

Cabinet
19 January 2016

IRVINE, 19 January 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Donald Reid and Tom Marshall, Joan Sturgeon (Item 3) and Ian Clarkson (Agenda Items 3 and 4).

In Attendance

Elma Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management), G. Macgregor, Head of Service (Customer, People and Corporate Support) and S. Stewart, Senior Learning and Organisational Development Adviser (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); J. Butcher, Executive Director and F. MacKenzie, Head Teacher, Glebe Primary School (Education and Youth Employment), I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), K. Yeomans, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Economy and Communities); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications), D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

L. Cairns (Chief Executive), C. Glencorse (Business Manager Leisure), L. Barrie (Business Manager Physical Activity), L. Campbell, Business Manager Development and S. Morrison (Development Officer) (North Ayrshire Leisure Limited).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Burns, as a North Ayrshire Leisure Limited Board Member declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 2015; and (ii) the special meeting of the Committee held on 15 December 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan incorporating Budget 2016-17 and Progress Report, December 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan, incorporating the budget for 2016-17, progress in terms of performance during the first 6 months compared to the same period last year and on the main points to note for 2016-17. The Cabinet also received a presentation by the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Leisure Limited.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- whether KA Leisure membership numbers are reaching saturation point;
- measures to address the downturn in public swimming uptake at Garnock Pool as a result of the new format swimming lessons which require closure of the pool at those times; and
- the balance between Club and individual use of leisure facilities including Ravenspark Golf Course.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the NALL Progress Report on the Business/Service Plan, incorporating the budget for 2016/17, as set out in the appendix to the report.

4. Directorate Plan 2015/16 Performance Reports as at 30 September 2015

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the performance of all Directorates as at 30 September 2015 against the priorities in the 2015/18 Directorate Plans.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

Education and Youth Employment

- additional funding in the sum of £400,000 which has been secured through 'Schools for the Future' in relation to the Learning Academy.

Economy and Communities

- confirmation from the Scottish Government that North Ayrshire has been selected as a pilot area in connection with the Inclusive Growth agenda.

Health and Social Care Partnership

- the creation of a pan-Ayrshire Concerns Hub based at Kilmarnock Police Station.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the performance of all Directorates as at 30 September 2015 against the priorities in the 2015/18 Directorate Plans; and (b) refer the Directorate Plan 2015/18 Performance Reports to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee on 27 January 2016.

5. Performance Management Update

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress with the Performance Management Forum (PMF) work plan under the PMF key performance areas and on the Recognised for Excellence journey.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note progress on (i) the Performance Management forum (PMF) work plan under the PMF key performance areas; and (ii) Recognised for Excellence; and (b) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee on 27 January 2016.

6. Recognised for Excellence Improvement Plan

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed Council response to the main recommendations following the Recognised for Excellence Assessors feedback report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information on the timescales in relation to re-applying for R4E once the areas highlighted in the feedback report have been taken forward.

The Cabinet agreed the three phases of actions detailed in section 3 of the report.

7. Information Management Strategy

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the revised North Ayrshire Council Information Management strategy, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, and seeking approval for its adoption.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Information Management Strategy detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Revenue Budget 2015/16 : Budgetary Control Statement to 30 November 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2015; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 8; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 9; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 31 November 2015 at Appendix 10.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note (i) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership and (ii) request that the Recovery Plan is submitted to a future Cabinet; (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 9; and (d) approve the earmarking of £5.630m as outlined in section 2.3(v) of the report.

9. Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2015.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information on the reduction and the delay in association with funding to come from the SPT in relation to work at Irvine Station car park.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1, 2.5, 2.7 and 2.9 of the report; (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure and revised budgets to 30 November 2015; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2016.

10. Review of EU NUTS 2 Regions

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the response to the Scottish Government consultation on a review of the NUTS (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) 2 regions in Scotland, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed the response to the consultation, which supports the proposed NUTS 2 boundary change, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Ayrshire Growth Deal

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of an Ayrshire Growth Deal in collaboration with regional partners.

The Cabinet agreed (a) the draft aim for the Ayrshire Growth Deal; (b) the project scoring criteria from which Ayrshire Growth Deal projects will emerge; (c) to continue the preparation of an Ayrshire Growth Deal in collaboration with South and East Ayrshire Councils with a view to the approval and submission of a bid in March 2016.

12. Proposal for the Naming of the New Cultural, Community and Leisure Centre in Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the community engagement process related to the naming of the new Cultural, Community and Leisure Centre and proposing a name for the centre.

The Cabinet agreed that the new Cultural, Community and Leisure Centre in Irvine be named 'The Portal' or 'Portal' depending on the context.

13. Tourism

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the report of the Ayrshire Joint Services Committee of 11 December 2015 regarding the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism - Future Delivery of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, and on the development of a new approach to tourism in North Ayrshire.

The Chief Executive advised that correspondence had been received regarding the proposed recommendations contained in the report and circulated the emails and letters, together with responses, to Cabinet Members.

The Chair then invited Councillor Marshall to speak to the terms of the report and on the views of local trade regarding a lack of consultation on the proposals for the future delivery of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy and the development of a new approach to tourism in North Ayrshire.

Councillor Bruce left the meeting at this point.

Cabinet Members discussed the following:-

- the requirement to look at tourism as part of the wider economic agenda and to use tourism as a vehicle for creative economic growth; and
- the need to be confident that the tourism sector grows and is promoted around local events within North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the report of the Ayrshire Joint Services Committee of 11 December 2015 on Ayrshire and Arran Tourism - Future Delivery of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Strategy, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) to receive a future report proposing a revised approach to local and regional delivery of activities in relation to tourism in Ayrshire, including a renewed focus on the major coastal and maritime strengths of North Ayrshire; and (c) that a meeting take place between representatives of the Largs Bid Group and officers of the Council on future proposals.

The meeting ended at 5.20 p.m.