



Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

25 February 2016

Cabinet

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Ground Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2016** at **2.30 p.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes (Page 7)

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting held on 16 February 2016 and (ii) the special meeting of the Cabinet held on 17 February 2016 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copies enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

- 3. North Ayrshire Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy Refresh (Page 15)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the refreshed Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy Framework and providing an update on progress and timelines for completion of this work (copy enclosed).
- 4. Saltcoats Town Hall and Irvine Townhouse and Leisure Centre (the Portal) (Page 21)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the catering and bar provision for Saltcoats Town Hall and Irvine Leisure Centre (the Portal) (copy enclosed).
- 5. Review of Library Opening Hours (Page 27)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the recent public consultation on public library opening hours and on a revised pattern of library opening times as a result of the above consultation (copy enclosed).
- 6. Fairlie Community Links (Page 37)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) providing an update on the consultation process and the feedback obtained through the consultation process together with the options for the next stages in the project's development (copy enclosed).
- 7. Ayrshire Growth Deal (Page 61)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of an Ayrshire Growth Deal (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Support)

- 8. Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Page 93)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2016/17 and requirements identified for 2017/18 (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership)

- 9. Community Payback Order Annual Report (Page 97)**
Submit report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2014/15 which provides information on the work undertaken in the last year through Community Payback Orders with a particular focus on Unpaid Work Requirements (copy enclosed).

CONTRACTS

10. Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract for Roofing, Render and External Wall Insulation at various locations throughout North Ayrshire (Page 127)

Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for Roofing, Render and External Wall Insulation at various locations throughout North Ayrshire (copy enclosed).

11. Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Cabinet

Sederunt: **Elected Members**

Willie Gibson (Chair)
Alan Hill (Vice-Chair)
John Bruce
Marie Burns
Anthea Dickson
Tony Gurney
Ruth Maguire

Chair:

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

Cabinet
16 February 2016

IRVINE, 16 February 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney, Ruth Maguire, Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus, Elizabeth Highton, Mark Fraser (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7); and Gordon Smith (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) and Erin McAuley and David Dunlop (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Items 3 and 4).

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); J. Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools), A. McClelland and P. Gosnay, Senior Managers, L. Cook, Education Development Co-ordinator (Youth Employment and Enterprise); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Laurenson, Team Manager Regeneration (Economy and Communities); C. Hatton, Executive Director and L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

C. Nimmo, N. Ronald, L. McDowall and C. Ferguson (Garnock Academy).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bruce.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Naming of the New School Campus and Leisure Development in the Garnock Valley

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the naming of the new educational and leisure campus in the Garnock Valley. The Cabinet also received a presentation from 4 pupils from Garnock Academy.

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

- support for the Lochshore option; and
- the importance of the school community being able to have their say.

The Cabinet took a short adjournment at 2.45 p.m. and reconvened at 2.50 p.m.

The Cabinet agreed to name the new educational and leisure campus in the Garnock Valley "Garnock Community Campus".

4. Curriculum for Excellence – Senior Phase

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the plans to refine and enhance the Senior Phase in secondary schools in North Ayrshire.

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

- working with other partners including colleges, Skills Development Scotland, John Muir Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award and the SQA;
- the need to raise public awareness of the model of attainment;
- how to involve parents;
- unintended consequences such as narrowing of the curriculum;
- how to ensure vocational qualifications are given due weight compared to academic awards; and
- preparing pupils for the different type of learning environment in colleges compared to schools.

The Cabinet agreed to support the continued development and implementation of the Senior Phase in North Ayrshire schools in order to maximise positive outcomes for all learners.

5. Developing Nurture in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the progress of the Nurture Strategy within North Ayrshire Schools.

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

- the recruitment process to appoint our best probationers and supply teachers to permanent contracts;
- the training provided to staff engaged in nurture training; and
- how attainment challenge funding will be provided in the long term.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress; (b) endorse the continuation of the implementation of the Nurture Strategy; and (c) receive a further progress report in June 2016.

6. Education and Youth Employment Physical Intervention Policy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the development of Education and Youth Employment's Physical Intervention Policy, which is required to ensure the Council continues to receive accreditation with Crisis and Aggression Limitation Management (CALM).

Members asked a question, and were provided with further information in relation to, the extent to which these procedures were used and the importance of de-escalation training.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the content of the draft Physical Intervention Policy.

7. School Leaver Destinations 2014/2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the latest statistical information about North Ayrshire school leavers from the School Leaver Destination Return and the ongoing monitoring and tracking of the destinations and participation of young people after leaving school.

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

- the work with partners, particularly colleges; and
- the fact that we had received such excellent results in spite of high levels of deprivation; and
- destinations once pupils leave colleges.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information set out in the School Leaver Destination Report and the continued improvement in the post-school outcomes for young people; and (ii) the development of the data hub and its related statistical information; and (b) approve the ongoing development work to enhance outcomes for young people that will result in initial positive destinations being sustained.

8. Irvine Enterprise Area - Site Purchase and Investment Proposals

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the purchase of land and for subsequent investment within the Irvine Enterprise Area.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the purchase of 3 areas of land within the Irvine Enterprise Area at Annickbank, Riverside Way and Greenwood from the Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; and (b) the investment of capital funds in the subsequent development of commercial space with the aim of creating employment.

9. Exclusion of the Public

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 items of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

9.1 Surplus Property, 43-45 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

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

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

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

Cabinet
17 February 2016

IRVINE, 17 February 2016 - At a Special Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson and Ruth Maguire.

Also Present

Robert Barr, Alex Gallagher, John Hunter, Ronnie McNicol and Jim Montgomerie (Agenda Budget Papers 1 and 2) and John Bell, Ian Clarkson, Joe Cullinane, John Ferguson, Jean Highgate, Grace McLean, Catherine McMillan, Peter McNamara, Tom Marshall, Donald Reid, Robert Steel and Joan Sturgeon (Agenda Budget Papers 1, 2 and 3) and John Easdale (Agenda Budget Papers 2 and 3).

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive, L. Friel, Executive Director and M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management) and L. Aird, Head of Finance (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); J. Butcher, Executive Director; I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, (Economy and Communities); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader, J. Hutcheson, Communications Officer and D. McCaw Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tony Gurney.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. General Services Revenue Estimates 2016/17 to 2017/18

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the Council's revenue spending requirements and anticipated funding for the years 2016/17 to 2018/19; (b) the level of reserves and fund balances held by the Council and (c) options to address the funding gap.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) circulated a replacement Appendix 9A reflecting additional information which had been omitted from the original Appendix 9 outlining charges proposals.

The expenditure requirements identified for 2016/17 to 2017/18 were summarised at Appendix 1 to the report with further details provided in Appendix 3. As part of the 2015/16 revenue budget, savings were approved for 2016/17 and 2017/18, and these were detailed at Appendix 2. Base budget adjustments were detailed at Appendix 4. The IJB has reassessed the ability to deliver a number of the previously approved savings and developed alternatives which were detailed at Appendix 5, subject to IJB approval. Appendix 8 contained a list of the charges which are proposed to be increased on 1 April 2016 and 1 April 2017 in line with inflation, with further proposed increases provided at Appendices 9 and 9A. A summary of the workstreams to support future year funding gap was provided at Appendix 7. Appendix 10 detailed the budget matrix for 2016/17. A summary of the EIAs was provided at Appendix 11.

Councillor Maguire proposed that the Cabinet further agree to recommend to Council that up to £5m of resources freed up from the 2015/16 underspend together with the £300,000 revenue income from the industrial portfolio be utilised to bring improvements to the learning environments at Auchenhavie, Irvine Royal and Kilwinning Academies. Cabinet Members were in agreement with this proposal.

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

- the ongoing monthly financial costs associated with the existing PPI schemes;
- that the budget decisions being approved over a 2 year period puts the Council in a sound position; and
- clarification on the level of monies available to fund the Council Tax freeze.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the revenue funding gap from 2016/17 to 2018/19; (b) support the proposals to address the funding shortfall including baseline budget adjustments and savings proposals detailed in Appendices 4 and 6 to the report, subject to the amendment that up to £5m of resources freed up from the 2015/16 underspend together with the £300,000 revenue income from the industrial portfolio be utilised to bring improvements to the learning environments at Auchenhavie, Irvine Royal and Kilwinning Academies; (c) support the increases to Council fees and charges with effect from April 2016 and April 2017; (d) note the budget matrix for 2016/17; and (e) refer the report to the Council for determination.

3. Capital Investment Programme 2016/17 to 2025/26

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the draft Capital Investment Programme to 2025/26.

A review of the current capital programme to 2022/23 has been undertaken with details provided at Appendix A to the report. Appendix B detailed projects where funding could be released or reprofiled. Priority projects identified were provided in Appendix C with aspirational projects shown in Appendix D. The North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership has not yet developed its capital investment requirements and these will be brought forward as part of the annual review of the 10 year plan. The revised programme for 2016/17 to 2025/26 was included in Appendix E to the report, with the first 5 years being a firm plan and the second 5 years an indicative plan.

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

- that funds from the sale of Perceton House will contribute to the completion of the refurbishment of Cunninghame House;
- clarification that the capital investment programme will be subject to annual review and reprofiling; and
- the specific additional amount of capital receipts from the land released in relation to the development of the new Largs Campus.

The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) undertook to provide information to Members in relation to the specific additional amount of capital receipts from the land released from the development of the new Largs Campus.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) support the proposals outlined in the report, subject to noting the amendment regarding funding improvements to the learning environments at Auchenharvie, Irvine Royal and Kilwinning Academies as agreed at item 2 ; and (b) refer the report to the Council for determination.

4. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme, Revenue Budget and Rent Levels for 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the HRA capital investment programme and revenue budget for 2016/17 and the consequential rent levels.

The proposed 2016/17 HRA Capital Programme was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report. Appendix 2 outlined the proposed 2016/17 HRA revenue budget, with planned expenditure of £46.420m mainly funded by rental income and charges for services. The report proposed to increase housing rents by 1.5% for 2016/17 with an anticipated rent increase of 2.5% for 2017/18 and 2018/19. Appendix 3 and 4 to the report outlined the consultation undertaken with tenants on the proposed rent increase and the feedback received.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to the properties at Dickson Court, Beith being considered as a reconfiguration of those units and not a refurbishment.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) support the proposals outlined in the report; and (b) refer the report to Council for approval.

The meeting ended at 11.05 a.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **North Ayrshire Economic Development and Regeneration (EDR) Strategy Refresh**

Purpose: To seek Cabinet approval for a refreshed Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy Framework and provide an update on progress and timelines for completion of this work.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Cabinet notes the progress being made in refreshing the EDR strategy, approves the work done to date; and seeks a presentation on the completed strategy and action plan later in the year.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the background to the EDR strategy and the approach that has been taken to review and refresh the strategy. Progress to date is highlighted along with a commitment to a future presentation on the completed strategy and action plan later in the year.

2. Background

- 2.1 North Ayrshire's first Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy was launched in 2010 and set out a vision to take us to 2020. The vision at this time was to develop North Ayrshire as an area, to be - Vibrant, Diverse, Connected, Ambitious and Visible.
- 2.2 A strategic board was created to be responsible for ensuring the strategy's vision, goals, objectives and projects were delivered. Membership has consisted of North Ayrshire Council, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Jobcentre Plus and Ayrshire College. Private sector representation has also been strong with 3 local business representatives sitting on the board.

The Board was strengthened to include a further local business and the third sector.

- 2.3 Since the strategy was launched, significant progress has been made with key projects such as Team North Ayrshire and physical investments in Irvine Town Centre. However key challenges remain and in 2015, the EDR Board embarked on a process to review and refresh the strategy that had been launched in 2010.
- 2.4 On reviewing the strategy launched in 2010, all stakeholders quickly agreed that the ambitions, vision and focus of the strategy was in the main, the correct strategy for the area. Therefore, it was agreed that the strategy required a refresh not a rewrite. There was consensus that the strategy should be updated to better respond to the latest national strategies including the Scottish Government Economic Strategy and where possible objectives should be rationalised, in order to provide clarity and focus.
- 2.5 Several workshops have now been held with the EDR Board to review the current strategy and assess what the refresh would constitute. A first workshop held in June clarified partners vision and goals for the strategy. A subsequent workshop in October, saw partners develop further how best to present a vision, goals and objectives for the strategy. Based on these workshops, Council officers then produced a proposal for the EDR Board in December 2015.
- 2.6 The EDR Board approved the framework (attached at appendix 1) for the strategy in December 2015, including 6 new strategic objectives as detailed.
- 2.7 As the overarching refreshed strategy framework has now been agreed by the EDR Board, focus will now shift to the development of action plans which will drive the delivery of the strategy and set out how progress will be monitored. Council officers will work with relevant partners to ensure action plans are developed which reflect and add impetus to the activity being developed across the partnership, to support the aims of the strategy.
- 2.8 The EDR Board will consider draft action plans in March 2016 and it is planned that the refreshed strategy and linked action plans would then be presented to Cabinet for final approval.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the progress being made in refreshing the EDR strategy, approves the work done to date; and seeks a presentation on the completed strategy and action plan later in the year.

4. Implications

Financial:	The strategy refers to many current planned investments and should drive future funding decisions of the Council and its partners in the coming years. However there are no specific financial implications at this point.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	None
Equality:	One of the key themes of the refreshed strategy is inclusive growth, which should provide additional focus on reducing inequality in North Ayrshire.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	The refreshed strategy supports key priorities of growing the economy, increasing employment and regenerating towns; ensuring people have the right skills for life, learning and work; and developing stronger communities.
Community Benefits:	None

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The refreshed strategy has been developed through consultation with the EDR Board, which constitutes the following organisations - North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Enterprise, Ayrshire College, Skills Development Scotland, DWP, Irvine Bay Regeneration, Private Sector representatives, TACT.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : GR/AB

For further information please contact Greig Robson, Senior Manager, Employability & Skills on 01294 324951

Background Papers

none

Mission

To have created the most improved local economy in Scotland by 2025

Strategic Outcomes

Investment

An area with a high level of investment in businesses, people, infrastructure and other assets

Innovation

An economy where there are high levels of research and development activity and entrepreneurship

Internationalisation

An economy where there are large numbers of businesses trading internationally and new companies located in the area

Inclusive Growth

An area where all sections of the community aspire to achieve and benefit significantly from economic growth

Strategic Objectives

1

Provide the best conditions for business creating a diverse & inclusive economy

2

Develop our transport and digital connectivity to support business growth and link people and opportunity

3

Maximise the economic and social potential of our islands and towns

4

Build the capacity of all sections of our communities to promote inclusive growth

5

Improve the productivity of our people and workforce through top class education and skills services

6

Reduce significantly long term unemployment and low incomes in working households

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Saltcoats Town Hall and Irvine Townhouse and Leisure Centre (the Portal)**

Purpose: To propose arrangements for the catering and bar provision for Saltcoats Town Hall and Irvine Leisure Centre (the Portal).

Recommendation: Agree to North Ayrshire Council Facilities Management Department running the catering and bar arrangements for Saltcoats Town Hall and Irvine Leisure Centre (the Portal).

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Saltcoats Town Hall will open in early 2016 and Irvine Townhouse and Leisure Centre will open in early 2017. It is proposed that North Ayrshire Council's Commercial Services Facilities Management (FM) team will operate both the catering and any required bar arrangements at these facilities. It is proposed that NAC should apply to North Ayrshire Licensing Board for a Premises Licence. In the Licence, a member of Facilities Management staff, who holds a Personal Licence, will be designated as the Premises Manager. The option for customers of this venue to engage third-party bar providers will not be available.

2. Background

- 2.1 The refurbishment of Saltcoats Town Hall (1892) will enable the creation of a Council hub. The hub will include Housing services from Ardrossan, Stevenston and Saltcoats, Customer Services, Registration Services, and Health and Social Care Partnership services on the ground floor. The upper floor will consist of a prestigious new wedding venue, with three public rooms and a green room. Saltcoats Town Hall will be promoted as a prime civic, corporate and ceremonial venue.

2.2 Public and civic space on the first floor will include:

- The Large Hall with capacity for 215 conference style/160 function style covers, including space for a mobile bar and a dance floor (to be known as the Countess Suite);
- The Lesser Hall which can accommodate 100 people (to be known as the Harbour Suite);
- An attractive room for small weddings (to be known as the Sir John Lavery Room); and
- A downstairs meeting room (to be known as the Betsy Miller Room).

2.3 Consideration has been given to the possibility of seeking bids to run the bar and catering arrangements in the venues. However, for the following reasons North Ayrshire Council Facilities Management is best positioned to provide catering and bar facilities in both venues:

- The FM Service Catering Team is widely recognised for delivering service excellence and is well placed and resourced with significant experience in delivering an award winning catering service for civic and corporate events;
- The Facilities Management Team will ensure the provision of Best Value in relation to the operation of catering and bar arrangements at the Town Hall and will also provide an excellent opportunity to further expand its already well developed apprentice programme through the provision of excellent work experience within the hospitality and catering trade. The development of Saltcoats Town Hall and its use as a high quality corporate, civic and ceremonial venue will also provide an opportunity to grow the Council's investment. It is anticipated that through the provision of the Town Hall as an exceptional venue, complemented by service excellence in the catering and bar arrangements, that the Town Hall will become a prestigious venue befitting its status and location within North Ayrshire, thereby attracting high levels of demand; and
- North Ayrshire Council is a well-respected employer in the local area and through the envisaged expansion of the FM Catering Team as demand grows for catering and bar arrangements at the Saltcoats Town Hall, the Council will continue to ensure its employees are properly reimbursed through the provision of at least the Living Wage and through its well established terms and conditions of employment including work patterns appropriate to service requirements

2.4 The bookings for the public space will be organised as follows:

- An events co-ordinator from the Community Facilities Team will be responsible for liaison with clients to coordinate communication with Registration Services and Facilities Management staff to ensure excellent service;
- The small wedding suite will be available for weddings throughout the whole week;
- The Large Hall and/or Lesser Hall will be available for weddings on Fridays and Saturdays;
- Other occasional events such as charitable coffee mornings, exhibitions and performances will be bookable for Fridays and Saturdays through the Community Facilities Team.
- The Large Hall and Lesser Hall will be available for regular lets on Sunday afternoons and Monday to Thursday through the current Community Facilities booking system;
- Regular lets will not be available for the Large Hall or Lesser Hall for Fridays and Saturdays to ensure that there is availability for weddings and events;
- Clients will be able to book both the Large Hall and/or Lesser Hall at the same time, for exclusive use. Due consideration will be given to requests to run two separate functions in the Large Hall and Lesser Hall at the same time depending on operational logistics such as catering and caretaking. This will be reviewed after 12 months.

2.5 **Irvine Townhouse and Leisure Centre** will be a hub within the community where residents and visitors can enjoy a range of complementary leisure activities, including a wide range of sports, cultural and arts interests. The facility will have a civic space which will be used for civic events and wedding ceremonies and a café which will cater for the needs of the facility and for additional events.

3. **Proposals**

3.1 Consideration has been given to the possibility of seeking bids to run the bar and catering arrangements in the venues. However, for the reasons outlined at 2.3 above it is proposed North Ayrshire Council Facilities Management is best positioned to provide catering and bar facilities in both venues:

- 3.2 With respect to Saltcoats Town Hall it is proposed that initially a mobile bar facility will be utilised. The Facilities Management Team, who have appropriately trained members of staff with personal licences, will take responsibility for the mobile bar which can be set up in the Large Hall. The Council's Facilities Management Team will provide the catering from a well-equipped kitchen to the rear of the Large Hall to support functions taking place in the Large Hall and where appropriate, the Lesser Hall.

4. Implications

Financial:	The Council will invest in a mobile bar for the facility. Staffing costs will be offset by income.
Human Resources:	An appropriate employee resource will be provided to accommodate catering and bar service requirements.
Legal:	Licensing arrangements will be agreed with the Council's Legal Services.
Equality:	None.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The project will secure the long term future of a previously derelict building and assist in the regeneration of the town centre.
Key Priorities:	Addresses the SOA objective of 'Building Community Capacity and Community Engagement.'
Community Benefits:	Appropriate community benefits were secured through the procurement process for the refurbishment of both buildings.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Connected Communities, Licensing, Property Management and Investment, Facilities Management, Customer Services, Housing, Registration Services, KA Leisure and the Health and Social Care Partnership have been involved in the development of these proposals.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference :

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton Head of Service (Connected Communities) on (01294) 324414.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 5

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Review of Library Opening Hours**

Purpose: To provide a report to Cabinet on the recent public consultation on public library opening hours; and
To seek Cabinet's approval for a revised pattern of library opening times as a result of the above consultation

Recommendation: That Cabinet a) Notes the outcome of the recent consultation; and b) Approves the proposed revised schedule of library opening hours.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 An extensive consultation process to identify optimum library opening hours in North Ayrshire within current resources has recently been completed. The proposals contained within the original consultation mandate have now been reviewed in the light of the engagement and consultation with our residents and a revised schedule of library opening hours is now proposed to meet, as far as possible, the needs of our local communities.

2. Background

- 2.1 Connected Communities is implementing a thematic approach to service delivery, with a focus on outcomes and localities. The two key drivers for change are the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act and the Locality Approach currently being developed across the Community Planning Partnership.
- 2.2 In addressing the 2015/16 budget challenges, the Council agreed a reduction of £357,000 in the budget for Library and Information services. The Council has 17 community libraries, 2 mobile libraries and a Home Library Service. The Council also made the decision that there would be no library closures.

- 2.3 A range of measures has already been identified and implemented, including opportunities to increase income, co-location of services and a review of staffing levels. Staff costs now account for 76% of the library budget. One of the measures undertaken in response to the recent budget decision has therefore been a review of the opening hours of the 17 libraries across North Ayrshire.
- 2.4 An extensive programme of public consultation has been completed, including 13 public meetings in communities and an online consultation, with access to survey materials being facilitated in libraries where required. This process was launched on 5th October and concluded on 16th December, 2015.
- 2.5 The consultation options included within the consultation mandate focused on two proposed patterns of opening hours and were derived from the library management system's evidence of current usage patterns. (Consultation proposals were tailored to the existing demand for individual libraries, therefore the total reduction in hours for each library varied in the original proposals and provides the rationale, for example, for two evening openings in Irvine.) Greater reductions were put forward for discussion where evidence from the library management system suggested that public library use was declining, hence the original proposals in relation to Bourtreehill, Dreghorn and Kilwinning) (Appendix 1).
- 2.6 **Consultation Responses: Community Consultation Meetings**
- 2.6.1 The purpose of the 13 consultation meetings in communities was to encourage and enable North Ayrshire residents to:
- Review and discuss the two options (see Appendix 1) for opening hours that were proposed by the Council; and
 - Propose alternative options which would better reflect the needs of the local communities and which would be deliverable within budget.
- 2.6.2 The meetings were attended by a total of 256 people, including elected members.

2.6.3 Several clear themes emerged from the consultation responses:

- Recognition of the quality of the library service and the value placed on it by communities;
- Widespread understanding of the value of local libraries as community hubs;
- Understanding of the current economic situation;
- Willingness on the part of residents to discuss optimum opening hours for local libraries, to best reflect local demographics and needs;
- Preference for a continued reflection of the current pattern of opening hours so that there is a mix of morning, afternoon, evening and Saturday hours;
- Public recognition that use of libraries in evenings is very low, but it was deemed important to retain some evening opening hours;
- The desire to have at least one late opening to 7pm to allow access by working people in each library where possible;
- The request to retain some Saturday opening hours, where affordable, to allow access by working people and families;
- Lack of support for Wednesday opening hours, with the exception of Kilwinning where providing access for more school visits was a priority;
- Significant support for 9am opening hours in Irvine, Largs and Saltcoats, supported by survey and observation of use at these times;
- Community support for realignment of opening hours in Springside, Skelmorlie and Fairlie with group use of community halls;
- Considerable community support for Bourtreehill and Dreghorn Libraries where significant changes to hours were originally proposed due to existing low usage statistics; and
- Creative ideas to assist with marketing and promotion of libraries, as well as proposals for a range of clubs and activities.

2.6.4 In addition the following opinions were widely expressed:

- The aspiration for all libraries to remain open, to ensure accessible provision in each community;
- Support for the status quo, where affordable, and for existing opening hours to be reinstated if and when budgets become available; and
- Respect for the role played by, and the future of, valued library staff.

2.7 Consultation Responses: Online Public Consultation

2.7.1 The online consultation attracted 688 replies and there were six items of correspondence directly sent to library managers.

2.7.2 Option 1 (see Appendix 1) was the preferred option in all cases.

2.7.3 However, a further range of themes emerged from comments in the online surveys and can be summarised as follows:

Comment theme	Number of occurrences
No change to existing pattern	137
Retain evenings	55
Retain Saturdays	48
PC access	30
No Wednesdays	14
9am opening	8
Monday openings	7
Increase Wednesdays	6
5 day openings	5
Lunchtime openings	4
Total number of comments submitted	314

2.7.4 Each library has a detailed record of the comments made which can be accessed by arrangement with library staff. The consultation responses, and a summary of the feedback, will be published on the Council website.

3. Proposals

3.1 In response to community feedback from both the meetings and the online consultation, a revised proposal for public library opening hours has been developed which has been informed by and reflects the views expressed by North Ayrshire residents in their local communities and which is deliverable within the budget available to the Council in the current economic climate. These are detailed at Appendix 1.

3.2 The new proposal incorporates requests that, across the network of libraries, the following criteria, as expressed by North Ayrshire residents, have been respected:

- Ensure that evening opening until 7pm is available on at least one evening;
- Ensure that some libraries are open from 9am;
- Ensure some Saturday morning opening hours are available for family use;

- Ensure that Saturday afternoon opening is available; and
 - Guarantee free access to computers and related support.
- 3.3 Staff have been involved in developing, and have been consulted about, these new proposals.
- 3.4 It is proposed that a new pattern of opening hours as set out in Appendix 1 is adopted from 1st June 2016.

4. Implications

Financial:	Efficiencies of £357,000 were agreed by North Ayrshire Council in December 2014. This proposal fulfils the commitment to deliver the required efficiencies.
Human Resources:	These proposals have been developed with the support of staff and trade unions. Should the proposals regarding the library opening hours be approved then this will have implications for working arrangements and the total number of staff hours required. The staff have contributed to designing new staffing arrangements to meet the requirements of the revised opening hours. There will be a requirement for formal consultation with trade unions on the reorganisation required to meet the new opening hours.
Legal:	None. However, the public consultation was designed and delivered in accordance with good practice principles in relation to public consultation.
Equality:	None.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None.
Key Priorities:	These proposals contribute to the Council's Strategic Priority 2 'Working together to develop stronger communities' as they reflect the considerable engagement of our communities in the design of library opening hours which meet the needs of as many library users as possible within existing resources.
Community Benefits:	None.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Council has carried out an extensive consultation running from 5th October until 16th December 2015 and held 13 public meetings. Over 1000 responses were received and this engagement has informed a revised proposal which reflects the views of North Ayrshire residents to the greatest extent possible within existing resources.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference :

For further information please contact Audrey Sutton, Head of Connected Communities on (01294) 324414.

Background Papers

- **Appendix 1: Consultation Proposals**

Appendix 1: Consultation Proposals

Ardrossan						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 – 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1

Arran						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (29 hours in total)		10 - 5		10 – 7.30	10 – 7.30	10 -1
Current (29 hours in total)		10-5		10-7.30	10-7.30	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 1		10-7.30		10-7.30	10-5	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-5		10-7.00	10-5	10-1 & 2-5

Beith						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 – 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1

Bourtreehill						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 – 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1 & 2-5.30		3-6		10-1 & 2-5	
Original Proposal - Option 2	10-1 & 2-5		3-6	10-1 & 2-6		

Dalry						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 - 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6.3-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6.3-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1

Dreghorn						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 - 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-5		
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1		10-1 & 2-5	

Fairlie						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (9 hours in total)		2-7			10-2	
Current (9 hours in total)		2.30-5 & 5.30-7.30			2.30-5 & 5.30-7.30	
Original Proposal - Option 1		2-7		10-2		
Original Proposal - Option 2		2-7			10-2	

Irvine						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (46 hours in total)	9.00 - 5.30	9 - 7	9.30 - 12.30	9 - 7	9.00 - 5.30	10 - 4
Current (52.5 hours in total)	9-7.30	9-7.30	9-12.30	9-7.30	9-7.30	10-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-7.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-7.30	10-5.30	10-5
Original Proposal - Option 2	10-7.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-7.30	10-5.30	10-5

Kilbirnie						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 - 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1
Registration services would continue to be available as currently offered (Tuesday 9.30-11.30 & Thurs 1.30-4.30)						

Kilwinning						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (36 hours in total)	10.00 - 5.00	10 - 7	9.30 - 12.30	10 - 5	10 - 5	10 -12.30
Current (49 hours in total)	9-7.30	9-7.30		9-7.30	9-7.30	10-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-5.30	10-5.30	10-1	10-7.30	10-5.30	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2	10-5.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-5.30	10-5.30	10-1

Largs						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (43 hours in total)	9.00 - 5.00	9 - 7	9.30 - 12.30	9 - 5	9 - 5	10 - 4
Current (52.5 hours in total)	9-7.30	9-7.30	9-12.30	9-7.30	9-7.30	10-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-5.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-7.30	10-5.30	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2	10-5.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-5.30	10-5.30	10-5

Millport						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Current (18.5 hours in total)	1-5	1-7.30			10-1 & 2-5	10-12
Recent consultation on opening hours, so no changes proposed.						

Saltcoats						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (43 hours in total)	9.00 - 5.00	9 - 7	9.30 - 12.30	9 - 5	9 - 5	10 - 4
Current (52.5 hours in total)	9-7.30	9-7.30	9-12.30	9-7.30	9-7.30	10-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-5.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-7.30	10-5.30	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2	10-5.30	10-7.30	10-1	10-5.30	10-5.30	10-5

Skelmorlie						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (15 hours in total)		10-2		10.30 - 4	1-6.30	
Current (15 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30			9-1	1-5 & 6-7.30	
Original Proposal - Option 1	10.30-4	10-2		1-6.30		
Original Proposal - Option 2	1-5 & 6-7.30	9-1		1-5 & 6-7.30		

Springside						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (9 hours in total)		12-4.30		2.30-7		
Current (9 hours in total)	6-7.30	2-5		6-7.30	2-5	
Original Proposal - Option 1		12-4.30		3-7.30		
Original Proposal - Option 2	6-7.30	2-5		6-7.30	2-5	

Stevenston						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 - 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1

West Kilbride						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Revised Proposal (25 hours in total)	10 - 1 & 2 - 5	10 - 1 & 2 - 5		2-7	10 - 1 & 2 - 4.30	10 -12.30
Current (30 hours in total)	1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30		1-5 & 6-7.30	10-1 & 2-5.30	10-1 & 2-5
Original Proposal - Option 1	10-1	10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1	10-1
Original Proposal - Option 2		10-1 & 2-5	10-1	10-1 & 2-6	10-1 & 2-5	10-1

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 6

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Fairlie Community Links**

Purpose: To provide the Committee with (a) an update on the consultation process; (b) an update on the feedback obtained through the consultation process; and (c) the options for the next stages in the project's development.

Recommendation: That the Committee: (a) notes the consultation process undertaken; (b) notes the feedback obtained through the consultation process; and (c) considers and agrees the preferred option for the next stages in the project's development.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The Fairlie Community Links Project was developed to improve the opportunities for walking and cycling in and around Fairlie for everyday journeys. A total of £850,000 was secured over the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 to implement the project. This was secured from Sustrans Scotland's Community Links Fund and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) Capital Programme with match funding from the Council's Capital Access Path Network Programme. This aimed to:

- Respond to the Motion passed by Council in March 2013 to develop "a costed proposal to complete the shore footpath from the Causeway to Bay Street to provide a safe walking route especially for children through the village";
- Assist Fairlie Community Trust (FCT) in their aspirations to deliver a coastal path between Bay Street and the Causeway; and
- Contribute to the delivery of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) as identified in National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3).

1.2 The project was comprised of two phases namely the:

- Upgrade of the existing National Cycle Network (NCN) Route between Fairlie and Hunterston Roundabout; and
- Construction of the Fairlie Coastal Path between Bay Street and the South Car Park.

1.3 £450,000 of funding is available in the current financial year to construct the Fairlie Coastal Path. Three rounds of public consultation have been undertaken to date in relation to the project in 2014 and 2015/16. This report provides an update on the consultation process and progress made to date on the delivery of the project and outlines the options for the next stages in its development.

2. Background

2.1 The proposal to construct a path between Bay Street and Causeway in Fairlie was developed by Fairlie Community Trust (FCT). Planning permission was secured for the project in 2008 and was subsequently renewed in 2013. The Trust submitted funding applications to a number of sources to implement the project including the Weir Trust. These applications were unfortunately unsuccessful.

2.2 A motion was passed by Council in March 2013 to prepare "a costed proposal to complete the shore footpath from the Causeway to Bay Street to provide a safe walking route especially for children through the village". The need to broaden the extent of the proposal was recognised to continue the Coastal Path to the South Car Park providing an off-road route through the southern section of the village. The Fairlie Community Links Project was developed in response to this. This aimed to implement the Council's Motion and to realise Fairlie Community Trust's aspiration to construct a route between Bay Street and the Causeway.

2.3 National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) identifies the development of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) as a National Development. This aims to enhance visitor and recreation experiences, as well as ensuring that local populations have better access to the outdoors for health and well-being. This in turn contributes to the priorities identified in the National Walking Strategy and Cycling Action Plan for Scotland. An improved path networks between Gourock and Ardrossan is identified as a priority within the NWCN.

- 2.4 The Council applied for and secured funding for the Fairlie Community Links project from Sustrans' Community Links Fund and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) Capital Programme in 2014/15. This funding and implementation of the project was approved by Cabinet on 6 May 2014 for 2014/15 and 26 May 2015 for 2015/16. An initial phase of public consultation was undertaken in 2014 on the proposals. The first phase to upgrade the existing NCN was undertaken in 2014/15 and consultation continued on the Coastal Path proposals.
- 2.5 Two further rounds of consultation were undertaken between August and October 2015 and November 2015 and January 2016. The proposals consulted on through this process took account of the feedback obtained through the previous phases of consultation and included: a reduction of the overall height of the path; two options for edge protection; options for alignments at key sections of the route; and a maximum width of 2m with the exception of existing sections over this width. A summary of the consultation process and its outcome is provided in Appendix 1 to this Report.
- 2.6 The opinions expressed through the consultation process were wide ranging and polarised. These varied from being categorically against the proposed path to being highly supportive of the proposal. A number of key issues were identified through the consultation process including the need to provide for shared use and multi user access; the width of the path; concerns regarding access to the beach; and concerns regarding privacy. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the feedback received through the process and an analysis of the key issues. A report on the project was also considered by the North Coast Area Committee on 11 February 2016. The Committee's recommendations are provided in Appendix 3 and summarised in the consultation section of this report.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal is that the Cabinet:
- (a) Notes the consultation process undertaken as summarised in Appendix 1;
 - (b) Notes the feedback obtained through the consultation process as summarised in Appendix 2; and
 - (b) Considers and agrees the North Coast Area Committee's preferred option for the next stages in the proposals development as outlined in Appendix 3.

4. Implications

Financial:	The cost of the project could have been met from a combination of external funding from Sustrans Scotland's Community Links Fund, SPT's Capital Programme and the existing capital budget. Due to the need to undertake additional consultation it is now not possible to fully implement the project within the funders' required timescales. A proportion of the external funding will now require to return to Sustrans and SPT for reallocation to other projects within their respective programmes. The potential extent of this is detailed in Appendix 3. Further funding awards will be required to fully implement the project in 2016/17 if the project is approved.
Human Resources:	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
Legal:	Where necessary land ownership agreements will be pursued with landowners for example through Path Agreements under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Initial discussions have been undertaken with a number of the landowners regarding such agreements. This will require to be addressed on a case by case basis. Should it be impractical or not possible to enter into a Path Agreement, the Council has powers under the Land Reform legislation to delineate the path through a Path Order. This approach would only be considered when all other avenues had been explored and exhausted.
Equality:	The Fairlie Community Links project will provide increased opportunities and improved access for all ages and abilities to the Fairlie Coastal Path. This will provide all abilities and multi-user access between Bay Street and the South Car Park.
Environmental & Sustainability:	The project will provide increased opportunities for active travel including cycling and walking. This in turn will promote modal shift which will improve health and well-being of communities, reduce the use of private cars and improve the air quality within North Ayrshire in accordance with the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Key Priorities:	<p>The Fairlie Community Links project will contribute to the delivery of a wide range of the Council's strategic objectives. In particular it contributes to the delivery of the Council Plan mission to improve the life of North Ayrshire people and develop stronger communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helping all of our people to stay safe, healthy and active through the creation of new and improved opportunities for active travel, recreation and physical activity in and around Fairlie; and ● Growing our economy and increasing employment and regenerating our towns through the creation of a new and approved opportunity for active travel to key employment areas, services and local attractions in and around Fairlie.
Community Benefits:	<p>The potential for the inclusion of community benefit clauses in the construction of the next stage of the project would be investigated through the procurement process. The delivery of the project would provide a range of benefits to the local community through improved all abilities and multi user access between Bay Street and the South Car Park.</p>

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposals for the project have been developed through three phases of public consultation. This has involved: local residents; access users including walkers and cyclists; landowners; visitors to the area; and other interested parties. It aimed to maximise interested parties' access to the consultation information and their opportunities to comment on the proposals. Over 180 interested parties attended the two public drop in sessions held in 2015 and over 235 responses were received through the 2015 stages of the consultation process. This was also supported by the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum. The consultation process is summarised in Appendix One and the feedback obtained through this process is summarised in Appendix Two.

- 5.2 A report on the project was considered by the North Coast Area Committee on 11 February 2016. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Cabinet: (i) approve Option B (to proceed with the detailed design and construction of the project), as set out at Appendix 3 to the report; (ii) as part of that option, agree to complete the detailed design and key elements of the project as far as practical within the current financial year, with a view to constructing the path in 2016/17; and (iii) agree to the path design and alignment options identified as respondents' preferences within the table set out on the final page of Appendix 3 to the report.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference : Reference : LK

For further information please contact Louise Kirk, Access Officer on 01294 324766

Background Papers

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Fairlie Community Links

Appendix One – Public Consultation Process

Three phases of consultation have been undertaken on the Fairlie Coastal Path proposal to date. These are summarised as follows:

Phase One

The first phase of consultation commenced on 26 June until 26 July 2014. This consulted on a proposed path height of 2.7metres Above Ordnance Datum (mAOD) for the majority of the length of the path. This height was identified through good practice guidance by the consultant engineers and aimed to minimise the frequency with which the path would be inundated with sea water or waves. It also proposed two colour options for the path's construction and a range of options for the potential alignment of the path. A series of drawings and photographs were presented to enable interested parties to comment on the proposals and inform their development.

During this phase:

- The consultation documents were available on line from the Council's website;
- The consultation documents were available in hard copy at Fairlie Village Hall, Fairlie Library and the Village Inn;
- Electronic and paper feedback forms were available alongside the consultation documents;

The consultation process was promoted through:

- Letters outlining the details of the consultation to neighbouring residents, local groups and local organisations;
- E-mails outlining the details of the consultation and links to the on-line consultation information;
- Flyers and posters in local shops and facilities in Fairlie;
- Posters at strategic locations in Fairlie including the existing Coastal Path and path to Largs;
- Articles on the Council's website and tweets via the Council's Twitter account; and
- Press releases in local newspapers.

A public drop in sessions was held on Thursday 26 June 2014 between 4pm and 7pm in Fairlie Village Hall. A range of one to one meetings and site visits were also undertaken with local residents and interested parties thereafter. Over 60 people participated in the drop in session and over 60 responses were received through this phase of the consultation process.

Phase Two

The second phase of consultation commenced on 28 August 2015 and ended on 9 October 2015. The proposals outlined through this process were informed by the previous consultation. In particular:

- The proposed path height was reduced from 2.7mAOD to 2.4mAOD. This was identified as a height at which the frequency of inundation of the path by waves and seawater would be kept to a minimum;
- The proposed design was updated to take account of concerns in relation raised during the first phase of consultation regarding the impact of the proposal on the appearance, aesthetics and natural environment of the beach;
- Visual representations were produced to provide interested parties with a better idea of what the finished path would look like;
- Two solutions were proposed for edge protection in response to concerns raised during the first phase of consultation regarding the need for edge protection due to the height of the path;
- The proposals for drainage from neighbouring properties were further informed through site visits due to concerns raised through the first phase of the consultation;
- The arrangements for retaining access to and from properties were further informed through site visits due to concerns raised through the first phase of the consultation.

A series of drawings, photographs and visual representations were presented to enable interested parties to comment on the proposals and inform their development. During this phase of the consultation process:

- The consultation documents were available on line from the Council's website;
- The consultation documents were available in hard copy at a number of locations including Fairlie Village Hall, Fairlie Library, the Village Inn, Largs Yacht Haven and West Kilbride Library;
- Copies of the consultation documents including feedback forms were made available to groups such as the Fairlie Community Council and North Ayrshire Access Panel;
- An online feedback form was available on Survey Monkey;
- Electronic and paper feedback forms were available alongside the consultation documents;

The consultation process was promoted through:

- Letters outlining the details of the consultation to neighbouring residents, local groups and local organisations;
- E-mails outlining the details of the consultation and links to the on-line consultation information to respondents to the previous phase of consultation and through existing Council e-mail networks including the Community Engagement Network;
- A School Bag leaflet drop to all pupils at Fairlie Primary School
- Flyers and posters in local shops and facilities in Fairlie, Largs and West Kilbride. These included web addresses and QR codes to enable interested parties to access the information on line;
- Posters at strategic locations in Fairlie including the existing Coastal Path and path to Largs;
- Articles on the Council's website and tweets via the Council's Twitter account; and
- Press releases in local newspapers.

A public drop in session was held on Thursday 17 September 2015 between 11am and 3pm and between 4pm and 7pm in Fairlie Village Hall. Over 120 people participated in the drop in session and over 150 responses were received through this phase of the consultation process.

Phase Three

The third phase of consultation commenced on 1 December 2015 and ended on 5 January 2016. This phase consulted on designs for additional sections of the Path. This additional information was in part requested by Fairlie Community Council in response to Phase Two of the consultation. This complemented the previous process and provided more detail in key areas for example at Ferry Row.

A further series of drawings, photographs and visual representations were presented to enable interested parties to comment on the proposals and inform their development. During this phase:

- The consultation documents were available on line from the Council's website;
- The consultation documents were available in hard copy at a number of locations including Fairlie Village Hall, Fairlie Library, the Village Inn, Largs Yacht Haven and West Kilbride Library;
- Copies of the consultation documents including feedback forms were made available to groups such as the Fairlie Community Council and North Ayrshire Access Panel;
- An online feedback form was available on Survey Monkey;
- Electronic and paper feedback forms were available alongside the consultation documents;

The consultation process was promoted through:

- Letters outlining the details of the consultation to neighbouring residents, local groups and local organisations;
- E-mails outlining the details of the consultation and links to the on-line consultation information to respondents to the previous phase of consultation and through existing Council e-mail networks including the Community Engagement Network;
- A School Bag leaflet drop to all pupils at Fairlie Primary School
- Flyers and posters in local shops and facilities in Fairlie, Largs and West Kilbride. These included web addresses and QR codes to enable interested parties to access the information on line;
- Posters at strategic locations in Fairlie including the existing Coastal Path and path to Largs;
- Articles on the Council's website and tweets via the Council's Twitter account; and
- Press releases in local newspapers.

A public drop in session was held on Thursday 10 December 2015 between 4pm and 7pm in Fairlie Village Hall. Over 60 people participated in the drop in session and over 85 responses were received through this phase of the consultation process.

Summary

This highlights that a range of activities were undertaken to raise awareness of and encourage participation in the consultation process. Furthermore it outlines the range of opportunities provided to enable interested parties to examine and comment on the proposals.

Fairlie Community Links

Appendix Two – Consultation Outcomes

This analysis concentrates on the feedback obtained through Phases Two and Phase Three of the consultation process as the proposals had changed substantially from Phase One. The opinions expressed through the consultation were wide ranging and polarised. These varied from being wholly against the project in any form to highly supportive of the project. It is not possible to definitively quantify how many respondents were for or against the project as not all clearly state this within their responses. It is also important to note that Fairlie Community Council stated in their response that they believe “that proceeding with the Coastal path proposal, even after the third consultation, will not be fully supported by the whole Fairlie community”.

It is not practical to summarise all of the responses within this Report however the report of the full feedback obtained during the process can be accessed from our website. This is under the Consultation Outcome Section. The documents are titled “Fairlie Coastal Path – Phase Two” and “Fairlie Coastal Path – Phase Three”. A range of questions were posed to the Council during the consultation process by Fairlie Community Council. These questions and the responses provided to them are also available from the website. This is titled “Fairlie Coastal Path – Additional Information”.

<http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/fairlie-coastal-path-consultation.aspx>

Key Issues

The following outlines the key issues identified in the feedback obtained through the consultation process. This also provides an analysis of the issue and outlines any actions taken to address the issue. Please note these issues are not listed in order of importance.

1. Shared Use

A number of concerns were raised in relation to the shared use status of the proposed path. These concerns related to the potential conflict between walkers and cyclists and irresponsible use of the path particularly by cyclists. The following information was provided in relation to shared use as part of Phases Two and Three of the consultation:

1. The need to provide for all abilities access and multi user access
Varying views were received on the issue of providing multi user and all abilities access along the path through the previous consultation. Respondents’ views ranged from being supportive of multi user access to being against multi user access. Respondents’ suggestions in relation to this issue included: the provision of multiple paths, dedicated sections for users, restricted use and for the path to provide equitably for all abilities and multi-use.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 provides the public with the right of responsible access to a large amount of Scotland’s land and inland water. This includes paths, parks, beaches and open spaces. The terms and conditions of the funding and the provisions of the Land Reform legislation require that the path be constructed to a standard which is accessible to all non-motorised users.

Furthermore the Equality Act 2010 requires that service providers provide equitably for users of all abilities. This therefore requires the Council to provide for all abilities access wherever possible. The path must be constructed in a way that it doesn't limit the enjoyment and use of all non-motorised users. The project aims to promote responsible access along the path through signage, educational activities and promotional material. There is therefore no scope to limit which users can and cannot utilise the path.

Furthermore the funding partners, Sustrans and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), both confirmed that they could not fund improvements to the route which did not provide for multi user access. There is therefore no scope for the Council to deviate from the provision of multi user access.

It is envisaged that should the project go ahead signage would be prepared to reflect the shared nature of the path and to encourage responsible access. This would be worded in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Scottish Outdoor Access Code and linked to a wider responsible cycling programme. This would also be developed in partnership with local organisations and interested parties to ensure that it addressed local concerns as far as possible.

2. Path Width

A number of respondents indicated that they would prefer the path to be narrower than the proposed two metre width. The following information was provided in relation to the path width as part of Phases Two and Three of the consultation:

2. The width of the path

On this basis of the need to provide for all abilities and multi user access as outlined in point 1 above, the width of the proposed path also has not changed and remains at 2 metres. This is to ensure that the path provides for all abilities and multi user access and accords with national good practice guidance.

Two metres is the minimum width for a route of this nature to enable it to remain in accordance with good practice guidance such as Cycling By Design and to provide for all abilities access. Adherence to good practice guidance is a key requirement of the funding partners. Furthermore sections of the existing path are currently wider than the proposed 2m width. It is envisaged that the width in these areas would be maintained through the reconstruction/remodelling of the path. There is therefore no scope for the Council to deviate from the proposed width.

3. Car Parking

The feedback obtained highlighted that parking opportunities are relatively limited within the village for both residents and visitors. A number of respondents were concerned that the project would result in additional parking pressure in the streets adjacent to the path. The proposals would not alter current parking arrangements. The project aims to encourage walking and cycling for everyday journeys by local people and as such it is not envisaged that there will be an increase in vehicular traffic. It is however appreciated that, if constructed, the new path may attract users from the wider area and that a number of users currently drive to adjacent areas to access the existing path on foot.

It is envisaged that if the project is to go ahead the signage for the two main car parks could be improved. This would further highlight their locations for visitors to the area. This

could be delivered as part of the implementation of the project. Residents in the Ferry Row and Causeway have also requested that a more detailed investigation of parking be undertaken in this area. This would require further investigation with Physical Environment Services if the project is to be implemented.

4. Impact on the aesthetics and naturalness of the Beach

A number of respondents raised concerns regarding the impact of the proposal on the aesthetics and naturalness of the beach. The design presented through the consultation process aimed to provide a sympathetic approach to access in the area. Two colour options were also proposed to ensure that the path was in keeping with the environs. Visual representations were also prepared to provide interested parties with a better understanding of what the path might look like when constructed. Alternative alignments were also proposed to reduce the potential impact on the beach and rock formation.

The designs were informed by good practice guidance in relation to coastal and path construction. The designs also had to be delivered to a sufficiently high standard to enable the path to be adopted by the Council for maintenance purposes and to accord with national good practice guidance. There is therefore limited scope to deviate significantly from the designs presented.

5. Path alignment at Ferry Row

A number of concerns were raised regarding the impact of the proposals on the rocks in front of Ferry Row. Furthermore concerns were expressed regarding the impact on the privacy of the adjacent properties. Two alignments were proposed for the path in this area. Option A was an alignment to the rear of Ferry Row along Kelburn Terrace and Option B was an alignment to the front/along the seaward side of Ferry Row. A lower height for the path using Option B was also presented in Phase Three of the consultation. Option A was identified through a site visit with a number of residents from Ferry Row and was identified as their preferred option. Respondents preferred alignment for this section is outlined in the next section of this report.

6. Path alignment at Southannan Sands

Concerns were raised at all three stages of the consultation regarding the potential impact of the path on the Marie Curie Field of Hope. Three options were proposed for this section of path to address these concerns as far as practical. Option 1 was an alignment adjacent to the A78 and is the most cost effective option. Option 2 is an alignment on the seaward side of a higher level path and Option 3 is an alignment on the seaward section of a lower level path. These two options are more costly than Option 1 and would require further site investigation and potentially negotiation with Scottish Natural Heritage in terms of their proximity to the Southannan Sands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Option 1 would have the greatest impact on the Field of Hope however this would be designed in such a way as to sensitively relocate the daffodils and to create a new area as part of the Field of Hope. Respondents preferred alignment for this section is outlined in the next section of this report.

7. Path alignment at Fairlie Cottage

A number of concerns were raised in relation to the alignment of the path at Fairlie Cottage. These were predominantly due to the impact on the rock formation and the

height of the path potentially resulting in users being able to see over the boundary wall. Additional drawings were prepared to further illustrate the two options available for the path at this location. Option A in which the path was designed on the rocks would impact further on the rock formation and potentially result in users being able to see over the boundary wall. Option B in which the path was designed at a lower level would be more costly to construct and would impact further on the beach. Both options would require a small section of railing as edge protection due to the height of the path.

It is not possible to establish respondents' preferences for this alignment as not all stated a preference in their response. The issues were also discussed with the property owner and there are a number of options available to address these concerns if the project is implemented. The property owner has indicated that their preference would be Option B. It is envisaged that the final approach would be agreed with the property owner prior to implementation to ensure that this did not negatively impact on their property.

8. Path alignment at the Pine House

A number of concerns were also raised in relation to the alignment of the path at the Pine House. These were predominantly due to the impact on the rock formation and the location of the path potentially resulting in users being able to see in the property. Two options were proposed for this section. The alignment for Option A was over the existing rock formation and took the path closer to the property and Option B was closer to the beach and took the path further away from the property.

It is not possible to establish respondents' preferences for this alignment as not all stated a preference in their response. The issues were discussed with the property owner's attorney who confirmed their preferred option as being Option B in rock and red concrete. It is envisaged that the final approach would be agreed with the property owner prior to implementation.

9. Residents' and Fairlie Yacht Club's access to/from the beach

A number of concerns were raised that the path would negatively impact on local residents, Fairlie Yacht Club and dinghy users' ability to access the beach. Access arrangements to and from the neighbouring properties, Fairlie Yacht Club and dinghy parking would be maintained and enhanced where appropriate. If the preferred option is the rock edge protection access points would require to be created at key locations. The details for this would be agreed with individual property owners and organisations. Any safety measures required would be addressed on a case by case basis with input from and the agreement of the property owners and organisations.

10. The security and privacy of the properties nearest to the path

A number of concerns were raised that the path would negatively impact on the security and privacy of the neighbouring properties. The concerns predominantly related to an increased use of the path and the perception that this would result in increased levels of antisocial behaviour. The path has been designed to reduce the potential impact on the security and privacy of the neighbouring properties. The potential for users to overlook properties and gardens has been reduced as far as possible. Seats and benches would be appropriately located to reduce the potential for antisocial use and behaviour. There is also significant evidence that increased use of path networks and open spaces reduces the potential for antisocial behaviour rather than increasing it. Any remaining issues would

be addressed on an individual basis as appropriate. Path use would also be monitored to allow any issues which may arise after implementation to be addressed.

11. Maintenance and longevity of the path

Concerns were raised regarding the arrangements for the maintenance of the path and whether or not the designs presented were robust enough to withstand the coastal conditions. A number of respondents were particularly concerned that maintenance arrangements would not be rigorous enough to address issues of coastal debris on the path.

The consultants appointed to prepare the designs have significant experience of coastal works. The path has been designed in accordance with national good practice guidance. The consultants are satisfied that the path design is fit for purpose for the environment in which it would be sited. Further investigation will be undertaken where required through the detailed design stage.

The Council has agreed to adopt and take responsibility for the future maintenance of the path subject to it being constructed to appropriate standards. The relevant Council Services would develop and undertake a maintenance regime in line with good practice guidance. Any additional maintenance would be undertaken as and when required.

Maintenance issues in relation to the path could also be reported:

- By telephone via the Council's Contact Centre on 01294 310000
- On line via the Council's website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx
- On line through the Report It App which can be downloaded from: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/contact-us/report-it/report-it-app.aspx

12. Repair of the existing path

A number of respondents stated that they would prefer for the existing path to be repaired rather than a complete path upgrade. The funding available for the project could not be used for repairs to the existing path. Furthermore the path could not be brought up to a suitable standard for adoption by the Council through such repairs.

13. Alternative path alignments

A number of respondents posed an alternative alignment for the path. This was examined on the ground with staff from Sustrans who have advised that the alternative route:

- Is unlikely to be used by less able users and less confident/able walkers and cyclists due to the topography of the land. In particular the gradient of Castle Park Drive was viewed as a barrier to inclusive use.
- Is less direct/more circuitous than the Coastal Path; and as such
- Does not meet the aims of the Community Links Fund.

They confirmed that the Coastal Path option provides a more inclusive approach which meets the aims of the Community Links Fund. They advised that they would not be in a position to fund works to the alternative route.

14. Safety Concerns

A number of respondents raised concerns regarding users walking or cycling on the path in poor weather conditions. It is envisaged that information on the coastal nature of the path would be provided for users to make an informed judgement about their use of the path at the start and end of the path. The wording for this would take account of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and be informed by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code is based on three principles, one of which is to take responsibility for your own actions. This highlights that the outdoors is not a risk free environment and requires users to act with care at all times for their own safety and that of others. It is envisaged that this would be developed in partnership with local organisations and interested parties to ensure that it addresses these concerns.

Options Questions Responses

The outcome of the options questions posed in the Feedback Forms is summarised in the table provided below. This is based on the total number of responses. The most popular options at both stages of the consultation are underlined:

Path Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Red coloured concrete	25	19
<u>Grey coloured concrete</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Rock edge protection</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>30</u>
Step edge protection	42	28
None of these options	18	13
Other	0	30
<i>No Response</i>	37	14
Ferry Row Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Option A – alignment to the rear of Ferry Row along Kelburn Terrace	15	10
<u>Option B – alignment to the front/along the seaward side of Ferry Row</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>58</u>
Neither of these options	17	12
Other	7	1
<i>No Response</i>	13	15
Southannan Sands Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
<u>Option 1 – alignment adjacent to the A78</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>29</u>
Option 2 – alignment on the seaward side – higher level path	35	15
Option 3 – alignment on the seaward side – lower level path	N/A	16
None of these options	16	13
Other	10	18
<i>No Response</i>	49	21
Lighting Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
<u>Solar Lighting Studs</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>43</u>

No lighting provision	40	29
Other	3	3
No Response	47	15
Signage Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Metal Signage	39	26
<u>Wooden Signage</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>
Neither of these options	14	12
Other	7	19
No Response	54	25
Seating Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Metal Seating	34	5
<u>Wooden Seating</u>	NA	<u>28</u>
<u>Recycled Plastic Seating</u>	<u>58</u>	11
Other	14	17
No Response	53	28
Bin Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Additional bins are required	NA	35
<u>Additional bins are not required</u>	NA	<u>37</u>
No Response	NA	24

Fairlie Community Council Response

The Community Council provided the following response to Phase 3 of the consultation. This details their considered position and outlines a series of requests should the project be implemented:

“The proposal of Fairlie Coastal path has been divisive for this community. This is because for all positive aspects associated with the path, there are also significant negatives.

Despite the unsightly broken concrete at the north of the shoreline, our beach has provided an invaluable amenity to those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle, the noisy A78, and enjoy tranquillity wandering the unique shore, kayaking and swimming from the sands, and just generally relaxing on the rocks.

Many villagers see the proposal as a loss of this unique amenity that has been enjoyed by many for generations, and forms part of our local heritage.

We acknowledge that the original design, height and route of the proposed multi-use path has been reviewed and consulted upon, as a result of the continuing requests for clarification and challenges to design to protect our valuable environment. Fairlie Community Council is proud that we held an EGM asking residents their views, including the fundamental question as to whether a multi-use path was required by them. Local residents expressed their differing views, attitudes and feelings about the proposal, which lead to us forwarding concerns to the NAC Access Officer, and subsequently liaising on feedback and information requests.

One positive aspect of this path proposal is that it will provide a more suitable route for wheelchair and pushchair users.

We believe that proceeding with the Coastal path proposal, even after the third consultation, will not be fully supported by the whole Fairlie community.

The Community Council therefore asks:-

- 1. That the planning application process is transparent to the public and that local residents' views and objections are heard as part of this process. We expect a formal planning application to be submitted.*
- 2. That the consultation feedback from local residents is given precedence over feedback submitted by parties from outside the community.*
- 3. That the proposed path does not go in front of Ferry Row and local residents directly impacted by alternatives are individually consulted with to ensure that their immediate access and amenity usage does not suffer a detriment.*
- 4. That slip ways currently in existence giving access for boating and water sports are retained e.g. the end of The Causeway, next to the green boathouse on the south, Bay Street.*
- 5. The NAC Access Officer's commitment to detailed step by step consultation with adjoining property owners regarding final path design and construction is fully and assiduously met.*
- 6. That the decisions regarding at which height the path is constructed at the Pine House and Fairlie Cottage, should be made by those house holders along whose boundary it will run.*
- 7. That option 3, at the lowest level, is adopted on the Southannan Sands, if this proposal goes ahead. This is after considerable thought and discussion.*
- 8. Should the path go ahead safety/advice notices inform path users of right of way priorities."*

Other Information Received

A "Petition" was received which included 70 names and addresses which stated as follows:

"Fairlie needs the present beach path upgraded of that there is no doubt but to go from this to a 2m wide (minimum) multi use path stretching from the south end of the village to Bay Street is detrimental to our natural beach and environment. Nothing has been done to gauge how many people are actually against it. If you are against it or don't know about the proposed multi use coastal path which will change the beautiful and natural face of Fairlie forever please sign below, indicating whether against or not aware.

The 70 respondents outlined that they were against the proposal and 8 of the 70 indicated that they were not aware of the proposal.

Fairlie Community Links

Appendix Three – Next Stages Options

There are three main options available regarding the next stages in the project's development. These are summarised in the table provided below and include an analysis of the potential implication for each option:

Option	Option Details	Comments
A	To complete the detailed design of the project and not proceed with the implementation of the project.	This would meet the requirements of the motion passed by Council but would not contribute to the development of the National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN) as identified in National Planning Framework 3 or the delivery of Fairlie Community Trust's (FCT) path. This would also require a significant level of funding to be downturned in the current financial year.
B	To proceed with the detailed design and construction of the project.	This would meet the requirements of the Motion and contribute to the development of the NWCN and the delivery of FCT's path. This would require a reduced level of funding to be downturned in the current financial year. The construction would however be subject to securing external funding in 2016/17 or future financial years. This is due to the fact that it is not possible to construct the full path within the required timescales for the current allocations of funding.
C	To proceed with the detailed design and construction of elements of the overall project for example the section between Bay Street and Ferry Row as identified by the Fairlie Community Trust (FCT).	This would meet the requirements of the motion passed by Council, deliver FCT's path and partially contribute to the development of the NWCN. The funding partners may require any remaining funding to be downturned on this basis. It also may not be possible to secure funding in future financial years from partners on this basis. The construction would however be subject to securing external funding in 2016/17 or future financial years. This is due to the fact that it is unlikely that it would be possible to construct the chosen section of path within the required timescales for the current allocations of funding.

If the preferred option is to **Option B**, there are a number of further options regarding delivery. These are summarised in the table provided below:

Option	Option Details	Comments
1	To undertake further consultation on the proposals. This would be with a view to completing the detailed design and constructing the path in 2016/17	This could potentially further consider local concerns in relation to the proposal however the future delivery of the project would be wholly dependent on securing funding in 2016/17. It is also important to note that Fairlie Community Council stated in their response that they believe “that proceeding with the Coastal path proposal, even after the third consultation, will not be fully supported by the whole Fairlie community”.
2	To complete the detailed design within the current financial year with a view to constructing the path in 2016/17.	This would enable the project to be delivered subject to funding within 2016/17. This would result in a significant level of funding required to be downturned.
3	To complete the detailed design and key elements of the project as far as practical within the current financial year with a view to constructing the path in 2016/17.	This would reduce the level of funding required to be downturned within the current financial year. The timeframe available for delivery is however limited. Continued delivery in 2016/17 would also be subject to funding.

If the preferred option is **Option B**, the preferred options for the path design and alignment also require to be agreed. These are summarised in the table provided below. This table also provides a summary of the respondents’ preferences at Phase Two and Three of the consultation. This is based on the total number of responses. The most popular options at both stages of the consultation are underlined:

Path Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Red coloured concrete	25	19
<u>Grey coloured concrete</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Rock edge protection</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>30</u>
Step edge protection	42	28
None of these options	18	13
Other	0	30
<i>No Response</i>	37	14
Ferry Row Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Option A – alignment to the rear of Ferry Row along Kelburn Terrace	15	10
<u>Option B – alignment to the front/along the seaward side of Ferry Row</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>58</u>
Neither of these options	17	12
Other	7	1
<i>No Response</i>	13	15
Southannan Sands Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
<u>Option 1 – alignment adjacent to the A78</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>29</u>
Option 2 – alignment on the seaward side – higher level path	35	15
Option 3 – alignment on the seaward side – lower level path	N/A	16
None of these options	16	13
Other	10	18
<i>No Response</i>	49	21
Lighting Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
<u>Solar Lighting Studs</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>43</u>
No lighting provision	40	29
Other	3	3
<i>No Response</i>	47	15
Signage Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Metal Signage	39	26
<u>Wooden Signage</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>30</u>
Neither of these options	14	12
Other	7	19
<i>No Response</i>	54	25
Seating Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Metal Seating	34	5
<u>Wooden Seating</u>	NA	<u>28</u>
<u>Recycled Plastic Seating</u>	<u>58</u>	11
Other	14	17
<i>No Response</i>	53	28

Bin Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Additional bins are required	NA	35
<u>Additional bins are not required</u>	NA	<u>37</u>
<i>No Response</i>	NA	24

If the preferred option is **Option C**, it is necessary to identify the sections which are to be implemented. The options available are as follows:

Option	Option Details	Comments
D	Construct path between Bay Street and Ferry Row	This would meet the requirements of the motion passed by Council, deliver FCT's path and partially contribute to the development of the NWCN. The funding partners may require any remaining funding to be downturned on this basis. This would also remove the concerns expressed by respondents regarding constructing the section of path at Ferry Row.
E	Construct Southannan Sands section of path	This would complete the link from Hunterston Roundabout. This would not meet the requirements of the motion passed by Council and deliver FCT's path. It would partially contribute to the development of the NWCN. The funding partners may require any remaining funding to be downturned on this basis.
F	Construct the path between the Causeway and South Car Park	This would not meet the requirements of the motion passed by Council and deliver FCT's path. It would partially contribute to the development of the NWCN. The funding partners may require any remaining funding to be downturned on this basis.

North Coast Committee Recommendations

The North Coast Area Committee agreed on 11 February 2016 to recommend that the Cabinet (i) approve Option B (to proceed with the detailed design and construction of the project), as set out at Appendix 3 to the report; (ii) as part of that option, agree to complete the detailed design and key elements of the project as far as practical within the current financial year, with a view to constructing the path in 2016/17 and; (iii) agree to the path design and alignment options identified as respondents' preferences within the table at Appendix 3 to the report. These are summarised below:

Option	Option Details	Comments
B	To proceed with the detailed design and construction of the project.	This would meet the requirements of the Motion and contribute to the development of the NWCN and the delivery of FCT's path. This would require a reduced level of funding to be downturned in the current financial year. The construction would however be subject to securing external funding in 2016/17 or future financial years. This is due to the fact that it is not possible to construct the full path within the required timescales for the current allocations of funding.

Option	Option Details	Comments
3	To complete the detailed design and key elements of the project as far as practical within the current financial year with a view to constructing the path in 2016/17.	This would reduce the level of funding required to be downturned within the current financial year. The timeframe available for delivery is however limited. Continued delivery in 2016/17 would also be subject to funding.

Path Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Grey coloured concrete	46	33
Rock edge protection	50	30
Ferry Row Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Option B – alignment to the front/along the seaward side of Ferry Row	76	58
Southannan Sands Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Option 1 – alignment adjacent to the A78	47	29
Lighting Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Solar Lighting Studs	73	43
Signage Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Wooden Signage	40	30
Seating Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Wooden Seating	NA	28
Recycled Plastic Seating	58	11
Bin Options	Phase 2	Phase 3
Additional bins are not required	NA	37

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Ayrshire Growth Deal**

Purpose: To provide an update on the development of an Ayrshire Growth Deal.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees (a) to the submission of the Ayrshire Growth Deal prospectus to the Scottish and UK Governments; and (b) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any required changes to the prospectus prior to its submission.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Cabinet of 1st September 2015 approved a proposal to prepare a bid for an Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) in conjunction with South and East Ayrshire Councils and other partners. Cabinet of 19th January 2016 then agreed to the draft aim for the Deal; the project scoring criteria from which projects will emerge; and, to the continued preparation of the Deal with a view to the submission of a bid proposed in March 2016.
- 1.2 An AGD would provide the Ayrshire authorities and partners with the opportunity to focus on the interventions which would grow the economy and create employment within the region. Critical to any Deal will be the ability to demonstrate positive outcomes derived from investment in terms of uplifts in taxation; non domestic rates, personal tax and council tax, and/or a reduction in welfare claims.
- 1.3 This paper seeks approval for an AGD 'prospectus' which sets out a summary of the proposal including a number of example projects. On approval, the prospectus would be submitted to Scottish and UK Governments for consideration.

2. Background

2.1 The development of the AGD has involved the following main stages:

- September 2015 - Workshop at the Ayrshire Economic Partnership facilitated by the Scottish Futures Trust. This helped to inform the initial development of the bid and led to a draft aim for the AGD;
- October 2015 to December 2015 - Five officer working groups with membership from the three local authorities, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Ayrshire College, University of the West of Scotland and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce were established to identify the potential interventions or projects which may be included within the bid. The five groups were business architecture, physical infrastructure, skills and education, inclusive growth and digital infrastructure;
- January 2016 - Agreement at Cabinet on the draft aim for the AGD. The aim is: 'To create a growing, innovative, smart, more productive and inclusive economy by developing Ayrshire's core strengths, particularly those of science, engineering and manufacturing, and by ensuring our communities benefit from economic growth'. Cabinet also agreed to the scoring mechanism to allow projects to be appraised and selected;
- January to February 2016 - Further definition of a long list of interventions or projects which emerged from the earlier workshops and officer theme groups;
- February 2016 - Influencers Dinner, business breakfast held to enable consultation with the private sector;
- February 2016 - Development of bid prospectus.

2.2 The development of the AGD has emerged through the above process, and through a group of senior officers from all three Local Authorities, Scottish Enterprise, Skills Development Scotland, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and the University of the West of Scotland. While work has proceeded as expected, on the advice of civil servants, the submission date to Scottish Government is to be brought forward to early March in order to provide an opportunity for Ministers to consider it before the current session of the Scottish Parliament ends on 23 March. As this timescale is slightly shorter than the one previously anticipated, a two stage submission to both Governments is now proposed, with the submission of a 'prospectus' in early March followed by a more detailed 'strategic business case' by the end of May 2016.

- 2.3 The interventions which will be selected are those which can best demonstrate fit with regional and national policy, and outputs including fiscal impacts (business rates, corporation tax, rental income, reduction in benefit claims, land values and developer contributions, etc) and economic impacts (jobs, Gross Value Added, private sector leverage, business floor space created, reduction in journey times, etc).

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The draft prospectus or bid document is attached at Appendix 1. This is a high level prospectus which sets out the regional vision, aim, key themes and example projects which will make a long term and sustainable step change to the Ayrshire economy. It puts forward the case for Government(s) support and engagement in the 'Deal'.
- 3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet agree to the submission of the Ayrshire Growth Deal prospectus or bid document to the Scottish and UK Governments. The draft prospectus is to be the subject of consideration by South and East Ayrshire Councils on 3rd March and 1st March respectively. Subject to these approvals the prospectus will be submitted on 4th March in order to provide time to allow consideration prior to the Parliamentary recess. Should this report be subject to a call in which subsequently varies the decision, Ministers will be so advised.
- 3.3 This represents the first stage in a series of discussions and negotiations with Government(s) which subject to approval to proceed would see the further development and assessment of Growth Deal projects. Further reports will be brought to Cabinet on the outcome of discussions with Government, on progress with the development of projects through a strategic business case, and governance mechanisms for the delivery of the AGD.

4. Implications

Financial:	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper, however financial resources will be required to take forward projects included in the deal. The Council meeting of 17th February 2016 approved the provision of capital funding of £10m to support the delivery of the AGD. Further approval will be sought for projects as they come forward over the course of the deal implementation period.</p> <p>Cabinet of 1st September 2015 approved the provision of finance of up to £50,000 to support the preparation of an Ayrshire Growth Deal. The majority of this expenditure has been incurred through the procurement of technical support to assist in the development of the bid to this point.</p> <p>In addition it is estimated that up to £200,000 of revenue funding will be required in the financial year 2016/17 for the project director role, the provision of supporting technical information or advice and for further development of projects. The service intends to resource these costs within its own budgets, seek external funding support and government funding to develop the proposals.</p>
Human Resources:	An officer group involving all three Councils and other partners is driving the AGD work forward alongside the external support procured to help create the bid document.
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from the report. Subject to approval to proceed, proposals for a formal governance structure to oversee the further development of the deal will be brought to a future Cabinet.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising from the report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from the report.
Key Priorities:	This proposal supports our corporate priority of growing our economy, increasing employment and regenerating our towns. It also has potential to contribute to other priorities including:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working together to develop stronger communities; ● Ensuring people have the right skills for learning, life and work; ● Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations.
Community Benefits:	There is an obligation to provide Community Benefit on all contracts in excess of £100,000. Appropriate clauses will be inserted in any contracts awarded as a result of this work.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place involving a number of officers, the Ayrshire Economic Partnership, South and East Ayrshire Councils and local businesses. The results of this were taken into account in the preparation of the draft prospectus or bid document.



KAREN YEOMANS
Executive Director (Economy and Communities)

Reference :

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Background Papers

Ayrshire Growth Deal

Draft Prospectus

23rd February 2016

Ayrshire Growth Deal Prospectus

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Leaders' introduction

On behalf of the three Ayrshire local authorities and the Ayrshire Economic Partnership we submit to the Scottish and UK Governments our Prospectus for developing the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD).

This Prospectus has been developed in close collaboration with all the public sector partners, including Scottish Enterprise and Skills Development Scotland, in Ayrshire building upon engagement with the private sector and our communities.

This is the first stage in preparing a Growth Deal that can make a step change in Ayrshire's economic performance, enabling us to significantly enhance the area's contribution to the Scottish and UK economies and to ensure that our communities are participants in and benefit from the growth opportunities we have set out.

Ayrshire has many strengths; its people, its businesses and its wonderful natural assets. Our proposals are to harness these strengths and build upon them to deliver a more innovative, productive, smart and inclusive economy.

Our proposals focus on economic growth and inclusive growth – for us these go hand in hand. These are key elements of our vision of a successful Ayrshire that will be able to punch above its weight in terms of its contribution to Scotland's growth.

In our Prospectus we set out a vision for the future of the Ayrshire economy with proposals to bring that vision into reality. We now need to refine and develop our proposals further and we wish to work with Governments and their agencies over the coming months to create the basis to agree the Ayrshire Growth Deal

The three Ayrshire local authorities are united in a determination to develop and deliver the Ayrshire Growth Deal. Success will depend on collaboration, building on both the similarities and unique strengths across our authorities. We will work together to enhance the opportunities for our businesses and communities to build an inclusive, resilient and confident Ayrshire. We are committed and determined to work together across the region with public and private sector partners, and with Scottish and UK Governments to achieve these goals.

We will ensure our capital and revenue programmes are aligned to investment by Government to unlock the potential of the Ayrshire economy

The **AGD** provides a once in a generation opportunity to improve the performance of our economy and our commitment to Government is to work in partnership to deliver a step change in Ayrshire's prosperity and to realise our vision of a growing, inclusive economy that makes a positive and significant contribution to Scotland's future economic growth and wellbeing. We hope that the aspirations and intent set out in this prospectus are supported by the Scottish and UK Governments.

Cllr Douglas Reid Leader East Ayrshire Council

Cllr Willie Gibson Leader North Ayrshire Council

Cllr Bill McIntosh Leader South Ayrshire Council

The Case for Growth: unlocking potential for Ayrshire, Scotland and the UK.

The Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) represents a major opportunity to strengthen the economy, bringing employment and prosperity to local people. Ayrshire is an exciting and dynamic place to live and work, but it is clear that there is unrealised potential. The economy is both broad and deep, with well-established commercial centres and close connections to Glasgow. The area's natural assets, location, people, infrastructure and economic heritage mean that there are opportunities for growth.

Targeted investment, carefully coordinated throughout the region would act as a powerful catalyst, stimulating growth and resulting in prosperity for both local people, for Scotland and the UK as a whole. Ayrshire has real economic strengths and we work hard to exploit them – our food and drink, our tourism, our engineering, our energy resources. They are important for us and for Scotland and the Growth Deal gives us a renewed focus to support them and others to become more innovative, productive and outward looking.

We have particular strengths, in aerospace and life science manufacturing that offer growth and productivity gains that are significant at the Scottish and at the UK level.

We have currently over 4000 jobs in aerospace over 50% of the Scottish total and an estimated 30% of Scotland's industrial biotechnology output. These sectors have high productivity, high R&D intensity and, critically important, both are forecast to grow significantly for the foreseeable future. Our forecasts show that a doubling of these jobs over ten years is a realistic goal and Scotland's ambition for Life Science's is to double turnover by 2020.

We have the opportunity to combine to combine the academic and industrial expertise in the UK and Scotland, with the aerospace engineering expertise at Prestwick to capture a significant share of the emerging space industry. Securing the UK's first Spaceport here extends the potential still further.

The case for driving economic growth in the aerospace/space and life sciences/industrial biotechnology sectors, is compelling at a national level and that is why we seek Scottish and UK Government support particularly for these sectors in this Deal.

Our economic heritage

Heavy industry such as steel making and coal mining was once the mainstay of the area, along with production-line manufacturing. More recently engineering, food and drink, and aerospace have made a significant contribution together with life and chemical sciences. Manufacturing continues to be a significant element in the Ayrshire economy. This strong manufacturing base together with sectors that provide important local employment, such as tourism, within the local economy are major assets which will form the foundation for growth.

The potential skills of our people

Local educational and vocational opportunities at Ayrshire College and the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), as well as the potential of access to Glasgow's world class Higher Education offer, can enable local people to develop the skills they need to contribute to a growing economy. There is an increasing focus on STEM skills in schools, preparing young people for career opportunities in science, technology, manufacturing and digital.

International connections

Ayrshire is already home to a number of globally recognised organisations such as Magnox, EDF, UPM, GSK, DSM, Sigma Aldrich, Bae Systems, Spirit and Chemring, demonstrating that the area has a great deal to offer as a location for international businesses. International travel and freight options are available via Prestwick and Glasgow airports.

Local connections

Transport connections mean short travel times to Glasgow, making parts of Ayrshire popular commuter territory. A train service provides regular direct services to Glasgow city centre from many of Ayrshire's towns. The existing roads network provides adequate connectivity and the basis for opening up the area further. But more can be done to help businesses and communities access economic opportunities.

Natural assets

A stunning coastline, beautiful countryside, tourist locations (such as Arran and the coast) world renowned sporting opportunities (golf and sailing) and significant history (from the Vikings to Robert Burns and industrial heritage) make Ayrshire a fascinating place to live and to visit.

Taken together our economic heritage, our current sectoral strengths, the global players located here, the skills of our people and our natural assets mean that Ayrshire is well placed to play a vital role in the economic future of both Scotland and the UK in key growing industries. The AGD provides an effective route to address economic underperformance and bring major growth to an area with undisputed potential.

Why is the deal needed?

We believe that Ayrshire can contribute even more. Economic baseline analysis shows that the Ayrshire economy has been underperforming for many years, yet we have the potential to make a major contribution to Scotland's future growth. Ayrshire has particular strengths in the key sectors of life and chemical sciences, aerospace, engineering and potentially the space industry. These are all significant sectors for Scotland and the UK. Both Governments have identified the huge potential that they represent for the economy, and the overall importance of manufacturing for economic growth.

To address underperformance

The current underperformance of the Ayrshire economy is reflected in our GVA figures: the bounce back from the recession that started in 2008 has yet to be achieved; we experience persistently low levels of economic participation; high levels of deprivation with the consequential impact on levels of educational attainment, poor levels of health and high levels of demand for public services and welfare support.

⇒ To identify the barriers to growth...

Our work has already shown that the inhibitors to growth lie in relatively low levels of investment in our businesses, gaps in our infrastructure (both digital and transport), relatively low levels of high skill jobs, and not enough opportunities for our people to access and fully engage in the economy.

⇒ ... and surmount them

Our proposals look at how we can collaboratively reshape our business support interventions and overcome the barriers to growth by:

- Recognising that innovative and internationally focused companies are more likely to have higher levels of productivity
- Improving key elements of strategic transport and digital infrastructure to help businesses get goods to market and people to work(physically and virtually)
- Working with our communities to provide employment and skills support, improving access to employment opportunities and refocusing the way we prepare our future workforce

The Ayrshire context – inclusive growth

Critical to Ayrshire's future prosperity is a virtuous circle of growth: growth in our businesses, leading to growth in employment and growth in prosperity - in turn leading to inclusive growth. In our proposals economic growth and reductions in inequalities work hand in hand. We will only achieve our ambitious vision of the future for Ayrshire if our communities are better connected to the economy and have the opportunity to prosper.

An established approach

Inclusive growth as an objective is not new to the Ayrshire partners. It is the mainstay of our work: whether that be supporting our businesses, improving access to further and higher education, improving our schools, or developing skills and employability initiatives. It is reflected in the work of all of our Community Planning Partnerships and will continue to be major focus throughout Ayrshire.

It is important that the pursuit of inclusive growth is embedded in all that we do. What we have already achieved in relation to inclusive growth provides a solid foundation but more needs to be done and we wish to use the impetus of the AGD to take this forward. All our proposals whether they are business or infrastructure related need to positively impact upon our most disadvantaged communities.

Inclusive growth underpins all our major themes

The principle of inclusive growth runs through every aspect of our proposals for the Ayrshire Growth Deal and our approach to economic development. Our frameworks for business growth focus on innovation and internationalisation and they are for all companies that have growth potential – engineering, tourism, food and drink, and others – our approach is inclusive. Our frameworks also recognise that innovative and internationally focussed businesses require a skilled workforce drawn from all sections of our community; we propose skills pathways and employment support to enable this to happen.

Our infrastructure proposals are designed to ensure that we both maximise business access to markets and maximise opportunities to link some of our most disadvantaged communities to economic opportunity. Whether that is physical road and rail infrastructure or digital infrastructure the objectives remain the same: linking people and businesses to opportunity.

Our ambitions for communities are to build confidence, aspiration and sustainability, and to ensure all of our young people are well prepared for the world of work. We aim to build local employment opportunities and develop clear routes for young people to participate in the industries of the future.

Strong communities are essential for a thriving economy; ultimately our success will be measured on the outcomes of increasing wealth and jobs and reducing deprivation and inequality. We have the opportunity to grow the economy for Ayrshire, Scotland and the UK. If we approach it wisely, we can really improve the lives of Ayrshire people.

Supporting businesses and communities

Working with businesses and communities is at the heart of what the Ayrshire partners already do and the Ayrshire Growth Deal proposals build in this context:

- Communities across Ayrshire have a long history of engagement with the three local authorities around key issues such employment and the local economy.
- Our business support teams work closely with all sectors in the economy from aerospace, engineering, food and drink to hospitality and tourism and will continue to do so.

Our Growth Deal proposals will complement and augment that work, with a renewed focus to support all businesses to become more innovative, productive and outward-looking, by putting in place enhanced businesses services, skills development, infrastructure and the environment to stimulate growth.

We have specific opportunities in manufacturing – aerospace, space, life sciences and engineering – that we have been working hard to develop and showing considerable success.

The **AGD** will build upon the initiatives already in place and ensure Ayrshire is well placed to take the next step in developing these industries further and making a greater contribution to Scotland's growth.

Our work in towns and villages is essential to creating the setting for investment, both creating opportunity and improving the attractiveness of our region. Significant improvements have been made in our major towns, as has been recognised nationally with Kilmarnock and Irvine being the finalists of SURF's 'Scotland's most improved town' awards in 2015.

This work will continue alongside the **AGD** proposals, with further improvements planned for Irvine, Kilmarnock and Ayr and will continue to support Ayrshire's offer to businesses, investors, visitors and residents.

Ayrshire has a successful track record of delivering innovative and successful interventions to grow businesses and communities. We have made very significant progress in this area in recent years and therefore our delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal will not be from a standing start.

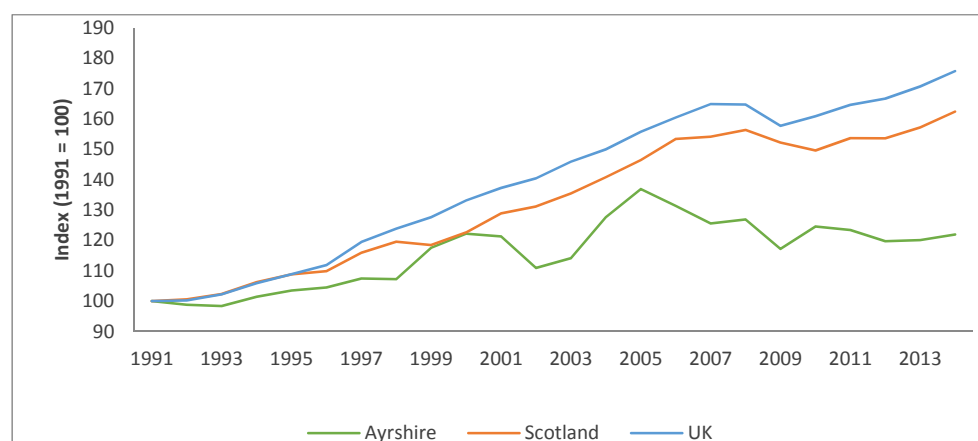
The Ayrshire economy

The Ayrshire Growth proposal has developed from a clear understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges facing the region's economy. This section provides a snapshot of the current economic position and projections that have helped inform that understanding, leading to the agreed vision for the area and themed areas of intervention.

Ayrshire's economic performance

Ayrshire has experienced low levels of economic growth, diverging significantly over the years from both Scotland and the UK. Ayrshire has yet to fully recover from the last recession. GVA in Ayrshire declined by 2% between 2010 and 2015. During the same period GVA grew by 8% in Scotland and in the UK. As a result Ayrshire currently represents a declining share of Scottish GVA see Figure 1. Ayrshire also lags on GVA per capita, which was £15,289 in 2014, compared to £22,645 in Scotland and £23,844 in the UK. Without intervention Ayrshire's GVA is forecast to grow at a slower rate than Scotland and the UK, Oxford Econometrics forecasts are for Ayrshire's growth to be 1.57% pa compared to Scotland (1.95% pa) and the UK (2.36% pa) up to 2030.

Figure 1 Ayrshire's GVA compared Scotland and the UK 1991 - 2014



Employment

Ayrshire employment is concentrated in a few industries: healthcare 20%, wholesale & retail trade 16% and manufacturing 9%. Whilst these sectors are important in terms of local employment, it is manufacture that makes the most significant contribution to the economy in terms of GVA with manufacturing 17%, wholesale & retail trade 15%, health care 12%. For each of these sectors, the share of total Ayrshire GVA is higher than the Scottish share.

In considering the current Ayrshire economy, the sectors which are important for local employment and those which generate greatest GVA are relevant. A significant proportion of economic activity in the region is in sectors that have experienced static growth or net declines since 2000. The distribution of economic activity in Ayrshire is geared more towards sectors which by their nature are less productive, such as retail, hospitality and healthcare.

Primarily as a result of this concentration of employment within traditionally low-value-add industries, Ayrshire has low productivity levels compared to Scotland: GVA per capita was £15,289 in 2014 compared to £22,645 in Scotland. The disparity in GVA levels is forecast to increase, with the Ayrshire economy projected to only grow 1.57% until 2030, compared to 1.95% in Scotland and

2.36% in the rest of the UK. This global GVA projection is also reflected in per capita figures. Table 1 strikingly illustrates this historic GVA gap.

Unemployment, demographics and welfare

Ayrshire has challenges in addressing unemployment levels above the national average since 2000: currently 7% compared to 4% in Scotland. Further, the working population is also declining as young people are seen to migrate to areas with better employment opportunities. In contrast, the 60+ population has increased from 22% to 28% since 2000. The impact of these trends on the working age population in Ayrshire is shown in Figure 2. The combined impact of an aging population and high unemployment is reflected in higher than average welfare spending at £1,512 per head in 2015 compared to £1,282 per head in Scotland. Figure 3 illustrates the break-down of that expenditure, demonstrating some of the areas where support will need to focussed to assist those furthest from the labour market in Ayrshire.

Figure 2 Forecasted migration and working age population Ayrshire

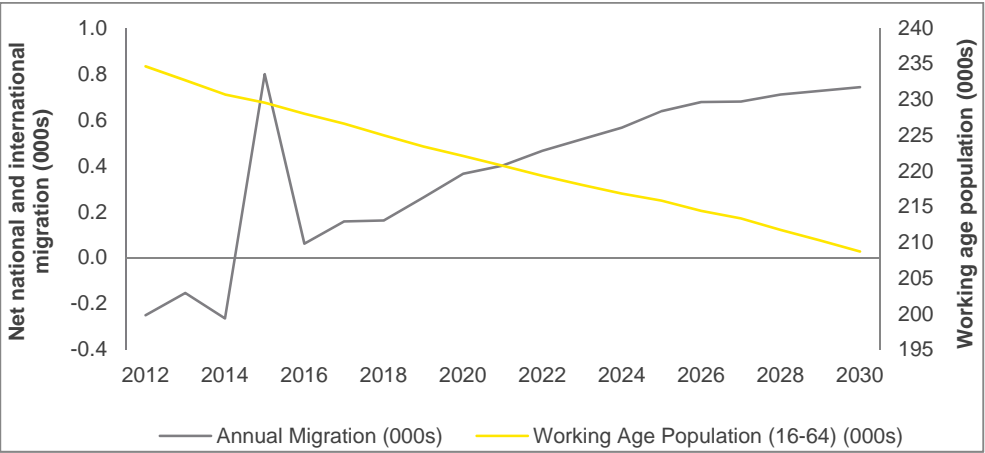
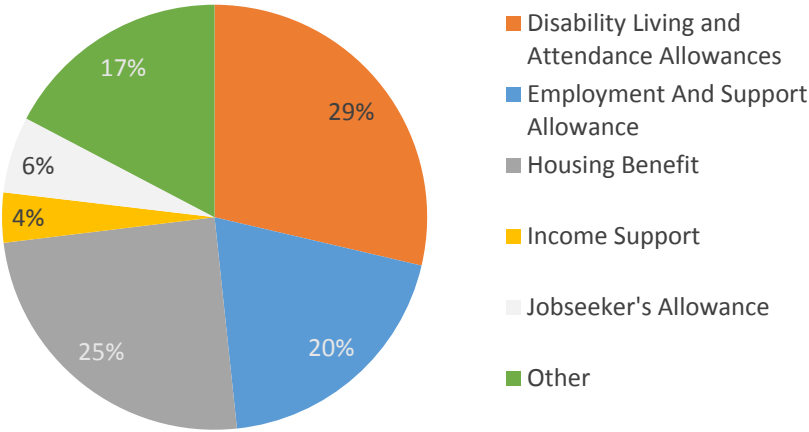


Figure 3 Welfare expenditure by category for Ayrshire



Skills

Skill levels in Ayrshire help us understand some of the employability barriers. For example, the region has lower educational attainment than the Scottish average (35% educated to NVQ4 level and above compared to 41% for Scotland). Although on an upward path the levels of students taking up HE is lower than the Scottish average, but is substantially higher for FE and (36% compared to 24%). This is a reflection of the mix of career opportunities which have been available.

The challenge for the **AGD** is to diversify and grow the economy whilst creating more high value, private sector jobs. Manufacture remains at the heart of the economy, an important contributor to both jobs and GVA but there are some skills gaps in skilled and lesser skilled occupations.

There is significant effort by all parties to supply skills to match the demand that exists. Modern Apprenticeship achievements continue to be good and there is an increasing number of students at Ayrshire College, and a growing number of graduates. There is a good record in connecting school leavers with employers and more FE and HE opportunities but more needs to be done to retain graduates in the area.

In addressing both the skills and employability issues, we are considering a number of interventions that seek to maximise the opportunities currently available, strategically linking individual and business success.

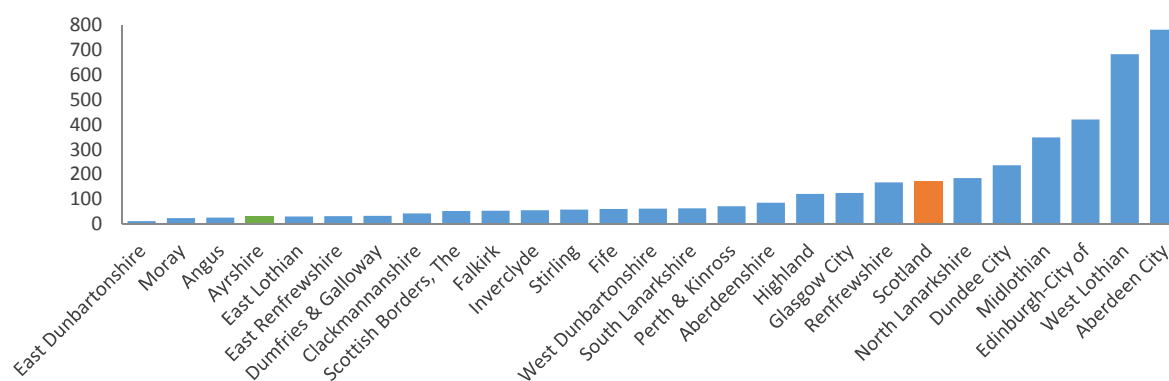
Role of manufacturing

Whilst manufacturing's share of GVA has fallen by 5% since 2000 it still represents 17% of the economy in terms of GVA. Ayrshire demonstrates relative strengths in higher value-add sub-sectors within this sector such as Aerospace, Life Sciences and Engineering. A strong manufacturing presence provides Ayrshire with opportunity to build on its strengths and develop a competitive high-value add industry.

In addition manufacturing accounts for a significant proportion of Ayrshire's non-EU exports as well as FDI into the region, and represents an opportunity for economic growth in the region.

A challenge, however is to address the relatively low levels of innovation in the sector and in Ayrshire as a whole; business expenditure on R&D spend is low per capita compared to the rest of Scotland as Table 4 illustrates.

Figure 4 Business expenditure on R and D investment 2014 Ayrshire comparison with the rest of Scotland



Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign Direct Investment is a route for Ayrshire to capitalise on its particular strengths. Between 2000 and 2014 Ayrshire attracted 6% of Scottish FDI projects, roughly equating to its share of Scotland's overall GVA. Ayrshire has increased the number of projects each year over this period, indicating an improvement in international appeal in the region reflecting the work of local authorities and national agencies.

Between 2000 and 2014 over half of foreign investment projects came from manufacturing industry (28 of 47). This is consistent with the rest of the UK, where manufacturing continues to play an important role in FDI.

Increased foreign investment encourages other business activity, if the conditions are right. There is also a tendency for industries to cluster together. Ayrshire needs to review what is making it an attractive investment location, its target markets and proposition to business.

- Transport and digital infrastructure has been identified as key drivers for international investment. Investment in both can also be an enabler to higher productivity and economic growth. Ayrshire's diverse infrastructure provides the Region with economic opportunity offering diverse routes to markets and supply chains.
- Ayrshire is relatively well connected to the rest of Scotland and internationally and investment into transport infrastructure has improved links through both road and air travel in recent years but much more needs to be done.
- Its proximity to Glasgow provides the region with opportunity to collaborate with the City and it should draw on where the two regional economies can complement each other. For example relatively low house prices (£101,400 in Ayrshire compared to £178,112 across Scotland), a low cost base for industry and good transport links.
- Digital infrastructure lags behind the national average, with broadband speeds 8.2Mbit/s slower than larger parts of Scotland and the UK.

Regional attractiveness

Ayrshire has a number of attractive features to promote its quality of life appeal and build on its tourism potential. The natural beauty of the Ayrshire countryside and coast line and the development of its marinas and ports can attract tourists, business and potential new residents.

Despite this there has been a decline in the number of overseas visits and a decline in average spend per visit; however with Glasgow acting as a gateway for national and international visitors alike there is an opportunity to address this. Whilst tourism only contributes to a small amount of regional GVA, it does support economic activity in other sectors of the economy by adding to Ayrshire's attractiveness to business investment and as a provider of entry level employment to the labour market.

Conclusion

The regional economic baseline and projection has been prepared and the above only highlights key data and findings. Over the next stages of development of the AGD, testing the links of data with on-the-ground knowledge will ensure our interventions are well designed to address the challenges and opportunities of the Ayrshire economy. In addressing the barriers however, Inclusive Growth has been identified as a fundamental principle for the Ayrshire proposal; supporting all of Ayrshire's communities to benefit from the region's economic well-being. Our Region's economic performance clearly

demonstrates a credible case for a step change in approach. We are seeking a deal with government to enable the Region to unlock its economic potential.

Vision and Objectives

Our vision and aims for the **AGD** express our commitment to transforming Ayrshire from an underperforming area to a region that is making a bold and innovative contribution to Scotland's economy.

Ayrshire can lead the way as the engine room for Scotland's manufacturing industry, contributing to a circular economy by finding innovative, sustainable ways to grow.

Ayrshire can lead the way as the engine room for key sectors of Scotland's manufacturing industry. Our manufacturing heritage, our current sectoral strengths, the global players located here, and the skills of our people, mean that Ayrshire is well placed to play a vital role in the economic future of both Scotland and the UK in these growing industries.

Ayrshire's manufacturing strengths

Our ambition for Ayrshire is to build on our manufacturing strengths particularly in the key sectors of life sciences, engineering, aerospace and space. Manufacturing can lead the way for Ayrshire's economy to become more productive, innovative, international and inclusive providing a range of employment opportunities directly and through its linkages and supply chain.

The Scottish Government's Manufacturing Action Plan (MAP) is an opportunity for Ayrshire to support Scotland, and the UK's, ambitions to rebalance the economy. Ayrshire can play a key role in the delivery of the MAP with the potential to be the test bed for key technologies and business support.

Wider impact of our proposals

All sectors in the Ayrshire economy have a role to play, and are often mutually supportive, and therefore many of the interventions we propose will build on the current successes of the existing global, national and regional businesses. In an interlinked global economy, Ayrshire businesses need to become more innovative and outward facing to remain competitive and enhance the productivity of the region.

Digital infrastructure and skills

Our proposals for digital infrastructure and skills are critical to address Ayrshire's productivity gap, provide the infrastructure and labour force required for indigenous and inward investing companies alike, and present opportunities for all of our communities to participate in our economy through enhanced access to employment, education and services.

The digital economy is key to economic growth and competitiveness in every sector in the UK, Scotland and Ayrshire. Making the most of the opportunities offered by the digital economy will be a significant source of productivity gains, for the Ayrshire economy. To make the most of the opportunity afforded by the emerging digital economy Ayrshire must become a region of world class digital infrastructure, where businesses can work more innovatively to embrace digital technology to

improve performance, and where our people have the skills to fully utilise technology to increase productivity.

Our Vision

We have a **regional economic vision for Ayrshire** that focuses on unlocking local potential for the benefit of the Scottish and UK economies:

Our vision is for Ayrshire, its businesses and communities, to be a vibrant, outward looking, confident region, attractive to investors and visitors, making a major contribution to Scotland's growth and well-being, and leading the implementation of digital technologies and the next generation of manufacturing.

To achieve this Ayrshire will become more outward looking and confident, playing a greater role in the regional, Scottish and UK economies. Ayrshire will be recognised for leading the successful implementation of key technologies in manufacturing sectors that are important to Scotland. Ayrshire will be recognised for its world class infrastructure and the quality of life it can provide. Our ambition is to see this happen through targeted investment, greater collaboration with the public sector stakeholders and partnership with the private sector.

The **AGD** represents a route to achieving this vision. To create a growing, innovative, smart, more productive and inclusive economy by developing Ayrshire's core strengths and by ensuring our communities benefit from economic growth.

To deliver our aims we have identified three interconnected themes: **Frameworks for growth** – Innovation and Internationalisation, **Connections for growth** – Digital connections and routes to markets and employment, and **Connecting communities to growth** – Communities first and Skills Pathways.

These themes are explored further in the following chapter which sets out initiatives we wish to develop and early stage project areas that we want to explore with Governments and their agencies.

Innovation, Internationalisation, Investment and Inclusive Growth

The **AGD** partners recognise that for Ayrshire to be successful and to build on its current strengths we must reduce the disparities across our communities and make full use of the assets we have. This is why partners have agreed that inclusive growth should be a key cross-cutting priority of the **AGD** and will underlie the three themes outlined above. Tackling inequality will ensure that the region is competitive in the global market.

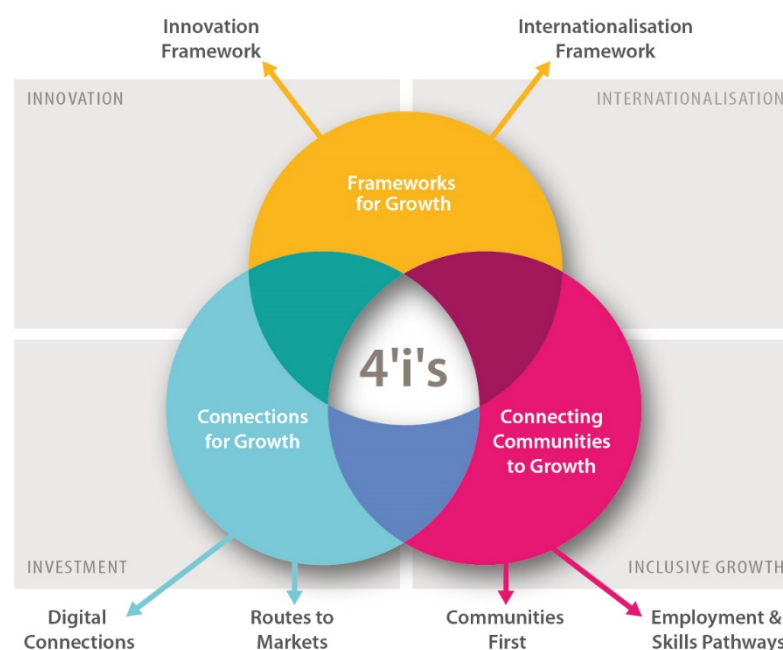
AGD partners are committed to the four priorities the Scottish Government has identified for economic growth at a national level, namely Investment, Innovation, Inclusive Growth and Internationalisation, and will work collectively to fully realise these at a regional level, see table 5.

We will do this by:

- Working with Government and its agencies to invest in Ayrshire's people who are our greatest asset and to invest further in physical and digital infrastructure to enable growth

- Ensuring our business base becomes more innovative, both in terms of investing in research and development and in embracing new ways of working through upskilling our workforces
- Creating more resilient communities throughout the region that are better empowered to take advantage of economic opportunities
- Establishing a more outward looking mindset among Ayrshire's businesses and collectively promoting our assets internationally.

Figure 5 The **AGD** themes and their fit with the Scottish Government's economic strategy



Our Partnership

The three Ayrshire authorities have been working together through the Ayrshire Economic Partnership to develop the vision, aim and themes for the Ayrshire Growth Deal. Our partners come from both the public and private sectors and represent the key stakeholders in Ayrshire: we have fused the local knowledge of Ayrshire College, the UWS and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce together with the national expertise of SE, SDS, SFT and SCDI. Working groups have collaborated to assess the inhibitors to economic growth and participation, and to identify the specific interventions that will unlock Ayrshire's potential and lead to economic growth.

Engagement with our businesses and community partners is critical to ensure the long term success of the **AGD**. In preparing this prospectus we have consulted across the public, private and social economy of Ayrshire, including our communities. We have facilitated tailored business engagement events to raise awareness of the **AGD** amongst the business community and, more importantly, to gather feedback on key themes from local, national and global businesses operating in the region who, ultimately, will provide the jobs and enable the region to prosper growth. Further business engagement events will ensure continual feedback and

meaningful engagement with the private sector as the AGD develops and progresses. In addition, we have engaged with local communities, recognising that they will provide the workforce to ensure the success of the AGD and will be impacted by the measures to generate growth.

Proposed themes and potential interventions

a) Frameworks for Growth – Innovation and Internationalisation

Innovation and internationalisation are key drivers for business growth. Our proposed interventions focus on local strengths and national priority sectors in order to maximise the economic benefit. This theme focuses on:

- Improving Ayrshire's productivity by creating a more innovative and outward facing business base reshaping local business support programmes.
- Encouraging research and development, entrepreneurship, and skills development (including upskilling our current workforce).
- Enhancing our key business locations with improved infrastructure including ultrafast broadband to attract new investment into the region and to give global reach to Ayrshire businesses.
- Engaging in sector initiatives to enhance our strengths in Life Sciences, Aerospace and Space.

Innovation Framework

Our approach to innovation encompasses enhanced business support services, key sector initiatives, business infrastructure, skills and proposed policy changes. Our objective is to create a scenario where innovation is valued and the economic benefits are fully realised.

Our proposal is to provide **enhanced business support services** to businesses in all sectors throughout Ayrshire, building on the lessons of the successful **Innovation Pilot Scheme** delivered in North Ayrshire and SMAS's **Lean Academy** programme. This would link to the creation of **innovation space** for the introduction, or scaling up, of new products and services. Improved access to training and skills will come through joint working with the Ayrshire College and UWS.

Advanced Manufacturing Hub would provide 'end to end' support for the full range of manufacturing sectors in Ayrshire focusing on both innovation and international concepts. A physical hub would provide facilities to develop R&D, commercialization, skills, and the prototyping and testing of new products and services that could help drive Advanced Manufacturing in Ayrshire.

Providing **high quality business space** is the key to unlocking the potential in all these sectors. Typically however, the value of a newly built property is approximately 30% of build cost, notwithstanding there being evidence of demand (i3 has let or has under offer 300k sq. ft. since March 2012). Securing private sector investment for commercial build is therefore not viable currently. It is proposed that through the AGD the public sector directly provides high quality business space, until the market readjusts, at key strategic locations such as Prestwick, Irvine i3, Moorfield Park and Diageo Kilmarnock.

Skills provision is an essential part of the AGD proposals. Working with Skills Development Scotland, Ayrshire College and UWS we are proposing a range of step change projects across the sectors. Our proposal for **engineering skills** illustrates our integrated approach:

- Further development of the **Composites Materials Facility at Ayrshire College**

- An industry based **Engineering Skills Academy for High Level Training and Development** in instrumentation and control, automation and robotics, advanced machining, and composite materials and testing.
- A **skills enterprise area**, which would offer incentives to encourage companies to invest in their staff.

Ayrshire is home to two **enterprise areas** at **Irvine i3** and **Prestwick Aerospace Park** however alongside our proposals for skills we would like to open the dialogue with both the Scottish and UK Governments to explore options for expansion of the EA status and to adjust the mix of incentives.

Internationalisation Framework

The twin objectives for the Internationalisation Framework are to increase **exports** from Ayrshire's businesses and to increase our ability to attract mobile **inward investment**. The framework recognises the key strengths of Ayrshire and ties into a number of the core initiatives, recognising the economic importance of the Prestwick Spaceport Bid, the aerospace sector and the Irvine Enterprise Area focus on life sciences.

A virtual **Export Hub** would provide support for companies to help identify new opportunities for international growth and, more importantly, develop the skills and confidence to take this forward.

Ayrshire has many strengths for exporting providing an attractive proposition to domestic firms and potential inward investors with our ports, airport and rail freight infrastructure. This offers the opportunity to brand the region with a proposal being: "Ayrshire – Scotland's Export Portal". A virtual Export Hub would bring together intelligence from Local Authorities, SDI and the Ayrshire Chamber, together with a team of dedicated export advisors with specialist sector knowledge. This support would pro-actively identify companies with export potential and work with them to develop their international strategy.

For **inward investment** there are four key factors influencing decision-making: business infrastructure, skills, costs and incentives, and proximity to clients and supply chain. We aim to address them all. Improving business infrastructure at our strategic locations, and comprehensive skills pathways, are critical to improving Ayrshire's **Inward Investment** offer. We will explore the establishment of an **Invest in Ayrshire** service to lead the development and promotion of Ayrshire's proposition and to ensure a 'one stop shop' to work with SDI, and other partners, and to manage enquiries from potential investors. Linked to this would be the development of a comprehensive **Inward Investment Aftercare Service** to help secure further investment and establish links to local supply chains.

There are specific sectors where Ayrshire can enhance Scotland's International profile and attractiveness. With the current national reviews of aerospace, defence and marine strategies Ayrshire will be contribute to securing international investment particularly around Space, Aerospace and Life Sciences.

Life Science and Industrial Biotech

The Scottish Government has set a target of doubling turnover in the life sciences sector from £3bn in 2005 to £6bn in 2020. Scotland has world renowned research capabilities in its universities yet needs to do more to translate that research into manufacture.

The provision of testing and scale up facilities is a critical step in the growth of manufacturing. Irvine is home to i3, Scotland's largest Life Science Enterprise Area and has the land and infrastructure to facilitate this. With GSK, Sigma Aldrich, DSM, Bioforce and a host of supply chain and support

companies Ayrshire is an ideal location for life science manufacture. Irvine is being considered as a location for a **Medical Manufacturing Innovation Centre** which would provide a focus and impetus to build on the strengths we have in the sector.

Aerospace and Space

The development of **Glasgow Prestwick Airport** for business and international visitors as well as freight services gives Ayrshire an opportunity to provide an access point to new markets alongside the proposals in the Connections to Growth theme below. Ayrshire has 50% of Scotland's **Aerospace** employment and a cluster of global companies. Scotland is seeking to grow turnover in this sector from £1.6bn to £4.5bn by 2030. Our ambition is to grow this sector through improvements to infrastructure, skills provision and the establishment of a **Composite Centre of Excellence**.

Prestwick has a unique combination of attributes that make it a strong contender to be awarded the UK's first **Spaceport** license. This would be a 'game changer' for Ayrshire. It is estimated that the UK space sector could grow to xx bn by 2030 and Scotland's share of that could be £4bn, almost a tenfold increase from its current £0.45bn.

b) Connections to Growth

This theme proposes interventions to connect businesses to markets, to make Ayrshire more accessible to investors and visitors, and to connect our communities to employment and training opportunities. Our proposals cover both digital connectivity and physical infrastructure. Infrastructure is an enabler for growth and plays a key role in enhancing productivity. We are intent on bringing Ayrshire's people closer to the economy and Ayrshire's businesses closer to national and international markets.

Digital connections

The digital economy is key to economic growth and global competitiveness. Sectors as diverse as aerospace and tourism will benefit from improvements to productivity, performance and profitability. Making the most of the opportunities offered by the digital economy will lead to productivity gains, innovation and competitiveness. Investment in digital technology increases productivity by three to eight times more than other capital investment. With innovation and internationalisation as critical themes for the AGD, digital connectivity, deployment and skills are all essential to support our growth ambitions.

However there are barriers that must be overcome to ensure the economy takes full advantage of digital technology: many business leaders do not fully appreciate the strategic potential of digital technologies and have concerns about costly mistakes and cyber security; there are gaps in local infrastructure and even where it is robust not all firms are using it to increase sales or productivity; and businesses are suffering from relevant skills deficiencies at all levels. Increasingly digital skills are key to employability across the full range of skill levels and sectors.

Our digital ambition

Our ambition is to become the best in Scotland for digital infrastructure, coverage, business deployment, and skills. We aim to lead the implementation of the Scottish Government's World Class Scotland ambitions. We will expect to go beyond these targets in key locations to help make Ayrshire globally attractive for business location and investment.

Connecting businesses to digital

There is a need to ‘win hearts and minds’ amongst some of our businesses about the importance of digital to their business future. A **Digital link programme** should be offered as a component of the Innovation Framework, building on the initiatives that Scottish Enterprise undertakes with business. Digital skills are essential to greater deployment and business survival. A **digital skills framework** for Ayrshire will be developed with the AC, UWS, and ADS to increase provision on ICT training and to provide bespoke solutions and interventions.

Connecting communities to digital

We want to connect communities more effectively to the labour market, to increase economic activity and contribute to growth. Employability programmes and enhanced transport infrastructure and services are the traditional routes. We believe these routes should be complemented by digital infrastructure and skills.

Low connection speeds in many areas can make working or running a business unviable. 60% of new businesses start in the home – poor infrastructure acts as a drag on business start-up in our more remote communities.

We wish to explore the **Piloting alternative technologies** to improve digital access to remote communities and premises, and where enhanced transport, or other infrastructure is being delivered we aim to introduce **Digital Community Benefit clauses** with a requirement to deliver ducting for broadband.

Routes to markets and employment

Our approach to transport improvements is based around corridor routes. We have the twin objectives of improving access to markets for business and connecting some of our most deprived communities to economic and educational opportunities. In addition to roads and rail, Ayrshire has ports and an airport - key infrastructure to connect nationally and internationally.

West – East Corridor - This corridor is the opportunity to improve connections to the rest of the UK through improved services on the **Kilmarnock to Carlisle rail line** and by upgrades to the A70 linking to the M74. Currently the Kilmarnock to Carlisle rail line offers a poor service making it impractical to use as either a commuting or a reliable business service. The line passes through former coal mining communities, electrification, improving service frequency and rolling stock and potentially opening new stations would improve access to employment opportunities.

The south of the County has poor links to the M74 with road users travelling north to Glasgow to join the motorway. The proposal is to look at **upgrading the A70** to reduce journey times to the M74 and to propose adoption as a trunk route. This route passes through former Ayrshire coalfields improving accessibility to some of our most disadvantaged communities. As a first step we would work with Transport Scotland to develop a STAG appraisal to review options.

North – South Corridor - This Corridor looks at two critical routes from Ayrshire to Glasgow to the north and to Stranraer and onto Ireland and to improve access to Prestwick Airport. The **Bellfield Interchange** (A77, A71 and A76) is a significant bottleneck. We wish to work with Transport Scotland to design and review options for the improvement of the junction and to identify development opportunities alongside any realigned route.

For the north of the county the **A737** is the key link to Glasgow. Improvements are already programmed and are at tender stage for the Dalry bypass. This is the first stage of a series of upgrades that the AGD wish to take forward including to the Beith bypass junction, the B714 Dalry to

the A78 link, and Dalry to Howwood. These upgrades will substantially reduce journey times to Glasgow linking to the M8 and Glasgow International Airport. They will improve transport links to the Garnock Valley which has longstanding economic issues since the closure of the Glengarnock steelworks in the 1980s.

Coastal Corridor - Ayrshire's coast is a key asset for the attraction for tourists, business opportunities, trade and a vital link for access to the islands and Argyle. Since the introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff Ardrossan has become Scotland's busiest passenger port with an estimated £1m journeys a year. Recently Derek Mackay MSP Minister for Transport has established a Task force to address the harbour infrastructure weaknesses and development opportunities at **Ardrossan Harbour**. Our proposals are to work with Peel Ports to upgrade harbour infrastructure to accommodate increased sailings and include the commercial, leisure and residential development at Ardrossan North Shore supporting the physical regeneration of the town.

Ayrshire's harbours and ports provide superb opportunities to develop a cluster of marine activities, tourism and business, linked to marina infrastructure with potential expansion at Largs, Ardrossan, Brodick, Irvine, Troon and Ayr. We also wish to explore opportunities at Hunsterston linked to the deep water and rail freight facilities.

c) Connecting Communities to Growth

This theme places communities at the heart of our ambition to ensure that everyone benefits from economic growth. It recognises the vital importance of strong sustainable communities to Ayrshire's future. There are a number of initiatives that we wish to explore, examples are shown below. We will create confident, resilient and sustainable communities that can participate and contribute to a growing Ayrshire economy.

We propose initiatives to support innovation and employment opportunities in our towns and villages, and programmes to ensure our communities have the skills to participate in the increased job opportunities that a growing economy will bring. We also wish to explore the role of our schools in providing the first steps towards ensuring are young people are prepared to fully participate in the economy.

Communities First

We propose a holistic approach to tackle some of Scotland's most deep-rooted areas of deprivation and provide routes out of poverty through accessible job opportunities, social enterprises and business start-ups. We propose the **CoHubs**, 'Communities Working Together', initiative to offer a co-ordinated approach, delivering a step change in how we reduce inequality in access to employment.

CoHub would be a partnership between the public, private and community/voluntary sectors to create an enterprise culture within communities, providing local people with opportunities to:

- consider self-employment as a career path
- benefit from current job opportunities
- create new employment in the local area to aid economic sustainability.

Across Ayrshire a 'hub and spoke' model is proposed to deliver community outreach activities to work with excluded groups and provide **CoHub Community Incubator** space, offering services such

as: learning and training, pathways to employment or self-employment, volunteering, co-working space, and entrepreneurial assistance.

The incubator will be the hub for activities, working with the Third Sector, and an **Ayrshire CoHub Support Unit** to provide services. A **CoHub Academy** will include a digital media platform with learning packages to support community capacity building, community leadership skills, digital skills and social enterprise development. Support will be available to community leaders and organisations to help take advantage of the opportunities presented by community asset transfer.

Employment Skills Pathways

We propose comprehensive employment support for those entering employment, to help sustain work and to encourage 'fair work'.

The **Ayrshire Fair Work** project would target long-term unemployed and low-paid individuals to promote inclusive growth. It will support businesses to embrace fairness, equality, opportunity and innovation and deliver fair work in Ayrshire and link to our initiatives on innovation, productivity and internationalisation. The Fair Work programme will include:

- A **co-ordinated recruitment service** to help employers within care, retail, hospitality and tourism who face the challenge of recruitment and retention.
- **In-work and employer support** will help low paid workers to gain qualifications to support promotion and increased hours.
- Employers would be supported to meet the **Scottish Business Pledge**, improving pay and conditions.

An **Integrated aftercare and employee retention service** would be developed providing 1-2-1 support, action planning, counselling, money advice, skills development and accredited learning as well as HR support and advice for employers.

A health intervention programme, **Overcoming barriers to Work**, would support people with health problems to deal with these issues and return to work. This would be a collaborative process which engages clients and organisations looking at all aspects of their health and wellbeing, encouraging individuals and organisations to choose healthy work and life options. The collaborative programme could include counselling, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, condition management and cognitive behavioural therapy or other specialist treatments.

Investing in education

Preparing young people for the world of work is critical to securing long term sustainable growth. Ayrshire is making a substantial investment in new schools, seeking to raise educational standards and positive outcomes for pupils. Our proposals include:

Taking the lead with Digital skills. This could mean enhancing the investment in infrastructure (building on our Digital Connections programme), equipment and teaching resources that is already proposed. A specific opportunity to support this ambition would be for Ayrshire to be considered as a potential pilot area for Skills Development Scotland's proposed **Digital Schools Initiative**.

We wish to explore taking this initiative further to create a network of **Ayrshire Digital or Science Academies** where our new school programmes can provide centres of expertise in Digital and STEM

activities and to use the connectivity we propose to make that expertise and opportunities available to all schools in Ayrshire.

Across Ayrshire all three local authorities are proposing substantial investments across the schools estate, for example at **Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus, Ayr Academy** and **Ardrossan Academy**.

East Ayrshire's proposed £63m investment in the **Knockroon Learning and Enterprise Campus** is an example of how we wish to explore directly linking this investment to the ambitions and opportunities afforded by the AGD. There are ambitions to work in partnership with Ayrshire College and UWS and provide workspace. This project could be developed further to expand digital and STEM resource, infrastructure and facilities. The site is adjacent to the Knockroon mixed use development (supported by the Prince's Trust), alongside Kilmarnock to Carlisle rail line, and the **Morphy Richards STEM Centre at Dumfries House**.

Education links to business

Alongside these initiatives we wish to increase **Employer engagement with education**, building on current government investment in employer engagement through the **Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire** regional group by securing sustained and growing links between schools/college/university and employers in the region. We propose to go beyond the current ambition of having one employer partnership with every primary and secondary school in Ayrshire.

Governance and delivery structure

In order to ensure the delivery of a Regional Growth Deal, the three Ayrshire local authorities are committed to establishing a strong, open, transparent and accountable governance structure that strengthens the existing partnership arrangements across the region.

A robust governance framework is already in place between the partners for this proposal phase and the Ayrshire Region partners will continue to develop a full Governance and Delivery framework that will oversee the long term delivery of the Deal.

A fundamental component of the Governance and Delivery framework will be collaborative working with co-investment partners from the University and College sector and government agencies. Strong links to the private sector will demonstrate our commitment to the vision and objectives of this deal.

The partners will also draw on the range of best practice and lessons learned from local authority colleagues across the UK and Scotland who have already been awarded a City Deal or City Region Deal.

During the proposal phase we will work to agree the governance arrangements including complementary arrangements with the UK Government and Scottish Government that facilitate joint working and provide a suitable mechanism to ensure all parties are meeting their commitments as part of the Deal.

Our initial ask of Government(s)

We believe that our Prospectus presents a compelling case for investment in Ayrshire to stimulate growth and inclusive growth. We have set out our ambitions and the opportunities we wish to work with Governments to deliver.

We ask for a commitment from Government to working with the three Ayrshire Authorities and our partners to secure an Ayrshire Growth Deal, and the commitment to working jointly to develop the AGD exploring the ideas outlined in the Prospectus.

We have made a substantial financial, and resource, commitment to develop the bid and we will continue to do so. To support us in these next stages we ask Government to consider making a financial contribution to the next stages of project development.

In particular financial support for the STAG appraisal of the upgrade of the A70 and the technical appraisal of the options to address issues at the A77 Bellfield interchange would assist us greatly.

Digital connectivity and skills are critical elements to our proposals and we would welcome Government support to develop these initiatives through continuing to work with the Scottish Futures Trust.

Given our emphasis and the importance of manufacturing to Ayrshire we were greatly encouraged by the First Minister's recent announcement of the Scottish Government's proposed Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing and ask that Ayrshire be actively considered to host this facility.

We are keen to make early progress on the aspirations contained in this Prospectus to that end we would welcome the opportunity for Ayrshire to be considered as a potential pilot area for Skills Development Scotland's 'Digital Schools initiative'.

The Kilmarnock to Carlisle rail link is extremely important to us and we have concerns that the current Network Rail Route Study consultation suggests this might be downgraded rather than upgraded. We would like to ask for Government support for this route to have commuter status to allow us to develop the case for service improvements and to enable direct access to the English "Northern Powerhouse".

By working closely with governments on the agenda set out in the Ayrshire Growth Deal we believe that we can realise our full potential, creating jobs and prosperity for all of our communities.

Our Commitment

The three Ayrshire local authorities are united in a determination to develop and deliver the Ayrshire Growth Deal. To be successful we recognise that we must improve collaboration, building on both the similarities and unique strengths across our authorities. We will work together to enhance the opportunities for our businesses and communities to build an inclusive, resilient and confident Ayrshire economy. We are committed and determined to work together across the Region and with Scottish and UK Governments to achieve these goals.

- ⇒ We commit to working together, to exploring new forms of collaboration with national agencies and the private sector. This will include governance arrangements for the AGD with key roles for the private sector and stakeholders.
- ⇒ We will look at our capital and revenue programmes to identify how we can make investment alongside Government to unlock the potential of the Ayrshire economy. We will identify new ways of working that will drive efficiencies, focussed on the needs of the economy. We will aim to make Ayrshire the most open and accessible environment for business investment in Scotland.
- ⇒ We will review our existing capital programmes to link these explicitly to support the aims and ambitions of the AGD.

The AGD provides a once in a generation opportunity to work collaboratively to improve the performance of the regional economy and our commitment to Government is to work in partnership to deliver a step change in the Ayrshire economy and to realise our vision of a growing, inclusive economy that makes a positive and significant contribution to Scotland's future economic prosperity and wellbeing.

Our commitment to Government is to work in partnership to deliver a growing, inclusive economy that makes a positive and significant contribution to Scotland's future.

Our proposed timetable

Following our submission of our Prospectus we will continue to work with our partners and engage in the preparation of a Strategic Business Case for the Ayrshire Growth Deal which we propose to submit to Governments in May 2016.

Our dialogue with Governments their Departments and Agencies will continue in the preparation of the Strategic Business Case and as we work through project proposals over the coming months.

We intend to prepare outline business cases by late summer followed by detailed businesses cases by the autumn to allow full and detailed discussions with Governments.

Our target for implementing the first projects within the Ayrshire Growth Deal is spring 2017.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 8

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Procurement EU Tender Plan - 2016/17 and 2017/18**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the EU procurement tender plan for the remainder of Financial Year 2016/17 and requirements identified for 2017/18.

Recommendation: That the Cabinet agrees to invite tenders for the supplies, services and works listed in the plan at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts that all tender requirements over the EU procurement threshold receive approval from Cabinet prior to being advertised.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report covers the known tenders required for the remainder of financial year 2016/17 and for financial year 2017/18.
- 2.2 Approval is required for the tenders listed in the Appendix to the report. Of the 9 requirements, 2 are for works, 1 for supplies and 6 for services. The total value of these contracts is estimated at £18.55M.

3. Proposals

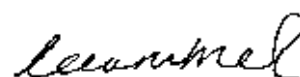
- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to approve inviting tenders for the supplies, services and works listed at Appendix 1 to the report.

4. Implications

Financial:	All future requirements will be budgeted for through General Services Revenue, General Services Capital and the Housing Revenue Account. This is annotated on the appendix. Budgets will be verified prior to the commencement of the tendering activity.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	Legal implications
Equality:	None
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	Effective procurement practices supports the Council Plan.
Community Benefits:	Community Benefits will be sought during the tender process in accordance with the Council's Community Benefits in Procurement Policy.

5. Consultation

5.1 All Services have been consulted on their future requirements.



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : CPU/AML

For further information please contact Anne Lyndon, Corporate Procurement Manager on 01294 324097

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Corporate Procurement EU tender plan - Mar 16

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT EU TENDER PROGRAMME TO SEPTEMBER 2016 and 2016-17

Contract	Service	Type of Contract	Type of Expenditure	Estimated Value	Current Contract Expiry Date	New Contract Start Date	Contract Expiry Date (incl extensions)	Comments
Framework Agreement for Civil & Structural Consultancy Services	Physical Environment	Services	Revenue	£170,000	21/08/2016	22/08/2016	21/08/2017*	* Option to extend for 1 year may be exercised
MTC Sprinkler Servicing, Inspection & Testing	Physical Environment	Services	Revenue	£275,000	n/a	01/04/2017	31/03/2022	
Supply, Installation & Maintenance of a Corporate Vehicle Tracking Solution	Physical Environment	Supply	Revenue	£640,000	31/03/2017	01/04/2017	31/03/2022	
Framework Agreement for Insulated Over Cladding	Housing Services	Works	Capital	£11,500,000	31/07/2016	01/08/2016	31/07/2017*	* Option to extend for 1 year may be exercised
Framework Agreement for Provision of Surveying Services	Physical Environment	Services	Revenue	£1,000,000	30/09/2016	01/10/2016	30/09/2017*	* Option to extend for 1 year may be exercised
New Build Sheltered Housing Accommodation - former Glencairn House site	Housing Services	Works	Capital	£4,000,000	n/a	TBC	TBC	
Removal and Disposal of Leachate from Shewalton Area 2 Landfill Site	Place - Commercial Services	Services	Revenue	£392,000	N/A	04/07/2016	03/07/2020	This is a retender of an existing contract which was due to operate until end September, however service provider defaulted and withdrew from contract. Quick quote in place until new contract can be awarded.
Provision of Tenants Home Contents Insurance	Housing	Services	HRA	£391,867	30/09/2016	01/10/2016	30/09/2021	* Option to extend for 1 year may be exercised
Provision of First Aid Training to North, South & East Ayrshire Council's	HR	Services	Revenue	£180,000	31/03/2017	01/04/2017	31/03/2021	
TOTAL				£18,548,867.00				

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 9

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title: **Community Payback Order Annual Report**

Purpose: To present to Cabinet the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2014/15 which provides information about the work undertaken in the last year through Community Payback Orders with a particular focus on Unpaid Work Requirements.

Recommendation: That Cabinet approve the Community Payback Order Annual Report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Chief Social Work Officer is required to submit an annual report on the operation of Community Payback Orders to Scottish Ministers. The Community Payback Order (CPO) is designed to provide a viable alternative to custody and ensure that offenders pay back to society and their communities. Unpaid Work is a key sentencing option which facilitates reparation and reintegration of offenders into their communities. The CPO Annual Report focuses on Unpaid Work and the range of projects that it undertakes. North Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Services supervise and manage CPOs in an efficient and effective way and facilitate positive outcomes for service users.

2. Background

- 2.1 Legislation imposes a duty on the Chief Social Work Officer to submit an annual report on the operation of Community Payback Orders to Scottish Ministers. Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced in 2011 to replace Community Service, Probation and Supervised Attendance Orders for all offences committed from February 2011 onwards. This is now the fourth annual report submitted by North Ayrshire.

- 2.2 It is the Scottish Government's policy to promote community sentencing and build public and judicial confidence in this. The Community Payback Order (CPO) is designed to provide a viable alternative to custody and ensure that offenders payback to society and their communities. This is done in two ways. Firstly, by requiring an offender to make reparation, often in the form of an Unpaid Work Requirement, and secondly, by requiring them to address and change their offending behaviours, thereby improving the safety of local communities and providing opportunities for their reintegration as law abiding citizens.
- 2.3 The Unpaid Work Requirement is a key sentencing option which facilitates reparation and reintegration and, as with previous annual reports, the 2014/15 report has a particular focus on this.

Current Position

- 2.4 A total of 621 Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were imposed in 2014/2015, 492 of which had Unpaid Work Requirements. The total number of hours imposed was 63,769.
- 2.5 A range of unpaid work has been undertaken in 2014/2015 that benefits the community of North Ayrshire. The attached CPO Annual Report shows some of the work and includes feedback from recipients of the service and service users.
- 2.6 CPOs have been in operation since February 2011 and there are tighter timescales for the commencement and completion of Unpaid Work Requirements than was previously the case for Community Service Orders. As indicated above, North Ayrshire's performance has been relatively good.
- 2.7 In the last year, 88% of Level 1 Requirements were completed within three months and 82% of Level 2 Requirements were completed within six months. The reasons for failing to complete Requirements within the timescales were due, almost completely, to service users' unavailability through illness, their non-compliance or them being in custody.
- 2.8 A range of Criminal Justice Social Work performance data is shared across the three HSCP's in Ayrshire. The following table compares percentage completion rates of Unpaid Work Requirements for the East, South and North Ayrshire HSCP's during 2014/2015 (note percentages have been rounded up or down).

CPO Unpaid Work Completion within Timescales			
	EA-HSCP	SA-HSCP	NA-HSCP
CPO Level 1	52%	42%	88%
CPO Level 2	48%	57%	82%

- 2.9 In the Scottish Government publication “Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2014-15” statistics show that between 2013-14 and 2014-15 recorded crime in North Ayrshire reduced by 4%. During the same period, recorded crime reduced by 1% and increased by 4% in South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire respectively. The average national reduction of recorded crime over this period was 5% (See Appendix 1).
- 2.10 The same publication shows the change in recorded crime between 2005-06 and 2014-15, by local authority area. North Ayrshire’s recorded crime has reduced by 39% during this period, which is the same as the national average. South Ayrshire’s recorded crime reduced by 32% and East Ayrshire’s by 27% over the same period (see Appendix 2).
- 2.11 Over the past four years there has been an increasing awareness across North Ayrshire of Unpaid Work. This has been helped by the range of work carried out in the communities across North Ayrshire, the promotion of Unpaid Work by Elected Members and the positive news stories about Unpaid Work that are published by the local press.

3. Proposals


- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the work undertaken by service users on CPO Unpaid Work Requirements and approves the CPO Annual Report.

4. Implications

Financial:	There are no financial implications for North Ayrshire as the service is provided with Scottish Government ring fenced funding for CPOs.
Human Resources:	There are no Human Resource implications.
Legal:	The legislation for CPOs is set out in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 and North Ayrshire is complying with the legal requirements of CPOs.
Equality:	There are no apparent equality implications of CPOs.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no negative environmental implications from the introduction of CPOs. Indeed, some of the work undertaken undoubtedly benefits the environment of North Ayrshire.
Key Priorities:	The work of CPO is clearly in line with our single outcome agreement priority of achieving "A safe and secure North Ayrshire" and the National outcome "We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger." CPO work also impacts on our target of ensuring three out of four North Ayrshire residents feel safe in their communities after dark. One of our five priorities in the Health and Social Care Partnership is "Tackling Inequalities". Unpaid Work is one of our key performance indicators in addressing this priority.
Community Benefits:	As indicated in the CPO annual report, there are significant community benefits from CPOs.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Promotion and consultation regarding CPOs has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing process and priority.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Iona Colvin'.

IONA COLVIN

Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership)

Reference : DMcR/WH

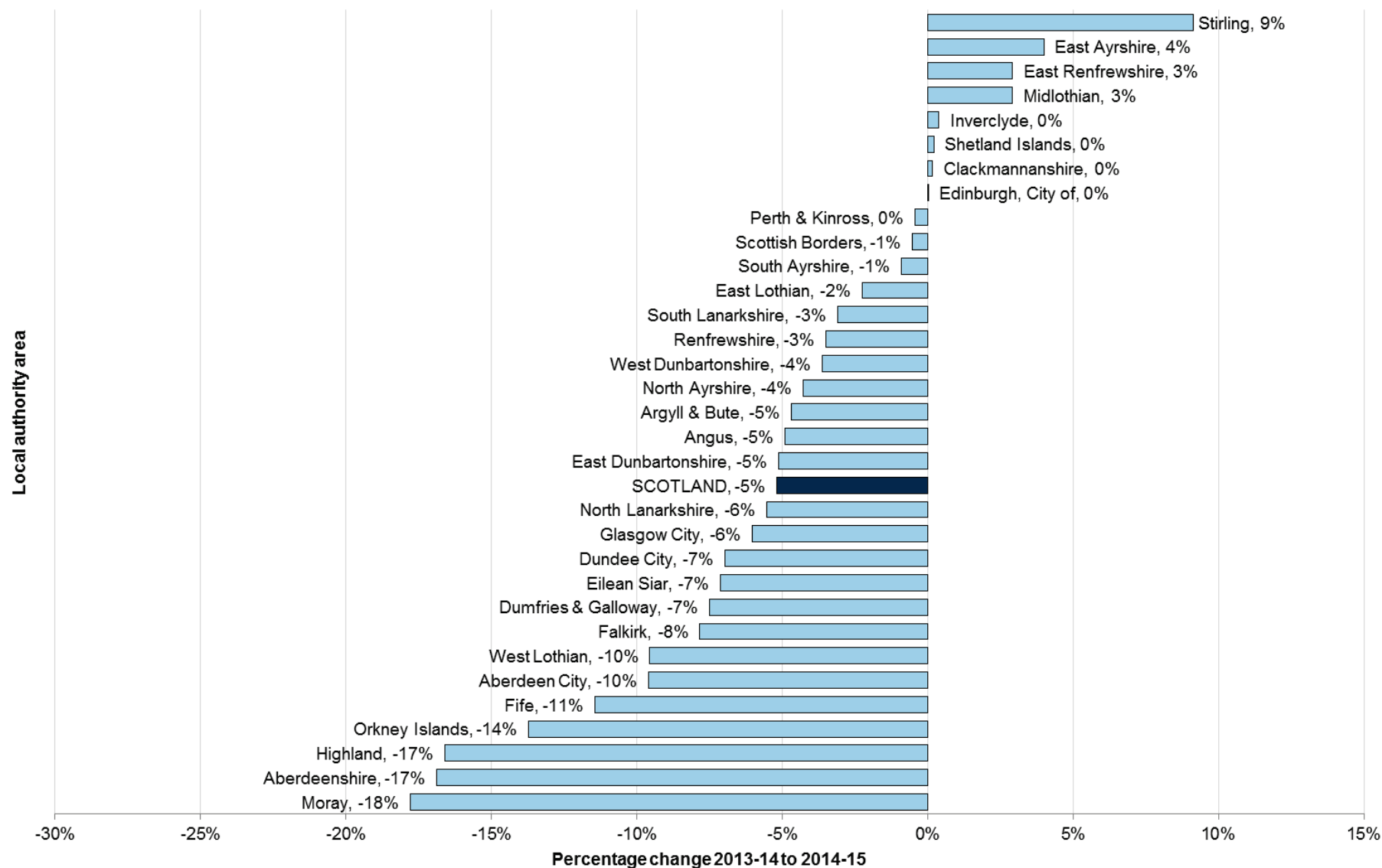
For further information please contact David MacRitchie, Senior Manager,
Criminal Justice Services on 01294 317781.

Background Papers

None

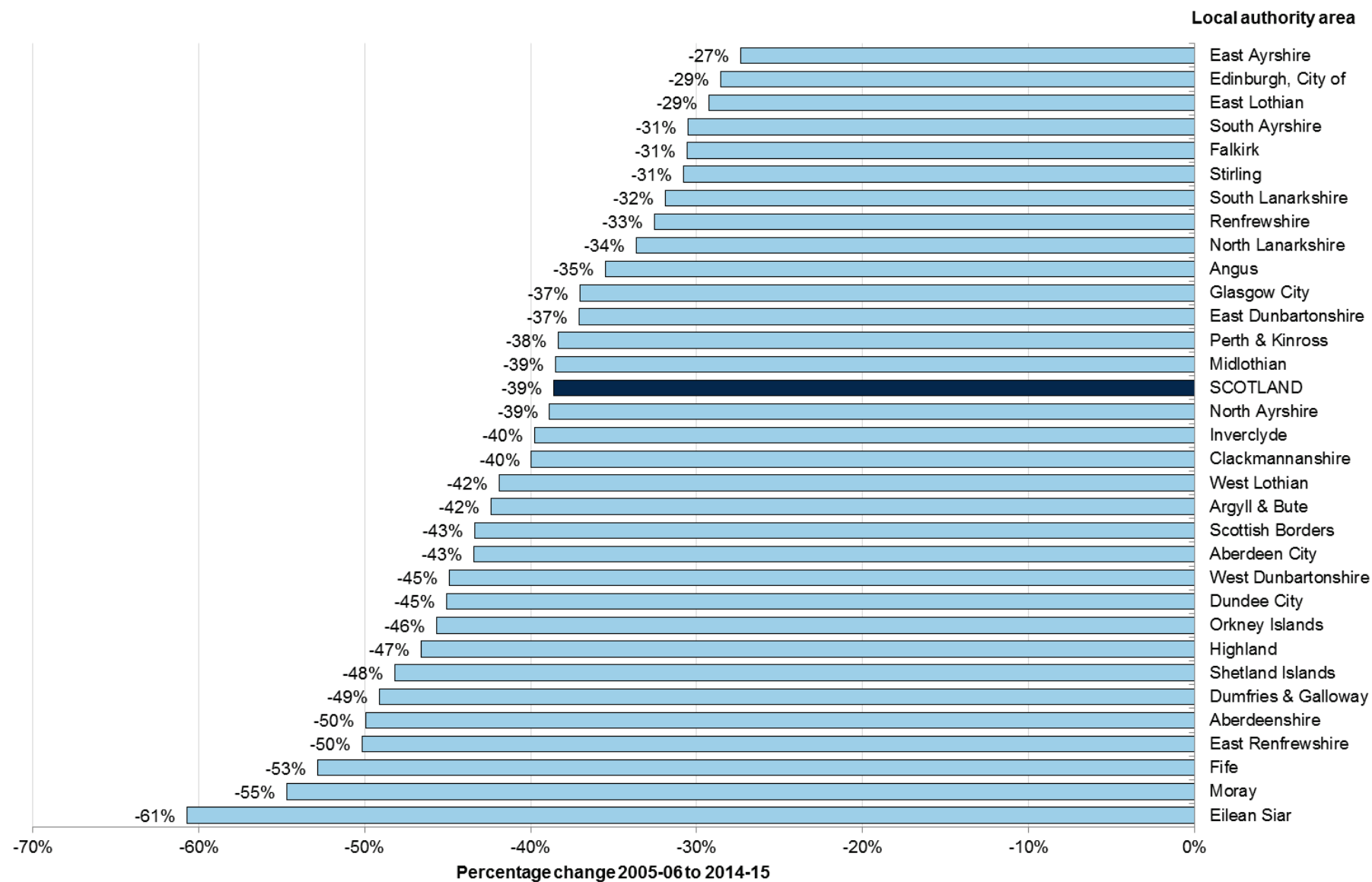
[Source : Scottish Government Recorded crime in Scotland 2014-15]

Chart 3: Change in total recorded crime between 2013-14 and 2014-15, by local authority area



[Source : Scottish Government Recorded Crime in Scotland 2014-15]

Chart 4: Change in total recorded crime between 2005-06 and 2014-15, by local authority area



COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **April 2014 – March 2015**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **North Ayrshire Council**



Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out; the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and information and examples that help to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work.

This is the fourth Community Payback Annual Report submitted by North Ayrshire to the Scottish Government. Previous reports have identified that North Ayrshire has provided a wide range of projects that have had tangible benefits to the residents of North Ayrshire, whilst providing service users with the opportunity to provide payback and learn new skills. We have several long term projects that provide positive placements that have been noted in previous annual reports and we will once again provide a summary of these as they reflect the good work undertaken.

A total of 621 Community Payback Orders (CPOs), were imposed in 2014/2015, 492 of which had Unpaid Work Requirements. The total number of hours imposed was 63,769. North Ayrshire has a diverse range of unpaid work projects and the following are examples of some of our current projects. Photographs are also provided to help illustrate the work undertaken.

Smithstone House

Smithstone House is a well-established long term project, which we have provided information on in previous CPO Annual Reports. Smithstone House is managed by the Sacred Heart Fathers and CPO Unpaid Work teams undertake a range of work over the 12 acres of the House's grounds that provides mutual benefits. We have one CPO team working there on a daily basis, but this can often be increased to two, especially at weekends. The work undertaken involves maintaining the grounds; landscaping, building and joinery work and gardening work. The service users learn new skills and can see the benefits of their work. Smithstone House is well used by the community who can also see the good work undertaken by service users on CPO Unpaid Work Requirements. Smithstone House is run like a market garden producing vegetables, fruit and flowers. Produce can be sold to generate income to help sustain the project and any excess is donated to charity.



CPO Workshop

Our workshop was refurbished four years ago using proceeds of crime monies given to us by the Scottish Government. A range of items are fabricated and sold to the general public. The following pictures show some of the garden furniture that have been made, and the story teller chairs that we continue to make for local schools, which have been constructed by service users on CPO Unpaid Work Requirements. We employ a time served joiner in the workshop who can pass on his skills to the service users. As noted in the service user feedback section of this report we have received positive comments regarding what they have learned from this supervisor.



Income Generation Sale of Goods

We have several sale days throughout the year when the items grown at Smithstone House and the garden furniture/items produced at our workshop are sold to the public. These sale days are well attended and the picture below is from one of these days. The main charity which benefitted from the sale of goods profits this year has been Women's Aid.



Community Garden Project

ANCHO Housing Association asked if we could help clear an area, and build raised beds for a project they have started for a Community Garden. The photographs below show some of the developments in this project.





The Scottish Maritime Museum

We have worked closely with the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine over the past three years and they, in turn, have offered many of our service users both team and individual work placements. Service users have worked in the museum's reception area and we have placed skilled tradesmen at the museum where they have helped with electrical work, joinery and restoration work. We have also placed artists who have created murals within the museum. The museum approached us this year to ask if we could build a boat pond for model boats. This boat pond was officially opened on the 16th October 2015 and the pictures below were taken at this event. At the opening, museum staff expressed their delight at what had been achieved and acknowledged that this would have been impossible without the support of Unpaid Work. A quote from the museum's Director is contained in the "Feedback from Beneficiaries" section of this report.



Holm Plantation

Holm Plantation is a public parkland area in Saltcoats with its upkeep and maintenance overseen by “Friends of Plantation”. The local Elected Member was instrumental in engaging Unpaid Work to work with Friends of Plantation in order to improve this area as a place of relaxation and enjoyment for the benefit of the entire community and visitors to North Ayrshire. Unpaid Work teams regularly do a tidy up and gardening work at Plantation. We are in the process of reinstating the Butterfly Garden in the park, which has become overgrown. The “before and after” photographs below illustrate the deterioration in the Butterfly Garden from when it was opened in 2010 to its present unkempt state. There is also a plan to refurbish the metal benches and prepare the main wall around the gardens for our Arts Team to paint a large mural. This project involves different teams and a wide variety of skills, which are taught to our service users.



Eco Greenhouses

We have had an ongoing project of building eco greenhouses in schools made by recycling plastic bottles. This is another environmental project which links with the school curriculum. See below a picture of one of the greenhouses.



Arts and Crafts

Within our workshop we have an arts and crafts project for service users who require lighter duties. The pictures below show some of the items created. The art and craft work includes ceramics, photography, painting and drawing. Some of paintings and photography won gold, silver and bronze awards at the Koestler Trust Awards in 2014. The Koestler Awards encourage and support art by offenders. One of our service users, Paul, has been nominated for this year's award in Painting (Portrait Category). The award ceremony will take place at the Koestler Centre, Southbank, London, in November 2015.



Eglinton Park

We have a long term project at Eglinton Park in Kilwinning, working with the Ranger Service. Work at Eglinton Park in the last year has included pathway widening, and cutting back overgrown bushes. We plan to use the joinery workshop to make raised beds, planters and whatever else we can do to help to enhance this parkland area. The photograph below shows some of the work being undertaken.



Gravestone Renovations

A new project is being progressed to address the vandalism of gravestones. Unpaid Work has purchased equipment and trained five supervisors in the restoration and re-siting of headstones. This is a long term project, and will be undertaken in partnership with North Ayrshire Council Bereavement Services. The following photographs show the damage that has been caused to gravestones in the Auld Kirk in Irvine.



Quotes from offenders and beneficiaries about the impact of the unpaid work on them and/or the community.

Feedback from Service Users

North Ayrshire provides exit questionnaires to all service users on completion of their CPO Unpaid Work Requirement. The following is a selection of service user quotes from these exit questionnaires regarding how unpaid work impacted on them and the community.

The questionnaire asks service users a specific question about what was best in their placements. The key themes which emerge from the response to this question are feelings of improved self-worth and satisfaction from helping others, learning of new skills and the enjoyment from doing something productive.

"learned a lot and got on great with all the supervisors, especially, Jim, Duncan, James, Alan, Peter"

"staff were very pleasant & helpful. wish you all well"

"building my confidence up"

"I thank everyone involved to help me complete my CP, and thank my worker Allan for his help"

"staff and supervisors were helpful and supportive"

"Billy and Peter were very good guys"

"staff really helpful"

"learned a lesson, never to commit an offence again"

"my case worker was very helpful and understanding"

"Well if you do the work that is given to you and stick to it some one is going to benefit from it like old people and many others So I hope some good is come of my time here"

"Found CPO a good positive expereince and help me get back into the way of working"

"During my time at CS I've learned a great deal of skills"

"I would sincerely like to thank all staff for the making my community service a pleasure and the all do a superb job, sometimes in difficult situation I admire the work they do. thank you all so much"

This is a quote from Stephen, who was featured in an article about Unpaid Work in the local press in September 2015:

"I have learned loads of stuff when it comes to woodwork and working with tools. Before the only experience I had was from tech in school. Since starting my unpaid work I haven't been in trouble with the police. I've picked up new skills and I've met a lot of new people. It's really helped me".

Feedback from Beneficiaries

The following quotes are representative of the feedback we received during 2014 to 2015:

The Director of the Scottish Maritime Museum, "Over the last few years the Scottish Maritime Museum has been very fortunate to receive support from NAC Criminal Justice Service via CPO's. This assistance has enabled the Museum to deliver some excellent projects including a new boating pond that will be used by the Irvine Model Boat club, School groups and visitors. The support is invaluable to the museum and helps cement our role as a community asset".

Single mum in Springside after garden tidy, *"Done a great job"*

Assisted uplift of furniture items, *"Excellent help, thanks"*

Clearing out raised beds at Mayfield Primary Saltcoats, *"Thanks so much for the work you have done"*

Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement.

As noted in previous years' annual reports the uptake of "other activities" has not been particularly high, with service users preferring to undertake unpaid work, and this pattern has continued. The following are some other activities used:

- The Turnaround Service provides a range of services and a member of their staff is collocated within the Unpaid Work office. Turnaround provide individual work with service users which covers relationship difficulties, substance misuse problems, benefit issues, housing issues, bereavement, anger management and employability. In addition, for service users who have received residential support for their substance misuse problems, some of their attendance time at groupwork sessions within the residential unit is accepted as "other activities" and contributes to the hours in their Unpaid Work Requirement
- The Princes Trust. Some of our service users undertake this programme and some of this work can be credited as "other activity", particularly their community project.
- The Shine Mentoring Service for Women. Some of our service users are involved with Shine and some of the work undertaken has also been credited as "other activity".

It should be noted that all hours credited as "other activities" require to be supported by accurate and reliable information.

Activities carried out to consult prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities and how the consultation results helped determine which projects were undertaken.

Consultative Presentations

The main consultation undertaken is with the Safer North Ayrshire Partnership (SNAP), North Ayrshire's Community Safety Partnership. The SNAP is Chaired by a DCI from Police Scotland and is attended by a number of agencies including Health, the Fire Service, Victim Support, Women's Aid, Elected Members and the Procurator Fiscal Service. The SNAP are provided with a presentation on the unpaid work undertaken on an annual basis.

North Ayrshire Council Social Services and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board entered into the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NA-HSCP) on the 1st April 2015. Criminal Justice Social Work Services sit within this partnership. A presentation on this CPO Annual Report is scheduled to be given to the NA-HSCP Integration Joint Board, which has Elected Member representation, in November 2015.

We continue to highlight the value of Unpaid Work both to Elected Members and through the media. The Leader of North Ayrshire Council has a particular interest in Unpaid Work and his Coordinator provided a recent briefing for him following her visit to the Unpaid Work workshop where she learned about the service and met with staff and service users. Similarly, a Communications Officer from the Council visited the Unpaid Work service and, from this, a very positive article appeared in the local press in September 2015 which featured a service user who spoke of how he had benefitted greatly from his experience in Unpaid Work.

Performance Information

In the Scottish Government publication "Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2014-15" statistics show that between 2013-14 and 2014-15 recorded crime in North Ayrshire reduced by 4%. During the same period, recorded crime reduced by 1% and increased by 4% in South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire respectively. The average national reduction of recorded crime over this period was 5%.

The same publication shows the change in recorded crime between 2005-06 and 2014-15, by local authority area. North Ayrshire's recorded crime has reduced by 39% during this period, which is the same as the national average. South Ayrshire's recorded crime reduced by 32% and East Ayrshire's by 27% over the same period.

In North Ayrshire 88.1% of Level 1 Orders were completed in three months and 82% of Level 2 orders were completed in six months in 2014-15. The reasons for failures to complete CPOs within the timescales are due almost completely to service user unavailability such as illness, in custody or non-compliance.

A range of Criminal Justice Social Work performance data is shared across the three HSCP's in Ayrshire. The following table compares percentage CPO Unpaid Work completion rates for the East, South and North Ayrshire HSCP's during 2014/2015 (note percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole figure):

CPO Unpaid Work Completion Within Timescales April 2014 - March 2015			
	EA-HSCP	SA-HSCP	NA-HSCP
CPO Level 1	52%	42%	88%
CPO Level 2	48%	57%	82%

Use by the courts of CPO requirements other than unpaid work, for example what, and in what way, different requirements are being used for those whose offending is driven by drug, alcohol and mental health issues; or how requirements such as programme or conduct are being used to address offending behaviour.

The following table provides details of all Requirements made including transfers from other local authorities:

Type of CPO Requirement	Disposed by Court	Transfers	Total Number of Requirements
Supervision	334	22	356
Compensation	33	0	33
Alcohol Treatment	18	1	19
Programme	32	1	33
Drug Treatment	4	0	4
Conduct	11	0	11
Mental Health	1	0	1
Residence	2	0	2
Unpaid Work	470	22	492
Total Requirements	905	46	951

As evidenced above, apart from Unpaid Work and Supervision Requirements, there has been a limited use of other Requirements. This does not mean that alcohol, drug misuse and offending behaviour are not being addressed, but a requirement is not being sought routinely. Compared to last year there has been an 8% increase in the total number of Requirements. This is largely due to a 9% increase in Unpaid Work Requirements.

Any issues affecting access to services which are provided by other partners (e.g. drug and alcohol services) and, where such issues have been identified, what work is underway to resolve them.

There have been no particular issues regarding access to services by our service users.

Any other relevant information. This might include details of work which is carried out with offenders on CPOs to address their offending behaviour but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.

During 2014/15 there continued to be a steady use of programme requirements for the Caledonian Domestic Violence System and the Moving Forward Making Changes Sex Offender Programme. North Ayrshire HSCP employs and manages all the staff who deliver these programmes to the three Ayrshire HSCP's.

Caledonian System

Men

	EA-HSCP	SA-HSCP	NA-HSCP
Referred	13	8	36
Started Group	1	1	4
Completed Group	0	0	1

Women

	EA-HSCP	SA-HSCP	NA-HSCP
Offered a service	9	7	53
Took up a service	4	2	26
Safety planning only	2	0	2

Moving Forward: Making Changes

December 2013 to 31 st March 2015					of those assessed as suitable		
	Referrals	Unsuitable	Suitable	Assessment Pending	MFMC as req. of order	Non-MFMC Disposal	Disposal Pending
EA	7	0	7	0	3	4	0
SA	11	0	11	0	1	10	0
NA	21	2	19	0	5	16	0
D&G	26	4	22	0	17	4	1
Total	65	6	59	0	26	34	1

Ayrshire Women's Service

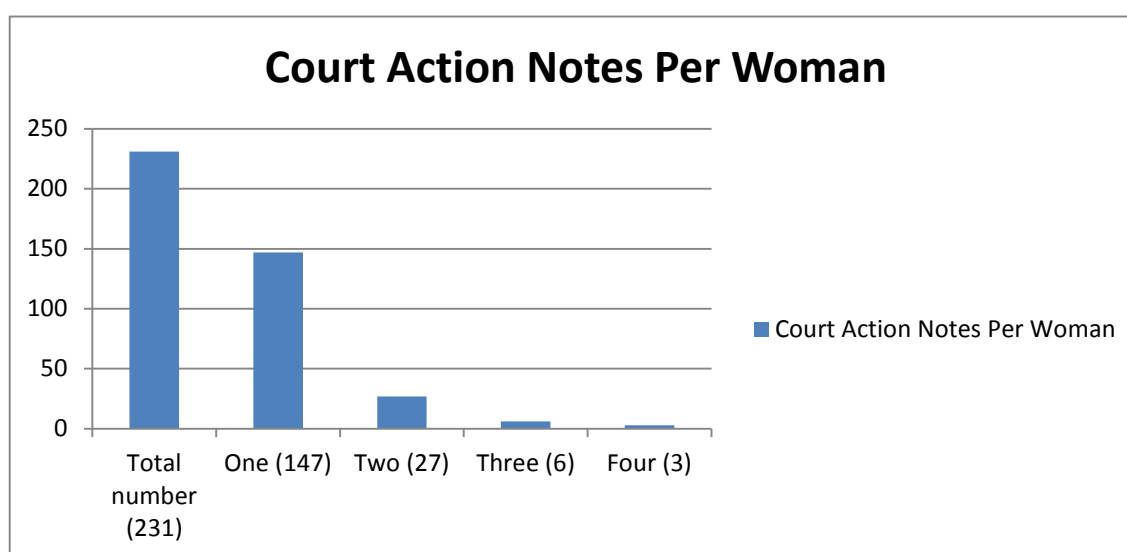
The Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership established a Women Offenders Team. The team members are employed and managed by North Ayrshire HSCP and they offer a case management and groupwork service to women service users. We believe that this specialist service better meets the needs of the women service users that we work with.

	EA-HSCP	SA-HSCP	NA-HSCP
Case Management	15	10	34
Groupwork	1	1	5
Support	2	1	1

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court Screening Service

The Court Screening Service covering East and North Ayrshire commenced on 23/06/14. Data was collected for Scottish Government researchers from that date until 31/12/14 as this was the cut-off date for the National evaluation.

During this time, Court Action Notes were produced in respect of 183 women appearing from custody at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. There were a total of 288 appearances from women from custody during this time (with some women appearing more than once).



Bail Plans

Bail Plans Proposed	47
Bail Plans Accepted	36

Women Released on Bail Attendance at Subsequent Court Date

Number of women due to reappear at Court within timescale	*Number of letters sent	Number of women who appeared as requested
91	82	85

Youth Justice

North Ayrshire has a policy of maintaining young people in the youth justice system up to the age of 21 when it is believed that a more child centred approach is required. This ensures that any transition from youth justice to adult criminal justice is a managed process that meets the needs of the young people that we work with. Our youth justice Programmes Approach Team works with young people on CPO Supervision Requirements and undertakes the case management responsibilities. During 2014/2015 the Programmes Approach Team worked with 38 young people who had been placed on CPO Supervision Requirements and completed 49 Criminal Justice Social Work Reports.

Mutual Aid Group

Desistance theory is gathering increasing support from those operating in the criminal justice system. Professor Fergus McNeil, Glasgow University, notes that the desistance approach takes us away from viewing service users as “offenders” and “criminals” and encourages an understanding of change and reinforces that today’s “young offender” is more likely to become tomorrow’s “new father” than tomorrow’s “habitual criminal”

North Ayrshire has been running a peer led “Mutual Aid Group” (MAG) since December 2014. This is the first of its kind within social work criminal justice statutory services in Scotland. This approach is based on the desistance model of practice. Dr Beth Weaver, from the University of Strathclyde’s School of Social Work and Social Policy, provided significant academic support to North Ayrshire Staff in establishing and supporting the development of the MAG and continues to remain involved on a consultative basis and is due to embark on an evaluation of the project.

The service users in the MAG are subject to supervision on release from prison or through Court Orders. The approach aims to foster and develop a therapeutic community where group members are mutually supported by each other. In addition to this, those involved have consistently emphasised a desire to give something back to the community and as a result of this they organised a 5 a side football tournament in April 2014, which involved a range of different agencies, including the Police and Prison Officers. This tournament raised almost £2000 for the Neonatal Unit at Crosshouse Hospital. The handover of the cheque was featured in the local media. The group is now in its second year and, having recently secured different premises, it continues to go from strength to strength. We are currently looking at ways in which this approach and mode of engagement can be adopted across the range of Criminal Justice Social Work Services.

COMPLETED BY: David MacRitchie, Senior Manager Criminal Justice

Services DATE: 15/10/15

CONTACT FOR QUERIES ABOUT THE REPORT

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10

1 March 2016

Cabinet

Title:	Award of Contract - Measured Term Contract for Roofing, Render and External Wall Insulation at various locations throughout North Ayrshire
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Purpose:	To advise the Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for Roofing, Render and External Wall Insulation at various locations throughout North Ayrshire
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Recommendation:	Agree to award the contract to Marley Contract Services.
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council requires to establish a measured term contract for Roofing, Render and External Wall Insulation at various locations throughout North Ayrshire.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (SSI 2012/88) (as amended) a formal tender exercise was advertised via the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal.
- 1.3 The duration of the contract is for three years with the option to extend annually for up to a further two years.

2. Background

- 2.1 A formal notice was advertised on 11th September 2015 under the restricted procedure in the Official Journal of the European Union and Public Contracts Scotland procurement portal. The return date was 12th October 2015.
- 2.2 The contract notice attracted 36 expressions of interest from a wide range of potential suppliers of which 16 submitted Pre Qualification Questionnaires.

2.3 Following evaluation of Pre-Qualification Questionnaires the following five suppliers, were short-listed to receive an Invitation to Tender: A.C Whyte & Co Ltd, CCG (Scotland) Ltd, Keepmoat Regeneration, Lovell Partnerships Ltd, Marley Contract Services.

2.4 The return time and date for completed Invitations to Tender was 8th January 2016 at 12 noon at which point three tenders were submitted.

3. Proposals

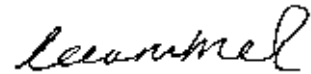
3.1 It is proposed that the contract be awarded to Marley Contract Services.

4. Implications

Financial:	The total value of the overall contract is £19,972,500. A total budget of £22,400,000 is available for this contract
Human Resources:	None.
Legal:	The tender exercise was conducted in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts
Equality:	None
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	This contributes to the Council Plan Priority 1, Growing our economy, increasing employment and regenerating towns.
Community Benefits:	The Contractor has agreed to provide 2 x apprentices (roof tiler & renderer, 26 weeks each) per £1 million contract value and a development workshop per annum for SME's & Third Sector Organisations.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There was consultation with Housing Management and Investment throughout the tender process



LAURA FRIEL
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : NAC/2054

For further information please contact Hazel Templeton, Acting Category Manager - Construction & Property Maintenance on 01294 324547

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Tender Outcome Report