

Cabinet
24 January 2023

At the Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving a combination of participation by remote electronic means and physical attendance within the Council Chambers, Irvine.

Present (Physical Participation)

Marie Burns, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen and Shaun Macaulay.

Present (Remote Electronic Participation)

Tony Gurney and Margaret Johnson.

Also Present (Physical Participation)

Stewart Ferguson, Cameron Inglis, Nairn McDonald, Matthew McLean, Donald Reid, Chloe Robertson and John Sweeney.

In Attendance (Physical Participation)

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Finance Management) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Sustainability, Transport & Corporate Property), T. Reaney, Head of Service (Neighbourhood Services), L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration) and C. Dempster, Senior Manager (Roads); A. Sutton, Executive Director and R. Leith, Head of Service (Connected Communities) (Communities & Education); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Craig, Head of Service, I. Hardy, Team Manager (Policy and Performance), J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, C. Stewart, H. Clancy and S. Wilson, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Marie Burns in the Chair.

1. Chair's Remarks

Prior to commencing with the business of the meeting Councillor Burns, Chair, advised Cabinet that Councillor Davidson had stood down from Cabinet and that his portfolio duties for Place would be undertaken by Councillor Gurney for the time being.

Noted.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 November 2022 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 11 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

4. Council Plan Mid-Year Progress Report

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) advising Cabinet on progress of the Council Plan priorities. The Council Plan Progress report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on the two actions significantly adrift of target, which were due to external factors.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the Council Plan Progress Update Mid-Year 2022-23 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) to note the status of the Council's performance indicators and actions at Appendices 2 and 3 to the report; and (c) to refer this report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

5. Proposed Car parking Charges Kilwinning, Irvine and Saltcoats

Submitted reports by (1) the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the outcome of consideration by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of three petitions in relation to proposed car parking charges in Kilwinning, Irvine and Saltcoats, and (2) the Executive Director (Place) on 3 petitions received objecting to the introduction of car parking charges, the outcome of local discussions held with Ward Members and local measures proposed following the introduction of DPE and car parking charges and to consider and agree the level of parking charges to be introduced.

On behalf of Members, Councillor Burns, Chair, thanked officers for all their hard work on this matter, including the significant consultation that had been carried out with local Elected Members.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the 3 petitions (as detailed in the separate report to this Cabinet) received objecting to the introduction of car parking charges and heard at a recent meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee; (b) to remit consideration of the recommendations for addressing local concerns (including the introduction of resident parking permits and the removal of Bradshaw Street, Saltcoats from the chargeable car parks) to the next meeting of Council; and (c) to remit consideration and approval of the level of charges to be introduced in the car parks (noting that should option 3, as detailed within Appendix 3 to the report, be the preferred option, then an alternative source of revenue funding would need to be identified to address the budget shortfall identified in section 4.1 of this report) to the next meeting of Council.

6. Change of Mental Health Champion

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the appointment of an Elected Member as Mental Health Champion following a vacancy having arisen.

The Cabinet agreed to appoint Councillor McClung as Mental Health Champion.

7. Revenue Budget 2022/23: Financial Performance to 30 November 2022

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance of the Council at 30 November 2022. Detailed explanations of the significant variances in service expenditure compared to the approved budgets, together with information on funding to be carried forward to support expenditure during 2022/23 were provided in Appendices 1-4 of the report. A full list of the proposed carry forward of earmarked funds was set out at Appendix 5 to the report. Information in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was contained in Appendices 6 and 6a and information on virements/budget adjustment requests was provided at Appendix 7 to the report. Information on the IJB financial performance was presented in Appendix 8 to the report.

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

- the recovery by the Scottish Government of Covid support costs from Integrated Joint Boards (IJB) and any consequential impact this might have on the budget for the IJB going forward; and
- the potential impact on the Council budget in terms of cost pressures had earmarking of funds not taken place.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and its associated appendices, (ii) the latest financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership highlighted at section 2.6 of the report and (iii) the current projected deficit position of KA Leisure; and (b) approve (i) the earmarking of £0.023m identified at section 2.5 of the report to meet future year commitments and (ii) the virements detailed at Appendix 7 to the report.

8. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2023

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2022/23.

The Cabinet agreed to note (i) the revisions to budgets outlined in the report, (ii) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 30 November 2022, and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2023.

9. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities & Education) on applications by Locality Partnerships to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects. The proposals from CHAP – Advice Outreach Services were set out in Appendix 1 to the report, with the CIF application from Ardrossan Community Sports Winton Park 3G being set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the value of the CHAP proposal in terms of being a worthwhile investment going forward.

Cabinet Members also commented on the importance of the views of the Locality Partnership in considering applications.

The Cabinet, having reviewed the applications from the Three Towns Locality Partnership set out in the appendices to the report in line with CIF criteria, agreed to approve (i) the CIF application in relation to CHAP – Advice Outreach Services in the amount of £45,767 and (ii) the CIF application in relation to Ardrossan Community Sports Winton Park 3G in the amount of £100,000.

10. Community Asset Transfer Application – Toilet Block and adjacent land at Ardrossan South Beach

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities & Education) seeking approval, in principle, for a 25-year lease of the toilet block and adjacent land at Ardrossan South Beach to Ardrossan Community Development Trust. A location Plan and an outline of the Phased Approach of the Application were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The work of the Ardrossan Community Development Trust, officers and local Members in developing the asset transfer to this stage was acknowledged by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the 25-year lease, in principle, of the Toilet Block and adjacent land at Ardrossan South Beach between North Ayrshire Council and Ardrossan Community- Development Trust, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the Council's Community Asset Transfer process, including the requirements detailed in section 1.3 of the report; (b) approve the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion as a £6,000 in annual rental fee ((a total of £150,000 over the 25-year period of the lease ; and (c) authorise officers to conclude the associated legal and community asset transfer processes for Ardeer Quarry Football Ground and adjacent land.

11. Providing Affordable Warmth – EC04 Flex

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval for proposals to enable access to EC04 Flex funding for eligible households within North Ayrshire. A draft Statement of Intent was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- ongoing revenue implications for the Council; and
- the commencement date of the programme being from April 2023, and whether there were any consequential difficulties arising from this early start date.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the introduction of EC04 Flex in North Ayrshire on the terms outlined in section 2.8 of the report; and (b) to delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place) to publish an updated Statement of Intent following completion of the Prior Information Notice and subsequent assessment of eligible contractors.

12. North Ayrshire Community Renewable Energy Generation Funding Scheme (CREGFS)

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval of a proposed North Ayrshire Community Renewable Energy Generation Funding Scheme.

Members asked questions and received clarification on the types of projects which may fall within the terms of the Scheme.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the proposed Community Renewable Energy Generation Funding Scheme (CREGFS); and (b) receive a further update on the CREGFS at a future meeting of Cabinet.

13. Town Centre Fund Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) providing an update on the delivery of the approved Town Centre Fund projects and seeking approval for the reallocation of the balance of funding. The proposals for the remaining balance of the Town Centre Fund were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made on the implementation of the agreed Town Centre Fund projects, and the remaining balance of £147,092 which required to be allocated; (b) approve the proposals for the remaining balance of the Town Centre Fund as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (c) provide delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to agree any future changes to the funding allocations, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead, if required.

14. Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) seeking approval for the proposed North Ayrshire Council submission to the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer consultation on the proposed new Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme (OPTS). A summary of the OPTS and the proposed consultation response were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the submission of the proposed consultation response to the Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme provided at Appendix 2 to the report.

The meeting ended at 3.50 p.m.