

Cabinet
25 October 2016

IRVINE, 25 October 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater, Jim Montgomerie, Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus (Agenda Items 1-6) and David Dunlop and Amy Cowan (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-15).

Also Present

Anthea Dickson and Willie Gibson.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; J. Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools), C. Amos, Head of Service (Inclusion), A. McClelland, Senior Manager and L. Cook, Education Development Co-ordinator (Youth Employment and Enterprise) (Education and Youth Employment); L. Friel, Executive Director and S. Humphries, Chief Revenues and Benefits Officer (Finance and Corporate Support); R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial Services), Y. Baulk, Head of Physical Environment, T. Reaney, Senior Manager (Streetscene), L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment), C. Dempster, Team Manager (Network Management), C. Forsyth, Team Manager (Traffic and Transportation) (Place); M. Davison, Senior Manager, Democratic Services, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, M. Sugden, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Peter McNamara, Mark Fraser and Elizabeth Higton (Church Representatives).

1. 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.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2016. A presentation on the key issues arising from the report was also provided to Members.

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

- methods to be taken forward within schools to tackle numeracy and literacy;
- actions to improve the performance of the highest attaining 20% in S6;
- reasons for the dip in performance levels in S6 and how to motivate students; and
- whether data in relation to looked-after school leavers is correlated with social well-being data to they are supported

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of the pupils in this year's examinations; and (b) to receive a further report in the first quarter of 2017 when the full set of performance measures becomes available which will comment on the overall performance of the 2016 leavers cohort in North Ayrshire as highlighted in the INSIGHT annual report.

4. Annual Participation Measure for 16-19 year olds

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the progress being made with the introduction of the annual participation measure for 16-19 year olds which will help shape future policy and better inform targeted interventions by the Council and its partners.

The Cabinet (a) noted the data, with the proviso that this is still an experimental set of statistics; and (b) agreed the proposed actions set out in section 3 of the report.

5. Education Scotland Validated Self-Evaluation of Psychological Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the outcomes from the Education Scotland Validated Self-Evaluation of Psychological Service which was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the number of Educational Psychologists within the service; and
- actions to be taken forward to pilot a new service delivery model in all schools to ensure early and effective intervention.

The Cabinet agreed to support the next stage of service development, which involves piloting a new service delivery model.

6. Children and Young People Support Review

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the progress made by the Children and Young People Support Review Board and to seek direction on the implications of some of the planned service improvements.

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

- clarification on future support for budget realignment;
- interim arrangements for requesting resources which will be established when Partnership Forums cease to exist to ensure no young person is disadvantaged; and
- the future introduction of the Named Person Service.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made by each of the 9 workstreams; and (b) receive a further paper for approval, detailing the plan for the consultation on proposed service changes and improvements.

7. Social Impact Pledge

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the production of a North Ayrshire Council Social Impact Pledge which is aimed at increasing the social impact of public sector organisations across Scotland.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that North Ayrshire Council produces a social impact pledge; and (b) to the proposed three commitment pledges to take forward for the next six months as detailed in the report.

8. Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2014/15

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Directorates' priorities identified following the publication of the latest LGBF report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) the LGBF priorities identified by Directorates; (b) that further work will be undertaken within Directorates to identify improvement activity in the priority areas; (c) that further use of the Framework will be used as the Improvement Service develop the Framework, and (d) to submit the report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

9. Public Performance Reporting 2015/16

Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Council's public performance reporting and the draft Annual Performance Report 2015/16.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to possible improvements to ensure data is more readily available.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the status of the Council's performance indicators at Appendices 1 and 2; (b) approve the draft Annual Performance Report 2015/16 set out at Appendix 3; and (c) notes that the report will be referred to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

10. Consultation on Social Security in Scotland

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on Social Security in Scotland. The full response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the likelihood of the delivery of Social Security being devolved and integrated at a local level; and
- the definition of a memorial headstone or plaque and on whether it relates to a cremation or burial.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) undertook to check the current situation in relation to plaques and unmarked graves.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Council's response to the consultation on Social Security in Scotland, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Corporate Asset Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the updated Corporate Asset Strategy and advising on the revised governance arrangements for the capital programme.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Corporate Asset Strategy; and (b) note the review of governance of the capital programme.

12. Future Cemetery Provision

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the future provision of cemeteries in North Ayrshire.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the site owned by the Council off the B785 as a potential site for extending the capacity for Kilwinning cemetery provision.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the proposals to (i) consolidate the number of cemeteries on Arran due to the lack of suitable, available land and that public consultation will take place on this matter; (ii) continue to pursue options, including additional funding requirements, for Brodick, Arran and report back to a future Cabinet meeting; (iii) extend the existing cemeteries at Kilbride Cemetery (Arran), Knadgerhill Cemetery (Irvine), High Road (Stevenston), Dalry Cemetery and West Kilbride Cemetery; (iv) realise additional burial capacity at Kilbirnie New by utilising appropriate parcels of land not currently allocated for burials through the removal of trees, shrubs and the removal of a redundant outbuilding to extend the burial capacity from 2 years up to potentially 7 years; and (v) create new cemeteries in Kilwinning and Kilbirnie; and (b) to note that the current allocation of Capital Funding includes provision for the proposals listed with the exception of the creation of a new cemetery in Kilbirnie and extensions to Dalry and West Kilbride cemeteries; and (c) that the provision of the required additional funding, both Capital and Revenue, be considered by Council as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process.

13. Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2016/17, in support of the Council's statutory duties under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to Priority 1 footways which would be cleared on one or both sides depending on the severity of the weather.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2016/17; and (b) note the preparations and developments contained in the Winter Action Preparation Plan.

14. Dubbs Road, Stevenston/Kilwinning Prohibition of Driving Order (Page 322)

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit driving on a section of Dubbs Road.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) notes the findings in the report; and (b) approve (i) the proposal to promote a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit driving on a section of Dubbs Road, and (ii) its implementation if no objections are received.

15. Exclusion of the Public

The Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following items of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

16. Sale of Surplus Property, 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Council's heritable interest in the former Registration Office at 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the disposal of 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats as detailed in the report.

17. Sportscotland Facilities Management Tender Opportunity

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the submission of two tenders to Sportscotland to provide facilities management services at their premises in Largs and Cumbrae.

The Cabinet (a) noted the submission during the October recess of two tenders to Sportscotland to provide facilities management services at their premises in Largs and Cumbrae; and (b) agreed, if the tenders are successful, to grant the Executive Director (Place) delegated authority to enter into the necessary contracts.

The Meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.