

Cabinet
1 May 2018

IRVINE, 1 May 2018 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

John Bell, Joe Cullinane, Alex Gallagher, Robert Foster, Louise McPhater (Agenda Items 4 – 12); and Very Reverend Canon Matthew McManus and Ian Haining (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-5).

Also Present

Shaun MacAulay and Donald L. Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, J. Butcher, Executive Director, A. McClelland, Head of Service (Learning, Teaching and Curriculum), D. Walkinshaw, Business Manager, and S. March, Principal Educational Psychologist (Education and Youth Employment); L. Friel, Executive Director, F. Walker, Head of Service (People), P. Doak, Senior Manager, J. Walls, Team Manager, J. Smillie (Senior Manager) (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities), G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager and A. Laurenson, Senior Manager Regeneration (Economy and Communities); C. Hatton, Executive Director and L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); S. Brown, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal); A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, J. Hutcheson, Communications Officer and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

Apologies

Jim Montgomerie and Elizabeth Higon.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Gallagher, as the Chair of the Largs Viking Festival, declared an indirect financial interest in Agenda Item 9, and took no part in the decision.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 March 2018 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. INSIGHT School Leavers' Attainment Results 2017

Submitted report and receive presentation by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the overall performance of the 2017 school leavers. A detailed analysis of results was provided in Appendices 1 – 4 of the report.

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

- school leavers in SIMD decile 10 performing lower than the national average and the ongoing focus to bring their performance into line with national levels;
- the Attainment challenge and Pupil Equity funding focus on developing better literacy and numeracy skills for targeted groups of learners;
- a range of measures to monitor the spending and impact of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF);
- guidance to support head teachers with the planning process for the use of the PEF; and
- the implementation of interventions for pupils living in the most deprived areas with support from the Professional Learning Academy and Family Learning Team.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the content of the report and the achievements of school leavers in last year's SQA examinations; and (b) approve the measures being taken to make further improvements to the attainment and achievement of future school leavers.

4. Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the progress of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme, (ELCP) in North Ayrshire. The infrastructure projects were set on at Appendix 1 to the report, with further supporting information contained in Appendices 2-8.

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

- provision of out-of-school care;
- regular progress reports on the infrastructure projects detailed in Appendix 1;
- potential phasing issues and funding risks associated with higher than anticipated uptake; and
- support for Whitlees Community Centre to identify potential funding options.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made by the ELCEP Board to develop its proposed delivery model and receive regular updates on (i) the final review of the pilot sites; (ii) the consultation response on Funding Follows the Child; (iii) the implementation of the phased roll out and the work on the enhancement of the ELC

estate and how this will improve the quality and flexibility of ELC in North Ayrshire; (b) approve the proposal to develop a new ELC and staff training and leadership development at the Montgomerie Park site in Irvine; (c) approve the relocation of the two year old provision currently located at Whitlees Community Centre to the extended facility at St Peters Primary Early Years Class; and (d) approve all infrastructure projects as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.

5. North Ayrshire Education and Youth Employment Policy on the Assessment of Dyslexia and Literacy Needs

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the policy on the assessment of dyslexia and literacy needs. The draft policy document was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the likelihood of improved timescales for assessment and intervention; and
- a range of measures to monitor the impact and success of the policy.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the content of the report; and (b) support a formal launch of the policy and appropriate communication strategy.

6. Directorate Plans – 2018 Update

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Directorate Plans 2015/2018, which were set out in Appendices 1-5 of the report.

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

- detailed annual performance reporting to show what has been achieved within the Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- financial challenge risks which are included in each Directorate Plan as a result of their inclusion on the Strategic risk register.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the 2018 updates on the 2015/18 Directorate Plans; (b) receive six-monthly progress reports, and (c) refer the report to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further scrutiny.

7. Fire Safety Policy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Fire Safety Policy. The draft policy document was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Fire Safety Policy.

8. Better Off North Ayrshire – Progress Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the progress in delivering on the Big Lottery/European Social Fund contract for the delivery of financial inclusion services. Details of the challenges faced and the

mitigation measures which have been put in place, were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to additional organisations which may want to join the partnership.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the update and continuing approach to managing risk; and (b) formally write to Big Lottery Fund to seek written reassurances regarding changes to the funding model which would facilitate recovery of current financial deficit over the course of the 3-year programme.

9. Festivals and Events Fund

Submitted by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the operation of the temporary fund to support community run festivals and events in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the (a) proposals for the operation of a temporary fund for community run festivals and events of £150,000; and (b) proposed review of the operation of the fund after the first year.

10. Quarry Road, Irvine – Proposals for Phase Two

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the second phase of development proposals for Quarry Road, Irvine.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the public consultation and the issues identified.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) proceed with the proposed specification for the second phase, developed in association with the project design team and KA Leisure; (b) note and support the application submitted for external funding support to SportScotland; and (c) further explore the potential sale of the existing tennis courts at Thornhouse Avenue and the use of any financial receipt to contribute to the later delivery of new tennis courts within the Quarry Road proposals.

11. Exclusion of the Public

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 indicated in terms of Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

11.1 Montgomerie House, West Byrehill, Kilwinning

Submitted by the Executive Director (Place) on the former council offices, Montgomerie House, West Byrehill, Kilwinning.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the recommendation as detailed in the report.

The Meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.