



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council

A Meeting of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 09 June 2021** at **14:00** to consider the undernoted business.

Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. In the event that live-streaming is not possible, a recording of the meeting will instead be available to view at this location.

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

3 Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 31 March 2021 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

4 Provost's Report

Submit report by the Provost covering the period 22 March - 30 May 2021 (copy enclosed).

5 Leader's Report

Submit report by the Leader of the Council covering the period 22 March - 30 May 2021 (copy enclosed).

- 6 Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**
Submit, for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of Meeting of committees of the Council held in the period 29 January - 1 June 2021.
- 7 Committee Appointment**
In terms of Standing Order 7.2, note the appointment of Councillor Davina McTiernan to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee as a Member of the main Opposition Group, following the resignation of Joy Brahim as an Elected Member.
- 8 Elected Member Attendance**
Submit report by the Head of Democratic Services on the circumstances surrounding the non-attendance on an Elected Member and the relevant provisions within Standing Orders Relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and its Committees (copy enclosed).
- 9 Family Leave for Councillors**
Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a proposed scheme for family leave for councillors, and ancillary changes required to bring this into effect (copy enclosed).
- 10 Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on proposals regarding the future delivery of library services and community facilities in a community hub model (copy enclosed)
- 11 Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs - Compulsory Purchase**
Submit report by the Head of Democratic Services on the proposed compulsory purchase of the Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs, being a house and/or land required to provide housing accommodation in Largs (copy enclosed).
- 12 Questions**
In terms of Standing Order 12, submit:-
- (1) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:**
- "How many North Ayrshire Council contracts are let with British Gas?"
- (2) a question by Councillor Larsen to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:**
- "Can the Cabinet Member confirm the position with regard to Early Years Provision at the new Lockhart Campus?"

(3) a question by Councillor McClung to the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy in the following terms:

"Having been approached by a number of constituents who had been unaware of the recently-held Consultation on Halls and Libraries I would like to ask the Cabinet Member for Participatory Democracy what steps were taken to ensure that the residents of Saltcoats knew this consultation was taking place, and what measures were employed to make it viable for interested parties to contribute their views, given that a large number of those who may have wished to do so do not have internet access, or the technical wherewithal to give responses other than in writing."

(4) a question by Councillor Billings to the leader of the Opposition in the following terms:

"South Ayrshire Council's Siobhian Brown and East Ayrshire Council's Elena Whitham were elected to the Scottish Parliament last month. Both have decided to remain as serving councillors. The Daily Record of 19 May 2021 states that Ms. Brown insisted the cost of a by-election to the public purse made any such move prohibitive. She is quoted as saying: "A by-election (in normal times) has a cost of around £45,000 to the public purse and three-month notice period." "After careful consideration, it is my intention to stand down from my current portfolio but remain as a councillor serving the constituents of Ayr West until the local government elections in May 2022."

Subsequently Councillor Joy Brahim, SNP councillor for Dalry and West Kilbride resigned her post of councillor stating that her work base has moved to Edinburgh. This will trigger a North Ayrshire Council by-election, presumably at similar cost to the public purse as that quoted by Siobhian Brown MSP, followed by another election in May 2022. As Leader of the Opposition, did Councillor Burns try to persuade Councillor Brahim to see out the remainder of her term to avoid the cost to the public purse of a by-election. Can Councillor Burns cast any light on whether this was a consideration in Councillor Brahim's decision?"

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Post-Covid Renewal/the Islands in the following terms:

"Can the Portfolio Holder for Islands please give exact details of what Shore Based Street Furniture, Footway and Lighting improvements will be provided over and above the Scottish Governments Funding of the Millport Flood Defence and how will it be funded?"

(6) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide details of how North Ayrshire Council will finance the future maintenance of the Maritime Mile/Great Harbour project?"

(7) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide details of any current and future North Ayrshire Council initiatives to generate general income?"

(8) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide a specific date for the introduction of (DPE) Decriminalised Parking Enforcement?"

(9) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Can the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the motion to write to the HSE & MAIB regarding an investigation in to the incident at Hunterston Parc Jetty on 2nd February 2021?"

(10) a question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

"Will the Leader inform Members of the number of all incidents recorded by Operators of North Ayrshire CCTV service in the financial year 2020/21 ? The numbers to include responses to contact from North Ayrshire Shopkeepers by Radiolink, observation/review requests by Police Scotland to monitor and record an incident they are attending."

13 Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

(1) a motion by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Gallacher, in the following terms:

"North Ayrshire Council has had a long tradition of being at the forefront of resettlement programmes when they have been introduced and it is only right that the Council should extend the hand of friendship to those wishing to relocate from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom as part of the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme. Since the programme was announced by the U.K. Government there have been 34,300 applications, with 7,200 visas having been granted so far.

The Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Integration Programme has been implemented to ensure that status holders can receive access to housing, work, and educational support to enable them to quickly integrate and contribute to their newfound communities.

As these areas covered by the funding support remain the responsibility of the devolved administrations £5.8m has been made available to the devolved administrations through the Barnett formula to support councils in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Additionally, there is a further £5m which will be used to establish 12 virtual welcome hubs across the United Kingdom to facilitate support and provide practical advice and assistance to Hong Kong BN(O)'s applying for school places, registering with GPs, and setting up businesses.

The hubs will collaborate with local authorities and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) groups to provide face-to-face support where needed, while resources will be made available to local authorities, including FAQs and lessons learned from other integration programmes to share best practice from across the UK.

The move delivers on the UK's historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status after the handover in 1997 and provides them with a pathway to live in the UK should they choose to do so.

BN(O) status holders have had their rights and freedoms restricted by the National Security Legislation imposed by the Chinese government in July 2020 and the UK Government believes it is right to change the entitlements in the UK which are attached to their status.

Therefore, we move that the Council:

1. Agrees to work with the United Kingdom Government to ensure the successful delivery of the Hong Kong BN(O) Integration Programme by committing to work with UK Government officials to support Hong Kong BN(O) residents in coming to North Ayrshire.

2. Agrees that a report is brought to Cabinet detailing the up-to-date position on U.K. Government proposals outlining the support which the Council can provide to Hong Kong BN(O) visa applicants.

3. Agrees that the report should include information detailing how North Ayrshire Council can become the directing Council for the virtual hub in Scotland and investigate access to funding streams to support Hong Kong BN(O) residents who take the opportunity to make Scotland their new home."

(2) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, in the following terms:

"That North Ayrshire Council expresses concern

a. at the abject failure of Cal Mac to operate an efficient and dependable ferry service to the island of Arran resulting inconvenience to residents, substantial disruption to the holiday trade and the loss of business to the island estimated by the Arran Recovery Group to exceed £2.7m caused by the removal of the Isle of Arran to cover routes elsewhere in Scotland

b. at the failure to ensure adequate backup for the repeated breakdowns of the 17 year old Loch Shira which serves Cumbrae

c. at the lack of effective consultation with islanders regarding the new Glen Sannox resulting in building one ship that is too long (102m) for the quayside at Ardrossan, the consequence of which is greatly increased infrastructure costs

d. over the lack of decisions regarding the new infrastructure required at Ardrossan resulting in the temporary movement of the ferry service to Troon and the possibility of the ferry service not returning to Ardrossan

e. regarding the failure of Cal Mac to charter replacement vessels for example the Pentalina which operates in the Pentland Firth and which is available or alternatively approach shipbrokers who have a number of vessels which may suit

f. the lack of competition in the provision of Ferry services due to the Scottish Government and CMAL and Cal Mac variously owning the shipyard, ferry routes and ferries resulting in an unacceptable standard of service provision. due to the control that the Scottish Government exerts over the provision of ferry services

and agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Mr Matheson, Transport Minister and Mr Dey, Ferries Minister expressing these concerns and requesting a Meeting between them and the Island Members."

(3) a motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Billings, in the following terms:

“Formal exams for Senior Scottish pupils have been cancelled for the second year in a row in December 2020. The replacement system is called the Alternative Certification Model. The process raises serious concerns over the latest reports of the 2021 SQA examination process, in particular, its assessment and awards process, which has been reported as an ‘unfolding debacle’ by the author of the review into the 2020 SQA exam diet.

We note with concern that:

a. The Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) unexpectedly announced a series of smaller exams for every subject, following the cancellation of exams 2020-21.

b. This has led to schools, including those in North Ayrshire Council, having to create complex timetables to cover the smaller exam diet announced by the SQA.

c. This raises further concerns that some of the papers have been leaked online and with schools operating differing timetables, exam content has been placed on social media such as TikTok

We move that the Council agrees to write to the Education Secretary to ask what the Scottish Government’s response is to these growing concerns and to seek reassurance that North Ayrshire pupils will not be disadvantaged as a result of the SQA requiring the completion of these exams, following the cancellation of the 2021 Higher level exam diet by the Deputy First Minister in December 2020.”

(4) a motion by Councillor McPhater, seconded by Councillor Cullinane, in the following terms:

“Council notes that the temporary ban on evictions, introduced to protect tenants during the Covid-19 public health crisis, lifts when an area enters Level 2. We know that the pandemic has severely impacted the incomes of many households and it would be fair to assume that rent arrears will have increased during the pandemic.

Council expresses its concerns that unilaterally lifting the eviction ban when an area enters Level 2, when the pandemic is not over and the public health threats of the virus are fluid and ever changing, could result in a spike of eviction notices over the coming months despite the continued risks associated with Covid-19. Council therefore agrees that the Chief Executive write to the Scottish Government requesting they consider additional public health protections, including further financial support, for tenants in Level 2 and below.

In the meantime, Council endorses the Council taking a supportive approach with our own tenants in respect of rent arrears accumulated over the period of the pandemic; adopting an income maximisation first approach to support tenants in accessing financial support as well as exercising flexibility in negotiating repayment plans for rent arrears.

However, Council is concerned that the lifting of the eviction ban will play out differently for tenants in the private rented sector than those in the social rented sector where such supportive approaches are more likely to be adopted. Council therefore agrees to issue public communications outlining tenants’ rights and providing advice to those who may receive an eviction notice at this time.

Furthermore, Council praises the work of Living Rent, Scotland’s tenants’ union, in representing the interests of tenants in both the private and social rented sectors. Council believes the interests of all tenants in North Ayrshire, from all rented sectors, would be enhanced by the presence of a Living Rent branch in North Ayrshire, providing advocacy and support for tenants who join the union. Council therefore agrees to engage with Living Rent on the potential of creating a branch and a joint campaign to recruit members in all rented sectors.”

14 Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Webcasting - Virtual Meeting

Please note: this meeting may be recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting, the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded/live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.

If you are participating in this meeting by invitation, you are consenting to being filmed and consenting to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in the them live-streaming/recording or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. If you do not wish to participate in a recording, you should leave the 'virtual meeting'. This will constitute your revocation of consent.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

North Ayrshire Council Sederunt

Ian Clarkson (Provost)
Robert Barr (Depute Provost)
John Bell
Timothy Billings
Marie Burns
Joe Cullinane
Scott Davidson
Anthea Dickson
John Easdale
Todd Ferguson
Robert Foster
Scott Gallacher
Alex Gallagher
Margaret George
John Glover
Tony Gurney
Alan Hill
Christina Larsen
Shaun Macaulay
Jean McClung
Ellen McMaster
Ronnie McNicol
Louise McPhater
Davina McTiernan
Tom Marshall
Jimmy Miller
Jim Montgomerie
Ian Murdoch
Donald Reid
Donald L Reid
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

North Ayrshire Council
31 March 2021

At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Jean McClung, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive; A. Sutton, Executive Director (Communities and Education); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); C. Cameron, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) (Place); M. Boyd Head of Service; (Finance); F. Walker, Head of Service and M. Lindsay, Senior Customer Officer (People and ICT); A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic Services), A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), H. Clancy, E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers and M. Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) (Democratic Services) (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies

Scott Davidson.

1. Provost's Remarks

The Provost welcomed Members and officers to the meeting, which was proceeding on a wholly remote basis by electronic means.

The Provost then dealt with preliminary matters. Members were reminded of the pre-election period prior to the Scottish Parliamentary elections and the heightened need for vigilance by the Council in terms of avoiding the publication of material which might constitute 'political publicity'.

The Provost intimated that, whilst the meeting would be live streamed, it was his intention, as a precaution, to ask for the live stream to be halted for Motion (2) on the Agenda, as well as at any other point in the meeting where, on the advice of the Legal advisor, there was a risk of breaching the pre-election restrictions.

The Provost further advised that, depending upon the nature of the discussion which took place, a recording of any elements not live streamed would either be made available on the Council's website after the meeting or following the Scottish Parliamentary elections, as appropriate.

2. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

On behalf of the Council, the Provost extended his good wishes to Councillor Davidson for a full and speedy recovery.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

4. Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17 February 2021 and the Special Meeting held on 4 March 2021 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

At the request of the Leader of the Council, and with the agreement of the Provost, the Chief Executive provided a short verbal update in respect of Item 10 (Ardrossan Harbour Update) of the Minute of 17 February 2021. Members were invited to note that, since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, further meetings had taken place between Transport Scotland, Peel Ports and officers. Whilst legal agreements had not yet been signed with the Scottish Government, a follow-up meeting was planned and it was expected that draft agreements would be signed or otherwise ready for signature at an early date.

Noted.

5. Provost's Report

Submitted report by the Provost for the period from 8 February – 21 March 2021.

The Provost highlighted the following elements of his written report:

- several online events to celebrate Chinese New Year in February 2021;
- Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gatherings which took place on 10 February and 17 March 2021;

- an online film in celebration of the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan; and
- St. Patrick's Day celebrations which took place online on 17 March 2021;

Noted.

6. Leader's Report

Submitted report by the Leader of the Council for the period from 8 February – 21 March 2021.

Noted.

7. Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting and for approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 14 September 2020 – 12 March 2021.

Agreed.

8. Questions

In terms of Standing Order 12, submitted:

- (1) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Beith is often described as the last outpost in North Ayrshire being less than 1 mile from the Renfrewshire border.

The town has suffered disproportionately from the closure of shops and businesses. On 31 January 2021 there were a total of 19 shops and other business premises which had been closed for some time.

It is not without significance that Beith, unlike its near neighbours Dalry and Kilbirnie and other North Ayrshire towns, has no North Ayrshire Council offices, other than the part-time library in Main Street, to help sustain and bolster the local economy.

Although the library is part-time, it is a valued local facility and houses many other voluntary services which benefit the community.

If current plans go through, as seems likely, it looks as if the library will be transferred to Beith Community Centre. Removing this valued modern facility which is disabled-friendly throughout, from Main Street will be another nail in the coffin of Main Street.

The public are very disappointed at the prospect of losing the library, a valued community services from this central location and once again feel forgotten. I certainly don't want our wonderful library building to become No. 20 in shop and business closures in Beith and neither do local residents.

Will the Leader and Cabinet colleagues consider the genuine economic plight of Beith; examine all possible ways of retaining this vital facility as the beating heart of Main Street; in so doing give the people of Beith and District some reassurance that North Ayrshire Council is genuinely listening, caring and responsive to Beith's social problems and the wishes of its people?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

"It's always helpful to start from the beginning of this long process. The North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO) wrote to the Council to request the re-establishment of a joint working to group to consider the future of community facilities given their ongoing concerns about local government funding and that future decisions may be forced upon them without their input. The Cabinet approved that request in February 2018. That short life working group had cross party membership as well as representatives from NAFCO. The working group recommended wider consultation with our communities, including the development of a proposed plan for community facilities. This is the third iteration of that consultation.

The purpose of the consultation is to gather and consider public views on a set of specific proposals which not only reflect the feedback from the previous consultations but seek to build upon the learning and effectiveness of the Covid-19 locality approach and how best to use the assets to support priorities, deliver services and build capacity in our communities beyond the pandemic.

It is important to emphasise that no group on this Council, nor individual elected member, has yet voted in favour of a preferred model of delivery for any community facility. Members will also be aware that the recent budget set no financial targets to be delivered through the current consultation. I would strongly urge residents to take part and express their views on their local community facilities. Those views will inform the paper that comes to full Council on the 9th June 2021 and it will be for every member of this Council, at that meeting, to make a decision on the outcome of the consultation and the future delivery model for local facilities.

Given the current Covid restrictions we have taken steps to ensure that as many residents as possible can participate in this important consultation. Every household has been notified of it via the recent Council Tax mailing. Members can also encourage constituents to participate in the consultation through the Consul platform <https://nay.communitychoices.scot/> "

- (2) a question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Green New Deal and Sustainability in the following terms:

“Can the Cabinet Member advise of the number of anti-social neighbour issues dealt with by the NAC Anti-social team in: Kilbirnie, Dalry And Beith, during each of the two years viz: 2019 & 2020; also if figures are readily available, how many of the anti-social neighbours were ultimately rehoused elsewhere during that same period.”

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The table below details antisocial behaviour complaints over the last two years broken down by town and complaint type:

Complaint Type	Beith 2019	Beith 2020	Dalry 2019	Dalry 2020	Kilbirnie 2019	Kilbirnie 2020
Violence	5	5	2	16	11	3
Excess noise	8	3	7	2	3	9
Threatening behaviour	4	6	10	6	12	5
Harassment (sex/gender)	1	1	3		1	
Nuisance	2	2	1			3
Neighbour dispute		3	1	1	2	
Harassment (race/Ethnicity)		2		1		1
Vandalism		1	1	1		1
Vehicles		1				
Youth disorder		1		1		2
Harassment (disability)					1	
Substance abuse/dealing					1	2
Total Complaints	20	25	25	28	31	26

The Council will pursue eviction only as a last resort. Our focus remains on prevention and early intervention, working closely with our partners to find a suitable resolution which benefits those experiencing antisocial behaviour and the wider community.

During the 2 years detailed above, 11 tenants engaging with the Antisocial Behaviour Team left the area:

- 4 households were moved out of their tenancy for their own safety
- 4 households terminated their tenancy
- 1 tenancy was ended due to imprisonment
- 1 household was moved from their temporary accommodation within the area due to their antisocial behaviour
- 1 tenancy was recovered following the terms of a Short Scottish Secure tenancy agreement as antisocial behaviour did not improve”

(3) a question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“Will the Leader provide Members with a breakdown of the unitary charge payment of 13,618,155 million pounds in respect of PPP funded schools as agreed in the budget of 2021/22 (the finance lease creditor payment, the finance lease creditor interest, the lifecycle maintenance profile, the contingent rentals and the cost of services)?

Will he also inform Members of the Lease interest as a percentage of the total unitary charge?”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“The full PPP budget breakdown for 2021-22 includes the following:

Finance lease creditor repayment	1,936,043
Finance lease creditor interest	3,929,585
Lifecycle maintenance profile	1,196,220
Contingent rentals	1,245,327
Operating costs / Services	5,310,980
Total	13,618,155

The Finance Lease Creditor Interest as a percentage of total unitary charge is 28.9%.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor McNicol, referring to an earlier question raised at the Special Meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2021, asked whether the Leader considered there was a conflict of interest in respect of one of the parties with a financial interest in the PPP schools given their role as the non-executive chair of the Scottish Futures Trust and, also, why no meetings had taken place between the Council and the owners of the PPP contract to renegotiate the unitary charge (particularly with regard to operating costs) in light of school closures during the pandemic.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that the position in respect of the PPP-funding of schools was not unique to North Ayrshire. He also suggested it was for the Scottish Government to consider any conflict of interest given that the Scottish Futures Trust was a Scottish Government body. The Leader advised that officers were in regular meetings with the PPP company and that he had in the past written to the Scottish Government about the potential to refinance or buy out the PPP contract. Councillor Cullinane concluded his response by expressing optimism about a change in the Scottish Government’s position going forward.

- (4) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:

“Pupil Equity Funding has provided targeted support for children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. North Ayrshire Council has received Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for five years from 2017 at approximately £4.5m per year and as a result has managed in some instances to reduce the Attainment Gap between pupils in SIMD 1&2 and SIMD 3-10. A welcome initiative.

Given that this Academic year has been a lost year of schooling:

- a. what proposals does the Portfolio-holder have to ensure that the gains achieved by PEF are not lost for pupils in SIMD 1&2; and
- b. what measures will be put in place to reverse the decline in standards of literacy and numeracy for all pupils.”

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:

“An unprecedented year in education

During the past year, our teachers, support staff and pupils have worked hard to make a success of remote learning, including the distribution of digital devices, connectivity solutions and the development of resources.

Education Recovery Plans were welcomed by Cabinet and these detailed the extensive and comprehensive remote and blended learning measures put in place by our staff to ensure that there was no “lost year of schooling” for pupils in North Ayrshire.

During the remote learning period from January, there was a balance of live learning, independent activities and pre-recorded lessons, including activities which encouraged learning to take place outdoors. Engagement levels were monitored by individual schools and additional supports were put in place for those young people who had been making the least progress in their learning, for whatever reason.

Throughout the pandemic, the Education Service has maintained a clear focus on health and wellbeing as a key priority and has continued to develop resilience in learners to enable learners to engage with learning in this year’s challenging circumstances.

We acknowledge that the disruption to the academic year is likely to have an impact on learner outcomes for some more than others, and the service has considered how to support schools to target specific groups and individuals in the months ahead to maximise opportunities for learning and progress.

Part A: Ongoing focus for PEF Resource

Members will recall that a paper was presented to Cabinet on Tuesday 23 March which gave details of the innovative and creative ways that schools had used Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) this year in particular to meet the wide range of specific additional challenges presented by the pandemic. Head Teachers have reconsidered budget expenditure due to the Covid-19 pandemic and have redirected budgets during the current financial year to such areas as:

- Outdoor learning to promote health and wellbeing.
- Support to children and young people on remote learning.
- Additional resources to support home learning.
- Purchase of digital software and IT equipment.
- Online activities and personalised support for the most vulnerable.
- Targeted interventions for Primary 1-3 in response to poor engagement with remote learning.
- Practical science resources to enable more focus on health and wellbeing.
- Purchase of e-Books.

The Education Service has had a significant focus on reducing the poverty-related attainment gap since the Attainment Scotland Fund was introduced a number of years ago. The Service has recently produced its draft improvement plan for next year, which has a continued focus on the important twin priorities of improving attainment for all as well as further reducing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Priority 2 of the Education Service Improvement Plan for session 2021-22 outlines our key areas of focus in this regard. Further detail about the specific improvement activities under each action will be published in the coming weeks, following a full consultation and engagement phase across the Service.

The economic impact of Covid-19 is likely to increase levels of inequality experienced by children and young people. Those children and young people affected by poverty and deprivation will require a whole systems approach to ensure they achieve positive outcomes. We recognise that inequalities must be addressed and that services across the council and other partners all have a role to play.

Part B: Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

A fuller picture of local literacy and numeracy performance will be presented in a Cabinet report in May 2021. However, in summary, literacy and numeracy levels continue to follow a positive trend for all learners in North Ayrshire, both at SCQF Level 4 and SCQF Level 5, the two national benchmarks for school leavers.

Equally, achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels shows that the proportion of younger learners in our primary and secondary schools who achieved the expected level in literacy and numeracy has increased for all learners in North Ayrshire since this measure was introduced in 2016.

In North Ayrshire, we therefore do not recognise the decline in standards described in the question.

Nevertheless, in recognition of the specific challenges the pandemic has presented for some learners, a range of additional measures will be put in place to enable schools to provide further targeted support to maximise progress in the months ahead for those who need it most. This support will be across all curricular areas as required, including literacy and numeracy. Support strategies may involve, for example, the provision of temporary additional staffing to facilitate small group work, extra tuition etc. but these strategies will be tailored to the individual needs of the learners and their local context.”

(5) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Chair of the Planning Committee in the following terms:

“Can the Chair of Planning please explain why the planning permission for the Caisson Gates, Jetty Extension and Decommissioning Site at Hunterston Parc are not Null and Void?”

Councillor Marshall thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“Section 237 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 provides that unless planning decisions are challenged within 6 weeks in the Court of Session, they shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings whatsoever. The current planning permissions for Hunterston have not been the subject of any challenge in court, let alone a successful one. Therefore, they are valid.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch had previously raised concerns that high water tide line information had been used in determining the original planning application and asked whether, in light of this and other material changes which had arisen since the granting of planning permission (including the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment), the Chair of the Planning Committee was concerned that planning permissions were due for renewal without this being taken into consideration.

Councillor Marshall responded by making reference to a letter dated 19 February 2019 from the Scottish Government to one of his constituents which advised that Ministers were content the process undertaken by the Council and Marine Scotland was sufficiently robust and that due process had been followed. Councillor Marshall referred to legislative changes in terms of EIA requirements and confirmed that no decisions would be taken until the EIA screening process was completed.

(6) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:

“What have North Ayrshire Council done to improve and protect the environment since declaring a Climate Change Emergency?”

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“The Council’s Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2017-20 set a target to reduce both Council estate and area wide emissions by 40% by 2030 (against a baseline year of 2005/06). The Council surpassed this target, achieving 40% across the Council estate by 2018/19, and 41% area wide.

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in June 2019 and committing to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the Council has continued to significantly reduce carbon emissions, achieving a 44.6% reduction by 2019/20.

An annual reduction of between 7-8% has been achieved since 2016, with the 2020/21 figures so far heading in the same direction, despite the challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of COVID-19: some carbon reduction projects have paused following government guidelines, for example the Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme (EES:ABS) to install external wall insulation on domestic properties; the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) on domestic roofs; and energy saving heat control measures in public buildings (due to the requirement for natural ventilation in occupied spaces).

However, since declaring a Climate Emergency in June 2019, significant progress has been made on our journey to net-zero carbon, with the third Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy under preparation for Cabinet consideration in June 2021.

Some key highlights are provided below:

Affordable Warmth

- We have successfully secured approximately £10.5million of funding to provide external wall insulation (EWI), and have installed EWI on 441 properties since 2019 (worth £3m) through the Home Energy Efficiency Programme: Area Based Scheme to reduce heat loss and subsequent heating requirements.
- Installation of our first low carbon heat networks fuelled by biomass boilers during the redevelopment of two sheltered housing units, in Dalry and Stevenston.
- Installation of solar PV panels on the roofs of 290 Council houses, saving tenants on average £188 per year which puts us well on the way to reach our target of 500 homes which will be achieved by March 2022.

- In December 2020 the Council approved the HRA Capital Investment Programme of £109.756m for 2021/22, which includes £5m investment in regeneration projects and sustainability measures, to reduce fuel poverty.

Green Economy

- In recognising the need to continually tackle climate change, and to achieve the ambitious target of becoming net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the Council dedicated an £8.8m Investment Fund at its budget setting meeting in 2020 to support climate change, sustainable infrastructure investment and Community Wealth Building. Part of this investment (£500,000) was specifically allocated to tree planting in order to remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere.
- The Investment Fund was recently increased to £10.2m in total at the Council's budget setting meeting earlier this month.
- In September 2020 the Cabinet approved an Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach to build back better, fairer and greener. The approach is based on the foundation of the Community Wealth Building approach and sets out a Local Green New Deal.
- The Cabinet also recently approved an ambitious five-year Regeneration Delivery Plan which sets out plans to deliver physical regeneration and regenerate strategic regeneration sites and places by working together with our communities.
- In February 2021, plans for a £500,000 Green Jobs Fund were approved. This innovative Fund has been set up to support economic recovery and tackle climate change as part of the Council's Green New Deal.

Transport and Travel

- 81 vehicles (over 13%) within the Council fleet have been replaced by modern fuel-efficient vehicles since June 2019
- The EV fleet currently consists of 22 vehicles, which is 3.74% of the fleet. This will be increased by an additional 11 vehicles in Q1 of 21/22, increasing our overall EVs to over 5% of the current fleet and rising.
- Around 12% of total mileage in our successful CarClub pool car scheme has been travelled in EVs
- Installing 46 publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points to support and encourage the uptake of electric vehicles across North Ayrshire.

Natural Environment

- The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2019-2031 has been published online and contains a range of actions under the following six key priorities
 1. Ecosystem restoration
 2. Investment in natural capital
 3. Quality green space for health and education benefits
 4. Conserving wildlife in Scotland
 5. Sustainable management of land and freshwater
 6. Sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.

- The introduction of relaxed grass cutting initiative in Streetscene to promote biodiversity and reduce the associated operational carbon emissions, following a participatory budget engagement exercise with our communities
- Partnership work through the Garnock Connections (GC) - a Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS): The Garnock's Buzzing project has created wildflower meadows, planted pollinator friendly trees and established bee banks at community sites. This project continues to successfully involve the community through pollinator identification events, ecological surveys, and raising awareness of the importance of supporting and enhancing biodiversity in North Ayrshire.
- Other projects include the formation of a Green Network Training Programme in partnership with East Ayrshire Woodlands and Forestry Commission Scotland to deliver environmental improvements. This has provided 6-month placements and vocational and practical training to local young unemployed people whilst delivering a range of projects including new paths, woodland management and wildflower planting.

Sustainable Operations

Renewable Energy

- In January 2021, Cabinet approved proposals for the development of a solar PV farm on Nethermains former landfill site which will require an estimated total investment of £6.768m, with an anticipated annual reduction in CO2 emissions of 501 tonnes per year.

Waste management

- Household waste recycling performance increased from 54.6% to 56.3% for the 2019 calendar year
- Ongoing promotions to encourage participation in our newly enhanced waste and recycling system through 'Right Stuff Right Bin' waste awareness campaigns
- Introduced a free 'birth-to-potty' reusable real nappy scheme in October 2019 to reduce and divert additional waste from landfill
- Commenced the Clyde Valley Residual Waste Partnership Contract in January 2020, diverting grey bin waste from landfill and recovering additional recyclables and creating sustainable energy through an energy-from-waste facility

Lighting

- The Council has approved an additional programme of LED replacement to be implemented over 2021/22 for previous white light sources that are now within cost effective scope for replacement. This represents an annual reduction in energy demand of 46% and of 259 tonnes of CO2 across the 4,500 units in scope.
- Further benefits in reduced emissions resulting from fewer unplanned repairs activities due to longer life LEDs

Non-Domestic buildings

- Investing nearly £1m in energy efficiency measures such as boiler replacement, LED lighting and enhanced controls to non-domestic properties through the Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency framework.

Carbon Absorption

- Recognising the vitally important role of trees in tackling climate change, in March 2020 North Ayrshire Council dedicated £500,000 of resource to tree planting. This project is progressing and currently work in identifying available land with suitable soil types, the most appropriate tree species to plant, and partnership opportunities. Work has commenced in the implementation of a tree planting strategy to plant 108,000 trees in collaboration with community groups, which will absorb carbon emissions, as well as creating job and training opportunities for young people and aligning with Community Wealth Building objectives.

Climate Change Adaptation

In October 2019, an Elected Members' event was held to highlight the value of adapting to the impacts of climate change. The event, facilitated by Adaptation Scotland, focussed on how climate impacts are affecting North Ayrshire communities, and how to identify local priorities. It was recognised that by taking a strong, proactive approach we will ensure that vital public assets, infrastructure and services are fit for current and future generations and able to deliver positive outcomes across North Ayrshire.

- Our flood protection schemes are designed to protect our environment and communities against climate change. We are at the construction stage with our £18.5m Upper Garnock Valley Flood Protection Scheme; and expect to be on site next year with our £27m Millport Flood Protection Scheme. Further schemes are in development.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Murdoch questioned how the Council could continue its good work in this area with only a part-time biodiversity officer and asked if it was time to employ a full-time officer.

The Leader responded by noting that no Member had submitted a proposal to the budget meeting of the Council with regard to biodiversity staffing levels. Councillor Cullinane then referred to the wide range of officers across with Council with responsibility for tackling the climate change emergency and suggested that a systemic approach was required, both within the Council and in partnership with external parties, including business and communities.

In terms of Standing Order 12.9, Councillor Murdoch queried the accuracy a statement made by the Leader in response to the preamble to the supplementary question, that the drill ships at Hunterston were not the responsibility of the Council.

At the invitation of the Provost, the Head of Democratic Services provided clarification on the position with regard to the ships and the respective roles of the Health and Safety Executive, port operator, the country to which the ships were registered, the Marine Accident Investigation Board and (in terms of noise nuisance monitoring) the Council's Environmental Health service.

(7) a question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Members for Health and Social Care in the following terms:

“At the meeting of the full council on 4th March 2021 I proposed that £285,000 was passed to the North Ayrshire’s Health and Social Care Partnership to enable them to establish a community based mental health initiative specifically to address the rise in mental health issues due to the Covid restrictions. However, my proposal was not supported and the money was allocated to the Investment Fund for some as yet undefined future project. At last week’s meeting of North Ayrshire’s Integration Joint Board we agreed the HSCP budget for the coming year. It was clear that the HSCP is very tight for money and will be using over £1million of its reserves to balance its budget, and it was clear that there was no spare money to bring forward a community-wide mental health initiative. Does the Member now regret his decision not to support the HSCP to develop its community mental health service that would address our current health crisis?

Councillor Foster thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:

“I would like to thank Councillor Billings for making the exact same point in his question that I made at the budget meeting regarding this year’s underspend in the HSCP.

Cllr Billings keeps misrepresenting the financial position of the Partnership for reasons I don’t understand. For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure all Members are aware I will set out the decision we made unanimously as an IJB at our budget meeting earlier this month.

There is a projected underspend of £3.497m during 2020-21 which will be carried forward in the general fund reserve of the IJB. It is proposed that £1.116m of this balance is earmarked to achieve a balanced budget for the IJB for 2021-22 on a nonrecurring basis. £500k will be used as a challenge fund to assist with driving forward our transformation and change agenda. For the first time since integration was introduced the North Ayrshire HSCP can put £1.881m into our reserves which is 0.7% of our budget. We also paid back £1.484m of the debt to the Council as agreed.

Members will be aware the NAHSCP has responsibility for the delivery and co-ordination of Mental Health services across Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire HSCP have submitted a Pan-Ayrshire Plan for Mental Health service recovery for 2021-22 as part of the Health Board's re-mobilisation plan which was submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of February. This plan outlines areas of recovery including inpatient wards, CAMHS and our community mental health services and seeks funding of £1.9m across Ayrshire and Arran. The Scottish Government have not confirmed an allocation of funding yet in line with the mobilisation plan submission. The Government have announced a Mental Health Recovery and Renewal Fund of £120m as part of the budget plans for 2021-22. This will be focussed on 4 key areas – CAMHS improvement to meet the requirements of the service specification, CAMHS and Psychological Therapies waiting lists, Primary Care to expand on multi-disciplinary MH teams in GP clusters and Community services to build on an expansion of community support services. The headline areas for investment from this fund were provided only last week and we are currently awaiting further information and clarity on funding and priorities in due course.

To answer the question, no, I do not regret the decision I made at the Council budget meeting and I do not regret the decision that the IJB made at its budget meeting either."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Billings asserted that he appeared to be one of the only Members to engage in depth with the HSCP management team on budget matters and asked whether the Cabinet Member would support a joint approach whereby the voting Members of the IJB engaged more fully with the HSCP management team prior to the Council's budget setting exercise in future.

Councillor Foster responded by assuring Councillor Billings that the latter was not the only Member to engage with the HSCP and that, as the relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of the IJB, he had in-depth discussions with the management team. He also referred to the fact that the Administration had invested millions more in support of the HSCP than was legally required. Councillor Foster concluded his response by expressing the view that the voting membership of the IJB already worked well together, but that he was happy to discuss the matter further with Councillor Billings.

9. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submitted:

- (1) a Motion proposed by Councillor Murdoch and seconded by Councillor Hill in the following terms:

"North Ayrshire Council calls on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch/Health & Safety Executive to carry out a full investigation into the incident on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at Hunterston Parc where DS4 & DS8 broke free from their secure attachment to the Jetty.

Such an investigation should consider both the health & safety implications of the incident and the suitability of the Pier/Jetty and associated infrastructure for the permanent mooring of vessels of this size or type both now or in the future."

There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

At this point, the Provost referred to his earlier remarks in respect of the current pre-election period prior to the Scottish Parliamentary elections and the need to exercise additional caution in avoiding the publication of material which might constitute 'political publicity'. In light of this, he advised of his intention to suspend the live streaming of the meeting at this point, advising Members that, depending on its content, a recording of the remainder of the meeting would be published following the meeting or after the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections, as appropriate.

On a point of order, Councillor Dickson queried the inclusion of the motion on the Agenda in context of the current pre-election period. The Head of Democratic Services provided advice on the competence of the motion and the distinction between 'political publicity' and debating in political terms.

On a further point of order, Councillor Gurney queried the competence of the motion as, in his view, it appeared to propose an action which would contravene provisions within the Scotland Acts. The Head of Democratic Services confirmed the competence of the motion, in particular advising it would be for the UK Government to consider if, and how, to implement the terms of part (2).

At the invitation of the Provost, Councillor Hill sought, and received, clarification on the proposed arrangements with regard to the part of the meeting which would not be live streamed, including whether any editing was proposed. The Head of Democratic Services advised that the recording would be reviewed by the Chief Executive, who would determine whether or not it was appropriate for it to be uploaded during the pre-election period. The Chief Executive confirmed that no editing of the recording was proposed.

Thereafter, the Provost, in terms of Standing Order 5.7, instructed that the live stream of the meeting be suspended as a precaution, to avoid the inadvertent publication of any material which might constitute 'political publicity' during the pre-election period. The remainder of the meeting was recorded, for review by the Chief Executive and subsequent upload if and when appropriate.

(2) a motion proposed by Councillor Marshall and seconded by Councillor Ferguson in the following terms:

"The Council delivery plan which forms part of our strategic planning approach has helped to lay the foundations to counter the centralising approach of the Scottish Government towards local government, which has resulted in North Ayrshire being one of the lowest funded councils over the last decade.

We are concerned that this ongoing situation is having a detrimental impact on the Council's ability to provide important public services for our citizens both now and in the future. We note that Pauline McNeill, Scottish Labour's local government spokeswoman, has pointed out that research shows that the Scottish Government has cut Council's non-ringed revenue funding by £973.3m in real terms between 2013-14 and 2021-22.

In order to look at alternatives to ensure North Ayrshire can reach its full potential we suggest that the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding.

The UK Treasury's "broad shoulders" has meant that:

- (a) an additional £13.3 Billion had been delivered to support Scottish public services through the crisis. The UK Government's furlough and self-employment support schemes had protected more than 930,000 Scottish jobs while some £3.4 billion in loans had helped over 90,000 Scottish businesses;
- (b) funding has enabled the research and production of a number of vaccines which have enabled 2m Scots to be vaccinated – an amazing feat by scientists; and
- (c) a "Levelling up Fund" has been set up. This will enable structural funds to be distributed directly to Local Authorities - which would be devolution in its truest sense.

This last point was promoted by the Chancellor in the Budget when he announced the UK Government's "Levelling Up Fund" whereby over the next 4 years there will at least £800m available for investment, in the devolved nations, in local infrastructure that has a visible impact on people and their communities. This offers North Ayrshire Council a unique opportunity to fund regeneration and town centre investment.

Economic differences remain between different parts of the UK, including our cities, ex-industrial towns, and rural and coastal communities. These economic differences have real implications: they affect people's lives through their pay, work opportunities, health and life chances. Tackling these economic differences and driving prosperity as part of 'levelling up' left behind regions of the UK.

Bids are welcome for regeneration schemes and town centre investment to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, bring public services and safe community spaces into town centres and improve the public realm including high streets.

Therefore, we move that the Council:

1. Regrets that local government continues to be at the forefront of Scottish Government austerity;
2. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland asking him if the UK government would consider dealing directly with COSLA and North Ayrshire Council in considering allocating grant funding, to ensure that North Ayrshire Council receives its fair share of funding;
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to submit a Bid to the Regeneration and Town Centre Investment Fund section of the “Levelling up Fund” which welcomes bids to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, and bring public services and safe community spaces into towns, maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing to improve the public realm; and
4. Requests that the local Members of Parliament supports any Bid that the Council makes.”

As an amendment, Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Macaulay, moved the direct negative.

As a further amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as follows:

“North Ayrshire Council notes the announcement of the UK Levelling Up Fund, the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Community Ownership Fund and welcomes the opportunities that these funds create, therefore, the Council supports the development and submission of bids to these funds. The Council further notes the benefit that support from Members of Parliament would bring to any project bids submitted by their local authorities and therefore instructs the Chief Executive to engage with North Ayrshire’s MP’s to seek their support for North Ayrshire Council bids.”

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, Councillor Marshall expressed a willingness to withdraw the motion in favour of the amendment. Subject to the consent of his seconder, the amendment by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, would then become the substantive motion.

A number of points of order were raised by Members in respect of the following:

- the status of the amendment in the event of the original motion being withdrawn;
- whether the matter in its entirety should fall if the original motion were withdrawn;
- the order in which matters should be considered when an amendment involved the direct negative;

- whether the original motion could be withdrawn without the consent of the seconder; and
- whether the original motion, if withdrawn, could then be moved by another Member.

The Head of Democratic Services provided a preliminary response to the points of order raised. Thereafter, in terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Provost agreed that the meeting be adjourned at 3.45 p.m., to allow Members to consider any further amendments and for officers to consider further the points of order which had been raised.

The meeting reconvened at 4.05 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, Councillor Cullinane, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to withdraw his amendment in favour of a further amendment.

As a further amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as follows:

“North Ayrshire Council notes the announcement of the UK Levelling Up Fund, the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Community Ownership Fund and Council supports the development and submission of bids to these funds. The Council further notes the benefit that support from Members of Parliament would bring to any project bids submitted by their local authorities and therefore instructs the Chief Executive to engage with North Ayrshire’s MPs to seek their support for North Ayrshire Council bids.”

Thereafter, confirmation was sought, and received, from Councillor Ferguson, as seconder of the original motion, that he did not consent to its withdrawal in terms of Standing Order 14.5.

In terms of Standing Order 14.5, Councillor Hill, with the agreement of his seconder, agreed to withdraw his amendment.

There followed summing up.

Thereafter, on a division and roll call vote, there voted, Councillors Murdoch and Donald L. Reid abstaining, for the amendment by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, Councillors Bell, Brahim, Burns, Clarkson, Cullinane, Dickson, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McClung, McMaster, McPhater, McTiernan, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid and Sweeney (21) and for the motion by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor Ferguson, Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol and Stephen (9), and the amendment was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed as follows:

“North Ayrshire Council notes the announcement of the UK Levelling Up Fund, the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Community Ownership Fund and Council supports the development and submission of bids to these funds. The Council further notes the benefit that support from Members of Parliament would bring to any project bids submitted by their local authorities and therefore instructs the Chief Executive to engage with North Ayrshire’s MPs to seek their support for North Ayrshire Council bids.”

The meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.



PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 22 March – 30 May 2021

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Ian Clarkson.

PROVOST'S REPORT

For the period covering: 22 March – 30 May 2021

Since the last meeting of the Council I have taken part in several events, including:

National Day of Reflection, 23 March

I was honoured to lead the tributes when North Ayrshire joined the rest of the country in a day to remember those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. Tuesday, 23 March, marked the one-year anniversary of lockdown and the country came together at 12 noon to collectively pause for a minute's silence.

Council staff were encouraged to mark this act of remembrance, while the flags at Cunninghame House were flown at half-mast.

We lit up Saltcoats Town Hall and the Portal in a symbol of respect and solidarity to all those who have suffered over the last year.

The day was spearheaded by Marie Curie, with dozens of organisations supporting the day, including British Red Cross, Girlguiding, Jo Cox Foundation, RVS, The Scouts and Together.

My heart goes out to those who have lost a loved one during the pandemic. Let us also hope and pray, that after all the uncertainty of the past year, we can look forward to the time when we can meet our family and loved ones again in a safe environment.

Irvine Burns Club Zoom Gathering, 28 April & 19 May

Irvine Burns Club continue to host monthly events online, which are becoming increasingly popular and far-reaching. On 28 April, I took part in their latest event where among other items, Dr Craig Lamont of Glasgow University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies spoke on "Georgian Glasgow and its role in the life of Robert Burns". On 19 May, there was a talk by Professor Kirsten McCue and performances from local musicians.

John Galt Day, 2 May

John Galt who was born in Irvine on 2 May 1779 and died in Greenock on 11 April 1839. Writing in Scots and in English, Galt was much more than a literary figure. For John Galt was also an entrepreneur who opened parts of Western Ontario and funded the city of Guelph in what was known as Upper Canada.

Irvine Burns Club, of which Galt became its first Honorary Member in 1828, are members of the John Galt Society. I would normally take part in a wreath laying ceremony, on the day of John Galt's birth. Instead, to mark the occasion, I recorded a special message on social media, noting this special day and sent greetings to the people of Guelph, Canada.

International Fibromyalgia Day, 12 May

I was happy to support a request from Fibro Friends United, who are based in Irvine, to mark International Fibromyalgia Day on 12 May, by lighting up the Portal and Saltcoats Town Hall.

Fibromyalgia is a syndrome which impacts the central nervous system where trauma is a central factor in the development. The syndrome is often very misunderstood due to the presenting symptoms fluctuating and the person not generally showing visible signs of disability. The syndrome is highly debilitating and affects physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and occupational aspects of daily living.

Refurbishment of Marress House, Irvine, 20 May

Refurbishment of Marress House in Irvine is getting under way for a new, state-of-the-art Early Years Centre and professional learning and development facility in a building which will also facilitate the relocation of the Council's concierge centre.

I was delighted to officially mark the beginning of the construction phase of this development at a special ground-breaking ceremony held on 20 May.

The vacant tax office will be transformed into an Early Years Centre (ELC) including outdoor play areas and a professional learning and development facility to support the roll out of the expansion of 1140 hours early years and childcare. The £3.82 million project will accommodate 42 three to five-year-olds and 21 two to three-year-olds on the ground level and a new ELC professional learning facility on the upper mezzanine floor.

Opening Session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 22 May

On 22 May, I took part in the opening session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. This year the high-profile event was online, and Rt Hon Lord Wallace became Moderator succeeding Very Rev Dr. Martin Fair. The General Assembly is a significant event in the Church of Scotland Calendar where commissioners to the Assembly examine the work and laws of the Church and make decisions which affect its future. His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge who is Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland gave a speech at the Opening Session.



Ian Clarkson

Councillor Ian Clarkson
Provost North Ayrshire Council



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 22 March – 30 May 2021

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 22 March – 30 May 2021

MEETING WITH MICHAEL MATHESON MSP, 24 March

On 24 March, together with our Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I attended a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson to discuss the Strategic Transport Project Review 2(STPR2).

STPR2 is a Scotland-wide review of the strategic transport network across all transport modes, including walking, wheeling, cycling, bus, rail and car, as well as reviewing wider island and rural connectivity and we were meeting the Cabinet Secretary to make the case for investment in North Ayrshire and Ayrshire as a region to be included in STPR2, which will cover the period 2022-2042. We were disappointed that the report issued in February, outlining Phase 1 recommendations for STPR2, failed to mention Ayrshire once in over 100 pages and we made the case strongly that the Phase 2 report cannot repeat that omission.

KILWINNING LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP, 25 March

On 25 March I attended a meeting of the Kilwinning Locality Partnership where attendees discussed and received updates on the following:

- Locality priorities
- Community Investment fund
- Street naming (residential development at West Byre Road)
- Learning Update
- Locality Officer and Locality Plan Update
- HSCP Update
- Grant/Participatory Budget Update

I was pleased that the Partnership agreed to recommend a further application by Kilwinning Rangers to the Community Investment Fund which was subsequently ratified by Cabinet in April. This application is in connection with escalating costs relating to Covid in the previously agreed project to convert a portacabin into a flexible community space to address the capacity issues for youth and other activities in the main clubhouse building.

COSLA CONVENTION, 26 March

I attended the COSLA Convention on 26 March to take part in a packed Agenda which covered the following:

- Local Government Blueprint
- Social Renewal Advisory Board Report – COSLA Response
- COP26
- European Charter of Local Self Government
- Children and Young People – Support During Recovery and Renewal Phase
- COSLA Budget 2021/22 to 2024/25
- COSLA Constitution Update
- Spokespersons Update

COSLA Convention members were updated on details of the forthcoming United Nations Climate summit (COP26) to take place November 1-12 in Glasgow. Tackling Climate Change is a key priority for COSLA and for the last year and a half, COSLA has been working with Glasgow City Council, Local Government partners from the rest of the UK, Europe and worldwide to build a strong Local Government partnership that can have a strong presence in COP26. We hope to press for a Glasgow climate deal that reflects Local Government's role and responsibilities in delivering climate ambition, including financial support from national Government.

COSLA LEADERS, 26 March

Following on from the COSLA Convention I attended a special COSLA Leaders meeting for an update on Local Government Finance and Business Grants.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION, 29 March

Our Community Wealth Building Commission met again on 29 March and received updates on progression of the Commission Workplan by the CWB Commission Lead Officers Working Group (LOWG). The LOWG met in February this year and agreed that a Lead Officer Working Group (LOWG) would be created to take ownership of the Commission Workplan and progress actions as directed by the Commission. The LOWG have identified a lead organisation for each CWB workstream in order to progress actions in collaboration with other Commission members. South Ayrshire Council have agreed to lead the Procurement workstream and Scottish Enterprise will lead on Land and Assets.

The Commission also received a detailed presentation from South Ayrshire Council Procurement team which outlined a roadmap for engagement with all Anchor Institution representatives involved in the workstream. The presentation also covered the following points:

- Update procurement spend analysis and undertake further consideration of the data to assess opportunities for CWB
- Identify opportunities for joint procurement on a regional basis
- Identify opportunities for supplier awareness and development for businesses and the third sector across the Ayrshire region, including raising awareness of potential tender opportunities such as through Quick Quotes (additional support from the AGD CWB Fund may potentially help support the delivery of these ambitions)
- Engage with Scottish Government on the benefits for more local procurement and barriers which may prevent this

My thanks to Zoe Fance and Gavin Cockburn in South Ayrshire Council for delivering this presentation and for identifying these points as key areas to be looked at.

SPECIAL COSLA LEADERS, 16 April

COSLA Leaders met on 16 April for a special meeting to discuss the following:

- Distribution of Additional Funding for Self-Isolation Support Grants
- Tackling Poverty – Further Consideration of Pandemic Payments
- COVID19 Strategic Framework – Local Authority Engagement Protocol

The Scottish Government will continue to engage with COSLA as it monitors the Levels during the varying stages of the Pandemic.

SCOTLAND EXCEL COMMITTEE MEETING, 23 April

I attended a meeting of the Scotland Excel Executive Committee on 23 April. Attendees received an update on Digital developments including, the Social Care Case Management System, also on a Dynamic Purchasing System which is currently being developed and should be ready for Councils to use by the end of April 2021.

Updates were also provided on the Care and Support and Housing frameworks. The Care and Support framework was re-opened in late 2020 to enable new participants to join and it is anticipated that 42 new providers will be added to the framework. With regards to Housing, seven new Housing Associations have become associated members of Scotland Excel giving

them access to the frameworks and five further projects totalling £46m. There have been 2244 new homes awarded under the framework.

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 29 April

On 29 April I attended a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership Board with Elected Members and senior officers attending from the three Ayrshire Councils. Attendees received updates and presentations on the following:

- The Ayrshire Growth Deal including the various workstreams
- The Maritime Mile in Irvine
- National Economic Opportunities
- Update on 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

Attendees received an informative presentation from Scottish Enterprise on National Economic Opportunities which looked at the various themes where economic opportunities can be developed into collaborative outcome driven actions which will create new, green jobs in the future. These cover the following themes:

- **Climate and Net Zero** (Energy Transition & Heat, Blue and Green Economies, Low Carbon Transport, Sustainable Tourism)
- **Health and Wellbeing** (including Digital Health Care, Life Sciences, Precision Medicine, Personal Nutrition)
- **Advanced Manufacturing** (Food & Drink Innovation, Construction & Infrastructure, Aerospace & Transport)
- **Digital and Data** (including Cyber technology, Artificial Intelligence, digital retail, travel & mobility technology. Advanced technology for Government agencies)

The Partnership Board will continue to work with partners such as Scottish Enterprise to look to develop job opportunities in each of these sectors to make Ayrshire more economically resilient.

COSLA LEADERS, 30 April

COSLA Leaders met again on 30 April to discuss a packed agenda covering the following areas:

- UK Levelling-Up Fund
- Learning Estate Investment Programme
- Edinburgh Declaration

- Heat and Energy Policy
- New Plan for Immigration
- Hong Kong British National (Visa)

The draft Heat in Buildings Strategy updates the 2018 Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map and the 2015 Heat Policy Statement. The strategy will outline the steps the Scottish Government (SG) will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Scotland's homes, workplaces and community buildings, and to remove poor energy performance as a driver of fuel poverty.

The draft Strategy will build on the policies and actions set out in the 2020 Climate Change Plan Update and will set a pathway to zero emissions buildings by 2045 with the following aims:

- By 2030 around 50% of homes, or over a million households, converted to a zero or low-emissions heating system, including the majority of the 167,000 off-gas homes that currently use oil, LPG and solid fuels.
- By 2030, an estimated 50,000 (25% of the overall stock of non-domestic buildings) of Scotland's non-domestic properties converted to zero emissions sources of heat.

North Ayrshire Council aim to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and so welcomes new regulations and standards to achieve lower emission buildings, both existing and new. The Council is also currently participating in the Scottish Government's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) pilot to identify areas where heat networks would be most appropriate and target energy efficiency measures across domestic and non-domestic buildings. The data presented from the pilot will support the Council's duty to consider heat network zoning, and Planning Services are considering supplementary planning guidance to support zero carbon developments

GROUNDBREAKING EVENT MARRESS HOUSE, 20 May

On 20 May I was delighted to attend the first groundbreaking event in over a year and the first of many to come in 2021. Marress House, the former Inland Revenue Tax Office will be turned into an Early Years Centre as part of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme (ELCEP). North Ayrshire Council is leading the way in Scotland for Community Wealth Building and this was an excellent opportunity to bring a local asset back into productive use. The many benefits of new early years facilities include the creation of jobs and the welcome boost it will bring to the local economy.

As more children will be spending more time in an early years setting, it is essential that the learning environment is fit for purpose and is suitable to support positive outcomes and improve learning outcomes for children in North Ayrshire.

The building will also house the relocation of the Concierge Service to a central location in advance of the demolition of the Fullarton high flats in Irvine.

AYRSHIRE ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 24 May

On 24 May the Ayrshire Economic Joint Committee met to receive updates and reports on the following:

- Ayrshire Growth Deal
- I3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project
- Great Harbour, Irvine

The i3 Irvine Enterprise Area is one of North Ayrshire's key strategic sites where investment is being targetted as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Ayrshire Growth Deal documents were signed in November last year and included £21M of investment for i3. This will support two major projects which will help to create employment, raise the profile of i3 and attract new inward investment:

- construction of new advanced manufacturing business space (or flexible space)
- the development of a Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre (DPMC).

The £21M allocation comprises of £15M towards new commercial or employment space at i3, with £11M from the Scottish Government and £4M from North Ayrshire Council. The project is part of a wider programme of new employment space across Ayrshire with East and South Ayrshire Councils' developing similar projects funded from the Growth Deal.

The overall aim is to meet an identified demand for modern business space where there has been a longstanding issue of market failure, to help grow local businesses and to attract inward investment.

JOINT YOUTH CABINET, 25 May

On 25 May I was delighted to take part in a Joint Youth Cabinet session with my fellow Cabinet members. An incredible nine schools were able to join the session and we were also joined by our Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) and the Youth Council Executive.

Conversation themes included:

- Climate Change
- COVID Recovery
- Cost of the School Day
- Sexism and Violence (including Violence against women)

I would like to thank all our young people for participating in these Joint Youth Cabinets. It has always been important to me and my fellow Cabinet members to hear the thoughts and any areas of concern that our young people may have. As a Cabinet, we are only too aware how difficult and unsettling this past year has been with a disrupted school year and of course, concern of the exam diet and subsequent grading. The resilience our young people have shown throughout the COVID pandemic has been truly remarkable.

I would also like to thank our MSYPs and Youth Executive members who spoke about North Ayrshire's Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025. The voices of young people remain at the heart of the endeavours of the Community Planning Partnership and the Council in North Ayrshire, however, the last year has been like no other. The Strategy has been updated and refreshed to reflect the learning from the Year of Young People, the experiences of young people during the Covid pandemic, and the growing confidence of young people to speak up about their needs in a changing world. The pandemic brought to the fore the need for increased support for young people's mental health, improved digital access for home schooling, and the resilience and value of young people across Scotland as they played their part as volunteers in the community response.

WEST BYREHILL ROAD GROUNDBREAKING EVENT, 26 May

On 26 May I was invited along by Cunninghame Housing Association to their groundbreaking event at West Byrehill Road in Kilwinning. Work on this new housing development began on site on 12 April 2021 and it is estimated that the work will take approximately 95 weeks with completion scheduled for February 2023.

The main contractor is McTaggart Construction who are based in Dalry and will deliver the works under a Design & Build contract. The development will see a total of 72 new homes. They are predominantly two and three-bedroom houses as well as eight bungalows designed for older people and three bungalows designed specifically for wheelchair users.

With total development costs of £11.8 million, the project has benefitted from £6.351 million in Housing Association grant awarded from the Scottish Government.

COSLA LEADERS, 28 May

COSLA Leaders met again on 28 May to discuss the following Agenda items:

- EU Settlement Scheme
- Local Government Finance Update
- Early Learning and Childcare: Funding from 2022/23
- Strategic Commissioning and Grant Aided Schools
- Joint Policy/Funding – Scottish Healthy Milk Snack Scheme
- Independent Review of Adult Social Care
- Financial Support for the Adult Social Care Sector
- Relocation of Afghan Nationals to the UK
- Local Government Approach to UK Immigration Policy
- Implications of Emerging Policy for Local Government
- School Clothing Grant

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) allows applicable EU/EEA citizens living in the UK before 31st December 2020 to maintain their rights to live and work in the UK. The EUSS closes on 30th June 2021. COSLA and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have been working in partnership to assist Scottish local authorities in identifying vulnerable citizens who may need additional support to complete their applications.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Joe Cullinane'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
9 June 2021**North Ayrshire Council**

Title: Elected Member Attendance

Purpose: To advise of the circumstances surrounding the non-attendance of an Elected Member and the relevant provisions within Standing Orders Relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and its Committees.

Recommendation: That the Council agrees (a) to note (i) the exceptional circumstances surrounding Councillor Scott Davidson's non-attendance at any meeting of the Council, Committee, Joint Committee, Joint Board or other body as representative of the Council since the Council meeting on 4 March 2021 and (ii) the likelihood that Councillor Davidson's absence may extend beyond the six-month period; and (b) that (i) in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Councillor Davidson failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the Council and (ii) if required, a further update be submitted to the December 2021 meeting of the Council.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In terms of the section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as incorporated into the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council and Committees, an Elected Member who fails to attend any meetings of the Council, its committees, Joint Committees, Joint Boards or other body as a representative of the Council, throughout a six-month period ceases being a Member of North Ayrshire Council, unless their non-attendance is due to a reason approved by the Council.
- 1.2 In the case of Councillor Davidson, Covid-related illness has prevented him attending meetings since the Council meeting on 4 March 2021. The period of time likely to be needed for his recovery is such that Councillor Davidson's absence risks exceeding the six months provided for in Standing Orders. In the circumstances, the Council is asked to apply appropriate discretion to allow Councillor Davidson to remain as an Elected Member.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 states that "...if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six months to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority, cease to be a member of the authority....Attendance as a member at a meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or at a meeting of any joint committee, joint board or other body to whom for the time being any of the functions of the authority are being discharged, and attendance as representative of the authority at a meeting of any body of persons, shall be deemed to be attendance at a meeting of the authority."
- 2.2 In turn, this is incorporated into Standing Order 7.3, which states that:-
- "Subject to the provisions of Section 35 of the 1973 Act and Section 19 of the 2000 Act, if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend any meetings of the Council, Committee, Joint Committee or Joint Board to which any function of the Council has been delegated, he/she shall, unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by Council cease to be a Member of North Ayrshire Council."
- 2.3 Case law provides that the six-month period mentioned above expires on the date of the next committee the Councillor could have attended after expiry of the six-month period.
- 2.4 Ward 3 (Kilwinning) Elected Member Councillor Scott Davidson serves on the Council, North Ayrshire (Planning), the Local Development Plan Committee and was appointed to represent the Council on the Community Planning Partnership Board, North Ayrshire CCTV Limited and the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum. Councillor Davidson also chairs the Kilwinning Locality Partnership.
- 2.5 Recent ill health has meant that Councillor Davidson has not been able to attend a meeting of the Council or the committees on which he serves since the Council meeting held on 4 March 2021. Taking into account the case law referred to at 2.2 above, if Councillor Davidson were unable to attend a meeting on or prior to the full Council on 8 September 2021, he would, at that point cease to be a Member of North Ayrshire Council. The Council does, however, have the power to approve the reason for non-attendance, which will permit Councillor Davidson to remain as an Elected Member beyond that date.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Council is invited to agree:-
- (a) to note (i) the exceptional circumstances surrounding Councillor Davidson's non-attendance at any meeting of the Council, Committee, Joint Committee, Joint Board or other body as representative of the Council since the Council meeting on 4 March 2021 and (ii) the likelihood that Councillor Davidson's absence may extend beyond the six-month period; and

- (b) that (i) in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Councillor Davidson's failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the Council and (ii) if required, a further update be submitted to the December 2021 meeting of the Council.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None arising from this report.

Legal

- 4.3 Failure by the Council to approve the reason for absence would result in Councillor Davidson ceasing to be a Councillor in the event of the Member not being in a position to attend a meeting within the time allowed, as provided for in section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 None arising from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 None arising from this report.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 Not applicable.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 Not applicable.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Councillor Burns, as Leader of the SNP Group, has updated the Chief Executive on Councillor Davidson's illness.

Andrew Fraser
Head of Democratic Services

For further information please contact Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) on telephone number 07385 417274.

Background Papers

N/A

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

9 June 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: Family Leave for Councillors

Purpose: To agree a scheme for family leave for councillors, and ancillary changes required to bring this into effect

Recommendation: It is recommended that Council agree (a) to introduce Family Leave for Councillors on the terms set out in Appendix 2; (b) agree that in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, failure to attend meetings while on Family Leave is due to a reason approved by the Council; and (c) to amend section 2, paragraph 3(u) of the Scheme of Administration and paragraph 7.2 of the Standing Orders for Meetings to allow Political Groups to appoint a replacement Senior Councillor during the absence of a Senior Councillor on Family Leave, as set out in 2.7 and 2.8.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report proposes that Council adopts family leave for councillors, as recommended by COSLA. Family leave includes maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave.

2. Background

2.1 Family Leave Guidance was endorsed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) in September 2019 for circulation to Scottish Councils for adoption on a voluntary basis. Subsequent guidance was updated in April 2020 to reflect amendments to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. This guidance is attached at Appendix 1

2.2 Unlike employees, those in elected public office have no right to family or maternity leave. COSLA's proposals build on the work of an earlier working group which examined the barriers to achieving greater diversity of those elected as councillors. Lack of a provision for family leave is an obvious example of such a barrier.

2.3 COSLA's proposals include: -

- A right to 6 months maternity leave from 28 days before the birth (or if the baby is premature, 6 months from the date of birth)

- Two weeks paternity leave if the Member is the biological father or nominated carer
 - Six months adoption leave
 - During such leave the Member would continue to be paid and any Senior Councillor would also continue to be paid.
- 2.4 The proposed changes to the Council's Guidance on Members' Salaries, Allowances and Expenses are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.5 Section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as incorporated into the Council's Standing Orders states that an Elected Member who fails to attend any meetings of the Council, its committees, Joint Committees, Joint Boards or other body as a representative of the Council, throughout a six-month period ceases to be a Member of North Ayrshire Council, unless their non-attendance is due to a reason approved by the Council. It is possible that the absence of a Member on family leave could trigger this provision. To deal with this, it is proposed Council agree that the absence of a Member on family leave is a reason approved by Council in terms of section 35.
- 2.6 In relation to Members who are Senior Councillors, our Senior Councillor roles would almost certainly require to be covered during a 6-month absence. Helpfully, the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2020 now provides that where councillors are allowed to be absent on family leave, such councillors shall not be included in the calculation of the financial limits for councillors. In other words, during such absence, Council can appoint another Member as a Senior Councillor to cover their absence.
- 2.7 It is proposed to allow the absent Member's Political Group to nominate an interim replacement Senior Councillor. To give effect to this, it is recommended that section 2, paragraph 3(u) (matters reserved to Council) of the Scheme of Administration is amended as follows (changes in bold)
- “(u) The appointment, nomination and removal of Members and the nomination and removal of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of any Committee unless expressly provided in this Scheme. All subject to where any appointed or nominated Member is a Member of a Group within the Council, then when such member **is on Family Leave or** resigns from a Committee or the Integration Joint Board, any replacement may be nominated by the Group notifying the Chief Executive. At least ten Clear Working Days' notice is required before the change is implemented;”
- 2.8 A similar provision appears in paragraph 7.2 of the Standing Orders for Meetings and would also be amended as follows: -
- “7.2 Where any appointed or nominated Member is a Member of a political group within the Council, then when such member **is on Family Leave or** resigns from a Committee or the Integration Joint Board, any replacement may be nominated by the political group notifying the Chief Executive. At least 10 Clear Working Days' notice is required before the change is implemented.”

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council agree (a) to introduce Family Leave for Councillors on the terms set out in Appendix 2; (b) agree that in terms of Standing Orders and section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, failure to attend meetings while on Family Leave is due to a reason approved by the Council; and (c) to amend section 2, paragraph 3(u) of the Scheme of Administration and paragraph 7.2 of the Standing Orders for Meetings to allow Political Groups to appoint a replacement Senior Councillor during the absence of a Senior Councillor on Family Leave, as set out in 2.7 and 2.8.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The only financial implication is where a replacement Senior Councillor was appointed during the absence on family leave of another Senior Councillor.

Human Resources

- 4.2 While those elected to public office are not employees, introduction of a scheme for family leave helps remove one of the perceived barriers to becoming an elected member.

Legal

- 4.3 There are no legal implications. This does not change the legal status of elected members.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 Allowing family leave has positive benefits in terms of supporting those with the protected characteristic of maternity to become a councillor and to balance that role with family life. It also supports the European Convention on Human Rights right to family life.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 None.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 Effective support for councillors supports effective governance and decision making which in turn supports all the key priorities

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 There are no implications.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposals are in line with the COSLA recommended guidance, which was subject to extensive consultation, and followed from a previous COSLA multi-member working group.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

For further information please contact Andrew Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, on 01294 324125.

Background Papers



Family Leave Guidance for Councils

The Family Leave Guidance outlined below was endorsed by Council Leaders in September 2019 for circulation to Scottish Councils for adoption on a voluntary basis. Subsequently guidance was updated in April 2020 to reflect amendments to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

The term Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) is used within the document to describe allowances paid to Council Leaders, Civic Head, Senior Councillors, Conveners and Vice Convener etc. where a Councillor receives a higher remuneration due to a specific role undertaken on behalf of the Council.

Introduction

This Guidance sets out some key principles which Local Authorities may wish to adopt to support Elected Members during periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave. **There is no legal right to family leave of any kind for people in elected public office.**

The objective of this guidance is to ensure that insofar as is possible, Elected Members can take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption, that both parents are able to take leave, and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for portfolio holders and others in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

This Guidance is to be implemented on a voluntary basis and confers no contractual, nor worker / employment status. The Guidance can be amended or withdrawn at any time. Councillors continue to retain their status as office holders. The rights as set out in this Guidance extend to (1) maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and (2) pay during maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption related leave only. Individuals who are employees or workers of the Local Authority will be entitled to any additional rights associated with family leave by virtue of their employment status and associated policies. No such additional rights, over and above what is set out in this Guidance, shall apply to Elected Members and nothing in this Guidance shall render Elected Members as employees or workers.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of Local Authority councillors. It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

1. Leave Periods

1.1 Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from 28 days before their due date.

1.2 In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 6 months' period.

1.3 Members shall be entitled to take a maximum of 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).

1.4 A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from the Council.

1.5 Where both parents are Members leave may be shared up to a maximum of 26 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.

1.6 A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months' adoption leave from the date of placement.

1.7 Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1973 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six-month period.

1.8 Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return. (It is recommended that a minimum of 28 days' notice is provided to take leave. A MatB1 form or an adoption matching certificate should be provided when applying for maternity and adoption leave respectively).

1.9 Any Member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information from the Council as promptly as possible, and that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

1.10 In the event of an Elected Member taking family-related leave, Councils are encouraged to consider:

- how to ensure there is minimal impact on the relevant ward by arranging, where possible, reasonable and appropriate cover to ensure the needs of constituents continue to be met; and
- providing what additional support may be required to facilitate an Elected Member's return from family related leave to ensure they feel supported and ready to return to the Council.

2. Basic Allowance

2.1 All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

3. Special Responsibility Allowances

3.1 Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.

3.2 The payment of SRA, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months, or until the date when the Member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.

3.3 Should a Member appointed to replace the Member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one SRA shall apply.

3.4 Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

4. Resigning from Office and Elections

4.1 If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

4.2 If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and SRA if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

1- FAMILY LEAVE

This Guidance sets out key principles to support Elected Members during periods of family leave which includes periods of maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave. **There is no legal right to family leave of any kind for people in elected public office.**

1.1 Leave Periods

Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from 28 days before their due date. In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 6 months' period.

Members shall be entitled to take a maximum of 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth of their child(ren).

A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Member Services of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from the Council.

Where both parents are Members leave may be shared up to a maximum of 26 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.

A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months' adoption leave from the date of placement.

Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave retains their legal duty under the Local Government Act 1973 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six- month period.

Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible to ensure that a minimum of 28 days' notice is provided to Member Services both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return. A MatB1 form or an adoption matching certificate should be provided when applying for maternity and adoption leave respectively.

Any Member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information from the Council as promptly as possible, and that they keep officers and colleagues informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

In the event of an Elected Member taking family-related leave, they will liaise with Member Services to consider:

- how to ensure there is minimal impact on the relevant ward by arranging, where possible, reasonable and appropriate cover to ensure the needs of constituents continue to be met; and
- what additional support may be required to facilitate their return from family related leave to ensure they feel supported and ready to return to the Council.

1.2 Basic Allowance

All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

1.3 Senior Councillors

Members entitled to a Senior Councillor remuneration (SCR) shall continue to receive their remuneration in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.

The payment of SCR, whether to the primary SCR holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months, or until the date when the Member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.

Should a Member appointed to replace the Member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one SCR shall apply.

Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

1.4 Resigning from Office and Elections

If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All remuneration will cease from the effective resignation date.

If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their remuneration will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

9 June 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Review of Libraries, Halls & Community Centres and Development of Community Hubs.**

Purpose: To seek Council's approval for the proposals regarding the future delivery of library services and community facilities in a community hub model.

Recommendation: That Council:

- a) Notes the outcome of the public consultation; and
- b) Approves the proposals detailed in Appendix II.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the public consultation regarding the future delivery of services relating to libraries, halls and community centres through the development of the community hub approach. The consultation was based on two previous engagements which established, firstly, which services were valued for delivery locally by communities and, secondly, a range of options for delivery. The purpose of the consultation was to gather the opinions of the local communities on the proposals around community hubs and the future roles of libraries, halls and community centres.
- 1.2 Throughout the process North Ayrshire Council has continued to work closely with NAFCO and individual Community Associations. The proposal for each building has been informed and shaped through the community engagements and with the knowledge of each individual Community Association's aims and future aspirations.
- 1.3 The report seeks approval for the recommendations contained within this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The context of the delivery of community services is framed by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) 2015 Act, the Council Plan and the Community Wealth Building Strategy. The review of libraries, halls and centres offers the opportunity to use a capacity-building approach with communities to extend their ownership and control of land and assets.

- 2.2 In February 2018, Cabinet and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO) set up a short life working group to review community and library facilities by locality.

The context in 2018 was:

- Financial demands facing the Council;
- Reduction of Council property footprint; and
- Retention of valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners.

- 2.3 During the emergency response phase of the Covid pandemic the Council and its partners further developed locality working through effective community hubs, improving accessibility to multiple services in communities through a whole systems approach. North Ayrshire has some well-established community hubs, for example at Vineburgh and Fullarton in Irvine, which provide community support in partnership with the Council's hub network. Learning from these and other models continues to support the development of further partnerships. This work provides models for co-location, multi-agency referral systems, new community partnerships in centres and more flexible ways of delivering library services.
- 2.4 The key driver of the review was to retain services in communities through co-location and through multi-agency approaches to service delivery. With significant numbers of small and inflexible buildings, multiple buildings in small towns and increasing costs, the Council also continues to rationalise its property portfolio for financial and environmental sustainability reasons, aligned with the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- 2.5 The Council has 17 community libraries, 2 mobile libraries and a Home Library Service. Public libraries provide services such as free book lending, digital access and public wi-fi. The resources include a variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for learning, information and personal development including recreation and leisure.
- 2.6 The Council supports the operations of 32 halls and centres. Community centres provide social, adult learning and physical and health activities, with services for addictions, food provision and mental health programmes, for example. In a unique partnership with local Community Associations, the Council has developed an operational agreement whereby local Community Associations manage facilities through a Community Contract and remit a third of income from letting charges back to the Council. This third helps offset some of the repairs and other building costs carried out by the Council. The two-thirds retained by the Community Association is used to subsidise priority lets and invest in local improvements.
- 2.7 The scope of the review included 40 halls, centres and libraries. The remainder are civic buildings which are required for Council service delivery in communities or independently run by community organisations, like Vineburgh, West Kilbride Village Hall and Fullarton that are supported through service-level agreements.

Public Engagements Spring 2019 and Autumn 2019

- 2.8 Locality-based Community Engagement sessions were held in Spring 2019 to establish what was important to the community for the future of community halls, community centres and library services. Options for each community facility and library were developed, and the public asked for their views in the Autumn of 2019. Further action was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Summaries of the feedback gathered during both these engagements were published on the consultation website, and are available, along with the consultation, at <https://nay.communitychoices.scot>.

Covid Pandemic and the Emergence of the Locality Hubs 2020

- 2.9 The feedback from the earlier work has been reviewed along with the learning about the effectiveness of the Covid-19 locality approach and how best to use the assets to support priorities, deliver services and build capacity in our communities. This has helped shape revised proposals for the future of libraries, halls and centres. The Locality Hub model focuses on providing quick, accessible and easy access to a range of services in the heart of communities, has already transformed support for the citizens of North Ayrshire and is at the heart of these revised proposals. Information about Locality Hubs was published on the consultation website as part of the information relating to each building. This approach was recognised as national best practice by the Accounts Commission in its report 'Local government in Scotland: Overview 2021' as they assessed how Councils responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. The actions of the community hubs are highlighted as examples of robust and good practice. In one week, the hubs answered over 2,200 calls, carried out 2,153 food deliveries and 746 prescription drop-offs, and provided advice and signposting to over 400 residents to key statutory services. The Hub in the Three Towns was also singled out with the report saying 'existing community engagement work provided a robust base for developing a collective response from different services, and from community groups that acted as volunteers'. Carnegie UK Trust in their [report](#) Pooling Together: How Community Hubs have responded to the COVID-19 Emergency:

"The community hubs built on and strengthened cross sector partnerships. We believe they have the potential to bring service providers closer to communities in the future, and provide building blocks for more local, holistic support services. . . The case studies reveal that where hubs came from an emergent desire to 'do' public sector service provision differently, they have promoted that, developing kinder services and a shift of power to communities...Community hubs are one vehicle for resetting the relationship between communities and the state to be more mutually supportive and effective. By working across sectors, community hubs can be the vehicle through which resilient communities are supported and a preventative approach can be taken to poverty, mental health, and financial hardship".

The work of the community hubs continues with requests for assistance averaging 200, with 90 from most vulnerable and 950 requests for help with food or medical supplies during one week in May 2021.

Public Consultation Spring 2021

- 2.10 In line with The Consultation Institute's best practice recommendations, a stakeholder reference group was identified to represent key interests, and the methodology was agreed. The mixed methodology was developed with the Stakeholder Reference Group and offered both online and telephone access to log views, as well as mailing alerts with Council Tax bills and adding information and links to electronic bills. The consultation process was conducted on the Consul platform, supported by CoSLA. In addition, there have been two press releases covered by local newspapers across North Ayrshire. A video was developed for use across social media. Social media posts have been circulated using Twitter, Facebook and Linked-in by the Council, the Community Planning Partnership and Locality Partnerships. In addition, these were shared and reposted by a wide range of partner organisations. The North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations, Community Facilities Service and Library Service directly contacted member organisations, Community Associations and users and asked for their communication to be shared with local contacts unavailable to the Council. Elected Members were briefed in December 2020 and January 2021. The Connected Communities team hosted locality stakeholder discussion meetings, received email and petition submissions and provided the telephone call-back service, which enabled those without digital access to make their views known.
- 2.11 This most recent consultation process ran from 5th March 2021 until 5th May 2021 offering nine weeks for the community to get involved and have their say.

The principles behind the new proposals were to:

1. Develop the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID. This is based on the success of a local, multi-agency approach, bringing access to service with dignity; and
2. Retain valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners, whilst also having the advantage of reducing the Council's property portfolio to reduce financial commitments and carbon emissions.

- 2.12 The response to the consultation is summarised in table 1. It should be noted that West Kilbride submitted a petition which includes 1016 signatures.

<i>Responses received</i>	<i>Email Enquiries</i>	<i>Phone Enquiries</i>	<i>Consultation Responses, including Consul</i>
<i>No locality - general comment</i>	12	16	0
<i>Kilwinning</i>	3	0	42
<i>Arran</i>	22	7	207
<i>Irvine</i>	4	5	115
<i>Three Towns</i>	6	5	176
<i>North Coast and Cumbraes</i>	24	3	434
<i>Garnock Valley</i>	10	2	429
	81	38	1403

Table 1

- 2.13 The full analysis is contained in Appendix I.
- 2.14 The consultation process was conducted on the Consul platform, supported by CoSLA. A number of comments were made about the platform's functionality which have been forwarded to the provider, while asking local residents to email/request a call-back.
- 2.15 The timing of the consultation during the second wave of lockdown was questioned, however the consultation had already been postponed for 15 months and the form of the consultation reflected the Consultation Institute's good practice principles for consulting in a Covid-19 environment. Mitigating actions were taken in the design of the consultation methodology so that it was not reliant on digital access.
- 2.16 Consultation feedback also questioned the degree to which outcomes were pre-determined. To be meaningful, a consultation must consult about proposals. The fact there are proposals does not mean that the outcomes are pre-determined, quite the contrary, and the consultation is to get views on such proposals before they are agreed. The consultation is the third stage after two previous public engagements and changes have been made at each stage, taking into account previous feedback, with the elected members now considering the proposal in June 2021.
- 2.17 The consultation responses revealed widespread feelings of community attachment to local buildings, the desire to protect local staff and the importance of the ethos behind each type of service. The Council's financial pressures were regarded as secondary to retaining existing valued services. The consultation may not have attracted a high volume of number of responses (although the West Kilbride petition exceeded one thousand signatures) for a number of reasons, including the tendency not to respond unless highly motivated. It might have been attributable to public apathy, consultation fatigue, pandemic communication difficulties, the Consul platform or all or none of these.
- 2.18 There is strong evidence in the consultation of resistance to change, overall, regardless of the individual proposals. However, the criteria established by the Council (multi-agency working and reduction in property footprint for financial and sustainability reasons) in the context of providing multiple services and opportunities to our communities, is a response to a climate of public sector austerity which renders change inevitable in order to maintain important services to our most vulnerable citizens.

The Post-consultation Recommendations

- 2.19 The proposals for each building have been set out in Appendix II, and are presented against two key criteria for the public consultation in Spring 2021:
1. The principle that a whole system approach to delivering services in communities, in multi-service environments, proved successful in meeting the needs of our residents during Covid, especially the most vulnerable, whereby they were able to access a range of services and opportunities through one call or visit; and
 2. Rationalisation of Council property portfolio for financial and environmental sustainability reasons, on a community by community basis.

- 2.20 The case for progressing the community hub approach received public support. There was some confusion between the ethos of the library or community activity and the hub approach. The multi-agency community hub approach is a targeted support for the most vulnerable in communities.
- 2.21 The proposed findings, if accepted, would mean that in future many services could be offered to the same communities in co-located or shared buildings. These proposals would result in shared facilities and community asset transfers which will allow the Council to reduce its property portfolio, support opportunities for community activity and ownership to support its Community Wealth Building Strategy and reduce its carbon footprint.
- 2.22 The post-consultation recommendations in relation to each facility in scope are summarised as:
- i. Establish as Council Locality Hubs;
 - ii. Further develop existing community ownership/operation;
 - iii. Support new community lease/ownership proposals;
 - iv. Relocation of access to library services to community centre;
 - v. Rebalance space allocations to support community plans; and
 - vi. Extend community operation and identify further partnership opportunities.
- 2.23 The following is the list of proposed Council Locality Hubs (this will not affect community room use):
- Arran Outdoor Education Centre;
 - Redburn Community Centre;
 - Kilbirnie Library;
 - Kilwinning Library;
 - Largs Library; and
 - Stevenston Library.
- 2.24 The following is the list of facilities where it is proposed to continue to support existing community ownership/operation, where the Council current leases space or provides staff support:
- Fairlie Library (continue to provide staff support);
 - Fairlie Village Hall (increase keyholding and reduce staff support);
 - Skelmorlie Library (continue to provide staff support);
 - Skelmorlie Community Centre (increase keyholding and reduce staff support); and
 - Garrison House (increase the Cumbrae Community Development Company's space).
- 2.25 The following is the list of facilities where the Council proposes to progress new community lease/ownership proposals:
- Brodick Hall (progress a lease or community asset transfer);
 - Dalry Community Centre (an Expression of Interest in community asset transfer has been submitted);
 - Bourtreehill Library (an Expression of Interest in community asset transfer has been submitted);
 - Lanfine Community Centre (an Expression of Interest in a lease or community asset transfer has been submitted);

- Woodwynd Hall (an Expression of Interest in community asset transfer has been submitted);
- Whitehirst Park Community Centre (in progress); and
- Whitlees Community Centre (an Expression of Interest in community asset transfer has been submitted).

2.26 The proposal is to relocate of access to library services at Bourtreehill, such as Call, Click and Collect, small collection of books and programmed activities like Bookbug, to a community building in a partnership approach.

2.27 The following is a list of proposals to rebalance space allocations in buildings to support community-led plans:

- Arran Library;
- Dalry Library; and
- Springside Library.

2.28 The following is a list of proposals to extend community operation of the facility and identify further partnership opportunities:

- Walker Hall (feasibility study to be completed);
- Bridgend Community Centre;
- Beith Community Centre;
- Redburn Community Centre (Hub);
- Castlepark Community Centre;
- Towerlands Community Centre;
- Springside Library & Community Centre;
- Townend Community Centre;
- Cranberry Moss Community Centre;
- Nethermains Community Centre;
- West Kilbride Community Centre;
- Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre;
- Hayocks Hall; and
- Argyle Community Centre.

2.29 It is proposed that the Council will continue to operate the buildings listed in 2.28 in partnership with the Community Associations and other key stakeholders to deliver critical services for the local community. Work will continue in partnership with a range of partners to increase key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.

2.30 While the proposals in Appendix II attracted support or acceptance by the majority of respondents, in the cases of Beith, Saltcoats, Dreghorn and West Kilbride the proposals did not attract community support. Community voices are strong in the responses to the consultation, including comment that the Council should consider working with the community to explore options other than co-location in the community centres. Although the Council conducted previous public engagements to develop options with community partners, the recommendations for Beith Community Centre, Argyle Community Centre, Townend Community Centre and West Kilbride Community Centre have been revised to remove the proposal to integrate libraries in these facilities. The Council will continue to work in partnership with communities to explore options in relation to the three libraries whose buildings will be retained, while increasing community ownership of land and assets in line with the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

- 2.31 The following summarises revisions to the original consultation proposals to reflect community feedback, resulting in the following recommendations:
- Beith Library: do not progress with relocation and work with local communities to explore future options;
 - Dregghorn Library: do not progress with relocation and work with local communities to explore future options
 - West Kilbride Library: do not progress with relocation and work with local communities to explore future options; and
 - Saltcoats Library: do not progress with relocation and work with local communities to explore future options.
- 2.32 The Council will continue to explore a relocation option for Irvine Library in line with emerging Covid-related opportunities. The Brisbane Centre is currently in use for Covid-related support. When this function is no longer required, the Council will work together with partners to relocate existing lessees, establish the case for a community asset transfer or proceed to market the property for sale.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that Council:

- a) Notes the outcome of the public consultation; and
- b) Approves the proposals detailed in Appendix II.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The implementation of the new proposals contained within this paper could result in revenue savings in the region of £1m per annum, although some of the changes proposed will require additional capital investment, the quantum of which will not be established until the next stage of the work. This does not at this stage take into account the projected future maintenance investments required for the facilities in scope. A more detailed assessment of the full cost and savings implications will be undertaken at the next stage of the process.

Human Resources

- 4.2 The proposals have been developed with the support of staff and trade unions. Should the proposals be approved then this will have implications for working arrangements and the total number of staff hours required. In light of these ongoing consultations, in order to mitigate the impact on our employees, a number of vacancies have been held unfilled, or filled with employees on temporary contracts. The library staff have contributed to new service designs. The staff engagement process has been supported by the Trade Unions. There will be a requirement for formal consultation with Trade Unions on the restructuring of both community facilities and library staff teams.

Legal

- 4.3 The public library service is a statutory duty of the Council. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 – Section 163 states the local authority ‘shall have a duty to secure the provision of adequate library facilities for all persons resident in their area’. The precise level of service is not prescribed. North Ayrshire has a comparatively high number of library buildings and the services are also delivered flexibly through the Home Library Service, mobile libraries or digitally.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The principle of the hub approach contained in this report is to contribute to the overall improvement of equalities and to the socio-economic duty across North Ayrshire. The proposals are intended to enhance the role and situation of people in North Ayrshire as a whole, bringing the recognised impact and value of the community hub approach to the most vulnerable to local service points and empowering communities and local organisations through community ownership and control. Information on the Scottish Government Equality Evidence Finder was also accessed. This tool makes it easier for people to locate and access equalities information and provides a wealth of data and other evidence with accompanying commentary, background papers, and links to further information. In addition, the consultation was posted with North Ayrshire via Council Tax notifications and e-billing notices. The consultation asked people directly to identify the impact the proposals would have on their lives. The impact assessments for each service have been completed and take account of the feedback received.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 The proposals support the Council’s climate change and sustainability ambitions through the reduction of the council’s property portfolio, with, in some cases, services rather than buildings retained in communities through co-location.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposals contained within the report support the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities, in particular:
- Active and strong communities;
 - Children and young people experience the best start in life; and
 - People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 Community Wealth Building is the economic context in which the proposals were developed, with communities sharing ideas for vacated buildings through the community asset transfer process. The proposals contained within the report will provide opportunities which encourage community ownership of land and assets, democratic participation and personal growth, creating strong communities ready to make the most of community wealth building opportunities.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 North Ayrshire Council strives to operate in a climate of trust, openness, collaboration with and receptiveness to the views of its communities. NACFO and Community Associations have been involved in the review since 2018. The Council has worked closely with the Consultation Institute over a number years and the form of the consultation reflected the Consultation Institute's good practice principles. There have been two extensive programmes of public engagement and a public consultation, including notification to every household via Council Tax and e-billing correspondence, as well as press coverage and extensive social media coverage. During the past three years, North Ayrshire Council's Connected Communities Team has been engaging constantly with communities and stakeholders on the subject contained within this report.

Audrey Sutton
Executive Director
Communities and Education

For further information please contact **Rhona Arthur, Head of Connected Communities**, on **01294 324415**.

Background Papers

Consultation responses

Appendix I

Community Hub Consultation – Spring 2021

1. Background

This report presents the findings of the public consultation regarding the development of the community hub approach, including the future delivery of services relating to libraries, halls and centres. The consultation was based on two previous engagements which established, firstly, which services were valued for delivery locally by communities and, secondly, a range of options for delivery. The purpose of the consultation was to gather the opinions of the local communities on the plan around community hubs and the future roles of libraries, halls and centres.

2. Public Engagements Spring 2019 and Autumn 2019

Locality-based Community Engagement sessions were held in Spring 2019 to establish what was important to the community for the future of community halls, centres and library services. Options for each community facility and library were developed, and the public asked for their views in the Autumn of 2019. Further action was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Summaries of the feedback gathered during both these engagements were published on the consultation website, and are available, along with the consultation at <https://nay.communitychoices.scot>.

This most recent consultation process ran from 5th March 2021 until 5th May 2021 offering nine weeks for the community to get involved and have their say.

The principles behind the new plans were to:

- a) Develop the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID. This is based on the success of a local, multi-agency approach, bringing access to service with dignity; and
- b) Retain valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners, whilst also having the advantage of reducing the Council's property portfolio to reduce financial commitments and carbon emissions.

3. Public Consultation Spring 2021

In line with The Consultation Institute's best practice recommendations, a stakeholder reference group was identified to represent key interests, and the methodology was agreed.

4. Stakeholder Reference Group

The Stakeholder Reference Group was chaired by Billy Brotherson, the Chair of the North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership. Its membership included representatives from the North Ayrshire Access Panel, the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO), community representatives of older people, community representatives of young people, the two third sector interfaces (The Ayrshire Community Trust and Arran CVS) and community organisations not in membership of NAFCO. The role of the Stakeholder Reference Group was set out in its Terms of Reference (below). The Council is grateful to this group for their help in identifying the consultation mandate, methodology and definitions of terms and frequently-asked questions for the public and community organisations.

Terms of Reference

North Ayrshire Council Communities Directorate requires to establish a short-term Stakeholder Reference group. The membership of the group will reflect the key stakeholder organisations and the localities of North Ayrshire.

An independent chair will provide guidance and support, ensuring that the group is able to achieve the tasks required. Administration will be provided by Connected Communities.

The group will meet a maximum **of 4 times** on the preferred digital platform.

Working from the principles and practice of co-production the group will make comment and review the Consultation plan, methodologies and materials. The key to this process is the autonomy of individual members to make comment at the meetings on behalf of any organisation they maybe representing. The group will also provide advice and comment on the feedback methodologies and evaluation. Throughout the process of the consultation they will be kept informed on the progress.

The Group will make comment solely on the consultation process and methodologies ensuring the consultation process is robust, meaningful and transparent. The involvement in the group does not preclude them from engaging in the consultation.

Engagement with the Communities of North Ayrshire to help shape the future role of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres across North Ayrshire
Directorate/Service Proposal

Stakeholder Engagement Mandate	
We:	North Ayrshire Council, Communities and Education Directorate
Need to understand the views of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those currently involved in the management of libraries, halls and community centres; • Users and non users of these services and facilities; • Those with an interest in the future of these services and facilities; • Partner organisations potentially impacted by any changes to these services
Concerning:	<p>The approach being taken by the Council, post Covid 19, relating to the future roles of libraries, halls and community centres across North Ayrshire.</p> <p>The impact of the draft proposals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals and communities; • individual halls, libraries and community centres
So that:	North Ayrshire Council can, following consideration of the consultation responses, finalise, approve, adopt and implement the plan and its subsequent actions
By	
So as to accomplish:	The completion of a robust comprehensive engagement and consultation process which enabled communities and organisations to genuinely influence the decision-making process resulting in a sustainable and 'fit for purpose' range of services
We will do this through/ methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stakeholder reference group</i> • <i>Partnership working with NAFCO</i> • <i>Virtual drop in engagement sessions in our local communities</i> • <i>On line feedback through CONSUL</i> • <i>Telephone</i> • <i>Postal Communication.</i> • <i>Focus Groups of specific groups</i> • <i>Post card</i> <p>The methodologies described are in line with the current the Covid 19 restrictions.</p>
Support required and from whom:	<p>Elected Members</p> <p>North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations</p> <p>Delivery of consultation events - Staff from across North Ayrshire Council</p>
Other comments:	This process builds on the feedback from the early engagement stages 1 and 2 of the process and will incorporate co designing the shape of the future of the facilities and services delivered.

5. Methodology

The mixed methodology was developed with the Stakeholder Reference Group and offered both online and telephone access to log views, as well as mailing alerts with Council Tax bills and adding information and links to electronic bills. The consultation process was conducted on the Consul platform, supported by CoSLA. In addition, there have been two press releases covered by local newspapers across North Ayrshire. A video was developed for use across social media. Social media posts have been circulated using Twitter, Facebook and Linked by the Council, the Community Planning Partnership and Locality Partnerships. In addition, these were reposted by a wide range of partner organisations. The North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations and Libraries directly contacted member organisations and users and asked for their communication to be shared with local contacts unavailable to the Council. Elected Members were briefed in December 2020 and January 2021. The Connected Communities team hosted locality stakeholder-based discussion meetings, received email and petition submissions and provided the call-back service, which enabled those without digital access to make their views known.

6. Community Hub Consultation – Spring 2021

Questions

1. Please choose one option about how we used community spaces in a hub approach during the pandemic:

- a. I think bringing services and people together in a hub approach was a good use of our community space.
- b. I think bringing services and people together in a hub approach was not a good use of our community space.
- c. I don't know.

An open text box is provided for providing more detail.

2. The plan for each building is followed by a question: Please choose one sentence from the options below, which best describes the difference this plan will make to you.

- a. The plan will have a positive effect on how I access services
- b. The plan will have little or no effect on how I access services
- c. The plan will have a negative impact on how I access services

An open text box is provided for providing more detail.

3. An open text box is provided for providing more feedback on the plan.

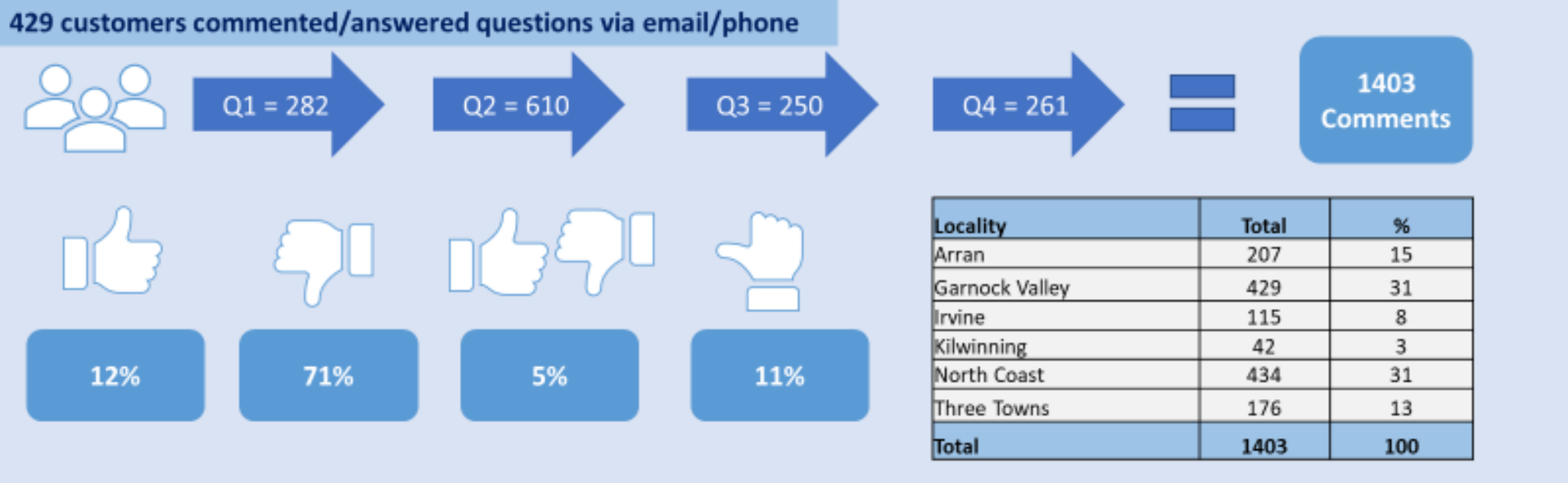
4. We are committed to ensuring that our consultations are accessible for all in our communities and we would appreciate your view. This consultation is delivered online following Scottish Government's current restrictions and guidance to ensure your health and safety. Please choose one sentence from the options below:

- a. I found this consultation easy to use and understand.
- b. I found this consultation difficult and complicated to understand.

7. Summary of responses

Responses received	Email Enquiries	Phone Enquiries	Consultation Responses, including Consul
No locality - general comment	12	16	0
Kilwinning	3	0	42
Arran	22	7	207
Irvine	4	5	115
Three Towns	6	5	176
North Coast and Cumbraes	24	3	434
Garnock Valley	10	2	429
	81	38	1403

Consul Feedback Summary (all customer comments)



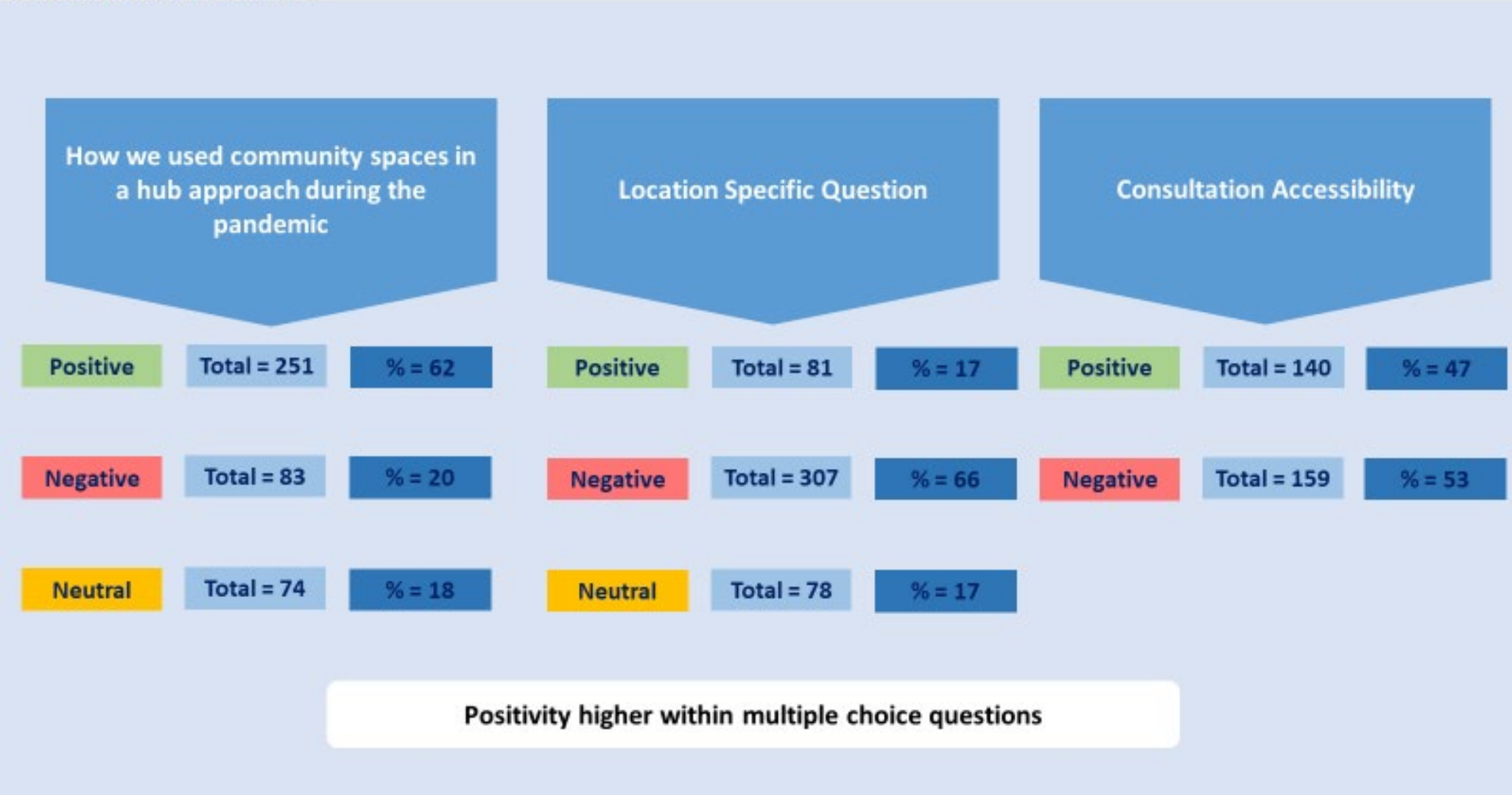
Top 3 themes based on all comments



Top 5 locations by customer engagement

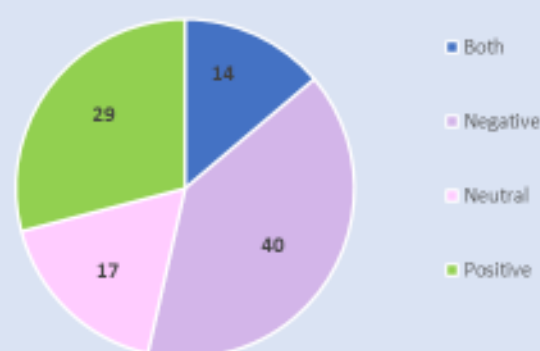
Location	Total	%
Beith Library	235	17
West Kilbride Library	228	16
Arran Library	116	8
Saltcoats Library	103	7
Beith Community Centre	99	7
Total	781	56

Summary Multiple Choice



Question 1: How we use Community Spaces during the Pandemic

Response Type by %



Locality	Total	%
Arran	35	12
Garnock Valley	108	38
Irvine	22	8
Kilwinning	12	4
North Coast	76	27
Three Towns	29	10
Total	282	100

Top 3 themes based on all Q1 comments

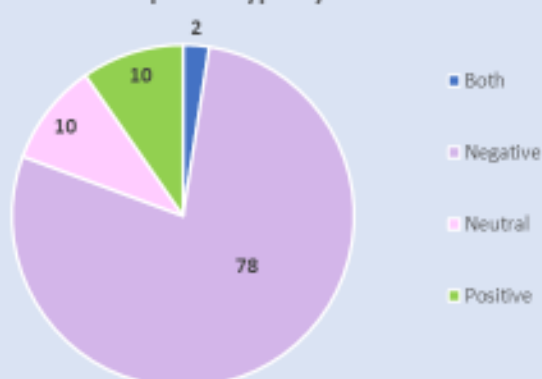


Top 5 locations by customer engagement

Location	Total	%
Arran Library	24	9
Beith Community Centre	21	7
Beith Library	48	17
Largs Library	19	7
West Kilbride Library	26	9
Total	138	49

Question 2: Location Specific Question

Response Type by %



Locality	Total	%
Arran	80	13
Garnock Valley	180	30
Irvine	56	9
Kilwinning	16	3
North Coast	198	32
Three Towns	80	13
Total	610	100

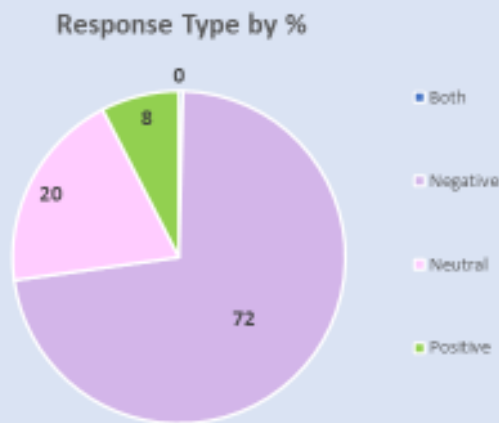
Top 3 themes based on all Q2 comments



Top 5 locations by customer engagement

Location	Total	%
West Kilbride Library	118	19
Beith Library	110	18
Saltcoats Library	49	8
Arran Library	40	7
Brodict Hall	40	7
Total	357	59

Question 3: Is there anything else you wish to tell us about the plan?



Locality	Total	%
Arran	41	16
Garnock Valley	77	31
Irvine	18	7
Kilwinning	5	2
North Coast	77	31
Three Towns	32	13
Total Comments	250	100

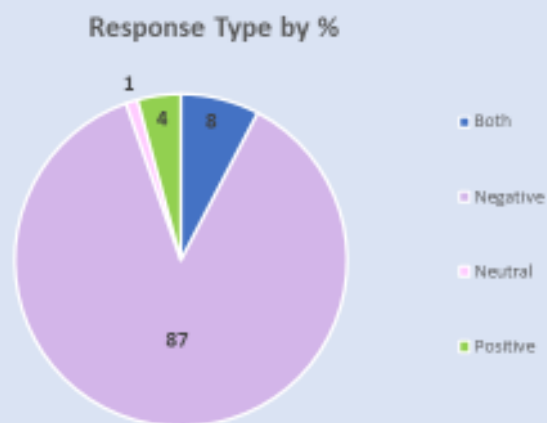
Top 3 themes based on all Q3 comments



Top 5 locations by customer engagement

Location	Total	%
West Kilbride Library	48	19
Beith Library	40	16
Beith Community Centre	26	10
Arran Library	24	10
Saltcoats Library	22	9
Total	160	64

Question 4: Consultation Accessibility Question



Locality	Total	%
Arran	51	20
Garnock Valley	64	25
Irvine	19	7
Kilwinning	9	3
North Coast	85	33
Three Towns	33	13
Total	261	100

Top 3 themes based on all Q4 comments



Top 5 locations by customer engagement

Location	Total	%
Beith Library	37	14
West Kilbride Library	36	14
Arran Library	28	11
Brodick Hall	23	9
Saltcoats Library	20	8
Total	144	55

Response Type by Locality and Location					
Row Labels		Column Labels			
		Both +/-	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Arran:		21	135	25	26
Arran Library		16	65	19	16
Q1		12	5	2	5
Q2		3	25	5	7
Q3		1	8	12	3
Q4			27		1
Brodick Hall		5	70	6	10
Q1		4	2	2	3
Q2		1	33	3	3

Q3		12	1	4	17
Q4		23			23
Garnock Valley:	24	310	51	44	429
Beith Community Centre	3	67	18	11	99
Q1		11	4	6	21
Q2	2	25	8	4	39
Q3		19	6	1	26
Q4	1	12			13
Beith Library	11	205	15	4	235
Q1	7	30	9	2	48
Q2		108	2		110
Q3		36	3	1	40
Q4	4	31	1	1	37
Bridgend Community Centre	1	6	5	8	20
Q1		1	1	6	8
Q2		2	4	1	7
Q4	1	3		1	5
Dalry Community Centre	3	8	4	3	18
Q1	2	4	1	1	8
Q2		2	2	2	6
Q3		1	1		2
Q4	1	1			2
Dalry Library	3	6	2	8	19
Q1	2	4	1	2	9
Q2		1		5	6
Q3			1	1	2
Q4	1	1			2
Kilbirnie Library	3	16	5	8	32
Q1	2	2		8	12
Q2	1	4	3		8
Q3		5	2		7
Q4		5			5
Walker Hall		2	2	2	6
Q1		1	1		2
Q2		1	1	2	4
Irvine:	4	81	14	16	115
Bourtreehill Library		6	2	3	11
Q1			1	2	3
Q2		4			4
Q3			1	1	2
Q4		2			2
Castlepark Community Centre		1		1	2
Q1				1	1
Q2		1			1
Dreghorn Library		40	3	4	47
Q1		1		3	4
Q2		22	1	1	24
Q3		8	2		10
Q4		9			9
Irvine Library	3	6	4	4	17
Q1	1	1	1	1	4
Q2	1	3	3	3	10
Q4	1	2			3
Lanfine Community Centre		1	2	1	4
Q1				1	1
Q2		1	1		2
Q3			1		1
Redburn Community Centre				1	1
Q2				1	1
Towerlands Community Centre		3		2	5
Q1				2	2
Q2		2			2
Q4		1			1
Townend Community Centre	1	24	3		28
Q1	1	3	3		7
Q2		12			12
Q3		5			5
Q4		4			4
Kilwinning:	1	24	10	7	42
Cranberry Moss Community Centre			1	3	4
Q1				3	3
Q2			1		1

Kilwinning Library		5	3	3	11
Q1			1	3	4
Q2		2	2		4
Q4		3			3
Nethermains Community Centre	1	8	3		12
Q1		1	1		2
Q2		3	1		4
Q3		1	1		2
Q4	1	3			4
Whitehirst Park Community Centre		11	3	1	15
Q1		1	2		3
Q2		7			7
Q3		2	1		3
Q4		1		1	2
North Coast:	19	333	33	51	436
Brisbane Centre		12	2	4	18
Q1			1		1
Q2		6	1	3	10
Q3		3			3
Q4		3		1	4
Fairlie Library		2		4	6
Q1				2	2
Q2		1		2	3
Q4		1			1
Fairlie Village Hall - Community owned		2	1		3
Q1		1			1
Q2		1	1		2
Garrison House – Community Owned – Cumbrae Community Development Company (CCDC)		3	2	8	13
Q1		2		3	5
Q2				3	3
Q3			2	1	3
Q4		1		1	2
Largs Library	6	33	8	16	63
Q1		9	3	7	19
Q2	2	10	3	6	21
Q3		6	2		8
Q4	4	8		3	15
Skelmorlie Community Centre - Community owned	3	8		9	20
Q1				8	8
Q2	1	3			4
Q3				1	1
Q4	2	5			7
Skelmorlie Library	1	8	3	7	19
Q1		1	1		2
Q2		1	2	5	8
Q3		2		2	4
Q4	1	4			5
West Kilbride Community Centre	3	57	5	1	66
Q1	2	7	3		12
Q2	1	26	1	1	29
Q3		10			10
Q4		14	1		15
West Kilbride Library	6	208	12	2	228
Q1	5	19		2	26
Q2	1	113	4		118
Q3		41	7		48
Q4		35	1		36
Three Towns:	6	114	27	27	174
Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre			1	6	7
Q1			1	2	3
Q2				3	3
Q4				1	1
Ardrossan Library		13	7	3	23
Q1		2	2	1	5
Q2		6	4	2	12
Q3		3	1		4
Q4		2			2
Argyle Community Centre		21	2		23
Q1		2	2		4
Q2		9			9
Q3		4			4

Q4		6			6
Hayocks Hall		4	2	1	7
Q1			2	1	3
Q2		2			2
Q4		2			2
Saltcoats Library	6	72	14	11	103
Q1	1	2	4	5	12
Q2	2	39	5	3	49
Q3		14	5	3	22
Q4	3	17			20
Stevenston Library		4	1	5	10
Q1				1	1
Q2		2	1	2	5
Q3		1		1	2
Q4		1		1	2
Whitlees Community Centre				1	1
Q1				1	1
Grand Total	75	997	160	171	1403

Responses by type

Response Type	Total	%
Both	75	5
Negative	997	71
Neutral	160	11
Positive	171	12
Total	1403	

Responses by theme

All Themes Questions 1 to 4	Total	%
Access	219	10
Advice	7	0
Communication	253	12
Community	227	10
Computer Literacy	29	1
Confusing	1	0
Consul	77	4
Educational	120	5
Financial	150	7
Geographical	139	6
Poverty	35	2
Questions/Information	88	4
Required Help	1	0
Resources	672	31
Safety	54	2
Socialising	88	4
Time	1	0
Volunteers	29	1
Total	2190	

Theme Definitions
Access – Internet access, lifts/ramps etc for physical impairments, is on flat ground that's accessible for wheelchair users etc
Advice – where people can get advice from/for services
Computer Literacy – People's ability to use devices and navigate the internet
Communication – Information from NAC, advice, marketing
Community – Local community spirit, togetherness, culture of the community
Consul – Consul specific comments
Educational – Training for adults/children, extra curriculum, night classes, nurseries, education through services
Financial – To reduce costs, increase savings
Geographical – Central with good transport links, not travelling to different towns, keeping local
Poverty – income/employment/access poverty
Questions/Information – Themes relating to the information around the consultation, eg. How to participate, plans. Also, in relation to the actual questions asked in the consultation
Resources – Building is used/not used well, efficiently laid out, has good variety of services including books, staff, services such as book club, timetables/booking
Safety – Proper space to distance, open and ventilated to reduce covid spreading, safe places for children and adults, no judgement, can get help
Socialising – Meeting place for people after Covid, mental health, friendship
Volunteers – volunteers through pandemic, people who volunteer at halls, libraries, and centres

Location	Count of User
Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre	7
Ardrossan Library	23
Argyle Community Centre	23
Arran Library	116
Beith Community Centre	99
Beith Library	235
Bourtreehill Library	11
Bridgend Community Centre	20
Brisbane Centre	18
Brodick Hall	91
Castlepark Community Centre	2
Cranberry Moss Community Centre	4
Dalry Community Centre	18
Dalry Library	19
Dreghorn Library	47
Fairlie Library	6
Fairlie Village Hall - Community owned	3
Garrison House – Community Owned – Cumbrae Community Development Company (CCDC)	13
Hayocks Hall	7
Irvine Library	17
Kilbirnie Library	32
Kilwinning Library	11
Lanfine Community Centre	4
Largs Library	63
Nethermains Community Centre	12
Redburn Community Centre	1
Saltcoats Library	103
Skelmorlie Community Centre - Community owned	20
Skelmorlie Library	19
Stevenston Library	10
Towerlands Community Centre	5
Townend Community Centre	28
Walker Hall	6
West Kilbride Community Centre	66
West Kilbride Library	228
Whitehirst Park Community Centre	15
Whitlees Community Centre	1
(blank)	
Grand Total	1403

Further analysis will be published on the Consult platform shortly, after any personal data is removed.

<https://nay.communitychoices.scot>.

8. Summary of Conclusions

The consultation process was conducted on the Consul platform, supported by CoSLA. A number of comments were made about the platform's functionality which have been forwarded to the provider, while asking local residents to email/request a call-back.

The timing of the consultation during the second wave of lockdown was questioned, however the consultation had already been postponed for 15 months. Mitigating actions were taken in the design of the consultation methodology so that it was not reliant on digital access.

Consultation feedback also questioned the degree to which outcomes were pre-determined. The consultation is the third stage after two previous public engagements and changes have been made at each stage, taking into account previous feedback, with the elected members now considering the proposal in June 2021.

The consultation responses revealed widespread feelings of community attachment to local buildings, the desire to protect local staff and the importance of the ethos behind each type of service. The Council's financial pressures were seen as secondary to retaining existing valued services. The consultation may not have attracted a high volume of number of responses (although the West Kilbride petition exceeded one thousand signatures) for a number of reasons, including the tendency not to respond unless highly motivated. It might have been attributable to public apathy, consultation fatigue, pandemic communication difficulties, the Consul platform or none of these.

Some of the responses were based on a lack of clarity about the impact of hub integration on public floorspace, which in the case of Largs, will not be affected with the new staff facility being incorporated in library back-offices through redesign. In the case of Arran, there is on-going work to be done to incorporate the much-needed early years provision within the guidance laid down by Scottish Government through the Early Years Expansion programme.

The case for progressing the community hub approach received public support, with some confusing the ethos of the library or community activity with multi-agency community hub support for the most vulnerable in communities.

The proposed findings, if accepted, would mean that in future a majority of services could be delivered in the same communities in co-located or shared buildings. These proposals would result in shared facilities and community asset transfers which will allow the Council to reduce its property portfolio, support opportunities for community ownership to support its Community Wealth Building Strategy and reduce its carbon footprint.

While the proposals in the consultation attracted support or acceptance by the majority of respondents, in the cases of Beith, Saltcoats and West Kilbride the proposals did not attract community support. The community voice is strong in the responses to the consultation including a comment that the Council should consider working with the community to explore options other than co-location in the community centres. Although the Council conducted previous public engagements to identify options, the recommendations for Beith Community Centre, Argyle Community Centre and West Kilbride Community Centre have been revised to remove the proposal to integrate libraries in these facilities. Council work in partnership with communities to

explore further alternatives to reduce the costs of the three libraries, while increasing community ownership of land and assets in line with the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

There is strong evidence in the consultation of resistance to change, overall, regardless of the individual proposals. However, the criteria established by the Council (multi-agency working and reduction in property footprint for financial and sustainability reasons) in the context of providing multiple services and opportunities to our communities, is a response to a climate of public sector austerity which renders change inevitable in order to maintain important services to our most vulnerable citizens.

9. **Definition of a “Community Hub” and “Locality Hub”?**

Community hubs most commonly operate out of buildings from which multi-purpose, community-led services are delivered. Community hubs often host other partners and access to many different public services. These co-location approaches are an efficient and effective use of resources - lots of things in the one place. Community hubs are in themselves a good use of local assets and the model can help to underpin an enterprising and resilient community resource. The design and programming can be created in a co-production model, working closely with Community Associations, library users and management groups to ensure that the needs of the community are at the heart of the design process. A library may be included in some community hubs with library services adding to the offer in others.

A locality hub is where there is a full-time North Ayrshire Council staff presence. The Council's proposal for locality hubs will be in premises that are accessible, high quality, flexible and versatile. There will still be spaces in some hubs to enable activities and programmes to be delivered as well as letting spaces. A library will be included in some locality hubs with library services adding to the offer in others. Additional, available office space will be maximised by Council staff, local voluntary and community sector organisations in a flexible and agile way as staff work in different locations. Also, in some hubs, this will include HSCP colleagues. The locality hubs will be equipped with public Wi-Fi access.

Each community and locality hub will be different and will vary in response to local requirements and needs. Larger hubs could accommodate several different activities at the same time, allowing for the possibility of different organisations delivering activities at the same time.

Definition of a Library Service

A modern library service challenges peoples thinking that services can only be delivered from within the 4 walls of a traditional library building. Learning from other areas has been looked at and the learning from delivering services during Covid has shaped thinking.

A library service would still have strong roots in the community and deep roots in Encouraging reading, nurturing the love of books, improving literacy, delivering events and promoting opportunities to be involved in local and national activities.

In addition, a library service would still work with partners to ensure that local Communities have a strong digital offer with access to wifi as well as devices as and when needed.

All of this may happen in something resembling a modern library building and some may be delivered in a space that is shared with other community services such as in a community centre or a voluntary group's own premises. For example, where a library service is co located in a community centre and has a smaller space, Bookbug could still happen on a regular basis - just in another room in the centre. There can still be digital offer if there isn't a traditional IT suite - we can

offer public wifi and space for folk to bring in their own devices and work away or loan out a laptop for use while with us.

Events and activities could be targeted to groups with library staff visiting established groups as such as family support services or health and well-being groups - taking the service to where people are. In doing so, we could reach those who would not traditionally visit a library but who would benefit greatly from being included.

Alongside these could be an enhanced digital offer with members accessing resources online. These have grown immensely during lockdown.

Book deliveries and call, click and collect have been a lifeline to many in 2020 and could be developed as part of a library service in key areas to meet local needs.

Where appropriate, the mobile library can also support the delivery of services as we use a range of options to deliver a library service.

In summary – a **library service** is a modern way of delivering a high-quality library service in partnership with local communities, staff from across other teams, digitally and when appropriate, in a targeted way to maximise impact. It's all about the services and the impact of involvement - not the name above a building.

Engagement with the Communities of North Ayrshire to help shape the future role of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres across North Ayrshire

Consultation Launch– 5 March 2021
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1	<p>What was the outcome of the previous consultation exercise the Council carried out on Libraries, Halls and Community Centres?</p> <p>The previous consultation exercise was paused due to the General Election and furthermore could not proceed due to the pandemic which stuck in March 2020. The feedback from both stage 1 and 2 consultation exercises has helped inform the Plan which has now been developed.</p>
Q2	<p>Where can I find the feedback on the previous consultation exercises?</p> <p>We have published this information at Shaping North Ayrshire - Your Voice Your View (communitychoices.scot)</p>
Q3	<p>Why is the Council undertaking a further consultation exercise?</p> <p>The aim of the previous consultation and engagement exercise was to gather the views on what mattered most to communities and what our communities' views were on exploring a range of options associated with Libraries, Halls and Community Centres. This consultation now presents our proposed plan for each property and seeks your views on the Plan and what it means to you.</p>
Q4	<p>How long is the consultation running?</p> <p>It is running for 9 weeks from the 5th of March to the 5th May 2021.</p>
Q5	<p>Can I speak to someone in person who can talk me through the plan in more detail or can I email my enquiry?</p> <p>If you are unable to access the on-line option, you can call 01294 31000 for a call back request and an officer will take you through the plan and set of questions. Our phone lines will be open from 6th April – 6th May, Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm. You can also email CommunityFacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk</p> <p>The recommended option is to access the consultation on Consul at Shaping North Ayrshire - Your Voice Your View (communitychoices.scot) as this will give you the opportunity to see the whole Plan and supplementary information.</p>
Q6	<p>Can I post my comments online?</p> <p>Yes, the full consultation and Plan is available at Shaping North Ayrshire - Your Voice Your View (communitychoices.scot)</p>
Q7	<p>When are the proposed changes going to be implemented?</p> <p>We do not have a timeframe for changes to be implemented. We want to work with user groups, Community Associations and partners around any changes to the service provision. The pace and timescale for changes will vary for each facility. We would like to work in partnership with stakeholders to design the implementation plans.</p>
Q8	<p>How will the results of this consultation inform the plan?</p> <p>You have the opportunity to share your views, and suggestions on the proposals for each building and service. Your views and all feedback will be taken into consideration when a final report is developed and taken to Council on 9 June 2021.</p>
Q9	<p>How will services currently operating in halls, centres, libraries change in the proposed plan?</p> <p>If the Plan is approved the nature of changes will vary from building to building. If, for example, it has been approved to bring services together our intention is to speak to representative groups and Community Associations to co-design the new delivery model with your views and thoughts considered.</p>
Q10	<p>Will the buildings look and feel different?</p> <p>This may be the case particularly in the scenario of co-locations (when more services come together in one place) but we anticipate any changes made will improve the facility and provide a better customer experience. We will consult with stakeholders on any changes internally to the buildings.</p>
Q11	<p>How much money is being saved from the plans?</p> <p>There has been no target set for savings against the Plan. The Plan is being driven by best practice examples, to reduce the number of assets the Council is directly operating and to secure and support vital services into the future.</p>
Q12	<p>How much will it cost to implement this new model?</p> <p>This is not yet clear since the proposals for Council are yet to be agreed. There will be costs in terms of building changes and the costs of staff changes, however, these will be recovered in time.</p>
Q13	<p>What will happen to the buildings the Service no longer proposes to operate?</p> <p>Our colleagues within Economic Development have been looking into alternative and longer term uses for some of the buildings not identified as part of our Plan. This work will continue to identify realistic and feasible options to re-purpose the buildings we propose to release.</p>
Q14	<p>Will the opening times for Community Centre, Hall or Library change?</p> <p>This depends on the proposal detailed on the Plan for specific buildings.</p> <p>If the Plan is agreed, it is anticipated that most libraries will have different opening hours to meet the changing way services are delivered across North Ayrshire</p>
Q15	<p>What is wrong with the current way that libraries, halls and community centres operate?</p> <p>We do not think there is anything fundamentally wrong with the traditional service delivery model we operate at present however, we strongly believe we have an opportunity to improve the way we deliver services in future to the benefit of local communities.</p>
Q16	<p>What consideration has been given to transport challenges?</p> <p>We have mapped out the geographical locations of all our Libraries, Community Halls and Centres and have considered the data on travel distances when the Plan was developed. In addition to this full equality impact assessments will be completed on the plan for following the June Cabinet meeting.</p>
Q17	<p>How did you select which halls, libraries and community centres would continue to operate?</p> <p>We have considered all existing properties, the condition, the cost, the usage, the location, the space and the future service delivery requirements to shape the proposed Plan.</p>
Q18	<p>What other options have been considered?</p> <p>We completed a year-long review of Halls, Centres and Libraries with representatives from each of the political parties and the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations in 2018. In 2019 we explored which services people valued having local access to and which buildings they went to receive them. This led to many community conversations and we developed the options with communities. These options were discussed with communities in autumn 2019.</p>
Q19	<p>How are you making sure that communities in different parts of North Ayrshire aren't disproportionately affected?</p> <p>We have worked on an approach of providing access to services in each of our communities, often by co-locating services. By bringing services, like the provision of activity space and library services, together in one community building we can ensure local access is maintained while reducing the number of council buildings. Many of our buildings are dedicated to the delivery of one service even</p>

	though the public have already provided feedback that they understand the need for co-location. The consultation will ask about impacts so that we fully understand the position before we put proposals to the Council in June 2021.
Q20	How have you considered the specific requirements of island communities? Yes. As we assessed the feedback from the previous engagements, we simultaneously looked carefully at other local services / community resources and what was available to the local communities. This was particularly important for the island communities where alternative access may be limited, travel not an option and other local resources limited. Based on the learning of the past 12 months, we also considered some of the very unique and specific needs of our island communities and how community facilities can assist and support developments.
Q21	What support is available for groups who might be interested in Community Asset Transfer leading to full ownership or long term lease? The Council have a successful programme to assist and support groups interested in Community Asset Transfers (CAT). Any groups interested will be guided through the stages of a CAT and will be supported throughout by a Single Point of Contact who will be appointed from the staff team. Detail of the process can be accessed at Community Asset Transfer (north-ayrshire.gov.uk)
Q22	What is the difference between CAT and a regular lease? Going through the CAT process means that any group who have been successful will either own the building outright or have secured a long lease on the building - depending on what they choose When the ownership of a building is transferred via a CAT, it is then "owned" by a group. This means that the group have the autonomy to do what they need to do to the facility for it to be fit for purpose e.g. renovating, or re-configuring space. A lease is a bit like a private let and means any alterations to the building will require permission in advance. The cost of the purchase or the value of the lease will potentially be less than the market value as it will reflect the community benefits that having the building in community ownership will have for the local citizens.
Q23	What are the benefits of a CAT or Lease under CAT? Although there is a process to follow and criteria to meet under the CAT process that are not necessary under a regular lease arrangement, the cost of the purchase or the value of the lease will potentially be less than the market value as it will reflect the community benefits that having the building in community ownership will have for the local citizens.
Q24	How can I find out more about key holding? The Community Facilities Team can assess and assist organisations who wish to be considered as key holders. We have an established set of procedures to enable groups and Community Associations to carry out key holding duties safely and effectively. To find out more you can email: communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Q25	Will I still be able to have a let of my Community Centre? This is dependent on the Plan for the building you currently let. If the Plan states that the future use of the building is to provide Community Space then yes, access to the community for letting will still be a service provided.
Q26	Will groups be displaced as a result of other services operating at a Community Hall or Centre? We would hope not, if the Plan is approved we will work with existing organisations and user groups to ensure that suitable space is identified and secured.
Q27	I belong to an organisation that is looking for accommodation, what support is available? If you are looking for a let you can email: communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk If you are looking for permanent and exclusive use of a space or building please contact the CAT team via email: communityassetteam@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Q28	I want to know how much it costs to run a building, where can I get that information? This information can be provided if you email communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Q29	What is meant by a "Community Hub" and "Locality Hub"? Community hubs most commonly operate out of buildings from which multi-purpose, community-led services are delivered. Community hubs often host other partners and access to public services. These co-location approaches are an efficient and effective use of resources. Community hubs are in themselves a good use of local assets, and the model can help to underpin an enterprising and resilient community resource. The design and programming will be created in a co-production model working closely with Community Associations and management groups to ensure that the needs of the community are at the heart of the design process. A locality hub is where there is a full-time North Ayrshire Council staff presence. The council's proposal for locality hubs will be in premises that are accessible, high quality and versatile. There will still be spaces in some hubs to enable activities and programmes to be delivered and letting spaces. Any office space available will be maximised by Council staff and local voluntary and community sector organisations. Also, in some hubs this will include HSCP colleagues. They will be equipped with free Wi-Fi access. Each community and locality hub will be different and will vary in response to local requirements and needs. Larger hubs could accommodate several different activities at the same time, allowing for the possibility of different organisations delivering activities at the same time.
Q30	Will jobs be lost as a result of this? Until the Plan is presented to Council and a decision has been made we cannot predict the impact on staffing resources. We will undertake a separate review of staffing if the Plan is approved at Council on 9 June 2021.
Q31	What do staff think of these proposals? Employees who may be impacted as a result of the Plan are being consulted separately through the Council's Human Resource procedures. We have issued our staff with a communication and a copy of the Plan in advance of the consultation launching.
Q32	What do you mean by "a library service"? A modern library service challenges the thinking that services can only be delivered from within the 4 walls of a traditional library building. Learning from other areas has been looked at and, the learning from delivering services during Covid has shaped our thinking. A library service would still have strong roots in the community and a focus on encouraging reading, nurturing the love of books, improving literacy, delivering events and promoting opportunities to be involved in local and national activities. In addition, a library service would still work with partners to ensure that local communities have a strong digital offer with access to wifi as well as devices as and when needed. All of this may happen in something resembling a modern library building and some may be delivered in a space that is shared with other community services such as in a community centre or a voluntary group's own premises. Some need no physical space at all. For example, if a library service is co located in a community centre and has a smaller space, Bookbug could still happen on a regular basis - just in another room in the centre. There can still be a digital offer if there isn't a traditional IT suite. We can offer public wifi and space for people to bring in their own devices and or loan out a laptop for use while with us. Events and activities could be targeted to groups with library staff visiting groups as such as family support services or health and well-being groups - taking the service to where people are. In doing so, we could reach those who would not traditionally visit a library but who would benefit greatly from being included. Alongside these could be an enhanced digital offer with members accessing resources online. These have grown immensely during lockdown.

	<p>Book deliveries and call, click and collect have been a lifeline to many in 2020 and could be developed as part of a library service in key areas to meet local needs.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the mobile library can also support this work as we use a range of options to deliver a library service.</p> <p>In summary – a library service is a modern way of delivering a high-quality library service in partnership with local communities, staff from across other teams, digitally and when appropriate, in a targeted way to maximise impact. It is all about the services and the impact of involvement, not the name above the building.</p>
Q33	<p>How can a library “relocate”?</p> <p>We have initial thoughts on how this could work but if the Plans are agreed we will work in partnership with Community Associations, library staff and representative user groups on the co-design of the library space to minimise impact to existing groups and ensure the space identified is fit for purpose.</p> <p>There are many things we can do to help give spaces flexibility in order that they can be used for different things at different times such as introduce more mobile shelving, flexible access to PC's and laptops and offer library services and activities in different locations.</p>
Q34	<p>What will happen to access to PC and Wi-Fi if the library relocates?</p> <p>The library service would still work with partners to ensure that local communities have a strong digital offer with access to wifi as well as devices as and when needed.</p>
Q35	<p>What about the staff in the libraries that are affected?</p> <p>If the Plan is agreed, we will work with all staff as we progress with a restructuring process that will lead to a staffing structure that meets the new needs of the service.</p>
Q36	<p>Will I still be able to get books? Will I have a reduced selection of books to choose from?</p> <p>The Plan offers a strong network of libraries across North Ayrshire that has the potential to deliver a high-quality library service to the citizens of North Ayrshire. Although some libraries may be in a smaller space than before, you will still be able to browse the books that are carefully selected based on the regular, lending pattern of each library. If you can't find the book you are looking for you will still be able to request the books you want and, if we have them in the system, we can reserve a copy for you and have it delivered to your local library. In addition, there will be various other ways to access books – online, via Call, Click and Collect as well as book deliveries for those who need it.</p>
Q3	<p>Will I still be able to get advice and assistance from library staff?</p> <p>Library staff will be on hand to help and support visitors. In addition, at certain times, there will be other staff from Connected Communities, other NAC services and partner organisations who can offer a wider range of help and assistance.</p>
Q38	<p>How far will I have to travel to collect books?</p> <p>Although we can't say exactly how far, we hope to be able to work in partnership with a wide range of organisations in order to establish a network of Book Collection points as part of the Call, Click and Collect service. In addition, we will be delighted to work with anyone who would like to be part of the emerging library service and work on developing different local solutions to meet local needs and aspirations. All of these initiatives will help those who are not as close to a building that has a library in it.</p>
Q39	<p>Can I get books delivered to my home?</p> <p>The Home Library service will still be operational for those who need this style of library service. We would also like to continue to work with the local organisations and befriending services who supported the library service for the past 12 months delivering books to vulnerable individuals and families.</p>

Ideas / Comments of Note

"In different times the Library is the public face of the Council in our town. Every community building that is closed severs the link between the community that use it and the local authority. Over time this diminishes local democracy and makes the Council ever more remote."

"I think the use of community spaces in the pandemic or other crisis is sensible, and tends to build community. That said, the space has to be flexible and suitable, and the use must not compromise the service that the facility is intended for or become the thin end of a wedge tending towards facility closure."

"I found the consultation repetitive, whilst I appreciated the need to clarify the use of the facility during the pandemic, I don't think enough focus was placed on the wider use pre pandemic which it is hoped can be replicated in the future"

"Perhaps the community can be invited to undertake research with different objectives, ones that foreground the qualities and aspirations that will strengthen the local area and which ask more than whether we need all of the existing public focussed buildings."

"Is CAT the only option? Has NAC considered approaching bigger retailers such as M&S Foodhall; Aldi's or Lidl's to occupy the space. This would greatly benefit the main street if the library relocated and bring economic benefits to the town. It would also encourage to stay local to shop and bring new people to the town. This could generate interest from absent landlords to upgrade and open reducing the unsightly vacant properties - can NAC do anything to address the issue of decaying vacant properties and absent landlords?"

"I think collaborative working spaces would be a great thing, as the world of work has changed to a more home based approach, having a flexible alternative would bring people (certainly me) into the centre to work to create a break from working at home, even utilising the centre several days per week. This could be a very good idea for the mental health of home workers."

Community Hub Consultation – Spring 2021

Questions

- Please choose one option about how we used community spaces in a hub approach during the pandemic:
 - I think bringing services and people together in a hub approach was a good use of our community space.
 - I think bringing services and people together in a hub approach was not a good use of our community space.
 - I don't know.

An open text box is provided for providing more detail.

- The plan for each building is followed by a question: Please choose one sentence from the options below, which best describes the difference this plan will make to you.
 - The plan will have a positive effect on how I access services
 - The plan will have little or no effect on how I access services
 - The plan will have a negative impact on how I access services

An open text box is provided for providing more detail.

- An open text box is provided for providing more feedback on the plan
- We are committed to ensuring that our consultations are accessible for all in our communities and we would appreciate your view. This consultation is delivered online following Scottish Government's current restrictions and guidance to ensure your health and safety. Please choose one sentence from the options below:
 - I found this consultation easy to use and understand.
 - I found this consultation difficult and complicated to understand.

ARRAN

1. Brodick Hall				Arran Locality
Proposal: North Ayrshire Council (NAC) will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer, building opportunities around future redesign of services and nursery provision.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retains valued service and activities Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment 5	Negative: 70	Neutral: 6	Positive: 10	Total: 91
<i>Themes in public comments</i>			<i>NAC Mitigations</i>	
Concerns about buildings not reopening after the pandemic.			The proposal is not to close the Hall but to look at different management arrangements in discussion with the Committee and Early Years Class, who require more space.	

<p>Use of the hall for the nursery full time severely restricting other uses for the hall. The nursery is needed.</p> <p>The consultation has held up discussions to transform the use of space.</p> <p>Discussing a lease or CAT risks losing access</p> <p>Concerns that the Brodick Hall should leave Public ownership</p> <p>Capacity in a group of members or volunteers to take on a lease of asset transfer</p> <p>Implications for space, following any co-location.</p> <p>Consider addressing any interdependencies of all activity in any plans to change its ownership or operation model.</p>	<p>Early Year provision on the island is required and additional space needed under the Expansion of Early Years guidelines. Discussion as above.</p> <p>The changes required to transform part of the building are significant enough to require a consultation.</p> <p>All services can be maintained with more flexible use of the space.</p> <p>The Community Wealth Building Strategy and Community Asset Transfer process supports community ownership. The Council is working with the Committee and Early Years Class to explore how the community can have control of their local land and assets.</p> <p>Specialists in Community Wealth Building, Funding Officer and Community Economic Development Officer and Locality Officers are in place to offer support. Although a Category B listed building this would not preclude asset transfer, which carried further consultation requirements.</p> <p>There is space within the building with more flexible sharing arrangements.</p> <p>Discussions between the Committee and Early Years Class will be supported by Council Officers.</p>
<p>Recommendation: Work together to progress the discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer, taking into account the comments about existing lessees' needs.</p>	

2. Arran Library	Arran Locality
<p>Proposal: NAC library services will be a key stakeholder in any discussions around the transformation or ownership of the hall. NAC will continue to work with others in the building and be flexible as to how the space is used in order to maximise the potential.</p>	
<p>Analysis against criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Retains valued service and activitiesReduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment 16	Negative: 65	Neutral: 19	Positive: 16	Total: 116
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Loss of amenities and facilities, in particular digital access		Library services and digital services will be maintained from exiting building and mobile will continue to serve the rest of the island.		
Need to maintain opening hours		The new model for libraries will include similar opening hours for Call, Click and Collect, Browse and Borrow, digital access and targeted work with specific groups, such as Bookbug and class visits. This will be provided by a mix of library and Connected Communities staff.		
Concerns about reductions in book budget		The budget varies as is set annually.		
Concerns about impact of integration on library services		Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.		
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular buildings dedicated to single services in island context.		Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, to be retained.		
Recommendation: Work together to progress the proposals with others in the building and be flexible as to how the space is used.				

GARNOCK VALLEY

3. Beith Community Centre			Garnock Valley Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to develop and expand the range of critical services delivered from the building, in partnership with the Community Association, for the local community. This includes relocating the library service to the Community Centre. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 67	Neutral: 18	Positive: 11	Total: 99
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Loss of amenities and facilities. Implications for space, following any co-location.		Both services will be maintained in the one location. The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish that it has the space and management arrangements.		
Concerns about loss of services, particularly digital access		Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.		
The need for buildings with dedicated uses		Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.		
Loss of amenities and facilities		Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.		
Implications for space, following any co-location, particularly on resources.		The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish it has the sufficient capacity to support group use. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. Book request services will offer access to resources from other libraries, which will be delivered to Beith.		
Suitability of current facilities for access, families and parking, as well as on-site layout.		Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 4-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound. Three additional car parks are provided within a 6-minute walk.		

Impact on the Main Street, the outcome for the current library building and comments that proposals fail to invest in town centre.	The Council will carry out a feasibility study into the use of the library building to mitigate the impact of the proposed move and to consider the wide town centre implications with a view to future funding opportunities.
Parking issues on King's Road.	This is a parking regulation issue which will be raised with the relevant services.
Concerns over disabled users and access	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services.
Concerns about volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers	Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.
Impact on workforce	The Council will work with trade unions, HR and staff to redeploy staff. There are a number of vacant posts which have naturally occurred, and the Council will use it redeployment processes to support any staff changes.
Damage to educational provision and literacy benefits to children	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location. Garnock Campus has a school library on site.
Comments that the plan needs further discussion and exploration	This will be done during the next stage.
Need for additional opening hours	This could be part of the discussions as a reconfigured library has the potential for different access arrangements.
Financial support for asset transfer	The Council's Community Asset Transfer team will support new owners, along with the Funding Officer. The new UK Community Ownership Fund is one of many which support communities.

Concerns about buildings reopening after the pandemic	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services, removing the plan to integrate the library in the Beith Community Centre.	

4. Beith Library			Garnock Valley Locality	
Proposal: NAC will relocate the library service to the Beith Community Centre. NAC will carry out a feasibility study looking at what role the building can play as part of the Town Centre Regeneration project. This may lead to a lease or Community Asset Transfer.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 11	Negative: 205	Neutral: 15	Positive: 15	Total: 235
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Hub approach already in place in library		One of the key drivers is reduce the Council's property portfolio, and the Beith Community Centre offers more space potential.		
Loss of cultural and qualitative aspects of library provision		The library's new location in the Community Centre will offer opportunities to recreate these.		
Concerns about the costs of adaptations to the centre		Investment in adaptations to the library accommodation in the centre will be part of the budget.		
Concerns about best value for money		Co-location offers greater sustainability over the longer term.		
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups		The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.		
Implications for space, following any co-location.		There is space within the building with more flexible sharing arrangements.		
Loss of amenities and facilities		Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.		

Consider working with the community to explore options other than co-location	Previous public engagements were conducted to identify options and the Council will work in partnership with communities to explore further in the coming weeks.
Concerns about impact of integration on library services	Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.
Consider the attractiveness of the building	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the part of the building affected by colocation and its potential services. The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Intergenerational value	The services will continue in a new location.
Consider the effectiveness, value and quality of the current library	Services will be maintained at a nearby location.
Poverty-related impact	Services will be maintained at a nearby location.
Road traffic safety issues relating to King's Road	This will be explored further with the teams concerned.
Impact on the town centre and businesses	The Council will carry out a feasibility study into the use of the library building to mitigate the impact of the proposed move and to consider the wide town centre implications with a view to future funding opportunities.
Concerns that Beith did not have its own hub during the pandemic	The Council worked on a locality basis, delivering support across the Garnock Valley. The capacity of Council staff and volunteers to open hubs in all towns

The pandemic response shouldn't be the basis for future service planning	was reduced by shielding, isolating and COVID-support needs.
Concerns about costs	The hub approach, developed during the pandemic, proved an effective approach to problems which are the daily experience for some. The hubs have moved on from the pandemic role, where food parcel distribution was essential. The hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.
Need to modernise library services	The costs will be identified following the discussions with the Community Association and the completions of the feasibility study.
Damage to educational provision and literacy benefits to children	Service planning with the library team and Community Association will take these comments into account.
Location of Beith Community Centre/customers with mobility issues	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location.
Concerns about physical distancing requirements	The distance between the facilities is a 4minute walk. The digital and Home Library Services are provided for customers, however we will investigate this further.
Consider the library's potential to aid recovery	Set guidelines are in place for staff and for public areas to ensure public safety, with full risk assessments and public health and safety measures in force.
Size of the saving, compared to the impact on the town	The feasibility study will identify options for the high street.
Fails to deliver against the Council Plan's stated objectives	The amount quoted is not the full lifecycle cost of 10-year maintenance and the Council has to deliver within its budget, which has suffered reductions in real terms year-on year.
	These can be achieved by co-located services.

Impact on autistic users	This will be explored further, with a view to identifying appropriate access periods.
Pressure on community space	This will be explored in spatial planning at the next stage.
Contrary to Town Centre First principles and Regeneration Delivery Plan	The feasibility study will identify options for the building.
Loss of amenities and facilities. Implications for space, following any co-location.	Both services will be maintained in the one location. The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish that it has the space and management arrangements.
Concerns about the impact on opening hours	The new model for libraries will include opening hours for Call, Click and Collect, Browse and Borrow, digital access and targeted work with specific groups, such as Bookbug and class visits. This will be provided by a mix of library and Connected Communities staff.
Comments that the plan needs further discussion and exploration	This will be done during the next stage
The need for buildings with dedicated uses	Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular, access to library resources	Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained. Book request services will continue to offer access to resources from other libraries, which will be delivered to Beith. New shelving is being installed so book layouts will change, rather than the range of resources available to the customer.
Suitability of current facilities for access, families and parking, as well as on-site layout.	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 4-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound. Three additional car parks are provided within a 6-minute walk.

Impact on the Main Street, the outcome for the current library building and comments that proposals fail to invest in town centre.	The Council will carry out a feasibility study into the use of the library building to mitigate the impact of the proposed move and to consider the wide town centre implications with a view to future funding opportunities.
Parking issues on King's Road.	This is a parking regulation issue which will be raised with the relevant services.
Concerns over disabled users, disabled toilets and access	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services.
Concerns about volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers	Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.
Impact on workforce	The Council will work with trade unions, HR and staff to redeploy staff. There are a number of vacant posts which have naturally occurred, and the Council will use its redeployment processes to support any staff changes.
Damage to educational provision and literacy benefits to children, specifically the poverty-related attainment gap	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location. Garnock Campus has a school library on site.
Consider partnership between library and businesses to regenerate the high street	The feasibility study will identify options for the current library building.
Differing ethos between community centre and library	The Council will work with the Community Association to create the ethos commensurate with a public library.
Access in Beith to food support and access to Council Services	The Council will work with the Community Association and Library team to improve access to food and information about services.
Provides protection for a historic building	The feasibility study will identify options for the current library building.

Concerns about public transport to other locations to alternatives	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location, with a short walk.
Will add to feelings of isolation and mental health issues	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location, with a short walk.
Library builds a sense of community and connection	This can be achieved within co-located services
Consider re-locating other Council Services back to Beith to make more efficient use of the building	These suggestions will be included in future Council asset reviews.
Comments that the plan needs further discussion and exploration	This will be done during the next stage.
Need for additional opening hours	This could be part of the discussions as a reconfigured library has the potential for different access arrangements.
Recommendation: Work together to develop a community hub approach within Beith Library, seeking community partnerships in order to make more diverse use of the building and address local needs whilst still delivering a Council-delivered library service.	

5. Bridgend Community Centre			Garnock Valley Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 1	Negative: 6	Neutral: 5	Positive: 8	Total: 20
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about availability of space		Following the emergency phase and easing of restrictions, the Community Centre will return to booking system as previously.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services.				

6. Dalry Community Centre			Garnock Valley Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community including early years education and childcare. NAC will work in partnership with the Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs. An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will be reviewed and considered.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 8	Neutral: 4	Positive: 3	Total: 18
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about the asset transfer and access		The Community Asset Transfer process takes access to facilities into consideration.		
Longer term building maintenance/ replacement		The Council’s Community Asset Transfer team will support new owners, along with the Funding Officer. The new UK Community Ownership Fund is one of many which support communities to own and invest in facilities.		
Pressure on community space		The potential for additional community space in the library building is being explored.		
Displacement of existing users		Community Asset Transfer process works with existing users to accommodate existing needs.		
Detrimental effect of the introduction of hub approach to existing users		The extent to which services are delivered on site depends on the capacity of individual buildings, however the hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue to support current services and progress Community Asset Transfer enquiry, taking into account the comments about existing lessees’ needs.				

7. Dalry Library			Garnock Valley Locality	
Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver services. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services from the one location.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities• Reduces the Council’s portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 6	Neutral: 2	Positive: 8	Total: 19
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Comments about the library closing		Library services and digital services will be maintained, and more flexible use of the building community access explored.		
Concerns about leasing whole/part of building and access		This will be mitigated by sharing access to space by multiple groups.		
Pressure on community space		The potential for additional community space in the library building is being explored.		
Need to maintain opening hours		The new model for libraries will include opening hours for Call, Click and Collect, Browse and Borrow, digital access and targeted work with specific groups, such as Bookbug and class visits. This will be provided by a mix of library and Connected Communities staff.		
Recommendation: Work together with partners to redesign the space and extend access to services.				

8. Kilbirnie Library				Garnock Valley Locality
Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver services. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services from the one location.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 16	Neutral: 5	Positive: 8	Total: 32
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		

The need for buildings with dedicated uses	Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.
Consider waiting for normality to return before changing	Plans to extend the range of services will add value for local people which reducing the need for travel.
The risk of virus transmission in increased co-located services	Risk Assessments are in place for all services and Scottish Government guidelines followed to reduce the risk of transmission.
Pressure on space	Use of space will be reconsidered to provide a more flexible approach and better use. The extent to which services are delivered on site depends on the capacity of individual buildings, however the hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.
Concerns about the demands in the workforce	The staff have been trained and are experienced at delivering hub services currently. The community hub staff will be co-located to widen the support, knowledge and skills on site.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to co-locate staff teams and deliver Locality Hub services.	

9. Walker Hall				Garnock Valley Locality
Proposal: NAC will carry out a feasibility study looking at what role the building can play as part of the Town Centre Regeneration project. This may lead to a lease or Community Asset Transfer. NAC will work with existing lessees to secure a relocation to suitable nearby Community Facilities such as, but not limited to, Bridgend Community Centre and Garnock Campus				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 2	Neutral: 2	Positive: 2	Total: 6
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
The need for buildings with dedicated uses		Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.		

Consider making better use of the building	The Council will carry out a feasibility study into the use of the building.
Comments that restrictions are made on use	Restrictions are in place to protect public health and safety
Concerns about the current use as a gym becoming permanent without consultation	This is a temporary lease. KA Leisure are currently identifying their future business requirements as part of their Recovery and Renewal Strategy.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to conduct a feasibility study.	

IRVINE

10. Bourtreehill Library				Irvine Locality
Proposal: An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will be considered. NAC will progress discussions regarding the lease or Community Asset Transfer.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 6	Neutral: 2	Positive: 3	Total: 11
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular, access to library resources		Discussions with the nearby community centre to make library resources available locally in partnership. Irvine Library, the Home Library Service for the more vulnerable and online will continue to provide alternatives.		
Concerns about volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers		Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.		
Concerns about impact of integration on library services		Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.		
Recommendation: Work together with Community Association to create a local access to point to library services through Call, Click and collect and programmed activities such as Bookbug. Progress discussions regarding the lease or Community Asset Transfer.				

11. Castlepark Community Centre				Irvine Locality
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to increase key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID Retains valued service and activities 				

Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 1	Neutral:	Positive: 1	Total: 2
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
Impact on volunteers and workforce		The recognition of staff is noted and the Council will work with the Community Association so that local capacity is increased. Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services, while recognising capacity will take time to develop.				

12. Dreghorn Library				Irvine Locality
Proposal: NAC will relocate the library service to the Townend Community Centre. NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer of the library building.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities • Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 40	Neutral: 3	Positive: 4	Total: 47
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
Concerns that Dreghorn did not have its own hub during the pandemic		The Council worked on a locality basis, delivering support to Dreghorn. The capacity of Council staff and volunteers to open hubs in all towns was reduced by shielding, isolating and COVID-support needs.		
Implications for space, following any co-location and concerns about reduced library impact		Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Staff training and regular service reviews will mitigate any deterioration in impact, which is not the result of the building but the services. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services,		

Concerns about the impact on specific user groups	<p>rather than multiple buildings, to be retained.</p> <p>The Locality Officers will work with the Community Association who manage the centre and users to develop working arrangements.</p>
Pressure on space	<p>Use of space will be considered with Community Association to provide a more flexible approach and better use. Greenwood Campus is also in close proximity and offers alternative space.</p>
Damage to educational provision and literacy benefits	<p>Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location. Greenwood Campus also has a school library on site.</p>
Suitability of current facilities - the library layout.	<p>Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 2-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.</p>
Need to maintain opening hours	<p>This will be a matter for discussion with the Community Association.</p>
Impact on the town	<p>Council Officers will work with Regeneration and PMI Teams to find alternative uses for the current library building so the impact of the services' colocation is minimised.</p>
Loss of cultural and qualitative aspects of library provision	<p>Discussions with the nearby community centre to make library resources available locally in partnership. Irvine Library, the Home Library Service for the more vulnerable and online will continue to provide alternatives.</p>
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular, access to library resources	<p>See above. The Council's Locality Team or TACT will offer to support the Community Association and local groups progress development ideas in partnership.</p>
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups	<p>The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to</p>

Concerns about capacity and parking	accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Concerns about the costs of adaptations to the centre	As above. The Council provides a car park at the centre, however active travel is encouraged where possible for health and environmental reasons. Investment in adaptations will be part of the budget.
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services, removing the plan to integrate the library in the Townend Community Centre.	

13. Irvine Library				Irvine Locality
Proposal: An opportunity has arisen to consider relocating to new premises within Bridgegate House. The core functions of the library will carry on in the new location. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services from the one location. The former library offers an opportunity for a commercial lease in the space.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities • Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 6	Neutral: 4	Positive: 4	Total: 17
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular buildings dedicated to single services.		Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, to be retained.		
Loss of cultural and qualitative aspects of library provision		The library will be relocated in Bridgegate House offering opportunities to recreate these.		
Impact on the High Street and the outcome for the current library building		The Council intends to market the library building for a commercial lease, in order to avoid an empty unit. Town Centre regeneration will be progressed through COVID recovery funding and within the context of the Community Wealth Building Strategy.		

Concerns about the costs of adaptations to Bridgegate House	Investment in adaptations will be part of the budget.
Concerns about a diminution of the library service	The extent to which services are delivered on site depends on the capacity of individual buildings, however the hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving.
Need to maintain opening hours	The current consultation does not include specific opening hours proposals.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to explore options to co-locate Irvine Library with another Council service.	

14. Lanfine Community Centre				Irvine Locality
Proposal: The existing use is predominantly for childcare. NAC has potential to explore Community Asset Transfer with the Community Association / childcare provider. An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will continue to be considered. NAC will progress discussions regarding the lease or Community Asset Transfer route. Meantime, NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retains valued service and activities Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 1	Neutral: 2	Positive: 1	Total: 4
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concern about public health and safety in keyholding context		The Community Contract supports Community Associations to open building with volunteers and 'keyholding'. Risk assessment and training for Community Associations is carried out to help them provide access to local groups.		
Concerns about the impact of current lessees		NAC will work with potential partners in community ownership to maintain access for existing lessees or to secure relocation to suitable nearby Community Facilities.		

Recommendation: Work together with the interested party to progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer, taking into account the comments about existing lessees' needs.

15.Redburn Community Centre			Irvine Locality	
Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver vital front-line services. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services form one location. NAC will continue to provide community space for letting with a range of key holding opportunities for organisations.				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative:	Neutral:	Positive: 1	Total: 1
Themes in public comments			NAC Support	
There were no objections.			Locality Officers are in place to offer support.	
Recommendation: Work together with partners to co-locate staff teams and deliver Locality Hub services.				

16. Springside Community Centre			Irvine Locality	
Proposal: Continue to operate the building in partnership with the Community Association to deliver critical services for the local community. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative:	Neutral:	Positive:	Total:
Themes in public comments			NAC Support	
There were no objections.			Locality Officers are in place to offer support.	
Recommendation: Work with the Community Association to continue to reconfigure current services.				

17. Springside Library				Irvine Locality
Proposal: NAC will use the current library space for more general Connected Community use. Digital access and library services will be delivered in a different way e.g. on-line, click and collect services, etc				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				

Both +/- in same comment	Negative:	Neutral:	Positive:	Total:
Themes in public comments			NAC Support	
There were no objections.			Locality Officers are in place to offer support.	
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue to reconfigure current services.				

18. Towerlands Community Centre			Irvine Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 3	Neutral:	Positive: 2	Total: 5
Themes in public comments		NAC Support		
There were no objections.		Locality Officers are in place to offer support.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue to support current services.				

19. Townsend Community Centre			Irvine Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to develop and expand the range of critical services delivered from the building, in partnership with the Community Association, for the local community. This includes relocating the library service to the Community Centre. NAC will work with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 1	Negative: 24	Neutral: 3	Positive:	Total: 28
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns that Dreghorn did not have its own hub during the pandemic		The Council worked on a locality basis, delivering support to Dreghorn. The capacity of Council staff and volunteers to open hubs in all towns was reduced by shielding, isolating and COVID-support needs. Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access		

Implications for space, following any co-location and concerns about the impact of current lessees	targeted services with dignity. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, to be retained.
Concerns about the impact on specific user groups	The Locality Officers will work with the Community Association who manage the centre and users to develop working arrangements.
Pressure on space	Use of space will be considered with Community Association to provide a more flexible approach and better use. Greenwood Campus is also in close proximity and offers alternative space.
Consider the development of a hub	The Council's Locality Team or TACT will offer to support the Community Association and local groups progress development ideas in partnership.
Consider the attractiveness of the building	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services.
Concerns about buildings reopening after the pandemic	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
Concerns about the impact on children and young people	The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Concerns about capacity and parking	As above. The Council provides a car park at the centre, however active travel is encouraged where possible for health and environmental reasons.
Concerns about the costs of adaptations to the centre	Investment in adaptations will be part of the budget.

Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to review the Community Centre space, taking into account the comments about existing lessees' needs.

KILWINNING

20.Cranberry Moss Community Centre			Kilwinning Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative:	Neutral: 1	Positive: 3	Total: 4
Themes in public comments			NAC Mitigations	
Pressure on space			Use of space will be considered with Community Association to provide a more flexible approach and better use. The extent to which services are delivered on site depends on the capacity of individual buildings, however the hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.	
Impact of workforce			The Council will work with trade unions, HR and staff to redeploy staff. There are a number of vacant posts which have naturally occurred and the Council will use it redeployment processes to support any staff changes.	
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue to support current services, working with them on the best use of space.				

21. Kilwinning Library				Kilwinning Locality
Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver better services. NAC will work with partners to deliver a variety of services from the one location.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 5	Neutral: 3	Positive: 3	Total: 11
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
Concerns about impact of integration on library services		Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise varies with the activities in normal		

Consider making better use of community halls and centres	service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.
Consider increasing car parking	Work with local Community Associations to accommodate community bookings to appropriate spaces will continue.
Concerns about losing the parkland	There are three alternative car parks within 5 minutes walking distance.
Concerns about losing the library service	This is not under consideration in this plan.
	Library services and digital services will be maintained and developed from exiting building. Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to co-locate staff teams and deliver Locality Hub services, noting the comments from library customers.	

22. Nethermain Community Centre				Kilwinning Locality
Proposal: NAC will continue work with the Community Association, NAC Services, Health and Social Care Partnership and other key, local organisations to maximise the potential of the facility and to increase income from letting. NAC will work in partnership with the Community- Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment 1	Negative: 8	Neutral: 3	Positive:	Total: 12
<i>Themes in public comments</i>			<i>NAC Mitigations</i>	
Concerns about Council support			The Community Facilities team will continue to offer support and guidance within the context of resources, which have been reduced in recent years.	
Concerns about the level of fees and charges for lets			The North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO) propose the levels of charges and these are agreed annually with the	

Concerns about reductions in NAC venue assistants' hours	<p>Council. The Council will continue to work in partnership with NAFCO to ensure appropriate charges and concessions are agreed.</p> <p>The Council has agreed an allocation of venue assistants' hours per venue with NAFCO, which is within the current budget. The Community Contract supports Community Associations to open building with volunteers and 'keyholding'. Risk assessment and training for Community Associations is carried out to help them provide access to local groups.</p>
Consider future consultations about the future of Nethermaines	<p>The plan is to develop the use of the centre with the existing Community Association and partners. The need for future public consultation is not clear at this stage.</p>
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue to support current services.	

23. Whitehirst Park Community Centre				Kilwinning Locality
Proposal: NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer. NAC will work with existing lessees to secure relocation to suitable nearby Community Facilities.				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces the Council's portfolio and carbon emissions 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 11	Neutral: 3	Positive: 1	Total: 15
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
Concerns about the impact of current lessees		NAC will work with potential partners in community ownership to maintain access for existing lessees or to secure relocation to suitable nearby Community Facilities.		
Pressure on space		Kilwinning has multiple community spaces, including the education estates. Work with local Community Associations and colleagues in education to accommodate community bookings to appropriate spaces will continue.		

Concerns about increased car use if services are relocated	NAC will work to maintain access for existing lessees with new owners or access to nearby premises, avoiding the need for car use.
Consider reviewing the current division of income (2/3 income retained by Community Associations and 1/3 returned to Council)	The North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations (NAFCO) propose the levels of charges and these are agreed annually with the Council. The Council will continue to work in partnership with NAFCO to ensure appropriate charges and concessions are agreed. This enables Community Associations to act flexibly to subsidy vulnerable groups or make invest in improvements.
Concerns that the centre could not be used as a Food Hub	Community food provision is discussed locally and varies from a shelf upwards depending on space.
Recommendation: Work together with community partners to continue discussions regarding a lease or Community Asset Transfer, taking into account the comments about existing lessees' needs.	

24. Woodwynd Hall			Kilwinning Locality	
Proposal: An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will be considered. NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer. In the meantime, NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities• Reduces the Council’s portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 11	Neutral: 3	Positive: 1	Total: 15
Themes in public comments		NAC Support		
There were no objections.		The Council’s Community Asset Transfer team will support new owners, along with the Funding Officer. The new UK Community Ownership Fund is one of many which support communities.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association continue to support current services and progress Community Asset Transfer enquiry.				

NORTH COAST AND CUMBRAE

25. Brisbane Centre			North Coast & Cumbrae Locality	
Proposal: Currently in use as an asymptomatic testing site. NAC propose to market the facility for sale once this is no longer required. NAC will work with existing lessees to secure relocation to suitable nearby Community Facilities such as, but not limited to, Largs Campus.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduces the Council’s portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment 12	Negative: 2	Neutral: 4	Positive:	Total: 18
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Loss of amenities and facilities		Alternative community space is available in the town, including the Largs Campus, community hub at the Flatt Road development and in building of independent community groups.		
Capacity in current users to take up options of a lease of asset transfer		The Council’s Locality Team or TACT will offer to support to local groups with a community asset transfer request or the Council will then proceed to market the facility for sale.		
Consider identifying a community group to manage the space.		Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.		
Consider opening the library space for more community use.		This is being explored. A community hub included in the Flatt Road development.		
Recommendation: Work together with partners to relocate existing lessees, establish the case for a community asset transfer or proceed to market the property for sale.				

26. Fairlie Library				North Coast & Cumbrae Locality
Proposal: NAC will continue to lease the area from the Trust, in order to deliver a library service and a range of support services from Connected Communities Teams				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID 				

• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 2	Neutral:	Positive: 4	Total: 6
Themes in public comments		NAC Support		
There were no objections.		Locality Officers are in place to offer support.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association and partners with a view to providing more drop-in support from partner services.				

27. Fairlie Village Hall – Community Owned			North Coast & Cumbrae Locality	
Proposal: NAC will review the lease arrangements on the hall area and support community groups to take on key holding responsibilities to considerably reduce workforce costs and develop a sustainable business model for the Community Association.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 2	Neutral: 1	Positive:	Total: 3
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about the pressure on existing trust volunteers		Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.		
Concerns about the sustainability of business model with Council support		Specialists in Community Wealth Building, Funding Officer and Community Economic Development Officer and Locality Officers are in place to offer support. The new UK Community Ownership Fund is one of many which support communities.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal, while recognising the need for support.				

28. Garrison House –Community Owned–Cumbrae Community Development Company (CCDC) (Millport Library and Museum of the Cumbraes	North Coast & Cumbrae Locality
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Proposal: NAC will continue to lease the area from the Cumbrae Community Development Trust, in order to deliver library services and a range of support from NAC Services. NAC will continue to discuss the community needs for space with CCDC in line with CCDC’s business plan.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities• Reduces the Council’s portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 3	Neutral: 2	Positive: 8	Total: 13
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Support</i>		
There were no objections.		Locality Officers and TACT are in place to offer support to CCDC.		
Recommendation: Work together with CCDC to continue to lease space while keeping a balanced approach to the space allocation between the need for an island community library and museum with the business aspirations of CCDC.				

29. Largs Library			North Coast & Cumbrae Locality	
Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver services. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services form the one location.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 6	Negative: 33	Neutral: 8	Positive: 16	Total: 63
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular buildings dedicated to single services		Library services and digital services will be maintained from exiting building		
Implications for space, following hub integration, particularly on resources and the community room		Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. The hub team will be accommodated in non-public areas, through smarter use of space. There will not be an impact on the library floor space or community room, however a wider range of services will be available.		

Concerns about the nature of the hub services causing space pressures	The hubs have moved on from the pandemic role, where food parcel distribution was essential. The hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.
Consider opportunities for volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers	The Council's Locality Team or TACT will offer to support anyone interested in volunteering in Largs.
Consider extending hub services to Largs Campus	The Council is interested in extending more community and partnership services in campuses and will progress discussions to see what the scope might be to better support families and young people.
Consider locating the hub elsewhere, such as Vikingar or Brisbane House	This comment relates to the impact on space available to the public, however this wouldn't be affected by the hub approach.
Concerns about impact of integration on library services	Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will also be advised when the building is less busy.
Concerns about reduction in resources	Book request services will continue to offer access to resources from other libraries, which will be delivered to Largs. New shelving is being installed so book layouts will change, rather than the range of resources available to the customer.
Concerns about physical distancing requirements	Set guidelines are in place for staff and for public areas to ensure public safety, with full risk assessments and public health and safety measures in force.
Convenience of the current location	There is no plan to move from the current location.
Concerns about capacity and parking	The Council provides a car park at the centre, however active travel is

Concerns about changes to a listed building	encouraged where possible for health and environmental reasons.
Need for additional opening hours	Largs Library is not a listed building and any changes will be made through internal adjustments, flexible shelving, etc rather than major work.
Consider using COVID-recovery and Ayrshire Growth Deal funding to build a new town hall	Partnership working may offer opportunities, but it is not in the current plan. This comment is noted and will be discussed internally. There are currently no plans for this type of development.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to co-locate staff teams and deliver Locality Hub services, noting the comments from library customers.	

30. Skelmorlie Community Centre – Community Owned			North Coast & Cumbrae Locality	
Proposal: NAC will review the operational arrangements regarding the hall area. Support will be provided to community groups to take on increased key holding responsibilities to reduce workforce costs and develop a sustainable business model for the Community Association.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 3	Neutral: 8	Positive: 9	Total: 20
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Importance of retaining local services and the potential for the community centre to be a vibrant community hub.		This is noted. The Council’s Locality Team will continue to support by building capacity and look for opportunities with Council services and other partners with the owners.		
Concerns about volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers		Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association, while recognising the need for support.				

31. Skelmorlie Library			North Coast & Cumbrae Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to lease the area from the Trust to deliver a library service and a range of support from Connected Communities Teams.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 1	Negative: 8	Neutral: 3	Positive: 7	Total: 19
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Importance of retaining local services, in particular the library for children’s literacy development		Library services and digital services will be maintained.		
Consider developing the library more		This is noted and will be referred back to the service.		
Need to maintain opening hours		The current consultation does not include specific opening hours proposals.		
Concerns about the meaning of the phrase <i>a range of support from Connected Communities Teams</i>		These means that the Library staff will be joined by Connected Communities colleagues in service delivery, bringing expertise from other services on a ‘drop-in’ basis, in particular community learning and development, but work continues to build partnership working with employability and skills, financial advice, Health and Social Care Partnership, etc.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association and partners with a view to providing more drop-in support from partner services.				

32. West Kilbride Community Centre				North Coast & Cumbrae Locality
Proposal: NAC will continue to develop and expand the range of critical services delivered from the building, in partnership with the Community Association, for the local community. This includes relocating the library service to the Community Centre. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to consider key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria:				

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 3	Negative: 57	Neutral: 5	Positive: 1	Total: 66
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Concerns that West Kilbride did not have its own hub during the pandemic		The Council worked on a locality basis, supporting West Kilbride’s community-led response, providing additional resources if needed. The capacity of Council staff and volunteers to open hubs in all towns was reduced by shielding, isolating and COVID-support needs.		
Loss of amenities and facilities. Implications for space, following any co-location.		Both services will be maintained in the one location. The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish the level of detail about the space and management arrangements.		
Consider keeping both spaces and working with the community to make more affordable		The Council’s Locality Team or TACT will offer to support anyone interested in taking forward a different partnership for the library in West Kilbride, however, no other options came forward in previous public engagements.		
Consider revisiting if not driven by finance		The key drivers are to: 1. develop the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID; and 2. retain valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners, whilst also having the advantage of reducing the Council’s property portfolio to reduce financial commitments and carbon emissions.		
Consider revisiting discussions after restrictions have eased		The consultation has already been postponed for 15 months. Mitigating actions were taken in the design of the consultation methodology- so that it was not reliant on digital access.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services, removing the plan to integrate the library in the West Kilbride Community Centre				

33. West Kilbride Library				North Coast & Cumbrae Locality
Proposal: NAC will carry out a feasibility study looking at what future role the building can play as part of the Town Centre Regeneration project. This may lead to a lease or Community Asset Transfer.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment 6	Negative: 208	Neutral: 12	Positive: 2	Total: 228
<i>Themes in public comments</i>		<i>NAC Mitigations</i>		
Hub approach already in place in library		One of the key drivers is reduce the Council's property portfolio, and the West Kilbride Community Centre offers more space potential.		
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular, access to library resources		Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 3-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.		
Loss of cultural and qualitative aspects of library provision		The library's new location in the Community Centre will offer opportunities to recreate these.		
Concerns about the support for vulnerable people with relocation of cancer support service		These services can be accommodated in the new location.		
Concerns about reduction in resources		The budget varies as is set annually		
Consider costing both options before progressing		The Council will develop costing at the next stage.		
Concerns about the costs of adaptations to the centre		Investment in adaptations to the library accommodation in the centre will be part of the budget.		
Proximity of library to town centre/ Convenience of the current location		Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 3-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.		

Concerns about the recent investment at library and use of public money	It isn't possible to answer this until the future of the building is clear. Financial pressures clarify annually with budget-setting, however the Council maintenance work is planned in advance.
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups	The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Implications for space, following any co-location.	There is space within the building with more flexible sharing arrangements.
The need for buildings with dedicated uses	Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.
Loss of amenities and facilities	Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.
Concerns about the future of the building and the rationale for the proposed colocation	The future of the building/site is not yet clear and a feasibility study will be carried out. The key drivers are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID; and 2. retain valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners, whilst also having the advantage of reducing the Council's property portfolio to reduce financial commitments and carbon emissions.
Concerns about impact of integration on library services	Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.
Consider the attractiveness of the building	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the part of the building affected by colocation and its potential services. The Council will

Concerns about security of resources, etc.	continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Ability to run about safely/proximity of road/road safety	This will be taken into account when redesigning the space.
Intergenerational value	All the park facilities and library services will be retained, the plan is to relocate the library a 3-minute walk away.
Consider revisiting discussions after restrictions have eased	The services will continue in a new location.
Implications for space, following any co-location and concerns about the impact of current lessees	The consultation has already been postponed for 15 months. Mitigating actions were taken in the design of the consultation methodology- so that it was not reliant on digital access.
Concerns about buildings reopening after the pandemic	Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.
Impact of physical and mental health of closures	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
Consider the benefits to new residents with the growing community	See above. Additional services will be advertised via social media and website.
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 3-minute walk
	Services will be maintained at a nearby location. The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.

Consider the effectiveness, value and quality of the current library and staff	Services will be maintained at a nearby location.
Loss of Adult Education Programme	There is no reason to lose this. The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Concerns about relocation to the top of the hill	The Home Library Service is available to customers for whom this is a challenge and digital services will continue to be provided for those who prefer them.
Impact on the town	The Council will carry out a feasibility study into the use of the library building to mitigate the impact of the proposed move and to consider the wide town centre implications with a view to future funding opportunities.
Concerns that West Kilbride did not have its own hub during the pandemic	The Council worked on a locality basis, supporting West Kilbride's community-led response, providing additional resources if needed. The capacity of Council staff and volunteers to open hubs in all towns was reduced by shielding, isolating and COVID-support needs.
The outcome is pre-determined	The public has been consulted, following two public engagement programmes, during which time some changes were made, such as the decision to locate the Largs Hub at the current library building and not Vikingar. The outcomes will not be decided until the 9 th June's Council meeting.
The pandemic response shouldn't be the basis for future service planning	The hub approach, developed during the pandemic, proved an effective approach to problems which are the daily experience for some. The hubs have moved on from the pandemic role, where food parcel distribution was essential. The hub approach offers signposting, referrals and drop-in support, responding to local needs.

Concerns about reopening	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
The concept of the hub should be tested	This took place during the pandemic and is in practice in other places.
Need to put risk assessments in place	This is a requirement of all service operation.
Concerns about costs	The costs will be identified following the discussions with the Community Association and the completions of the feasibility study.
Need to modernise library services	Opportunities to develop services will continue irrespective of location.
Concerns a similar service to the previous service in Village Hall	Service planning with the library team and Community Association will take these comments into account.
Separate spaces within the library	The internal layouts will be considered once the discussions with the Community Association have been concluded.
Need for additional opening hours	This could be part of the discussions as a reconfigured library has the potential for different access arrangements.
Damage to educational provision and literacy benefits to children, especially in relation to closing the attainment gap	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location.
Concerns about volunteer recruitment and support for volunteers	Support for voluntary organisations and volunteers is available through TACT (The Ayrshire Community Trust, a Scottish Government funded third sector interface) as well as the Connected Communities.
Location of West Kilbride Community Centre/customers with mobility issues	The distance between the facilities is a 3-minute walk and it is closer to the school, after school and nursery. The digital and Home Library Services are provided for customers, however we will investigate this further.

<p>Concerns about physical distancing requirements</p> <p>Consider the library's potential to aid recovery and reduce social isolation</p> <p>Consider working with the community to explore options other than co-location</p>	<p>Set guidelines are in place for staff and for public areas to ensure public safety, with full risk assessments and public health and safety measures in force.</p> <p>Co-location with a greater range of activities widens opportunities.</p> <p>Previous public engagements were conducted to identify options and the Council will work in partnership with communities to explore further alternatives.</p>
<p>Recommendation: Work together to develop a community hub approach within West Kilbride Library, seeking community partnerships in order to make more diverse use of the building and address local needs whilst still delivering a Council-delivered library service.</p>	

THREE TOWNS

34. Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre			Three Towns Locality	
Proposal: NAC will continue to operate the building, in partnership with the Community Association, to deliver critical services for the local community. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 1	Negative:	Neutral:	Positive: 6	Total: 7
Themes in public comments			NAC Mitigations	
Consider the value of bringing services together			NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to deliver critical services for the local community.	
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services.				

35. Ardrossan Library				Three Towns Locality
Proposal: NAC will relocate the library service to the new Ardrossan Community Campus in 2024.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 13	Neutral: 7	Positive: 3	Total: 23
<i>Themes in public comments</i>			<i>NAC Mitigations</i>	
Concerns about the relocation to community campus			The Council will continue to work with local community and library users as the relocation to the community campus progresses.	
Concerns about impact of integration at the campus on library services			Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise and numbers of visitors varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers are advised when the building is less busy.	

Consider needs of digital access	Library services and digital services will be maintained at community campus.
Consider access to library activities	Library activities will be maintained and developed at community campus.
Concerns about buildings reopening after the pandemic	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
Consider new digital courses for beginner IT when restrictions allow	Currently a mix of telephone and online support is available, but this will change as restrictions allow and according to staff availability.
Recommendation: Work together with partners to relocate service to new Ardrossan Community Campus, noting the comments from library customers.	

36. Argyle Community Centre				Three Towns Locality
Proposal: NAC will continue to develop and expand the range of critical services delivered from the building, in partnership with the Community Association, for the local community. This includes relocating the Saltcoats Library service to the Argyle Community Centre. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID • Retains valued service and activities 				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 21	Neutral: 2	Positive:	Total: 23
Themes in public comments		NAC Mitigations		
Consider the attractiveness and condition of the building/concerns about the recent investment at library and use of public money		The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services.		
Loss of amenities and facilities		Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.		
Location of Argyle Centre/customers with mobility issues		The distance between the facilities is a 4-minute walk and it is closer to Caledonia Primary School. The digital and Home Library Services are provided for customers, however we will investigate this further.		

Concerns about closure for use a polling station	The Council will work with the Elections Team to explore options.
Concerns about security of resources, etc.	This will be taken into account when redesigning the space.
Implications for space, following any co-location.	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish it has the sufficient capacity to support group use.
Concerns about disabled access	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space, to establish it has the sufficient capacity to support group use.
Consider waiting for normality to return before changing	The review has been ongoing for a number of years and co-locating services offers benefits to service users.
Consider relocating the Centre into the Library	This was considered. The Argyle Community Centre has the greater potential for a community facility with flexible space. The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services.
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress the proposal and continue to support current services, removing the plan to integrate the library in the Argyle Community Centre.	

37. Hayocks Hall			Three Towns Locality	
Proposal: NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer with interested parties. NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 4	Neutral: 2	Positive: 1	Total: 7
Themes in public comments			NAC Mitigations	
Progress rolling out further the hub approach			The Council will pursue this approach	

Capacity in current Community Association to take on a lease of asset transfer	This is noted. The Council's Locality Team will continue to support by building capacity and look for opportunities to identify partners in a shared community-ownership venture.
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to continue discussions recognising a lease or Community Asset Transfer will take time to develop and looking for opportunities to identify partners in a shared community-ownership venture with the Community Association.	

38. Saltcoats Library				Three Towns Locality
Proposal: NAC will relocate the library service to the Argyle Community Centre. An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will be considered. NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment 6	Negative: 72	Neutral: 14	Positive: 11	Total: 103
Themes in public comments			NAC Mitigations	
Hub approach already in place in library			One of the key drivers is reduce the Council’s property portfolio, and the Argyle Centre offers more space potential.	
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular, access to library resources			Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 2-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.	
Loss of cultural and qualitative aspects of library provision			The library’s new location in the Argyle Centre will offer opportunities to recreate these.	
Concerns about the support for vulnerable people with relocation of cancer support service			These services can be accommodated in the new location.	
Concerns about reduction in resources			The budget varies as is set annually.	
Consider relocating the Centre into the Library			This was considered. The Argyle Community Centre has the greater potential for a community facility with flexible space. The next stage is to review the Community Centre space	

Consider costing both options before progressing	and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services. The Council will develop costing at the next stage.
Concerns about the costs of adaptations to the centre	Investment in adaptations will be part of the budget.
Proximity of library to town centre/ Convenience of the current location	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 4-minute walk, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.
Concerns about the recent investment at library and use of public money	It isn't possible to answer this until the future of the building is clear. Financial pressures clarify annually with budget-setting, however the Council maintenance work is planned in advance.
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups	The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Implications for space, following any co-location.	There is space within the building with more flexible sharing arrangements.
The need for buildings with dedicated uses	Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity.
Loss of amenities and facilities	Multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.
Concerns that plan is to build more houses	The future of the building/site is not yet clear. The key drivers are to: 1. develop the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID; and 2. retain valued services and activities where possible, in partnership with community partners, whilst also having the advantage of reducing the Council's property portfolio to reduce financial commitments and carbon emissions.

Concerns about impact of integration on library services	Co-locating services offers benefits to both user groups and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. Noise varies with the activities in normal service delivery. The sharing of space will be managed by staff on site to ensure noise are appropriate to activities on site and customers will be advised when the building is less busy.
Consider the attractiveness of the building	The next stage is to review the Community Centre space and to identify the investment needs of the building and its potential services. The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Concerns about security of resources, etc.	This will be taken into account when redesigning the space.
Ability to run about safely/proximity of road/road safety	All the park facilities and library services will be retained, the plan is to relocate the library a 4-minute walk away. As the Argyle Centre develops, services not previously available will provide different opportunities.
Intergenerational value	The services will continue in a new location.
Consider revisiting discussions after restrictions have eased	The consultation has already been postponed for 15 months. Mitigating actions were taken in the design of the consultation methodology- so that it was not reliant on digital access.
Implications for space, following any co-location and concerns about the impact of current lessees	Co-locating services offers benefits to both and allows people to access targeted services with dignity. The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, will be retained.
Concerns about buildings reopening after the pandemic	The Council is phasing in the return of services, as restrictions ease and capacity allow, as the COVID-related

	supports are still needed. See the Council website for details.
Impact of physical and mental health of closures	See above. Additional services will be advertised via social media and website.
Concerns about loss of services, particularly digital access	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location, with the Home Library Service for more vulnerable or housebound.
Concerns that the site will be sold for housing and that the Council is financially motivated	The future of the building/site is not yet clear.
Impact on library users not considered	The consultation asks specifically about impacts. Equality Impact Assessments for each building will be published.
Consider developing digital services supporting e-readers	This will be discussed the Library team.
Interest in community asset transfer	The Council's Locality Team or TACT will offer to support anyone interested in taking forward a different partnership for the library in Saltcoats.
Consider the benefits to new, nearby housing residents	Library services and digital services will be maintained from an alternative location within a 4-minute walk.
Concerns about the impact on children and young people, and elderly groups	Services will be maintained at a nearby location. The Council will continue to work with the Community Association to accommodate the groups and individuals of the centre and the library.
Consider the effectiveness, value and quality of the current library and staff	Services will be maintained at a nearby location.
Recommendation: Work together to develop a community hub approach within Saltcoats Library, seeking community partnerships in order to make more diverse use of the building and address local needs whilst still delivering a Council-delivered library service. Decline the outstanding Community Asset Transfer request and work with the group concerned to identify an alternative building.	

39. Stevenston Library

Three Towns Locality

Proposal: NAC will redesign how we use the space to co-locate staff teams and deliver better services. NAC will also work with partners to deliver a variety of services from the one location.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative: 4	Neutral: 1	Positive: 15	Total: 10
<i>Themes in public comments</i>			<i>NAC Mitigations</i>	
Concerns about the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular digital and employability services			Current services will be maintained.	
Ease of access			No change to this is proposed.	
Concerns about the impact of any change to current services on children and young people, and elderly groups			There are no changes proposed which will affect service to children and older people.	
Recommendation: Work together with partners to co-locate staff teams and deliver Locality Hub services.				

40. Whitlees Community Centre			Three Towns Locality	
Proposal: NAC will progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer. An initial enquiry about a Community Asset Transfer will be considered. Meantime, NAC will work in partnership with the Community Association to expand key holding opportunities to reduce workforce costs.				
Analysis against criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops the Community Hub approach to reflect the learning from COVID• Retains valued service and activities• Reduces the Council’s portfolio and carbon emissions				
Both +/- in same comment	Negative:	Neutral:	Positive: 1	Total: 1
Themes in public comments		NAC Support		
There were no objections.		The Council’s Community Asset Transfer team will support new owners, along with the Funding Officer. The new UK Community Ownership Fund is one of many which support communities.		
Recommendation: Work together with the Community Association to progress discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer.				

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

9 June 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title:	Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs - Compulsory Purchase
Purpose:	To approve the compulsory purchase of the Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs being a house and/or land required to provide housing accommodation in Largs
Recommendation:	That the Council resolves to make a Compulsory Purchase Order to be called "The North Ayrshire Council (Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021" as detailed in the proposals section of this Report

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has acquired five flats in the building known as 99 Nelson Street, Largs with the intention of undertaking remedial and improvement works and providing housing accommodation. Unfortunately it has not been possible to acquire the ground floor east flat as the owner is deceased and he does not have any heirs who are willing to complete title to the flat and sell the property either to the Council or on the open market. Attempts to acquire the flat by agreement have accordingly been unsuccessful.
- 1.2 In order to secure the use of the building for housing accommodation the acquisition of the ground floor east flat is essential and a Compulsory Purchase Order is necessary to achieve this.

2. Background

- 2.1 North Ayrshire Council first became aware of problems with the condition of the tenement at 99 Nelson Street in 2017. It was initially hoped to reach agreement with the owners of the flats in the building to undertake appropriate works, but this proved difficult to progress, and instead the acquisition of the flats from the owners through the Council's approved 'Buy Back' process was progressed. Five of the flats in the building were acquired between January and May 2019, but it has not been possible to acquire title to the remaining flat.

- 2.2 The condition of the ground floor east flat continues to cause concern and complaints have been received from neighbouring residents. There has been water leakage from the flat and the condition of the tenement as a whole, and this flat in particular, has continued to deteriorate. As long as this flat remains empty it will continue to have an adverse effect on the remainder of the building and wider area. Remedial action to improve this flat and address the adverse impact its current condition has on the common parts of the building, particularly those areas adjacent to the flat, is accordingly considered necessary as a matter of urgency to prevent further deterioration.
- 2.3 The purchase of the remaining flat will allow the Council to undertake the necessary works to bring this empty property back into use and make the flat suitable for occupation for housing and to thereafter let the property for this purpose. As owner of the majority of flats in the building, the Council can at present instruct maintenance and repair works to the common parts of the building, but ownership of all the flats will allow the Council to undertake upgrading works where appropriate to improve the shared areas and enhance the accommodation in the building.
- 2.4 The flat will be purchased by the HRA and brought into the housing stock for social rent, funded by the HRA and Scottish Government grant monies.
- 2.5 The Compulsory Purchase Order will require to be advertised and notified to any person with an interest in the affected land. Thereafter there is a period for objection and any objections which cannot be resolved will in due course be determined at a public inquiry before a Reporter appointed by the Scottish Ministers. If the Order is confirmed there requires to be a further advert period prior to title being completed. Disputes in relation to compensation can also be referred to the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.
- 2.6 The rights of the owner of land or property under The Human Rights Act 1998 must be considered before deciding to make a Compulsory Purchase Order. In this connection, it is considered there is a compelling case in the public interest for acquisition of the ground floor flat to secure housing accommodation and a compulsory purchase order would strike an appropriate balance between the public and private interest. If the Order is promoted, as noted at 2.5 above, in terms of the legislation the owners and any other person having an interest on the land have the right to object to the proposed order at a fair, independent and public hearing and they are also entitled to statutory compensation in respect of their interest in the land. In the absence of agreement, compulsory purchase is accordingly considered to be both necessary and proportionate in the circumstances.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Proposal is that the Council make the following resolution: -

"That The North Ayrshire Council resolves in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 and in accordance with the provisions of the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947 to make a compulsory purchase order to be called "The North Ayrshire Council (Flat Ground East, 99 Nelson Street, Largs) Compulsory Purchase Order 2021" to purchase compulsorily ALL and Whole the ground floor east flat in the tenement known as 99 Nelson Street, Largs, KA30 9JF registered in the Land Register of Scotland under Title Number AYR46847 being property which is required to provide suitable housing accommodation in Largs, authorise and instruct a Proper Officer of the Council to sign the Order and Plan on behalf of the Council; affix thereto the Common Seal of the Council; submit the Order and Plan to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation; give the appropriate notice to the owners and occupiers of the subjects, insert the appropriate notice in the local press and certify to the Scottish Ministers that the subjects (a) do not belong to the local authority, (b) have not been acquired by statutory undertakers for the purposes of the undertaking, (c) do not form part of a common or open space (d) are not held inalienably by the National Trust for Scotland; and (e) are not listed as being of special historical or architectural interest under Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, and take all steps necessary to complete the compulsory purchase procedures".

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The cost of compensating the land owner will be met from existing budgets as will the cost of the remedial and improvement works required in the property. The flat will be purchased by the HRA and brought into the housing stock for social rent, funded by the HRA and Scottish Government grant.

Human Resources

4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 A Compulsory Purchase Order is the only way to complete title to land if the owner is unwilling or unable to agree a voluntary transfer.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 There are no equalities implications. Making more flats available for affordable rent has positive benefits in terms of the Fairer Scotland duty.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The proposed Compulsory Purchase Order has positive environmental benefits in terms of bringing a dilapidated building up to standard.

Key Priorities

4.6 This supports the Key Priority Outcome of having homes that meet residents' needs.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There is no potential to include a community benefit clause within the compulsory purchase process itself. However if the purchase proceeds, the remedial works to the property will offer opportunities for Community Wealth Building through local employment and modern apprentices and any contract for the works will include community benefit clauses. Bringing the empty property back into use will also increase the affordable housing available for local residents.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with Housing Services on the acquisition of this flat and the improvement of the tenement building to secure the six flats within the building for housing accommodation.

Andrew A Fraser
Head of Democratic Services

For further information please contact **Rosemary Conner, Solicitor, Legal Services**, on **01294 324327**.

Background Papers

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