

Cabinet
26 May 2015

Irvine, 26 May 2015 - At a meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Donald Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Aird, Head of Finance, G. Macgregor, Head of Customer, People and Corporate Support, S. Humphries, Senior Manager (Revenue and Benefits), A. Munn, Community Benefit Officer, F. Walker, Organisational Development Manager and F. McMeechan, Learning and Organisational Development Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth), A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) and L. Kirk, Access Officer (Economy and Communities); Y. Baulk, Head of Physical Environment, J. Smith, Senior Manager (Roads and Transportation) and P. Kelly, Temporary Principal Officer Community Safety Services (Place); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

Robby Gass (Hazeldene Horticulture), Anne Noble, David Rocks, Elaine Nixon and John Closs (Staff Focus Group representatives).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Alan Hill.

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 Minutes of the meetings held on 20 April 2015 and the special meeting held on 12 May 2015 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. People Strategy : 'Our People Connect'

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on 'Our People Connect', the Council's new People Strategy that had been designed by staff to support the Council Plan and the delivery of its strategic priorities. A presentation and demonstration of 'augmented reality' was provided by members of the staff focus group who had helped create the new strategy.

The Cabinet agreed to approve 'Our People Connect' as the Council's new People Strategy.

4. Grounds Maintenance Pilot Project: Hazeldene Horticulture

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the grounds maintenance pilot project being undertaken by Enable Scotland's Hazeldene Horticulture service, which supports people aged 18 - 65 years who have learning disabilities to learn skills for work. A presentation was provided by the Manager of Hazeldene Horticulture on the creation of the project in 2013, the training provided to the trainees and the range of horticultural activities undertaken by the project.

The Cabinet agreed to note the work undertaken by Hazeldene Horticulture in the Kilwinning area as part of a grounds maintenance pilot project.

5. Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Council's use of and procedures under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 (RIPSA) which sets out the framework under which surveillance can be authorised.

That Cabinet agreed (a) to note the use made of RIPSA in 2014/15 and the progress made following the most recent RIPSA inspection; and (b) that use of RIPSA should be reported annually to Cabinet.

6. Flag Flying Protocol - Cunninghame House

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the protocol to determine which flags are flown from Cunninghame House and whether books of condolence are to be opened, as outlined in Appendix 1.

That Cabinet agreed the protocol relating to flag flying and books of condolence as outlined in Appendix 1.

7. Provost's Civic Events Budget and Fundraising Activity

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Provost's Civic Events Budget forecasted expenditure for period 2015/16 and the details of the Provost's fundraising activity from July 2014, totalling £22,616.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Provost's Civic Events Budget expenditure for 2015/16; (b) receive an update in 6 months; and (c) otherwise note the report.

8. Non Standard Lending

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the progress made against some of the key recommendations made by the Council's short-life non-standard lending working group in relation to (i) debt and money advice services; (ii) Credit Unions and school initiatives; (iii) not for profit loan fund; and (iv) rent-to-buy social enterprise schemes and advanced payment of earnings.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress made on the review of non-standard lending recommendations as set out in the action plan at Appendix 1; and (b) approve the recommendations outlined in the report.

9. North Ayrshire CCTV Ltd

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) the current issues in respect of North Ayrshire CCTV Ltd; and (b) four possible options for the future provision of CCTV services within North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to provide financial support at the current level of £184,000 to North Ayrshire CCTV Ltd, until such time as the national review of public space CCTV is completed; (b) that the CCTV company be asked to prepare and present an annual business plan for consideration by the Council and Community Planning Partnership as a condition of grant funding; (c) that a Service Level Agreement be developed setting out: (i) the relationships between the funding bodies, (ii) management arrangements, and (iii) operating parameters of the company; and (d) to note that additional costs arising from changes to pension regulations and salary structure are matters for the CCTV company to address.

10. North Ayrshire Violence Against Women Strategy 2015 - 2018

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) a review of the Violence Against Women Strategy, undertaken by the Violence Against Women Partnership; (b) details of the four priority outcomes to be actioned by partner owners; and (c) the proposed North Ayrshire Violence Against Women Strategy 2015-2018, attached at Appendix 1.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Violence Against Women Strategy 2015-18, set out as Appendix 1 to the report.

11. Road Maintenance Programme 2015/16

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) Structural Roads and Street lighting Maintenance Programme for 2015/16; (b) details of carriageway and footways requiring a full priority assessment (Appendix 1); (c) the prioritisation matrix used to measure condition assessments (Appendix 2); (d) the programme of works as detailed in Appendix 3a and 3b; and (e) a medium term investment programme that is being developed for Arran.

The Cabinet (a) agreed to note the approach taken to determining the asset maintenance programme for roads and street lighting; (b) approve the maintenance programme for 2015/16, as shown at Appendix 3a and 3b to the report; and (c) present the programme to Area Committees for consideration.

12. Draft Local Transport Strategy 2015-20

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the proposal to proceed to public consultation on the Draft Local Transport Strategy 2015-20; (b) the four key actions outlined in the strategy to (i) strengthen links to Glasgow; (ii) increase the accessibility and awareness of i3 Irvine Enterprise Area; (iii) improve Ardrossan Harbour; and (iv) develop community transport in North Ayrshire.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to consultation training that is currently being undertaken by staff in order to inform the consultation process that will be undertaken.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the draft Local Transport Strategy 2015-20 for public consultation, set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

13. Review of The Hatchery

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) a performance review of The Hatchery undertaken by Ekosgen; and (b) the proposed continued funding of The Hatchery at £50,000 per annum for 3 years.

The Cabinet agreed to the continued support of the Hatchery for a period of 3 years.

14. SPT Grant Funding

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the offers of grant funding from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) for 2015-16 for 6 projects, totalling £1,180,000.

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

- levels of annual funding that will require to be applied for each year; and
- the variable messaging system on Arran bridges where traffic conflicts occur due to road geometry.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the acceptance and expenditure of the grant offers as detailed within the report; and (b) remit to the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to identify potential projects and apply for funding to SPT for projects in 2016/17 onwards.

15. Grant Offers for Outdoor Access Projects in the Financial Year 2015/16

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the grant funding bids submitted and received from Sustrans Scotland's Community Links Fund, SPT's Capital Fund and the CSGN Development Fund and future grant offers as detailed in Appendix 1; (b) proposals to develop the River Irvine Corridor project and apply to Scottish Natural Heritage's ERDF Green Infrastructure Programme for its implementation; and (c) the identification of potential projects and future applications for funding for 2015/16 onwards.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the grant funding submissions made; (b) approve the acceptance and expenditure of the grant offers; (c) approve the proposal to apply to the European Regional Development Fund Green Infrastructure Programme; and (d) remit to the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) to identify potential projects and apply for funding for 2016/17 onwards.

16. Development and Implementation of a North Ayrshire Social Enterprise Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of a comprehensive and robust partnership based strategy to maximise the social and economic impact of social enterprises in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the development of a North Ayrshire Social Enterprise Strategy utilising the methodology outlined in the report.

17. Montgomerie Park, Irvine Masterplan Review

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) a revised concept Masterplan for Montgomerie Park (Appendix 1); and (b) details of the capital costs of associated infrastructure and enabling works required to deliver further development.

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

- Scottish Planning policies 'Designing Places' and 'Designing Streets' which focus less on access through sites by car; and
- implementation of the above policies by a redesign of vehicle movements through the development area by removing the wide distributor road and associated corridor planting through the centre of the site.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the revised concept Masterplan for Montgomerie Park. set out as Appendix 1 to the report; and, (b) a programme of capital expenditure amounting to £1,625,000 funded from land receipts to support the ongoing development of the Masterplan.

18. Coastal Erosion: Brodick Beach, Arran

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) works previously undertaken to reduce the impact of coastal erosion at Brodick beach; (b) work undertaken with the local community to explore a variety of options; (c) specialist support commissioned to design a suitable scheme for consideration; and (d) a number of local improvement works that will be undertaken.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the estimated cost of installing a series of groynes to protect from further erosion.

The Cabinet noted the work being undertaken in conjunction with the local community in respect of the Brodick Beach area.

19. Award of Contract - Cunninghame House, Internal Alterations Phases 3 & 4

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for Cunninghame House, Internal Alterations Phases 3 & 4.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to James Frew Ltd. at a cost of £2,014,367.92.

20. Award of Contract - Replacement of Electrical Wiring Installations at 280 Dwellings

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the mini-competition for the Replacement of Electrical Wiring Installations at 280 Dwellings.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to G D Chalmers Ltd. at a cost of £552,956.

21. South West Hub Territory Partnering Board held on 26 March 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the meeting of the South West Hub Territory Partnering Board held on 26 March 2015.

Noted.

22. Ayrshire Economic Partnership : 11 March 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the draft minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 11th March 2015.

Noted.

23. Economic Development & Regeneration Board : 31 March 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 31 March 2015.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.