

Cabinet
28 January 2014

IRVINE, 28 January 2014 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Signed Stamp : No

Present

Willie Gibson, Marie Burns, John Bruce, Tony Gurney and Ruth Maguire.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, C. Hatton, Corporate Director and A. Laurenson, Team Manager, Regeneration (Development and Environment); L. Friel, Corporate Director, T. Reaney, Procurement Manager and D. Tate, Senior Manager - Housing, Assets and Investments (Finance and Corporate Support); B. Tudhope, Corporate Business Manager, A. Woodison, Communications Officer and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill and Anthea Dickson.

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 14 January 2014 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Afghan Relocation Scheme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) outlined a scheme for the relocation of Afghan nationals who have been working for the UK Government in Afghanistan; (b) set out the UK and local support that would be made available for those who qualify to relocate; and (c) proposed to remit to the Chief Executive to enter into discussions with the Home Office on the number of people North Ayrshire could take and the funding that will be required.

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

- links with other authorities and the use of arts and culture to support the welcoming and integration of relocated families to North Ayrshire;
- groups and organisations that have been established within the Glasgow area to support relocated families and associated travel costs that would require to be built in to the financial arrangements for these families; and
- the planned minimum 4 weeks notice of new arrivals that will be provided to local authorities and negotiations that will take place around the referral process.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to remit to the Chief Executive to enter into discussions with the Home Office in terms of numbers of people which the Council may be able to take; (b) subject to successful financial negotiations with the Home Office, to the Council participating in the Afghan Relocation Scheme; and (c) to receive a further update in due course.

4. Revenue Budget 2013/14: Budgetary Control Statement to 30 November 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2013.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to slippage in the Graduate and Modern Apprentice Programmes that will not impact on the full implementation of the programmes in future years.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report; and (ii) the action being taken by Social Services and Health to reduce the current projected overspend; and (b) approve (i) the carry forward of £0.500m to 2014/15 in respect of the Business Gateway project as detailed in paragraph 2.10; and (ii) the virements detailed in Appendix 9 to the report.

5. Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2013.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the further revisions to budgets outlined at Section 2.1 and Appendix 1 of the report; (b) note the drawdown of funds from the flexibility budget and the school estate budget; and (c) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 30 November 2013 and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2014.

6. High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013 ("the Act") that provides a procedure to deal with the problem of high hedges which interfere with the reasonable enjoyment of domestic properties and the implications for the Council.

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

- the provision of guidance to the public on how to try to resolve disputes in respect of high hedges; and
- an experienced trained officer who will investigate and determine whether trees planted closely together form a hedge.

The Cabinet (a) noted the terms of the Act and the associated statutory obligations on the Council; and (b) agreed (i) that functional responsibility for implementation and enforcement of the Act be undertaken by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment); and (ii) to recommend to the Council that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended to delegate to Officers the determination of any application arising from these statutory obligations.

7. Hosting the Scottish Open Golf Tournament

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) which outlined (a) the potential for Loch Lomond Golf club to host the Scottish Open Golf Tournament at Dundonald Links in 2015; (b) the level of support that will be required to secure the event; and (c) the benefits to North Ayrshire in hosting this major event.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to support the Loch Lomond Golf Club in their bid to host the Scottish Open at Dundonald Links; and (b) if successful, to provide financial assistance of up to £150,000 and officer time in the provision, management and promotion of the event.

8. Procurement EU Tender Plan 2014/15

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the EU procurement tender plan for financial year 2014/15 and requirements identified for financial year 2014/15.

The Cabinet agreed to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed in the plan detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

9. Measured Term Contract (MTC): Gas Soundness Testing and Boiler Servicing (Non Domestic Properties)

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the tender exercise for the MTC for Gas Soundness Testing and Boiler Servicing (Non Domestic Properties) and the recommendation for the award of the contract.

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

- rigorous regulations that are in place in respect of gas soundness testing and boiler servicing and highly skilled tradesmen that work in this industry; and
- the evaluation criteria of 'most economically advantageous tender' (70% price/30% quality) that was used to evaluate the tender returns in accordance with EU Procurement Directives.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Mitie Technical Facilities Management, at a contract value of £88,500.

10. Corporate Equality Group: Minutes of 2 December 2013

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Equality Group held on 2 December 2013.

Noted.

11. Ayrshire Economic Partnership: Draft Minutes of 11 December 2013

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Development and Environment) on the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 11 December 2013.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.