

Cabinet
17 January 2017

IRVINE, 17 January 2017 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Alex Gallagher, Peter McNamara, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, D. Forbes, Senior Manager - Financial Management and F. Walker, Interim Head of Service (People and Transformation) (Finance and Corporate Support); I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); C. Hatton, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Senior Manager (Sustainability and Directorate Performance), R. McCutcheon Head of Service (Commercial Services) (Place); C. MacAulay, Head of Service (Economic Growth), G. Robson, Senior Employability and Skills Manager (Economic Growth) (Economy and Communities); A. McClelland, Interim Head of Service (Learning and Improvement); M. Sugden, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Cullinane in the Chair.

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 20 December 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Social Housing Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Retrofit Programme

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on proposals to deliver 500 rooftop solar photovoltaic (pv) systems across the North Ayrshire Council social housing stock to deliver financial savings and alleviate fuel poverty for tenants, reduce carbon emissions, increase energy security and create local jobs. The Appendices to the report provided a full summary of the financial case for the project, a worked example for an individual tenant and the next steps.

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

- ensuring that those who are most in need in terms of fuel poverty and deprivation are included in the initial proposals;
- any impact on those on Housing Benefit/Local Housing Allowance; and
- the affordability to tenants in relation to insurance costs for breakdown and maintenance.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to proceed with tenant engagement to obtain feedback on the proposed scheme; (b) that following tenant engagement, a procurement exercise is initiated to appoint an installation contractor; (c) that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is used to fund the capital and operational costs of the scheme, on the basis of a business model which aims to repay the HRA in full over a 20 year period; and (d) that a contribution through an increased rent is made by tenants who agree to the installation of pv panels on their homes.

4. North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2017-20

Submitted by the Executive Director (Place) on the draft North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2017-20 which sets a vision for sustainability within the Council across five workstreams of affordable warmth, a green economy, transport and travel, natural and built environment and sustainable operations. Appendix 1 to the report detailed the full strategy.

The Cabinet agreed the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2017-20, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

5. Asset Management Plans

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the updated Fleet Asset Management Plan and the Roads Asset Management Plan, together with their specific action plans which facilitate the regular monitoring and review of performance against the key actions being taken forward in each plan. Appendix 1 to the report detailed the full plans.

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

- the consideration of roads as a physical Council asset; and
- the frequency of checking medical information in connection with health related driving issues.

The Head of Service (Commercial Services) undertook to get back to Members with information on the frequency of checking medical information in relation to fleet drivers.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the Fleet Asset Management Plan and the Roads Asset Management Plan as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) noted that the existing Asset Management Plans for Open Space, Housing and Property are currently being refreshed and will be submitted to a future Cabinet for consideration.

6. Revenue Budget 2016/17 : Financial Performance to 30 November 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2016; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 10; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 11; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 30 November 2016 at Appendix 12.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to assistance being provided to households to encourage them to apply for DHP funding.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the acceptance of the additional grant funding as summarised at 2.3; (c) approve the carry forward of £0.055m identified at section 2.4(vii); (d) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; and (e) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 11.

7. Capital Programme Performance to 30 November 2016

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2016.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; (b) approve the acceptance of the additional grant funding outlined at Section 2.3; and (c) note (i) the General Services and HRA expenditure and revised budgets to 30 November 2016; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2017.

8. Financial Inclusion - ESF/Lottery Tender

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the development of the North Ayrshire Council submission to the Big Lottery Fund/European Social Funds Financial Inclusion programme and seeking endorsement of the Council's approach to the funding. A model, customer journey and KPIs were outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- the management of partners on a contractual basis; and
- the definitions in relation to eligible participants.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to welcome the investment in financial inclusion services; (b) endorse the approach being taken to the opportunities, risks and challenges associated with the funding; and (c) support the promotion of the Better Off North Ayrshire services throughout Council directorates.

The meeting ended at 3.10p.m.