
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

6 March 2018

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Title: **Call In: Communities – Short Life Working Group**

Purpose: To allow the Committee to consider a Call In Request in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 February 2018 to reconvene the short-life working group comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO).

Recommendation: That the Committee considers the terms of the Call In and agrees, or otherwise, to make a recommendation to the Cabinet.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In terms of the Scheme of Administration (Section 24), the Audit and Scrutiny Committee has a remit to consider Call in Requests and invite at least one of the Members who has requested the reference to Call In to attend the Committee to explain the request.
- 1.2 This report sets out the background to the Call In Request in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 February 2018 in relation to the report on reconvening the short-life working group comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 20 February 2018, considered a report on the proposal to reconvene the short-life working group comprising North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO).
- 2.3 A request was received in terms of the Call In procedure set out in the Council's Scheme of Administration and Standing Orders, that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee examine the decision taken by the Cabinet.

- 2.4 The Call In request, which was signed by Councillors McNicol, Barr, and L Reid, is in the following terms:-

Reason for Call In

The working group should have cross party elected membership and that the format of the group should be: 3 NAFCO/3 NAC officers/3 Elected Members (Cllr McPhater, 1 x SNP, 1 Conservative & Unionist – with an Independent Member being offered a place if none of the Conservatives take up the place. Why is an Independent Member not invited to attend the working group?

Desired Outcome

The decision is referred back to Cabinet to reconsider decision and we recommend that all future reports in relation to themes which may emerge from the recommendations of the working group be reported to a future meeting of the Full Council.

- 2.5 A copy of the original report presented to the Cabinet on 20 February 2018 is attached as an appendix to the report.
- 2.6 The Call In Request is valid for consideration by the Committee. The request was received within the appropriate timescale, it was signed by three Elected Members and details were provided on both the reason for the Call In and the desired outcome.
- 2.7 The Elected Members who have submitted the Call In will be invited to address the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to explain the Call In Request. The appropriate Cabinet Member, accompanied by senior officers, will then be invited to clarify the reasons for the decision. The Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions of both parties and of those officers in attendance.
- 2.8 The Committee will then debate the Call In Request and decide whether or not it agrees with the decision of the Cabinet.
- 2.9 Where the Committee does not agree with the decision of the Cabinet, the matter will be referred to the next meeting of the Cabinet with recommendations from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for alternative action. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee therefore has to:-
- i) decide if it agrees or not with the decision of the Cabinet; and
 - ii) consider what alternative action the Committee would recommend to the Cabinet if it does not agree with the decision.
- 2.10 When the matter is considered by the Cabinet, the Chairperson or another member of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee will have the right to attend the Cabinet and speak in support of any recommendation.

2.11 In the event the Cabinet declines to accept the recommendation from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, the matter will be referred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council for determination. The decision of the Council will be final.

3. Proposals


3.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers the Call In Request.

4. Implications

Financial:	None arising from this report.
Human Resources:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	None arising from this report.
Equality:	None arising from this report.
Children and Young People	None arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	None arising from this report.
Community Benefits:	None arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 No further consultation has been undertaken in compiling this report.



Elma Murray
Chief Executive

For further information please contact **Euan Gray, Committee Services Officer** on **01292 324130**.

Background Papers

Cabinet report appended