biological Station by the Field Studies Council and the support which continues to be provided by North Ayrshire Council and other stakeholders to facilitate this.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to record its appreciation of the work of officers of the Council in contributing to the recent positive developments in respect of the Millport Marine Biological Station; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

14. ICT Infrastructure Strategic Review - Award of Contract - LAN, Wireless Access in schools and IP Telephony

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided information on the results of the tender exercise for the provision of LAN, Wireless Access in schools and IP Telephony; and (b) presented a recommendation for the award of contracts.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of 5-year contracts commencing in September 2013 and with the option to extend for 24 months, to Capita Business Services Ltd. for IP Telephony at a cost of £455,166 over 5 years, and to Provista UK Ltd. for LAN and WLAN provision at a cost of £1,011,514 and £456,345, respectively, over 5 years, subject to finalisation of contracts and agreement on work schedules.

15. Framework Agreement for the provision of Insulated Overcladding Works

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on the actions taken to award the Framework Agreement for the provision of Insulated Overcladding Works and the first phase of the works.

The Cabinet agreed to homologate the actions taken to award (i) the framework agreement to five contractors (Marley Contract Services, CCG (Scotland) Ltd, Apollo Property Services Ltd, Wates Construction Ltd and AC Whyte Ltd) and (ii) the first phase of the works to Marley Contract Services.

16. North Ayrshire Carers Centre

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) which sought approval to undertake a tender exercise to appoint a provider to deliver practical and emotional support to Carers and Young Carers.

The Cabinet agreed that a tender exercise be undertaken to appoint a provider to deliver a support service for Carers and Young Carers.

17. Procurement of Streetlighting Maintenance 2014/15

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which (a) outlined the current position in respect of the delivery of streetlighting maintenance through a collaborative contract issued in partnership with Inverclyde and South Ayrshire Councils; and (b) sought agreement on the procurement method to be utilised for the provision of streetlighting maintenance from 1 January 2014.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the operation of the current collaborative arrangement for the provision of this service.

The Cabinet agreed that an interim 12-month contract for streetlighting maintenance for 2014/15, with a 12-month optional extension, be procured through the Government Procurement Service (GPS) Traffic Management Technology Framework.

18. South West Hub Territory Partnering Board held on 25 April 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Minutes of the South West Hub Territory Partnering Board meeting held on 25 April 2013.

Noted.

19. Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group: Minutes of meeting held on 15 May 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Social Services and Health) on the Minutes of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan Implementation Group meeting held on 15 May 2013.

Noted.

20. Health and Social Care Policy Board : Minutes of Meeting held on 27 May 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 27 May 2013.

Noted.

21. Environment and Infrastructure and Economy and Employment Joint Policy Board held on 20 May 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Environment and Infrastructure and Economy and Employment Joint Policy Board meeting held on 20 May 2013.

Noted.

22. Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board held on 3 June 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board meeting held on 3 June 2013.

Noted.

2.3 Corporate Equality Group held on 13 June 2013

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Corporate Equality Group meeting held on 13 June 2013.

Councillor Burns highlighted the intention to provide equality and diversity training to Elected Members, in particular those serving on the Council's Staffing and Recruitment Committee.

Noted.

2.4 Community Empowerment Policy Board held on 17 June 2013

Submit report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the Minutes of the Community Empowerment Policy Board meeting held on 17 June 2013.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.