

Cabinet
11 February 2014

IRVINE, 11 February 2014 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Anthea Dickson and Ruth Maguire; Very Reverend M. Canon McManus and M. Fraser (Church Representatives); G. Smith (Teaching Representative) and S. Hughes (Youth Representative).

Also Present

Peter McNamara.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, C. Kirk, Corporate Director, M. Docherty, Head of Service (Education 3-18) and S. Quinn, Head of Service (Development) (Education and Skills); L. Friel, Corporate Director and D. Tate, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Corporate Director and R. McCutcheon, Head of Environment and Related Services (Development and Environment); A. Adrain, Interim Head and Housing and J. McCaig, Interim Head of Service (Community Care) (Social Services and Health); S. Morley, Research Analyst; A. Woodison Communications Officer, A. Beveridge, Graduate and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tony Gurney, Elizabeth Higton and Emma Mae Hawthorn.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973

3. Haysholm and James McFarlane Schools

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (a) advised of accommodation pressures affecting both schools; and (b) presented options for addressing the issue.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the funding for the proposed solutions required to address the accommodation pressures at Haysholm and James McFarlane schools; and (b) otherwise note the report.

4. Re-zoning the Denominational Primary School Catchment Areas in Kilwinning

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (a) advised of a proposed housing development of up to 400 homes at West Byrehill Industrial Estate, Kilwinning; and (b) proposed the rezoning of the catchment area of St. Luke's and St. Winning's Primary Schools to mitigate the accommodation pressures at St. Luke's Primary school and support an increase in St. Winning's Primary School roll.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the housing development that would take place over a period of time and placing requests that would be considered as and when they were received.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) the rezoning of the catchment area of St. Luke's and St. Winning's Primary Schools as detailed in the report; and (b) to receive (i) statutory public consultation documents; and (ii) updates on the progress of the proposal at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

5. School Leaver Destinations Return 2012/2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which provided information on (a) the destination of young people who left school between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013; (b) a range of supports and resources in place to improve outcomes for young people; and (c) changes to the way the annual statistic is produced.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the collection of statistical information on school leaver destinations that has been undertaken by Skills Development Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government for more than 10 years.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information set out in the School Leaver Destinations Return; (b) approve the targeting of support and resources to improve outcomes for young people; and (c) note the proposed change in relation to this annual measure.

6. Validated Self Evaluation (VSE): Employability

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) which (a) advised of the publication of the Validated Self Evaluation (VSE) Employability report (Appendix 1) and (b) proposed targeting of support and resources to improve outcomes for young people.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the targeting of support and resources to improve outcomes for young people; and (b) otherwise note the report.

7. Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on the progress made in relation to the actions identified in the Validated Self-Evaluation undertaken by the Council and Education Scotland.

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

- the time-consuming and challenging nature of the VSE exercise and the benefits arising from it; and
- inspections of schools that are still undertaken and the voluntary process of engagement between education authorities in Scotland that focuses on the quality of self-evaluation.

Noted.

8. Scottish Government Consultation regarding the Redraw of Data Zones

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on new data zone boundaries, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the data zone centroid that relates to the point within the data zone that represents the population centre.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the response as outlined in the report.

9. Council House Building: Fencedyke, Irvine

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on proposals to progress the Fencedyke Development Project.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the Housing Revenue Account Capital Investment budget required to enable the House Building project at Fencedyke to commence in 2014/15; (b) the transfer of the land at Fencedyke Primary School from the General Services Account to the Housing Revenue Account; and (c) a procurement exercise to invite and assess tenders in advance of the appointment of Building Contractors.

10. Payday Lending

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on proposals to review financial literacy and affordable lending within North Ayrshire.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to the short life Officers' Working Group that will be chaired by Councillor Maguire, supported by external experts were required, and will report back to Cabinet in the summer 2014.

Noted.

11. Planned Events To Commemorate the Anniversary of the start of World War One and World War Two

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on a number of events and projects being planned throughout North Ayrshire to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One and the 75th anniversary of the start of World War 2.

Noted.

12. Housing (Scotland) Bill

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which provided an overview of the proposed changes contained within the Housing (Scotland) Bill as introduced to the Scottish Parliament in November 2013.

Noted.

13. Adult Support and Protection Committee Annual Report 2012-2013

Submitted report by the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) on the range of work being undertaken across agencies and the wider community over the period April 2012 - March 2013.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to plans to deliver public protection awareness raising sessions to a range of Council staff

The Cabinet agreed (a) the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) provide to Members information in respect of the timescale for the training sessions for GPs; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

14. North Ayrshire Housing Partnership: Minutes of Meeting 10 December 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Minutes of the Meeting of the North Ayrshire Housing Partnership held on 10 December 2013.

Noted.

15. Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Cabinet resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting, the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

16. Surplus Property - Former Dreghorn Primary School, Main Street, Dreghorn

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) advised on the proposed disposal of the former Dreghorn Primary School; and (b) conditions that will be incorporated within the terms of the legal missives associated with the transaction.

The Cabinet agreed the disposal of the former Dreghorn Primary School on the terms detailed in the report.

The meeting ended at 3.20 p.m.