

Cabinet
26 November 2019

IRVINE, 26 November 2019 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell and Alex Gallagher.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D Hammond, Head of Service (Interim) (Commercial), J. Miller, Senior Manager (Planning), and L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); L. Friel, Executive Director, and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Financial Management) (Finance and Corporate Support); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Interim) and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Interim) (Connected Communities) (Communities); S. Brown, Director, and D. MacRitchie, Senior Manager (Children and Families) (Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer (Communications) and E. Gray, H. Clancy and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies

Robert Foster, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and announced that the Cabinet meeting would be webcast and that all decisions are subject to the Call In Procedure detailed at Standing Order 24.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 October 2019 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Revenue Budget 2019/20 : Financial Performance to 30 September 2019

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the financial performance for the Council at 30 September 2019. Reports for each directorate were set out at Appendices 1-7 of the report, Virement/Budget Adjustment Requests at Appendix 8 and the HSCP Period 5 Report at Appendix 9.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) provided a verbal update on the financial position of the Health and Social Care Partnership following the approval of the Period 6 Budget Report by the Integration Joint Board on 21 November 2019.

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

- concerns around the finances of the Health and Social Care Partnership;
- the effectiveness of the recovery plan which has been adopted; and
- how services can be targeted to allow savings to be realised.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report; and (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; (b) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 8 of the report; and (c) request that a revenue budget update is provided to each meeting of the Cabinet going forward.

5. Capital Programme Performance to 30 September 2019

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 September 2019. The full Capital Investment Programme was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and the HRA Capital Statement at Appendix 2.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the delay of the opening of Trindlemoss and the impact which this would have on achieving the desired savings of the project.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 30 September 2019; and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2020.

6. Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report 2019/20

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Treasury Management update for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019. The 2019/20 Mid-Year Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the overall reduction of the Council's planned borrowing in comparison to the forecast provided in February 2019 and how these reductions were achieved; and
- the source of the Council's borrowing which offers a reduced interest rate in comparison to the Public Works Loans Board.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the contents of the Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report for 2019/20; and (b) note (i) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators; and (ii) the changes arising from the review of Loans Fund Advances.

7. Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the feedback from the most recent community consultations regarding the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme and plans to submit a formal Scheme Notification to Scottish Government. A summary of the August 2019 consultation feedback was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and a visualisation of proposed scheme at Appendix 2.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the step ashore proposals and whether any timing issues around the Ayrshire Growth Deal funding have been anticipated.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the work carried out including the extensive engagement which has helped to develop community support for the proposed scheme; and (ii) that officers will finalise the scheme notification documents; and (b) agree that officers will submit the Formal Scheme Notification to the Scottish Government.

8. Proposed Flood Protection Schemes for Submission to SEPA as part of the Flood Risk Management Cycle of National Prioritisation

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the three flood protection scheme proposals for submission to SEPA for the next stage of evaluation for potential funding. The Lower Irvine Valley Flood Extent Map and Proposed Scheme Layout was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the Keppen Burn, Fairlie Culvert Upgrade Scheme Layout at Appendix 2 and the Brodick and Lamlash Flood Extent Maps at Appendix 3.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the percentage of the total cost of the projects, which equates to £3.7M, which the Council would be responsible for should they be taken forward and how they would be funded.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (i) the Lower Irvine Valley Flood Scheme proposal; (ii) the Keppen Burn Culvert Upgrade proposal and (iii) the Brodick & Lamlash Flood Scheme proposal for submission to SEPA for evaluation.

9. Proposed Regional Spatial Strategy for Ayrshire

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Regional Spatial Strategy which was introduced through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and proposals for Ayrshire Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the proposed programme for undertaking a Regional Spatial Strategy; (b) delegate authority to officers to work collaboratively with East and South Ayrshire Councils to prepare an Ayrshire Regional Spatial Strategy; and (c) request that a report on the completed Regional Spatial Strategy is brought to a future meeting for approval.

10. Disposal of Hazeldene Interlink site, Blair Road, Kilwinning

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval to market the surplus Hazeldene Interlink site, Kilwinning.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the demolition of the property and subsequent disposal of the site.

11. Community Asset Transfer of Dunlop Memorial Hall

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on the transfer of ownership of Dunlop Memorial Hall from North Ayrshire Council to the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve (i) the asset transfer of Dunlop Memorial Hall from North Ayrshire Council to the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band; and (ii) the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the property valuation (£4000); and (b) authorise officers to conclude the associated legal and community asset transfer processes.

12. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

Submitted a report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the Chief Social Work Officer's annual update. The Chief Social Worker Officer's report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the differences between the Early Intervention scheme which was introduced previously and the scheme which was introduced in the past 18 months which was highlighted in the report;
- improvements which have been made across the service and how these are evidenced; and
- the role out of the Locality Approach to social work and the progress which has been made with this.

The Cabinet agreed to endorse the Chief Social Worker Officer's annual report.

The Meeting ended at 3.30 p.m.