



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Cabinet

A meeting of the **Cabinet** of North Ayrshire Council will be held remotely on **Tuesday, 26 January 2021** at **14:30** to consider the undernoted business.

Arrangements in Terms of COVID-19

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. Where possible, the meeting will be live-streamed and available to view at <https://north-ayrshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. In the event that live-streaming is not possible, a recording of the meeting will instead be available to view at this location.

1 Declarations of Interest

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

2 Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 December 2020 and the special meeting held on 22 December 2020 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

GENERAL BUSINESS FOR DECISION

Reports by the Chief Executive

3 Revenue Budget 2020/21 : Financial Performance to 30 November 2020

Submit a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance for the Council at 30 November 2020 (copy enclosed).

- 4 Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 (copy enclosed).
- 5 Supporting North Ayrshire Together – Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report (Council Plan Progress Update – Quarter Two 2020-21)**
Submit a report by the Head of Service (Democratic Services) on the response so far to the Covid-19 pandemic and performance against the Council Plan 2019-24 as at Quarter Two 2020-21 (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Place)

- 6 Land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the disposal of undeveloped land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning to Ayrshire College (copy enclosed).
- 7 Solar PV Farm Proposal**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the outcome of investigations into the potential and viability of developing a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm as part of the environmental road map to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030 (copy enclosed).
- 8 Estate Based Regeneration Programme: Demolition of low demand housing stock in the Garnock Valley**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the progress with the proposal to demolish 48 flatted properties across four streets in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie (copy enclosed).
- 9 North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' (copy enclosed).

Joint Report by the Executive Director (Place) and the Executive Director (Communities)

- 10 North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Place) and the Executive Director (Communities) on the proposed food growing strategy for North Ayrshire (copy enclosed).

Reports by the Executive Director (Communities)

- 11 Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure**
Submit a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on an application by the Three Towns Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects (copy enclosed).

Urgent Items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Webcasting - Virtual Meeting

Please note: this meeting may be recorded/live-streamed to the Council's internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting, the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded/live-streamed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.

If you are participating in this meeting by invitation, you are consenting to being filmed and consenting to the use and storage of those images and sound recordings and any information pertaining to you contained in the them live-streaming/recording or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public. If you do not wish to participate in a recording, you should leave the 'virtual meeting'. This will constitute your revocation of consent.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact dataprotectionofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Cabinet Sederunt

Joe Cullinane (Chair)
John Bell (Vice-Chair)
Robert Foster
Alex Gallagher
Louise McPhater
Jim Montgomerie

Chair:

Apologies:

Attending:

At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative), Andrew Bruce, and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-3).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance) (Chief Executive's); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, J. Barrett, Senior Manager (Homeless and Community Safety), A. MacKenzie, Development Manager (Regeneration), (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Interim), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Interim) (Connected Communities) (Communities); C. Cameron, Head of Service (HSCP Finance and Transformation) (HSCP); and A. Fraser, Head of Service, M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, E. Gray and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Joe 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 of the Cabinet held on 10 November 2020 was confirmed and the Minutes authorised to be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan (Revised)

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on the revised North Ayrshire Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the provision of devices for pupils who are unable to attend school due to Covid-19, the expected demand for devices and how these will be funded.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the revised Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan; and (b) note the continued progress made in response to Scottish Government legislation.

4. Public Performance Reporting 2019/20

Submitted a report by the Head of Democratic Services on 2019/20 public performance reporting and the draft Annual Public Performance Report 2019/2020. The Council's performance indicators were set out at Appendices 1 and 2 of the report and the draft Annual Public Performance Report 2019/2020 at Appendix 3.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to future performance reports and how new initiatives, such as Community Wealth Building, would be assessed.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the draft Annual Public Performance Report 2019-20; and (b) note (i) the status of the Council's performance indicators; and (ii) that the report would also be referred to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

5. Safer North Ayrshire Strategy 2020-2025

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the priorities detailed within the Safer North Ayrshire Strategy 2020-2025 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve (a) the priorities detailed within the Safer North Ayrshire Strategy 2020-2025; and (b) the implementation thereof.

6. Town Centre Fund 2020-2021

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the allocation of recently announced additional Town Centre Funding.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the sites identified for the asset acquisition, development and environmental works project and the consultation process around this.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve the approach set out, including the allocation of funds to support the acquisition and improvement of vacant/derelict sites, and projects in Millport, Dalry, Stevenston and Kilbirnie.

7. Community Asset Transfer Applications

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on proposals to transfer the ownership of Almswall Pavilion and Football Ground, Kilwinning and the former Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Depot, Ladysmith Road, Kilbirnie Public Park. Locations plans for the sites were set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve (i) the asset transfer of Almswall Pavilion and Football Ground, Kilwinning from North Ayrshire Council to Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation (SCIO), "Kilwinning Community Football Academy"; (ii) the recommended terms of transfer on this occasion at 10% of the property valuation of £62,000 (£6,200 in total); (iii) the 25-year lease of the former Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Depot, Ladysmith Road, Kilbirnie Public Park from North Ayrshire Council to the Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation

(SCIO), “Garnock Valley Men’s Shed”; and (iv) the recommended terms of lease on this occasion at 5% of the normal annual fee of £8,000 (£400 per annum in total); and (b) authorise officers to conclude the associated legal and community asset transfer process.

8. HSCP Budget Monitoring Report

Submitted a report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the projected financial outturn for the financial year as at September 2020 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note the projections set out in the report.

The Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

At a Special Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative), Andrew Bruce, and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), A. Sutton, Executive Director, and L. Taylor, Senior Manager (Resources and Infrastructure) (Communities); J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, E. Gray and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Chair

Joe 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. Proposal to establish a new primary school at Montgomerie Park, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on the proposal to establish a new Primary School at Montgomerie Park, Irvine. The Statutory Public Consultation Proposal Document and Appendices were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Cabinet members were reminded that an updated version of the Statutory Public Consultation Proposal Document and the proposed timeline had been circulated as a result of updated Covid-19 guidance.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the how the Council's revenue budget would be affected by the project as well as its wider economic impact.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve (a) the commencement of the statutory public consultation on 11th January 2020; (b) the inclusion of early learning and childcare (ELC) provision as part of the new school proposal; and (c) the revised timeline for the project.

The Meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title: Revenue Budget 2020/21 : Financial Performance to 30 November 2020

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the financial performance for the Council at 30 November 2020.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the earmarking of £2.888m identified at 2.6 to meet future year commitments; (c) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at 2.7; and (d) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 7.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The General Services Revenue Estimates for 2020/21 were approved by Council on 5 March 2020. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget for 2020/21 was approved by Council on 18 December 2019.
- 1.2 As part of the monitoring procedures to keep the Cabinet informed of the financial performance of the Council, financial performance reports are presented on a regular basis. This is the third report for 2020/21 and covers the period to the end of November 2020 (Period 8). Projections to the year-end have been made.
- 1.3 At Period 8 the General Fund is forecasting a net breakeven position for the year after transferring resources to other funds, an improvement of £0.842m from that reported at Period 5. Although the majority of savings are on track for delivery by 31 March 2021, a number of services are reporting implementation delays due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.4 The Housing Revenue Account is forecasting a net in-year underspend of (£2.939m) (5.8%), an increase of (£0.247m) from that reported at Period 5.
- 1.5 The Health and Social Care Partnership is forecasting an underspend of (£0.807m) at the end of November 2020, an improvement of (£0.816m) from that reported in August. The Council Services element is a projected overspend of £0.371m, a reduction of (£0.384m), and this is offset by an underspend on the Health Services element of (£1.178m), an increase of (£0.432m).

- 1.6 This position excludes any impact presented by Covid-19 which is being monitored in parallel through NHS and the Scottish Government. The estimated additional Mobilisation Plan costs to March 2021 are £8.508m. This includes net additional costs of £7.376m and anticipated savings delays of £1.132m. The impact of the savings delays has been included in the core financial projection noted at paragraph 1.5, on the basis that there is less confidence that funding will be provided to compensate for this. In relation to the net additional costs of £7.376m, the IJB has yet to receive confirmation of the full funding allocation. At November 2020 additional funding of £6.266m has been allocated, resulting in a potential shortfall of £1.110m. However, further allocations are expected in January 2021.
- 1.7 The major risk to the forecast position is the uncertainty around the progress of the Covid-19 pandemic. The recent imposition of Tier 4 restrictions and ongoing impact of any future restrictions are expected to result in more constrained working environments, resulting in additional cost and income pressures throughout the remainder of the current financial year. Further grant support is anticipated in relation to specific cost pressures. However, it is currently anticipated that any additional grant funding in relation to income loss recovery received during 2020/21 will be required to support the legacy impact of Covid-19 on income streams in the next financial year.
- 1.8 Local authorities continue to engage with COSLA and the Scottish Government around additional support measures including a range of financial flexibilities which may be applied to address the financial impact of the pandemic on both the revenue and capital accounts. However, based on the draft guidance issued by the Scottish Government, the medium term benefits to North Ayrshire are limited. It is currently envisaged that these measures may be more effectively utilised to offset the potential legacy cost and income pressures of the pandemic in the next financial year.

2. Background

General Fund

- 2.1 The Council has set a breakeven budget for 2020/21. In addition to the budget approved on 5 March 2020, earmarked funds of £8.968m have been carried forward from 2019/20 for service expenditure in 2020/21 and are reflected in the figures within the 2020/21 financial performance reports as they are drawn down.
- 2.2 Current financial projections indicate that a net breakeven position, net of transfers to reserves, is anticipated for the year to 31 March 2021.

2.3 Details of the current financial projections are summarised in the following table:

	Appendix No	Annual Budget £000's	Projection to 31 March 2021 £000's	Projected Variance for year (Fav)/Adv £000's	Projected Variance @ Period 5 (Fav)/Adv £000's	Movement £000's	Note
Service Expenditure							
Chief Executives	1	21,854	22,187	333	(77)	410	(i)
Communities	2	145,200	144,990	(210)	1,118	(1,328)	(ii)
Place	3	66,265	68,586	2,321	3,729	(1,408)	(iii)
Other Corporate Services	4	20,314	12,355	(7,959)	(6,587)	(1,372)	(iv)
Sub Total		253,633	248,118	(5,515)	(1,817)	(3,698)	
Health and Social Care Partnership	8	98,265	98,265	-	-	-	2.7
Balance for Services		351,898	346,383	(5,515)	(1,817)	(3,698)	
Financing Charges	5	13,644	13,644	-	-	-	
Contribution to Loans Fund Reserve	5	3,641	3,641	-	-	-	
Total Planned Expenditure		369,183	363,668	(5,515)	(1,817)	(3,698)	
Planned Income							
Aggregate External Finance	5	(307,561)	(307,561)	-	-	-	
Council Tax	5	(59,447)	(58,540)	907	939	(32)	
Use of Earmarked Funds	5	(2,175)	(2,175)	-	-	-	
Total Planned Income		(369,183)	(368,276)	907	939	(32)	
Net Expenditure/ (Income)		-	(4,608)	(4,608)	(878)	(3,730)	
Carried Forward Funds		-	4,608	4,608	1,720	2,888	
Revised Net Expenditure/(Income)		-	-	-	842	(842)	

2.4 A major degree of uncertainty remains in relation to the forecast position in relation to the ongoing restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Within Building Services, the Tier 4 restrictions announced prior to the Christmas break are expected to result in a more constrained working environment than previously anticipated. This will have an impact on the current operating model and will result in increased costs for the remainder of the financial year. Within Communities, an increased level of support for KA Leisure has been estimated with significant cost pressures likely to continue into 2021/22. Although additional grant funding in relation to income loss recovery is anticipated during 2020/21, it is projected that this will be required to support legacy impact of Covid-19 on income streams during 2021-22 and possibly beyond.

2.5 The reported Planned Income includes one adjustment to Scottish Government funding from that reported at Period 5, as detailed in the following table:

	Revenue Support Grant £000's	Non Domestic Rates £000's	Specific Grants £000's	TOTAL AEF £000's
Planned Income				
Revised Budget 31 August 2020	(262,264)	(24,847)	(19,973)	(307,084)
Movements:				
Education Recovery Funding	(497)			(497)
Revised Planned Income	(262,761)	(24,847)	(19,973)	(307,581)

2.6 Commentary on Significant Movements from the Revised Budget

The Council's overall financial forecast against the revised budget is a net breakeven position. A brief explanation of the significant movements from the previous forecasts is outlined as follows:

(i) **Chief Executives – overspend of £0.333m, a movement from the previously reported underspend of £0.410m**

The movement is primarily related to:

- Updated projections in relation to Housing Benefits, including reduced debt recovery in relation to Housing Benefit Overpayments, £0.455m;
- Unavoidable IT upgrade costs in relation to Lagan, £0.067m;
- Reduced income projections in relation to the Registration Service, (£0.053m); and
- A reduction in the previously reported underspend related to the postponement of the Making Waves festival, £0.020m. As a result, the amount previously approved for earmarking in relation to the festival has been reduced to £0.030m.

These have been partly offset by vacancy management underspends across services, (£0.118m).

(ii) **Communities – underspend of (£0.210m), a movement from the previously reported overspend of (£1.328m).**

The movement is primarily related to reduced expenditure in relation to the revised implementation plan for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, (£1.389m).

It is requested that £1.612m is earmarked for use in future years in relation to £1.547m ringfenced Early Learning and Childcare funding to support the delivery of the programme in future years and £0.065m within Connected Communities to support the IT replacement programme within Libraries.

(iii) **Place – overspend of £2.321m, a reduction in overspend of (£1.408m)**

The reduced overspend is primarily related to :

- A reduction in Facilities Management costs linked to the revised implementation plan for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare, (£0.556m);
- Additional specific grant funding in relation to Education Recovery and Free School Meals, (£0.583m);
- Reduced overtime costs within Facilities Management, £0.226m;
- Reduced fuel costs across the fleet, (£0.172m); and
- Lower than anticipated in year costs related to the delayed start of the Modern Apprentice and Skills for Life programmes due to Covid-19 restrictions, (£0.306m).

These have been partly offset by:

- Additional Energy and Sustainability costs resulting from the Covid-19 operational practices, £0.099m;
- Additional Transport fleet and external hires costs, £0.187m; and
- Additional costs within Waste Services linked to Covid-19 related employee costs, additional third party payments in relation to recycling and organic waste contracts and reduced income from gas extraction and commercial waste services, £0.383m.

In order to mitigate any additional impact on the 2021/22 budget, it is requested that £0.546m is earmarked for use in future years in relation to a range of pressures as a result of delayed expenditure during 2020/21 as a consequence of the pandemic. This includes £0.090m to offset future year shortfalls in the Housing First budget; a further £0.062m in relation to the introduction of Cashless Catering; £0.056m to support the critical traffic sign replacement scheme; £0.033m in relation to Economic Development and Regeneration future staff costs; £0.070m in relation to the delayed start to the Skills for Life programme; £0.201m in relation to the delayed start to the Modern Apprentice programme and £0.034m to support the Community Wealth Building Programme following recruitment delays.

(iv) Other Corporate Items – underspend of (£7.959m), an increase in underspend of (£1.372m)

The increased underspend relates to (£0.785m) of additional Scottish Government funding in relation to Covid-19 which offsets significant demand led pressures in relation to reduced Council Tax collection rates, additional Council Tax Reduction claims and reduced Housing Benefit overpayment recoveries within the Chief Executive's service; and (£0.827m) of centrally held payroll and utility pressure budgets which are not anticipated to be drawn down during 2020/21.

These have been partly offset by the additional virement of £0.240m in relation to Scottish Government funding transferred to other services to offset non-service Covid-19 costs.

It is requested that £0.750m is earmarked to the support the 2021/22 – 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Health and Social Care Partnership

- 2.7 A copy of the HSCP financial performance report as at the end of November 2020 is attached at Appendix 8. The report highlights the key challenges and variances for the Partnership.

The key points for Cabinet to note are summarised below:

- The projected outturn is a year-end underspend of (£0.807m) for 2020-21, which is a favourable movement of (£0.816m) from the previous reporting period. The projected overspend on the Council Services element is £0.371m, an improvement of (£0.384m) over the same period. This is offset by a projected underspend on Health Services of (£1.178m), a favourable movement of (£0.432m);
- The main areas of pressure continue to be learning disability care packages, looked after children and adult in-patients within the lead partnership. However, there has been significant progress to reduce the pressures in these areas;

- The most up to date position in terms of the mobilisation plan for Covid-19 based on the return to the Scottish Government in November projects £8.508m of a financial impact, which is split between additional costs of £7.376m and anticipated savings delays of £1.132m. The impact of savings delays has been built into the core financial projection above on the basis that there is less confidence that funding will be provided to compensate for this. There are financial risks associated with Covid-19 as the IJB has yet to receive confirmation of the full funding allocation. To date North Ayrshire have been allocated funding totalling £6.266m;
- There is a risk that there may be a shortfall to fully compensate the North Ayrshire IJB for the additional costs of £1.110m. However, there is no recommendation at this time to implement a Financial Recovery Plan on the basis that
 - There is increasing confidence that additional costs will be funded with further allocations expected in January 2021;
 - Offsetting reductions of (£0.530m) have not been included in the overall funding allocation; and
 - The most significant area of additional Covid costs are the purchase of PPE for social care and sustainability payments for commissioned social care providers (£3.801m in total). Both areas have been implemented with an assurance that the actual costs will be fully reimbursed.

Continued progress towards financial balance together with confirmation of funding in relation to Covid-19 mobilisation costs is essential to minimise further financial risk to the Council within the context of the current debt of £5.293m.

Savings Update

2.8 The 2020/21 General Services Revenue Estimates included targets for savings of £4.439m across all services. At 30 November 2020 the majority of savings are on target for delivery by 31 March 2021 with the primary exceptions being those impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. These include:

- Planned savings from the review of Facilities Management provision across Educational Establishments which are unlikely to be fully achieved due to the additional requirements arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and delays in the implementation of 1140 hours provision within Early Learning and Childcare;
- Planned savings linked to Property Rationalisation which have been delayed due to delays in the review of operational properties and additional service requirements linked to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Delays in realising savings from the review external residential placements which will not be fully implemented during 2020/21; and
- Other minor shortfalls in the delivery of planned savings linked to the revisions required by the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to reviews of the Additional Support Needs, Music and Education Psychology services and capital programme design work.

Housing Revenue Account

2.9 The Housing Revenue Account budgeted for a breakeven position in 2020/21 and an in-year underspend of (£2.939m) is currently anticipated for the year to 31 March 2021, an increase of (£0.247m) from that previously reported. This is summarised in the following table with further details provided in Appendix 6.

	Annual Budget £000's	Projection to 31 March 2021 £000's	Projected Variance for year (Fav)/Adv £000's	Previous Variance @ Period 5 (Fav)/Adv £000's	Movement £000's	Note
Employee Costs	4,818	4,717	(101)	-	(101)	(i)
Property Costs	18,927	16,545	(2,382)	(2,342)	(40)	
Supplies and Services	269	230	(39)	(15)	(24)	
Transport and Plant Costs	26	11	(15)	14	(29)	
Administration Costs	1,856	1,887	31	190	(159)	(ii)
Third Party Payments	2,453	2,405	(48)	(42)	(6)	
Transfer Payments	390	30	(360)	(360)	-	
Other Expenditure	455	1,394	939	937	2	
Capital Financing	21,369	20,316	(1,053)	(958)	(95)	(iii)
Gross Expenditure	50,563	47,535	(3,028)	(2,576)	(452)	
Income	(50,563)	(50,474)	89	(116)	205	(iv)
Net Expenditure	-	(2,939)	(2,939)	(2,692)	(247)	

2.10 Commentary Significant Movements from the Revised Budget

The projected underspend is primarily related to net costs in relation to Covid-19 which have been partly offset by additional income following an increase in tenanted properties. A brief explanation of the significant movements from the previous forecasts is outlined as follows:

(i) Employee Costs – underspend of (£0.101m), an increase for the previously reported breakeven position

The underspend relates to vacancy management across the service.

(ii) Administration Costs - overspend of £0.031m, a decrease in overspend of (£0.159m)

The movement is primarily related to reduced legal expenses resulting from lower than anticipated debt recovery activity.

(iii) Capital Financing – underspend of (£1.053m), an increase in underspend of (£0.095m)

The increased underspend reflects lower levels of borrowing and ongoing lower interest payments in support of the HRA capital programme.

(iv) Income – an under recovery of £0.089m, a movement of £0.205m from the previously reported over recovery

The movement is primarily related to revised rent income forecasts and reduced recovery of court costs linked to the lower legal expenses noted above.

Financial Flexibilities

2.11 The Scottish Government has released draft guidance in relation to a suite of financial flexibility measures which can be used to offset the additional cost and income pressures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, including:

- Capital Grant/Borrowing - flexibility to use Capital Grant to offset pressures or undertake additional borrowing for Revenue purposes. It is noted that this option would require the agreement of the UK Treasury and availability is not currently confirmed.
- Capital Receipts – flexible use receipts to offset revenue in either 2020/21 or 2021/22. Within North Ayrshire all forecast capital receipts are currently allocated to support the 10 year capital investment programme. As such, there are no current plans to make use of this option.
- Credit Arrangements – changes to the accounting requirements for PPP contracts to extend General Fund charges to match the expected life of the assets. Discussions are ongoing between COSLA and the Scottish Government in relation to the draft guidance. However, based on the information available, the current proposals would not present any budget saving opportunities for North Ayrshire Council.
- Loans Fund Principal Holiday – draft guidance issued by the Scottish Government provides options for the principal repayments due in either 2020/21 or 2021/22 to be rephased over a period of up to 20 years. This option could present medium term savings in the region of £2.7m. Based on current projections, there are no proposals to take advantage of this option during the current financial year. However, it is proposed that this option is retained for potential utilisation during 2021/22 to offset any legacy costs arising from the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) approve the earmarking of £2.888m identified at 2.6 to meet future year commitments; (c) note the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at 2.7; and (d) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 7.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 General Services

The net projection for the year as at 30 November 2020 is a net breakeven position for the year.

Housing Revenue Account

The net projection for the year as at 30 November 2020 is an underspend for the year of (£2.939m).

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 None.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6 This report directly supports the Council Plan 2019 to 2024 by maximising resources and providing value for money to support financially sustainable delivery models.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None.

5. Consultation

5.1 Executive Directors have been consulted as part of the review of financial performance and have approved the projected variances contained in this report.

Mark Boyd
Head of Finance

For further information please contact **David Forbes, Senior Manager (Strategic Business Partner)**, on **01294 324551**.

Background Papers

Revenue Budget 2020/21: Financial Performance to 31 August 2020 - Cabinet – 10 November 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVES
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Objective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance	Note No
	£000	£000	£000		
Financial & Customer Services					
FACS Directorate	36	46	10	28%	
Head of Service	133	133	-	0%	
Change Programme	180	180	-	0%	
Audit, Fraud, Safety & Insurance	552	552	-	0%	
Corporate Procurement	1,381	1,381	-	0%	
Financial Services	1,162	1,162	-	0%	
Revenues	1,885	2,459	574	30%	1
Total for Financial & Customer Services	5,329	5,913	584	11%	
People & ICT					
Head of Service	117	117	-	0%	
Employee Services	1,099	1,065	(34)	(3%)	2
HR & Organisational Development	800	775	(25)	(3%)	
ICT	5,027	4,935	(92)	(2%)	3
Business Support	1,134	1,031	(103)	(9%)	4
Customer Services	3,458	3,444	(14)	(0%)	5
Total for People & ICT	11,635	11,367	(268)	(2%)	
Recovery & Renewal					
Head of Service	53	53	-	0%	
Transformation	646	614	(32)	(5%)	
Total for Recovery & Renewal	699	667	(32)	(0%)	
Democratic Services					
Chief Executive	191	201	10	5%	
Head of Service	114	119	5	4%	
Legal & Licensing	497	666	169	34%	6
Policy, Performance & Elections	749	738	(11)	(1%)	
Communications	456	455	(1)	(0%)	
Civil Contingencies	61	61	-	0%	
Committee Services	362	369	7	2%	
Member Services	1,134	1,098	(36)	(3%)	
Information Governance	404	340	(64)	(16%)	7
Total for Democratic Services	3,968	4,047	79	2%	
Growth & Investment					
Tourism	223	193	(30)	(13%)	8
Total for Growth & Investment	223	193	(30)	(0%)	
Totals	21,854	22,187	333	2%	
Less Proposed Carry Forwards		30	30		
Net Total	21,854	22,217	363	2%	

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance
	£000	£000	£000	
Employee Costs	15,957	15,830	(127)	(1%)
Property Costs	68	68	-	0%
Supplies and Services	3,707	3,701	(6)	(0%)
Transport and Plant Costs	44	24	(20)	(45%)
Administration Costs	1,456	1,355	(101)	(7%)
Other Agencies & Bodies	2,302	2,285	(17)	(1%)
Transfer Payments	49,363	49,617	254	1%
Other Expenditure	200	203	3	2%
Capital Financing	-	-	-	-
Gross Expenditure	73,097	73,083	(14)	(0%)
Income	(51,243)	(50,896)	347	(1%)
Net Expenditure	21,854	22,187	333	2%

CHIEF EXECUTIVES
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 1			Finance - Revenues
			There is movement of £0.455m due to limited activity for Housing Benefit Overpayments and Rent Rebates/Rent Allowance expenditure
395	(10)	-3%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.010m due to vacancy management
48,762	250	1%	Transfer Payments - There is a projected overspend of £0.250m due to expenditure for Rent Rebates/Allowances
(47,742)	334	-1%	Income - There is a projected underrecovery of £0.334m within Housing Benefit Overpayments due to limited debt recovery activity during the COVID19 pandemic
574			
Note 2			People & ICT - Employee Services
			There is a movement of (£0.034m) mainly due to vacancy management
1,022	(34)	-3%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.034m due to vacancy management.
(34)			
Note 3			People & ICT - ICT
			There is movement of £0.067m due to unavoidable lagan upgrade costs
2,910	(83)	-3%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.083m due to vacancy management
13	(9)	-71%	Transport Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.009m due to staff fares/mileage
(92)			
Note 4			People & ICT - Business Support
			There is a movement of (£0.074m) mainly due to vacancy management.
1,296	(90)	-7%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.090m due to vacancy management
17	(7)	-42%	Admin Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.007m due to staff training.
(185)	(6)	3%	Income - There is a projected over recovery of £0.006m in occ health recharge income.
(103)			
Note 5			People & ICT - Customer Services
			There is movement of £0.053m mainly due to an under recovery in registration income.
2,238	(26)	-1%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.026m mainly due to vacancy management.
96	(24)	-25%	Admin Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.024m due to postages/printing.
(924)	32	-3%	Income - There is a projected under recovery of £0.032m due to £0.100m under recovery of registration income offset by £0.068m over recovery of benefit admin subsidy.
4			Other minor variances
(14)			
Note 6			Democratic Services - Legal & Licensing
			There is movement of (£0.002m) due to minor variances within admin costs
1,126	15	1%	Employee Costs - There is a projected overspend of £0.015m due to turnover
(717)	163		Income - There is a projected under-recovery of £0.163m due to a reduction within Licensing Income
(9)			Other minor variances
169			
Note 7			Democratic Services - Information Governance
			There is movement of (£0.010m) due to vacancy management
417	(64)	-15%	Employee Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.064m due to vacancy management
(64)			
Note 7			Growth & Investment - Tourism
			There is movement of £0.020m in relation to Tourism spend
343	(30)	-9%	Other Agencies & Bodies - there is a projected underspend of £0.030m due to postponement of events
			It is requested the previously earmarked funding towards the Making Waves festival, which has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions , is reduced from £0.050m to £0.030m.
(30)			

COMMUNITIES
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Objective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance	Note No
	£000	£000	£000		
Early Years Education	21,402	18,190	(3,212)	-15.0%	1
Primary Education	40,721	40,672	(49)	-0.1%	2
Secondary Education	51,308	51,115	(193)	-0.4%	3
Additional Support Needs	12,606	12,184	(422)	-3.3%	4
Education - Other	2,720	3,971	1,251	46.0%	5
Attainment Challenge	129	(71)	(200)	-155.0%	6
Pupil Equity Fund	4,712	4,650	(62)	-1.3%	7
Connected Communities	11,602	14,279	2,677	23.1%	8
Net Total	145,200	144,990	(210)	-0.1%	
Less Proposed Carry Forwards	-	1,612	1,612		
Net Total	145,200	146,602	1,402		

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget	Final Year End Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% variance
	£000	£000	£000	
Employee Costs	120,879	120,193	(686)	-1%
Property Costs	440	436	(4)	(1%)
Supplies and Services	19,562	18,187	(1,375)	(7%)
Transport and Plant Costs	199	182	(17)	(9%)
Administration Costs	987	909	(78)	(8%)
Other Agencies & Bodies	14,063	15,549	1,486	11%
Transfer Payments	580	580	-	0%
Other Expenditure	18	19	1	
Capital Financing	75	75	-	0%
Gross Expenditure	156,803	156,130	(673)	0%
Income	(11,603)	(11,140)	463	-4%
Net Expenditure	145,200	144,990	(210)	0%

COMMUNITIES
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 1			Early Years Education
			Movement: There has been a favourable movement of £1.389m since P5. This is due to an increase in underspend of £0.600m in 3rd party payments and a further increase in unallocated funding of £0.789m.
15,252	(800)	-5%	Employee costs: A projected underspend primarily due to vacancies and posts relating to the expansion programme that have not been created due to COVID.
1,702	(250)	-15%	Supplies and Services: A projected underspend in Educational supplies due to Covid-19
106	(40)	-38%	Admin costs: A projected underspend in staff training course fees due to Covid-19
4,519	(1,000)	-22%	Third Party Payments: A projected underspend in payment to private providers due to Covid-19. The level of private provision uptake has been significantly less than originally anticipated as part of the 1140 hours rollout. Private providers have however been fully supported during the lockdown period.
	(1,122)		Unallocated budget: The Government has recently relaxed the ring fencing arrangements of this funding which allows it to be used to offset other unexpected costs within the service. Budgets that have been allocated are in place to allow the service to meet existing commitments. The unallocated funding element is now fully declared and a revised implementation plan is under development for next year.
			It is requested that an element of the projected underspend (£1.547m) is carried forward into next financial year to be used towards the revised implementation of the 1140 hours programme.
(3,212)			
Note 2			Primary Education
			Movement : There has been no movement since P5
1,903	(28)	-1%	Supplies and Services : £0.028m underspend in PPP costs due to reduced RPI and utility costs.
146	(77)	-53%	Third Party Payments: no overtime required due to the schools being closed in relation to school lets
(56)	56	-100%	Income: due to the schools being closed there will be no school let income.
(49)			
Note 3			Secondary Education
			Movement : There has been no movement since P5
12,365	(159)	-1%	Supplies and Services : £0.159m underspend in PPP costs due to reduced RPI and utility costs.
204	(97)	-48%	Third Party Payments: no overtime required due to the schools being closed in relation to school lets
(65)	63	-97%	Income: due to the schools being closed there will be no school let income.
(193)			
Note 4			ASN
			Movement: there has been an unfavourable movement of £0.033m since P5. This is due to £0.105m increase in placement fee costs, mainly due to additional children and an increase in charges, which was slightly offset by further underspends in employee costs due to vacancies.
2,118	(189)	-9%	Employee costs: A projected underspend primarily due to vacancies.
1,010	(202)	-20%	There is an underspend on external day placements as a result of the screening process currently in place. This enables the children to remain in mainstream establishments or in-authority ASN establishments.
355	85	24%	Other Local Authorities payments - the projections indicate an overspend due to additional NAC children being placed in other local authority establishments.
(264)	(137)	52%	Other Local Authorities income - other Local Authorities that choose to place children in NAC establishments. The projections indicate an over recovery due to an increase in demand.
	21		Other minor movements across various budget lines
(422)			

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 5			Education Other
			Movement: The overspend has decreased by £0.035m.
3,302	969	29%	Employee costs: Projected variances continue to be managed within the context of the Covid-19 Education recovery Plan and available Scottish Government funding. Costs include COVID related retention payments to teaching and support staff. The variance also includes an overspend of £0.080m in the Music service due to unachieved savings offset by underspends within HQ employee costs of £0.064m
450	359	80%	Supplies and Services Costs : Included here are additional IT costs of £0.260m and £0.048m of PPE costs as part of the Education re-start and recovery plan. Increased software licence costs of £0.045m.
(3,174)	(80)	3%	Income : PPP penalty deductions is estimated to exceed budget by £0.060m. PPP insurance rebate expected of £0.099m. Music charges are expected to under recover by £0.079m
	3		Other minor movements across various budget lines
	1,251		
Note 6			Attainment Challenge
			Movement: there has been no movement
5,918	(200)	-3%	Expected contribution towards the Education Recovery Plan. Government flexibility allows uncommitted budgets to be used to offset other unexpected costs within the service.
	(200)		
Note 7			Pupil Equity Fund
			Movement: There has been no movement
	(62)		Expected contribution towards the Education Recovery Plan. Government flexibility allows uncommitted budgets to be used to offset other unexpected costs within the service.
	(62)		
Note 8			Connected Communities
			Movement: There is an unfavourable movement of £0.063m since P5.
7,011	(404)	-6%	Employee Costs: Projected overspends of £0.032m within Community Development mainly due to inflated payroll turnover budget and £0.014m for contribution towards NA foodbank co-ordinator post. These are offset against projected underspends of £0.352m in Libraries/Community Facilities/Country Parks/Arts, which is mainly due to staff costs being reduced due to Covid-19 and staff being redeployed to Facilities Management. Further Projected underspend in Arran Outdoor of £0.099m mainly due to staff being redeployed to Facilities Management
239	(4)	-2%	Property Costs: Projected overspend of £0.062m in Community Development for Covid-19 related expenditure on foodbank and packaging provision. Offset with projected underspends of £0.056m in Libraries, £0.003m in Country Parks and £0.008m in Community Facilities
1,459	(187)	-13%	Supplies & Services: Underspends across all lines as expenditure has been reduced due to Covid-19
168	(32)	-19%	Admin Costs: Underspends across various budget lines as expenditure has been reduced due to Covid-19
4,824	2,745	57%	Third Party Payments: Anticipated increased subsidy support for NALL of £2.735m due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on and to support the renewal programme within NALL. However this sector is still subject to severe volatility depending on government advice. Projected overspends of £0.015m in Community Development for food and fuel costs related to Covid-19, £0.009m in Country Parks for payments to Clyde Muirshiel Park and £0.004m in grants for a payment to Millport Town Hall. Underspend of £0.019m in Community Facilities for payments for music royalties
-2,165	559	-26%	Income: Under recovery of £0.559m of which £0.280m is in Community Facilities, £0.171m in Arran Outdoor Centre, £0.054m in Libraries and £0.051m in Arts, all due to Covid-19
			It is proposed to earmark £0.065m for digital access for the public in community hubs
	2,677		

PLACE
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2019/20

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Objective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance	Note No
	£000	£000	£000		
Directorate and Support	235	235	-	0%	
Physical Environment					
Head Of Physical Environment	114	114	-	0%	
Building Services	(2,509)	(320)	2,189	(87%)	1
Property Governance	(54)	(54)	-	0%	
Property Management & Investment	1,771	1,828	57	3%	2
Housing Assets & Investment	300	322	22	0%	
Property Maintenance	3,603	3,364	(239)	(7%)	3
Property Running Costs	5,132	4,649	(483)	(9%)	4
Energy and Sustainability	4,411	4,231	(180)	(4%)	5
Facilities Management	14,273	15,912	1,639	11%	6
Other Housing	3,723	2,894	(829)	(22%)	7
Total for Physical Environment	30,764	32,940	2,176	7%	
Commercial Services					
Head Of Commercial Services	201	201	-	0%	
Roads	6,870	6,870	-	0%	8
Streetscene	4,682	4,704	22	0%	9
Internal Transport	9,791	9,121	(670)	(7%)	10
Waste Resources	7,781	9,578	1,797	23%	11
Total for Commercial Services	29,325	30,474	1,149	4%	
Economic Growth and Regeneration					
Management	302	269	(33)	0%	
Planning & Protective Services	1,572	1,356	(216)	(14%)	12
Economic Development	4,067	3,312	(755)	(19%)	13
Total for Economic Growth and Regeneration	5,941	4,937	(1,004)	(17%)	
Net Total	66,265	68,586	2,321	4%	
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves		2,216	2,216		
Net Total	66,265	70,802	4,537		

Subjective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Year End Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% variance
	£000	£000	£000	
Employee Costs	54,295	54,163	(132)	(0%)
Property Costs	21,563	21,145	(418)	(2%)
Supplies and Services	12,850	11,420	(1,430)	(11%)
Transport and Plant Costs	9,593	9,288	(305)	(3%)
Administration Costs	1,303	1,264	(39)	(3%)
Other Agencies & Bodies	18,468	18,836	368	2%
Transfer Payments	966	898	(68)	(7%)
Other Expenditure	438	846	408	93%
Capital Financing	-	-	-	
Gross Expenditure	119,476	117,860	(1,616)	(1%)
Income	(53,211)	(49,274)	3,937	(7%)
Net Expenditure	66,265	68,586	2,321	4%

PLACE
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2018/19

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 1			Building Services
			Movement - There has been no movement since period 5.
7,881	(24)	(0%)	Employee Costs: A projected underspend due to a reduction in additional labour required in the second half of the year
4,595	(1,341)	(29%)	Supplies & Services: A projected underspend of £1.341m in materials due to a reduced workload as a result of Covid-19.
2,841	(87)	(3%)	Third Party Payments: A projected overspend in Agency costs of £0.439m offset by an underspend in payments to contractors of £0.526m due to Covid-19.
(19,048)	3,667	(19%)	Income: There is a projected under recovery of income across various income streams due to Covid-19. This includes an estimated contribution from HRA to support the Repairs and Maintenance Service of £1.900m. This charge is under constant review and may be subject to future change.
	(26)		Other minor movements
			Further reductions in costs and additional income had been anticipated since Period 5 but due to the recent tier 4 announcements a more restricted working environment will be required for the immediate future. This will have an impact on current operating model and will result in increased costs. Therefore the projected variance remains at the previously reported level and will be kept under constant review.
2,189			
Note 2			Property Management and Investment
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.005m since P5.
2,422	(113)	(5%)	Employee Costs: A projected underspend of £0.113m due to vacancy management.
(1,103)	135	(12%)	Income: There is a projected under-recovery of income totalling £0.135m mainly consisting of £0.119m under-achievement in factoring income is due to a delay in implementing the new charging policy and £0.009m in sales, fees and charge due to reduction in leases being agreed/renewed.
35			Other minor movements
57			
Note 3			Property Maintenance
			Movement - There has been no movement since P5.
6,940	(239)	(3%)	Property Costs: Projected underspends of £0.239m due to planned works not taking place due to COVID situation, with underspends in Health & Safety budgets due to properties being non operational of £0.024m and underspends in infrastructure improvements of £0.284m due to no-access issues offsetting overspends of £0.069m for property alterations/additional measurements due to COVID. Further work will be carried out throughout 2020/21 to determine any potential impact on future year programmes.
(239)			
Note 4			Property Running Costs
			Movement - There has been no movement since P5.
6,665	(661)	(10%)	Net Property Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.661m which is due to underspends in NDR charges due to Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sector relief (£0.202m) and revaluations on various properties (£0.245m) along with delays in early years establishments (£0.138m). Refunds due on Shewalton landfill and the former Garnock Academy sites amounted to £0.234m. Also the under-achievement of previously approved savings of £0.160m in relation to rationalisation of properties. A further £0.035m relates to shortfall in lease charges and underspends of £0.008m across various budget lines.
(1,742)	168	(10%)	Income : There is a projected under-recovery of income totalling £0.168m due to a reduction in rental income from commercial properties due to lease terminations and refunds/rent free periods granted mainly within Bridgegate Units (£0.148m) and service charges (£0.015m) due to Covid-19 and a shortfall of tenant's insurance income of £0.013m.
10			Other minor movements
(483)			
Note 5			Energy and Sustainability
			Movement - There has been an unfavourable movement of £0.099m since P5, attributable to refreshed property running costs projections due to covid stipulated regulations.
353	(59)	(17%)	Employee costs - A projected underspend of £0.059m due to vacancy management
4,354	(124)	(3%)	Property Costs - There is a projected underspend of £0.124m due to saving in Electricity usage of £0.324m offset by overspends in Water & Sewage £0.101m, Biomass £0.077m and Gas £0.022m.
3			Other minor movements
(180)			

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 6			Facilities Management
			Movement - There is a favourable movement of £1.459m from period 5. This is due to the Catering underspend of £0.556m due to the delayed implementation of the Early Years 1140 hrs programme that was agreed by the Scottish Government. The Cleaning element of this delayed roll out is currently under review. In addition, £0.200m of budget has been drawn down to account for a grant received to help cover the additional cleaning costs within schools. The full costs of providing food vouchers to families eligible for free school meals during the school holidays will now be fully covered by grant reducing the overspend by £0.383m. There is also a further reduction in staff overtime of £0.226m due to utilising commercial catering staff in schools.
12,083	249	2%	Employee Costs - £0.363m of the overspend is due to recharges from Building Services, HRA and Other Housing for the staff who helped with the Free School Meal Hubs and Communities Hub. £0.259m of the overspend relates to savings which are now unachievable and not going to be realised due to the delay in implementation of the 1140 hours expansion in Early Years. £0.118m is due to increased security at Trindlemoss and Kyle Road PPE store; this cost will be offset by additional income from HSCP. £0.031m of the overspend relates to the obligation to pay casual staff their historic average weekly hours during lock-down. All these overspends are offset against a £0.534m underspend due to the reduction in the requirement for overtime during lock-down and utilising commercial catering staff in schools.
936	112	12%	Property Costs: Overspend is in relation to purchasing cleaning materials e.g. hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes in response to COVID 19. The majority of this cost relates to the cleaning of schools as part of the Education Recovery Plan. However this continues to be assessed and costs could be further offset depending on the availability of funding from the Scottish Government.
5,247	(89)	(2%)	Supplies and services - Underspend of £0.556m in Early Years Catering due to the delayed rollout of the 1140 hours. In addition, there is a saving of £1.242m in food due to reduced commercial catering and school meals. This is offset by an overspend of £1.626m for the increase in food due to the Covid-19 response through Free School Meal Hubs, Community Hubs and meals for Key Worker's children. There are overspends of £0.059m for the vehicle charges for School Meal Hub and Community Hub deliveries and £0.024m for the supplies recharged from Building Services, primarily surgical masks.
-4,424	1,367	(31%)	Income - There is a £1.499m under-recovery in commercial and school catering income due to the closure of schools and other buildings. This is offset against additional income of £0.118m from the HSCP for increased security at Trindlemoss and Kyle Road PPE.
			It is proposed to earmark a further £0.062m for the implementation of the Cashless Catering systems.
	1,639		
Note 7			Other Housing
			Movement - There has been an adverse movement of £0.020m since P5. This is mainly due to an increase in bad debt provision following the most recent calculations, which is partly offset with lower employee costs due to a restructure of the Housing First model, reduced payments to HSCP and Cunninghame Housing Association and increased income from additional Temporary Accommodation units being in use longer than projected at P5
4,030	(315)	(8%)	Employee Costs - The projected underspend is due to vacancies across the service and a restructure of the Housing First model
1,768	560	32%	Property Costs - Budgets were based on 170 temporary accommodation units and there are currently 254 units in use in response to Covid-19. The additional units increases rent charges, cleaning, maintenance, repairs and void rent loss. This is offset by the additional rental income generated
125	44	35%	Supplies and Services - The projected overspend is in relation to supplies and PPE required across the service in response to Covid-19
2,233	(109)	(5%)	Third Party Payments - £0.068m of the underspend relates to payments made to Cunninghame Housing Association, as the contract is not being renewed beyond January. A further £0.040m of the underspend relates to payments made to HSCP, following a revision of the HSCP services required
150	387	258%	Other Expenditure - £0.200m of the variance relates to Covid-19 expenditure, for costs such as furniture and fittings which were required to set up additional temporary accommodation units. This has been offset by the additional income generated from the units. A further £0.181m of the variance relates to an increase in bad debt provision
(4,704)	(1,394)	30%	Income - The projected over recovery of income relates mainly to the increase in temporary accommodation units and additional income projected for CCTV from the HRA, which is due to a review of charges to the HRA for the CCTV service
	(2)		Other minor movements
			It is proposed to earmark £0.090m of this underspend to offset a shortfall in the Housing First budget in future years
	(829)		

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 8			Roads
			Movement - There has been no net movement since P5
3,861	(61)	(2%)	Employee Costs - Due to Covid-19, recruitment of various posts has been delayed until later this year
2,143	(58)	(3%)	Supplies and Services - Various underspends across the service
1,726	169	10%	Third Party Payments - £0.050m overspend in Structures for emergency landslip repairs. £0.104m overspend in Network, as work due for completion in March 2020 was delayed due to Covid-19 and a delay in recruitment has also contributed to increased contractor costs. These overspends will be offset by underspends in other budget lines across the service
(1,125)	(49)	4%	Income - Over recovery of income in Network for work for other Council Services, partly offset with under recovery of external income across the service, which can in part be attributed to Covid-19
	(1)		Other Minor Movements
			A proposed budget virement of £0.100m in Network from Employee Costs to Third Party Payments has been included in Appendix 8
			It is proposed to earmark £0.056m for the Critical Traffic Sign Replacement scheme
0			
Note 9			Streetscene
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.025m. This is primarily due to a decrease in employee costs due to a number of casual staff in Streetscene being transferred into temporary positions in Waste from November 2020 to March 2021.
6,419	51	1%	Employee Costs: Overspend is related to additional staff required to undertake income generating work. In addition, as part of the response to the pandemic a significant number of Streetscene colleagues were redeployed to Waste Services to ensure uninterrupted operation of our domestic kerbside waste collection service. These overspends are partially offset by underspends due to reduced staff overtime during lock-down and a reduction in Streetscene activities e.g. reduced Garden Tidy Scheme and reduction in public events.
182	(39)	(21%)	Property Costs: £0.010m projected underspend in plants and planting due to reduced number of public events. £0.021m underspend in ground maintenance which relates to reactive works. £0.014m underspend in street furniture purchases and repairs. This is offset against an overspend of £0.07m in washroom and cleaning supplies.
129	38	29%	Transport Costs: Overspend of £0.015m for additional vehicle hire due to COVID 19 social distance restrictions. In addition, overspends in hire costs of £0.022m expected as a result of the pandemic
405	25	6%	Supplies and Services: £0.020m of the overspend is a result of the projected running costs of the Ayrshire temporary mortuary facility in Prestwick. The remainder is due to Covid-19 expenditure on signage and cleaning supplies.
(2,638)	(37)	1%	Income: An over-recovery of income from Council services has been achieved, offset by an under-recovery of income due to Covid-19 e.g. cancellation of public events, reduced income from memorial permits, reduced Garden Tidy income and cancellation of various works.
	(16)		Other minor movements.
22			
Note 10			Internal Transport
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.015m since P5 due to increased underspends of £0.172m in fuel offset by a decrease in the transport provision underspend of £0.090m and a £0.097m increase in external hires overspend.
4,317	(320)	(7%)	Transport Provision Costs - Underspend due to Covid-19 and closure of schools. It was agreed that current contracts would be paid 75% from April until the end of term in June 2020, in line with the approach taken by most other local authorities.
1,718	(395)	(23%)	Fuel Costs - Underspend due to Covid-19 and associated decrease in fuel usage and price.
472	79	17%	External Hires - overspend primarily due to external plant hire, including hire of an additional Roads Gully Wagon as part of drainage maintenance in response to weather response.
	(34)		Other minor movements
(670)			

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 11			Waste Services
			Movement - There has been an adverse movement of £0.383m since P5, due to increased employee costs in relation to Covid of £0.163m, other employee costs £0.017m, £0.114m movement in loss of Income, due to Waste Gas extraction £0.081m and Commercial Waste of £0.045m (ongoing pandemic impact on businesses). £0.065m movement in 3rd Party costs of which £0.028m is due to recycling contracts and £0.026m organic waste contract.
4,603	470	10%	Employee Costs - Overspend of £0.470m, the majority of which is related to increased staffing costs in relation to delivery of the waste service during the pandemic as part of our planned Covid response to deliver an uninterrupted waste service. This has increased by £0.163m from the last reporting period, as additional staff will now be required to support workplace virus control measures until the end of the financial year (previously projected to end of December). This includes staff moving from other departments.
185	135	73%	Transport Costs- Overspend due to additional vehicles required to deal with the increased waste requirements during Covid-19 (£0.100m).
5,477	570	10%	Third Party Payments – Overspend in part due to Covid-19 (£0.393m). Waste arisings increased significantly due to people staying at home during lockdown. This has been off-set to a degree by savings in disposal costs arising from HWRC closures (underspend of £0.100m). The remaining overspend is a result of an ongoing downturn (pre-Covid) in the recycle market, increasing our processing costs.
(3,040)	662	(22%)	Income - Due to Covid-19 there is an under-recovery of income including– Commercial Waste £0.445m and Special Uplifts £0.048m as part of our strategy to temporarily waive the uplift charge and increase capacity earlier in the year to mitigate the impact of HWRC closures. A further £0.180m of lost income can be attributed to reduced gas extraction and a reduction in skip hire.
(40)			Other Minor Movements
1,797			
Note 12			Economic Development and Regeneration - Management
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.033m since P5, which is due to an underspend in research due to timing.
83	(33)	(40%)	Third Party Payments - underspend due to timing of planned research £0.033m
			It is proposed to earmark this underspend towards future years pressures in Economic Development and Regeneration
(33)			
Note 13			Planning and Protective Services
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.039m since P5, which is due mainly to an increase in vacancy management savings of £0.034m
2,433	(207)	(9%)	Employee Costs - underspends due to vacancy management in Planning £0.023m and Protective Services £0.184m
(9)			Other Minor Movements
(216)			
Note 14			Economic Development
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £0.326m. This is partly due to the inclusion of the final BONA income claim which is £0.040m better than expected. There has been a favourable movement of £0.060m in Regeneration, due to the reallocation of budgets to cover overspends reported previously in Irvine Enterprise Area and payroll costs. There has been a favourable movement of £0.216m within Employability and Skills as the previous overspend relating to the extension of the Modern Apprentices contracts in response to COVID 19 can now be offset against the savings generated from the delayed starting of the 20/21 Modern Apprentice intake. In addition, Employability and Skills have further savings due to Skills for Life programme not re-starting in October due to COVID 19 restrictions.
3,674	(124)	(3%)	Employee costs - an underspend of £0.090m in Employability and Skills due to the Skills for Life programme not re-starting. This is an office based programme and therefore it has not been able to commence in October due to the COVID 19 restrictions. Included is a £0.034m underspend due to the delay in recruiting for the Community Wealth Building post, as such the employee contract now spans over 20/21 and 21/22.
0	(625)		Income - Final net receipt for BONA - £0.645m. This is offset by an under-recovery of grant income of £0.020m in Employability and Skills due to the Skills for Life Programme not re-starting in October due to COVID 19 restrictions.
(6)			Other Minor Movements
			It is proposed to earmark the Skills for Life £0.070m underspend as they will be trying to catch-up on their EU programme spend over the next two years to ensure that they use their full allocation. However, in order to do this they require sufficient match funding to be in place.
			It is proposed to earmark the Community Wealth Building underspend of £0.034m as there was a delay in recruiting for the CWB post so the contract now spans over 20/21 and 21/22.
			It is proposed to earmark £0.201m towards future costs in respect of the Modern Apprenticeships Programme
(755)			

OTHER CORPORATE ITEMS
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Objective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance	Note No
	£000	£000	£000		
Strathclyde Passenger Transport	2,222	2,222	-	0%	
SPT Concessionary Fares	285	285	-	0%	
Ayrshire Joint Valuation Board	824	824	-	0%	
Other Corporate Costs					
Pension Costs	1,855	1,855	-	0%	
Central Telephones	86	86	-	0%	
Other Corporate Items (incl Transformation Costs, Bad Debt Provision, External Audit fees and other centrally held funding.)	15,023	7,064	(7,959)	(53%)	1
Insurance Account	19	19	-	0%	
	20,314	12,355	(7,959)	(39%)	
Less Proposed Carry Forwards		750	750		
Net Total	20,314	13,105	(7,209)	(35%)	

OTHER CORPORATE ITEMS
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Budget £000	Projected Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 1			Other Corporate Items
			Movement - There has been a favourable movement of £1.372m since P5, which is primarily related to £0.785m Scottish Government funding in relation to Covid-19, which offsets the variances reported in relation to Housing Benefit Overpayments recoveries, Council Tax and Council Tax Reduction, and £0.827m of centrally held payroll and utility pressure budgets which are not expected to be drawn down during 2020/21. These have been partly offset by the transfer of £0.240m of funding to services in relation to non-service Covid-19 costs.
15,023	(7,959)	-53%	An underspend of £7.959m is projected. This is primarily in relation to additional Scottish Government non-specific Covid-19 funding, which partially offsets the additional expenditure and reduced income reported across other services, £7.118m, and centrally held payroll and utility pressure budgets which are not expected to be drawn down during 2020/21, £0.827m.
			It is requested that £0.750m of this underspend is earmarked to support the 2021/22 to 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan.
	(7,959)		

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2020/21

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Objective Summary	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% variance	Note No
	£000	£000	£000		
Financing Charges	13,644	13,644	-	-	
Contribution to Loans Fund Reserve	3,641	3,641	-	-	
Scottish Government Funding	(307,561)	(307,561)	-	-	
Council Tax	(59,447)	(58,540)	907	(2%)	1
Use of Earmarked Funds	(2,175)	(2,175)	-	-	
Net Total	(351,898)	(350,991)	907	(0%)	

Note 1 Council Tax

Income from Council Tax is forecasting to under recover by £0.907m. This is primarily related to additional provision for bad debts due to the impact on the debt recovery position and additional Council Tax Replacement expenditure.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2019/20

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Annual Variance Adverse or (Favourable)	% Variance	Note No
	£	£	£		
Employee Costs	4,818	4,717	(101)	(2%)	1
Property Costs					
Responsive Repairs	4,829	4,055	(774)	(16%)	
Void Repairs	3,338	2,351	(987)	(30%)	
Planned and Cyclical Maintenance	5,862	3,762	(2,100)	(36%)	
Aids and Adaptions	1,571	1,198	(373)	(24%)	
Other property costs	3,327	5,179	1,852	56%	
Total for Property Costs	18,927	16,545	(2,382)		2
Supplies & Services	269	230	(39)	(14%)	
Transport Costs	26	11	(15)	(58%)	
Administration Costs	1,856	1,887	31	2%	3
Third Party Payments	2,453	2,405	(48)	(2%)	
Transfer Payments	390	30	(360)	(92%)	4
Other Expenditure	455	1,394	939	206%	5
Capital Financing Costs	21,369	20,316	(1,053)	(5%)	6
Gross Expenditure	50,563	47,535	(3,028)	(6%)	
Income					
Council House Rents	(49,601)	(49,580)	21	(0%)	
Other Rents	(315)	(315)	-	0%	
Recharges	(377)	(379)	(2)	1%	
Other Income	(160)	(90)	70	(44%)	
Transfer from HRA Reserves	(110)	(110)	-	0%	
Total Income	(50,563)	(50,474)	89	(0%)	7
Net Expenditure	-	(2,939)	(2,939)		

HRA
BUDGETARY CONTROL 2019/20

REPORT FOR THE 8 MONTHS TO 30 NOVEMBER 2020

Budget £000	Variance £000	Variance as % of budget	Section
Note 1			Employee Costs
			Movement - there is now a projected underspend of £0.101m due to vacancy management.
4,818	(101)	-2%	A projected underspend in employee costs of £0.101m due to vacancies and posts being filled later than originally anticipated.
(101)			
Note 2			Property Costs
			Movement - there is a favourable movement of £0.040m in projected property costs since Period 5. This is due to an increase in projected spend within Responsive Repairs of £0.319m, Void Repairs £0.184m, offset by a reduction in Planned and Cyclical Maintenance of £0.466m and other Property costs of £0.076m
18,927	(2,382)	-13%	There is a projected underspend of £2.470m which is primarily due to £0.773m in Responsive Repairs, £0.987m in Void Repairs and £2.100m in Planned and Cyclical Maintenance. A further underspend of £0.374m is expected for Aids & Adaptations - this is due to fewer requests from the HSCP for adaptations, further impacted by COVID-19. Of this total underspend it is expected that £0.438m is related to delayed expenditure and will be required in future years. Included is a £1.900m contribution towards the Repairs and Maintenance Service.
(2,382)			
Note 3			Administration Costs
			There has been a favourable movement of £0.159m since Period 5 primarily due to a reduction in legal expenses of £0.130m
1,855	31	2%	A projected overspend of £0.190m as a result of a change in the way Central Support costs are allocated. This change was agreed after the budget was set. This is partially offset by a reduction in legal fees of £0.130m.
31			
Note 4			Transfer Payments
			There has been no movement since Period 5.
390	(360)	-92%	The underspend relates to the reduction in payment of disturbance allowances as a result of COVID-19. This is due to a reduction in the number of repairs which can be carried out this year. This is delayed expenditure and will be incurred in future years.
(360)			
Note 5			Other Expenditure
			There has been no significant movement since Period 5.
455	939	206%	£0.918m of the overspend relates to an increase in the provision of bad debts largely due to COVID-19.
939			
Note 6			Capital Financing
			There has been a favourable movement of £0.095m since Period 5.
9,902	(1,053)	-11%	Loan Charges - There is an underspend in capital financing costs of £1.053m. This is due to the reduced levels of expenditure currently being experienced in the HRA Capital budget
(1,053)			
Note 7			Income
			There has been an adverse movement of £0.205m since Period 5 mainly due to a reduction in court recovery costs.
(160)	70	-44%	A projected shortfall in other income primarily due to a reduction in the projected recovery of court costs due to COVID-19
(963)	19	-2%	Other minor movements
89			

HRA reserves and balances	B/fwd from 2019/20	Transfer to / from Reserves	Use of Earmarked sums	Earmarking of in year surplus	Funding of Capital Projects	Balance at 31/03/20
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Council House Building Fund	6.372	-	-	-	(1.227)	5.145
Welfare Reform	1.500	-	-	-	-	1.500
Contingency Balance	1.500	-	-	2.446	-	3.946
Infrastructure Improvements	0.305	-	-	-	-	0.305
Major Refurbishment Works	0.052	-	-	-	-	0.052
Aids and Adaptations	0.058	-	-	-	-	0.058
Sheltered Housing Works	0.110	-	(0.110)	-	-	-
Additional CFCR	1.000	-	-	-	(1.000)	-
Guttering	-	-	-	0.106	-	0.106
Cyclical Planned Maintenance	-	-	-	0.220	-	0.220
Fencing Programme	-	-	-	0.167	-	0.167
	10.897	-	(0.110)	2.939	(2.227)	11.499

Budget Management - 30 November 2020

Virement/Budget Adjustment Requests

	2020/21		
	Perm (P) / Temp(T)	Virement £m	Directorate Total £m
1) Budget Virements			
Place			
Roads - Network - Third Party Payments (This is in addition to the £0.105m budget virement requested at P5. The cumulative figure is £0.205m)	T	0.100	
Roads - Network - Employee Costs	T	-0.100	
FM - Scottish Attainment Challenge - Education Recovery - Additional cleaning materials	T	0.200	
FM - Scottish Attainment Challenge - Education Recovery - Grant Income	T	-0.200	
			0.000
Communities			
Educ - Scottish Attainment Challenge - Education Recovery - additional cleaning	T	0.297	
Educ - Scottish Attainment Challenge - Education Recovery - additional cleaning	T	-0.297	
			0.000



Integration Joint Board 17 December 2020

Subject:	2020-21 – Month 7 Financial Performance
Purpose:	To provide an overview of the IJB's financial performance as at Period 7 including an update on the estimated financial impact of the Covid-19 response.
Recommendation:	<p>It is recommended that the IJB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) notes the overall integrated financial performance report for the financial year 2020-21 and the overall projected year-end underspend of £0.807m at period 7; (b) notes the updated estimated costs of the Covid mobilisation plan of £8.5m, including savings delays, and the associated funding received to date; and (c) note the financial risks for 2020-21, including the impact of Covid 19, and that there is no recommendation at this time to implement a formal Financial Recovery Plan for the IJB.

Glossary of Terms	
NHS AA	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
MH	Mental Health
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
RAG	Red, Amber, Green
UNPACS	UNPACS, (UNPlanned Activities) – Extra Contractual Referrals
NRAC	NHS Resource Allocation Committee
GAE	Grant Aided Expenditure
PAC	Performance and Audit Committee

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	The report provides an overview of the financial position for the partnership and outlines the projected year-end outturn position informed by the projected expenditure and income commitments, these have been prepared in conjunction with relevant budget holders and services. It should be noted that although this report refers to the position at the October period end that further work is undertaken following the month end to finalise projections, therefore the projected outturn position is as current and up to date as can practicably be reported.

1.2	<p>The projected outturn, before the impact of Covid-19, is a year-end underspend of £0.807m for 2020-21 which is a favourable movement of £0.430m. There is scope for this position to fluctuate due to in-year cost and demand pressures and assumptions in relation to funding and the achievement of savings. The position has been adjusted to reflect the potential impact of Lead Partnership services. In the absence of any alternative risk sharing agreement for lead partnership services an NRAC share of the projected position has been assumed as this would be in line with the allocation in previous years.</p>
1.3	<p>From the core projections, overall the main areas of pressure are learning disability care packages, looked after children and adult in-patients within the lead partnership. However, there has been significant progress to reduce the pressures in these areas. The financial position demonstrates that the work started before the pandemic to ensure the IJB moved into the new financial year in a financially sustainable position has not been reversed by the Covid-19 response. If this position can be sustained as we move through the year, and assuming all Covid-19 costs are fully funded, the IJB will secure financial balance and repay £1.5m of the debt to North Ayrshire Council as planned.</p>
1.4	<p>The most up to date position in terms of the mobilisation plan for Covid-19 based on the return to the Scottish Government in November projects £8.5m of a financial impact, which is split between additional costs of £7.4m and anticipated savings delays of £1.1m. The impact of savings delays has been built into the core financial projection above on the basis that there is less confidence that funding will be provided to compensate for this. There are financial risks associated with Covid-19 as the IJB has yet to receive confirmation of the full funding allocation. To date North Ayrshire have been allocated funding totalling £6.3m.</p>
1.5	<p>Pending full funding for Covid-19 being confirmed there is a risk that there may be a shortfall to fully compensate the North Ayrshire IJB for the additional costs. Currently there is a balance of £1.1m of estimated costs for which funding has not yet been allocated. However, there is no recommendation at this time to implement a Financial Recovery Plan on the basis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increasing confidence that additional costs will be funded based on the recently received and future expected funding allocations, for both health and social care costs only 70% of estimated costs to March have been funded to date, further allocations are expected in January; • Offsetting reductions of £0.5m have not been included in the overall funding allocation and also have not been factored into the HSCP financial projections, therefore at this stage these would potentially remain available for North to re-direct to any funding shortfall; • The most significant area of additional Covid costs are the purchase of PPE for social care and sustainability payments for commissioned social care providers (£3.8m in total). Both areas have been implemented with an assurance that the actual costs will be fully reimbursed; • The period 7 position projects an underspend position (excluding Covid) and this does not include any assumption re the £1.5m held by the Council towards the IJB debt, this position assumes the debt repayment is made as planned, this position also incorporates estimated delays with savings delivery. <p>The financial position will continue to be reported to the IJB at each meeting, these reports will outline the monthly financial projections and the updated position in relation</p>

	to estimates for Covid costs. This will include the ongoing consideration of whether a Financial Recovery Plan may be required in the future.
2.	CURRENT POSITION
2.1	<p>The report includes an overview of the financial position including commitments against the available resource, explanations for the main budget variances, an update on progress in terms of savings delivery and plans to work towards financial balance.</p> <p>The report also includes detail of the estimated costs and potential financial impact of the Covid-19 response.</p>
	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – AT PERIOD 7
2.2	<p>The projected outturn position at period 7 reflects the cost of core service delivery and does not include the costs of the Covid 19 response as these costs are considered separately alongside the funding implications.</p> <p>Against the full-year budget of £257.502m there is a projected year-end underspend of £0.807 (0.3%). The Integration Scheme outlines that there is an expectation that the IJB takes account of the totality of resources available to balance the budget in year. Following this approach, an integrated view of the financial position should be taken, however it is useful to note that this overall position consists of a projected overspend of £0.371m in social care services offset by a projected underspend of £1.178m in health services.</p> <p>As highlighted at the end of last year the payroll turnover target was to be centralised for future years as the approach in previous years left some service areas with unachievable targets whilst other areas were able to overachieve, it was agreed that a more transparent approach would be to manage the payroll turnover and vacancy savings centrally. This approach has been adopted for 2020-21, this has helped to de-clutter the financial report and to make it more transparent re the overall turnover target and the progress towards achieving this across the partnership. Section 2.6 highlights progress with the partnership vacancy target.</p> <p>Appendix A provides the financial overview of the partnership position. The sections that follow outline the significant variances in service expenditure compared to the approved budgets with detailed analysis provided in Appendix B.</p>
2.3	Health and Community Care Services
	<p>Against the full-year budget of £69.373m there is an underspend of £0.939m (1.35%) which is an adverse movement of £0.034m. The main variances are:</p> <p>a) Care home placements including respite placements (net position after service user contributions) – underspent by £0.510m (adverse movement of £0.138m). The care home budget moved into a sustainable position towards the end of 2019-20 and the opening position for the budget for 2020-21 was expected to be an underspend position as at that time we set the budget at a level to fund 810 places and we were funding 782. The occupancy in care homes has fallen further in the first half of 2020-21 and as at 4th November we were funding 746 placements. Therefore, there are significant vacancies in care homes, the projected underspend includes a steady net increase of 10 placements per month until the year-end. The main reason</p>

	<p>for the adverse movement is the impact of catching up with funding of placements under the improved funding process implemented by the service partly offset by a reduction in respite spend.</p> <p>b) Independent Living Services are overspent by £0.261m (adverse movement £0.041m) which is due to an overspend on physical disability care packages within the community and direct payments. There will be further work undertaken with the implementation of the Adult Community Support framework which will present additional opportunities for reviews and will ensure payment only for the actual hours of care delivered. The roll out of the CM2000 system for Adult services was postponed towards the year-end due to the Covid response and will be implemented early in the new year.</p> <p>c) Care at home are reporting a balanced position, whilst there is a projected overspend on the budget due to additional capacity for Covid this remains below the costs included in the Covid funding plan and the additional monies received for winter capacity. Bank staff are being offered contracts, the service are recruiting additional staff for the in-house service and also engaging with new providers to bring them onto the framework for commissioned services. The cost of these plans remains in line with the level of Covid resources requested.</p> <p>d) Aids and adaptations projected underspend of £0.150m (£0.075m adverse movement). There have been significant delays with carrying out assessments and providing equipment and adaptations during lock down. The final outturn depends on the level of assessments that can be undertaken in the coming months however this cannot be determined at this stage in the year. The service are actively working on plans to re-mobilise these services and address the waits for assessment and delivery of equipment and adaptations.</p> <p>e) Carers Act Funding is projected to underspend by £0.443m (no movement) based on the currently committed spend and delays with taking forward new developments to support carers. The total uncommitted budget is £0.560m so this projected position assumes there will be carers' support plans undertaken and a level of demand/services identified from these plans to be delivered later in the year. The service plan to undertaken positive promotion of the services available to carers and are currently reviewing the process for a carers assessment to make this more accessible to individuals requiring support.</p>
2.4	<p>Mental Health Services</p>
	<p>Against the full-year budget of £77.927m there is a projected overspend of £0.586m (0.75%) which is a favourable movement of £0.158m. The main variances are:</p> <p>a) Learning Disabilities are projected to overspend by £1.796m (favourable movement of £0.524m), included within this is £1.249m (£0.071m favourable movement) in relation reviews undertaken for community care packages and £0.285m for residential placements (£0.271m favourable movement) due to a placement returning to children's services. The 2020-21 budget for all adult care packages (LD, PD and MH) were realigned with any projected underspends in other areas being used to reduce the LD projected overspend. 2020-21 savings relating to the implementation of the Adult Community Support Contract are delayed as the full implementation of the CM2000 system has been postponed as the focus for providers has been on the response to COVID-19. This will commence with a</p>

phased roll out from January 2021, the financial benefits of the system are included in the projection later in the year but at a reduced level. Community Learning Disability Care packages are proving to be one of the most challenging areas to address overspends. The current projection assumes the current level of commissioned support will continue for the year, there are opportunities to reduce this commitment as a significant number of these care packages were reduced or suspended during lock down, these will be reviewed when services are re-started to ensure support is re-started at the appropriate level, this may potentially reduce the year-end projected position and the opening projections for next year which are currently being collated to inform budget planning for 2021-22.

- b) Community Mental Health services are projected to underspend by £0.182m (£0.057m adverse movement) mainly due to an increase in care packages. There has been a reduction in the number of care packages since the start of the year and there have been some temporary reductions to care packages during lock-down, currently these are assumed to be temporary reductions, these will also be reviewed when brought back online.
- c) The Lead Partnership for Mental Health has an overall projected underspend of £1.039m (adverse movement of £0.309m) which consists of:
- A projected overspend in Adult Inpatients of £0.583m (no movement). The overspend is mainly due to the delay in closing the Lochranza ward on the Ailsa site. The ward closed during August 2020 but there remain staff to be re-deployed, the overspend may reduce if alternatives can be identified for displaced staff sooner.
 - UNPACS is projected to overspend by £0.069m (£0.109m adverse movement) based on current placements. The adverse movement is due to a further new placement being made.
 - Learning Disabilities are projected to overspend by £0.050m which is an adverse movement due to continued increased use of supplementary staffing for enhanced observations.
 - A projected underspend of £0.050m (£0.150m adverse movement) in Elderly Inpatients due to the completion of the work to reconfigure the Elderly Mental wards, this represents the part-year saving with the full financial benefit being available in 2021-22. The part year reduction for 2020-21 has been reduced due to staffing levels for wards, the workforce tool for the wards is being run which will determine the final staffing.
 - A projected underspend in MH Pharmacy of £0.220m (no movement) due to continued lower substitute prescribing costs.
 - The target for turnover or vacancy savings for the Lead Partnership is held within the Lead Partnership as this is a Pan-Ayrshire target. There is a projected over-recovery of the vacancy savings target of £1.268m in 2020-21, further information is included in the table below:

Vacancy Savings Target	(£0.400m)
Projected to March 2021	£1.668m
Over/(Under) Achievement	£1.268m

The current projection to the year-end is informed by the recruitment plans and the confidence in recruitment success and realistic timescales for filling individual vacancies.

	<p>The main areas contributing to this position are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Community Health services £0.133m • Addictions £0.020m • CAMHS £0.295m • Mental Health Admin £0.330m • Psychiatry £0.440m • Psychology £0.383m • Associate Nurse Director £0.067m
2.5	<p>Children Services & Criminal Justice</p>
	<p>Against the full-year budget of £36.003m there is a projected overspend of £0.255m (0.7%) which is an adverse movement of £0.336m. The main variances are:</p> <p>a) Looked After and Accommodated Children are projected to overspend by £0.474m (adverse movement of £0.017m). The main areas within this are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's residential placements are projected to overspend by £0.736m (adverse movement of £0.074m due to extended end dates of placement and contract inflation above the budgeted level). At period 7 there are 15 placements with plans to reduce this by 2 by mid-January and an assumption that there will be no further placements during the year. Budget plans for 2020-21 were based on starting the year with 18, reducing to 14 by the end of Q1 and to 10 places by the end of Q2 and for the remainder of the year. Progress with plans to move children from residential placements have been impacted by Covid-19 as there has been an impact on Children's Hearings and this has limited the availability of tenancies. Children's services are working towards further improving the position as we move through the year as starting the 2021-22 financial year with 13 placements will impact on the savings planned for next year. • Fostering placements are projected to overspend by £0.112m (£0.017m adverse movement) based on the budget for 129 places and 133 actual placements since the start of the year. The fostering service is an area we are trying to grow, and a recruitment campaign was undertaken early in the new year to attract more in-house foster carers to limit the ongoing requirement for external foster placements. There are a number of additional fostering placements attributed to Covid-19 which are out with these numbers as the costs have been included on the Covid-19 mobilisation plan. Respite foster placements is projected to underspend by £0.073m (£0.013m favourable movement) as placements have not taken place due to Covid-19 restrictions. • Kinship placements are projected to underspend by £0.166m (adverse movement of £0.017m) based on the budget for 370 places and 343 actual placements since the start of the year. <p>b) Children with disabilities – residential placements are projected to overspend by £0.091m (£0.287m adverse movement due to a child returning from adult services as they are placed under continuing care legislation). Community packages (inc direct payments) are projected to underspend by £0.106m</p>

	<p>(£0.019m adverse movement) based on current placements and an assumed increase in direct payment cases.</p> <p>c) Respite is projected to underspend by £0.098m (£0.009m adverse movement) due to respite not taking place due to COVID.</p> <p>d) Transport costs – projected underspend of £0.119m (favourable movement of £0.038m) due to reduced mileage costs.</p>												
2.6	<p>Turnover/Vacancy Savings</p> <p>The payroll turnover target has been centralised for 2020-21. The turnover target for the North Lead Partnership for Mental Health services is detailed within the Lead Partnership information at section 2.4.</p> <p>The turnover targets and projected achievement for the financial year for Health and Social Care services out with the Lead Partnership is noted below:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Social Care</td><td>Health Services</td></tr><tr><td>Vacancy Savings Target</td><td>*(£1.957m)</td><td>(0.645m)</td></tr><tr><td>Projected to March 2021</td><td>£1.957m</td><td>1.044m</td></tr><tr><td>Over/(Under) Achievement</td><td>0</td><td>0.399m</td></tr></table> <p>(*the target for social care services has been increased on a non-recurring basis for 2020-21 only by £0.110m to offset the saving for the roll out of Multi-Disciplinary Teams, as no permanent reductions to the structure can be identified at this time but will be by the service from 2021-22 onwards)</p> <p>The position in the table above reflects the assumption in the current financial projections. For social care there have been significant vacancy savings to period 7 due to delays with recruitment and a total of £1.289m has been achieved to date. It is not anticipated that the level of vacancies will continue at this rate to the financial year-end, the full annual target is expected to be achieved on the basis that there will vacancies sustained at around 72% of that level. We may potentially exceed the target, as was the case in previous years, but the likelihood of this will not be known with confidence until services and recruitment re-starts fully over the coming months.</p> <p>The Health vacancy projection to the year-end is informed by the recruitment plans and confidence in recruitment to posts for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>The main areas contributing to the health and social care vacancy savings are spread across a wide range of services with vacancy savings being achieved in most areas, the most notable in terms of value being social worker posts (across all services), the Community Mental Health Teams and Allied Health Professionals.</p>		Social Care	Health Services	Vacancy Savings Target	*(£1.957m)	(0.645m)	Projected to March 2021	£1.957m	1.044m	Over/(Under) Achievement	0	0.399m
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Projected to March 2021	£1.957m	1.044m											
Over/(Under) Achievement	0	0.399m											

2.7

Savings Progress

a) The approved 2020-21 budget included £3.861m of savings.

RAG Status	Position at Budget Approval £m	Position at Period 6 £m
Red	-	0.274
Amber	2.801	1.801
Green	1.060	1.786
TOTAL	3.861	3.861

b) The main areas to note are:

i) Red savings of £0.274m relating to reducing LD sleepovers and the review of Adoption Allowances, both of which have been impacted by Covid-19, the delays in these savings have been included in the overall projected outturn position;

ii) Whilst all savings remain on the plan to be delivered there are delays with some savings with delays in implementation due to Covid-19, for example the implementation of the Adult Community Support Framework as the introduction of the CM2000 system is delayed as providers were focussing on COVID related service and staffing issues and further internal implementation work is required;

iii) The confidence with some savings has increased since the budget was set due to the progress made towards the end of 2019-20, for example with freeing up additional capacity for Care at Home services by reducing care home placements.

Appendix C provides an overview of the savings plan, this highlights that during 2020-21 it is anticipated that a total of £2.483m of savings will be delivered in-year, with £1.378m of savings potentially delayed or reduced. The delays are mainly due to Covid-19 and have been included in the mobilisation plan return to the Scottish Government, but at this stage they have also been reflected in the overall projected outturn position as there is less confidence that the impact of savings delays will be compensated with additional funding.

The Transformation Board is in place to provide oversight and governance to the programme of service change. A focus of the Board is to ensure plans are in place to deliver savings and service change, with a solution focussed approach to bringing programmes back on track. Whilst some of our plans were put on hold due to Covid, the transformation plans are being re-mobilised at pace to ensure we taken any opportunities to join up the re-design services as they come back online. The Transformation Board re-started in July and there will be a concerted effort to ensure the maximum savings delivery can be achieved in-year, to assist with the current year position and to ensure there is no recurring impact moving into 2021-22.

2.8

Budget Changes

The Integration Scheme states that “either party may increase it’s in year payment to the Integration Joint Board. Neither party may reduce the payment in-year to the Integration Joint Board nor Services managed on a Lead Partnership basis....without the express consent of the Integration Joint Board”.

	<p>Appendix D highlights the movement in the overall budget position for the partnership following the initial approved budget.</p> <p>Reductions Requiring Approval:</p> <p>The are no specific reductions to the overall budget that the IJB are required to approve.</p> <p>The IJB are asked to note a transfer of £0.5m of funding from health to social care resources. This reflects the previously approved investment in unscheduled care being allocated for 2020-21 only to assist with social care costs incurred which have contributed to the sustained reduction in delayed discharges.</p> <p>Future Planned Changes:</p> <p>An area due to be transferred in the future are the Douglas Grant and Redburn rehab wards from acute services to the North HSCP. The operational management of these wards has already transferred to the partnership, but the due diligence undertaken on the budget has highlighted a funding shortfall. It has been agreed with NHS Ayrshire and Arran that the financial responsibility will not transfer until balance is found. In the meantime, we are managing services and plans are well progressed to reduce the projected overspend prior to any transfer.</p>
2.9	<p>NHS – Further Developments/Pan Ayrshire Services</p> <p><u>Lead Partnerships:</u></p> <p>The IJB outturn position is adjusted to reflect the impact of Lead Partnership services. During 2019-20 agreement was reached with the other two Ayrshire partnerships that in the absence of any service activity information and alternative agreed risk sharing arrangements that the outturn for all Lead Partnership services would be shared across the 3 partnerships on an NRAC basis. This position is currently the default for 2020-21 as the further work taken forward to develop a framework to report the financial position and risk sharing across the 3 partnerships in relation to hosted or lead service arrangements has been delayed by the requirement to focus efforts on the Covid response.</p> <p>The underspend in relation to North Lead Partnership services is not fully attributed to the North IJB as a share has been allocated to East and South partnerships, similarly the impact of the outturn on East and South led services will require to be shared with North. At month 7 the impact on NA IJB is a £0.338m underspend (£0.353m underspend for East and £0.015m overspend for South). There is no movement from month 6 as neither East nor South report at month 7. The information below is a recap of the month 6 variances.</p> <p>East HSCP – projected underspend of £0.981m (£0.353m NRAC share for NA IJB). The main areas of variance are:</p> <p>a) Primary Care and Out of Hours Services (Lead Partnership) - there is a projected underspend of £0.741m (favourable movement of £0.656m). This reflects detailed work undertaken to analyse year-to-date costs and anticipated activity over the remainder of the financial year. This includes reduced projected costs on Dental Services where there have been a number of services cancelled for</p>

the year-to-date. These services are expected to restart in the final quarter of the 2020 calendar year, with an anticipated increase in staffing costs going forward. In addition, work has been undertaken to update cross charging against for Ayrshire Urgent Care Services (AUCS) costs related to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the current level of Covid-related GP activity will continue until the end of December at this stage. In addition, increased staff turnover savings are projected for AUCS, with posts to be recruited to in the final quarter of the financial year. It is anticipated at this stage that the Primary Care Improvement Fund will outturn on budget. The Primary Care budget has increased from £79m at month 4 to £86m at month 6 and is due to confirmation of funding allocations from the Scottish Government, including Primary Care Transformation Funding, Family Health Services Covid-19 funding, Dental funding and an increase to the global sum.

- b) Prison and Police Healthcare (Lead Partnership) - £0.233m projected underspend (favourable movement of £0.279m). This relates to drugs costs which were previously charged to the prison have correctly now been charged against Covid-19 and additional staffing savings.

South HSCP – projected overspend of £0.041m (£0.015m NRAC share for NAHSCP). The overspend is mainly due to an overspend in the community store.

Set Aside:

The budget for set aside resources for 2020-21 is assumed to be in line with the amount for 2019-20 (£30.094m) inflated by the 3% baseline uplift, this value was used in the absence of any updated information on the share of resources and is £30.997m.

At the time of setting the IJB budget it was noted that this may require to be updated following the further work being undertaken by the Ayrshire Finance Leads to establish the baseline resources for each partnership and how this compares to the Fair Share of resources. It was anticipated that 2020-21 would be used as a shadow year for these arrangements, however this work has been delayed due to the Covid-19 response. A further update will be provided to IJBs as this work progresses.

The annual budget for Acute Services is £355.1m. The directorate is underspent by £5.4m following allocation of the COVID-19 funds received from Scottish Government.

The year to date underspend of £5.4m is a result of:

- £7.9m of “offset savings”. These are the underspends resulting from low outpatient and elective activity in the year to date.
- £2.5m of unachieved savings.

The IJBs and the Health Board have submitted a remobilisation plan outlining how activity will return to normal as far as is possible and are working together to ensure patients are looked after in the most suitable environment.

	COVID-19 – FINANCE MOBILISATION PLAN IMPACT																																																																																
2.10	Summary of position <p>From the outset of the pandemic the HSCP acted very swiftly to respond and developed a mobilisation plan detailing the additional activities to support our response, alongside the estimated financial impact. Financial returns have been submitted to the Scottish Government on a regular basis, on the premise that any additional costs aligned to mobilisation plans would be fully funded. There is a risk that if the full cost of the Covid-19 response is not funded that the IJB may require to recover any overspend in-year.</p> <p>The IJB were updated in November outlining the cost estimates, the financial year-end projections and any potential funding gap based on scenarios re Covid-19 funding. The IJB also need to consider any action required to recover the financial position in-year.</p>																																																																																
2.11	Mobilisation Plan Cost <p>The most recent mobilisation plan cost submission submitted in November estimates the costs to be £8.508m to March 2021. The costs remain estimates as the situation continually evolves and there have been several iterations of the financial plan. The financial returns are submitted alongside the Health Board financial returns to the Scottish Government, this was to move to a quarterly basis but has been kept under review to ensure timely updates can be made to ensure funding allocations can be made.</p> <p>The majority of the additional costs for the HSCP relate to the provision of social care services and the most significant areas are PPE, additional staff costs for staff absence and student nurses, loss of income due to closed services, additional care home placements, payments to commissioned care providers to ensure future sustainability and the impact on our approved savings programme.</p> <p>The local finance mobilisation plan submission is included as Appendix E. The main areas of cost together with the movement over the period are summarised below:</p> <table><tr><th>Service Area</th><th>August Return £m</th><th>October Return £m</th><th>November Return £m</th><th>Change</th></tr><tr><td>Payments to Providers</td><td>1.655</td><td>1.683</td><td>2.103</td><td>0.420</td></tr><tr><td>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td><td>2.052</td><td>1.693</td><td>1.698</td><td>0.005</td></tr><tr><td>Savings Delays</td><td>1.115</td><td>1.132</td><td>1.132</td><td>0.000</td></tr><tr><td>Nursing – Students and Bank Staff</td><td>0.733</td><td>0.685</td><td>0.714</td><td>0.029</td></tr><tr><td>Care at Home Capacity</td><td>0.416</td><td>0.416</td><td>0.416</td><td>0.000</td></tr><tr><td>Loss of Income</td><td>0.442</td><td>0.531</td><td>0.576</td><td>0.044</td></tr><tr><td>Staff Cover</td><td>0.425</td><td>0.401</td><td>0.477</td><td>0.076</td></tr><tr><td>Care Home Beds – Delayed Discharges</td><td>0.396</td><td>0.396</td><td>0.396</td><td>0.000</td></tr><tr><td>Fostering Placements</td><td>0.196</td><td>0.196</td><td>0.285</td><td>0.089</td></tr><tr><td>Delayed Discharges - Other Measures</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.087</td><td>0.114</td><td>0.027</td></tr><tr><td>Other staff costs</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.615</td><td>0.685</td><td>0.070</td></tr><tr><td>Winter Planning</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.118</td><td>0.000</td><td>(0.118)</td></tr><tr><td>Other costs</td><td>0.311</td><td>0.233</td><td>0.442</td><td>0.209</td></tr><tr><td>Offsetting cost reductions</td><td>(0.530)</td><td>(0.530)</td><td>(0.530)</td><td>0.000</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>7.211</td><td>7.656</td><td>8.508</td><td>0.852</td></tr></table>	Service Area	August Return £m	October Return £m	November Return £m	Change	Payments to Providers	1.655	1.683	2.103	0.420	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	2.052	1.693	1.698	0.005	Savings Delays	1.115	1.132	1.132	0.000	Nursing – Students and Bank Staff	0.733	0.685	0.714	0.029	Care at Home Capacity	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.000	Loss of Income	0.442	0.531	0.576	0.044	Staff Cover	0.425	0.401	0.477	0.076	Care Home Beds – Delayed Discharges	0.396	0.396	0.396	0.000	Fostering Placements	0.196	0.196	0.285	0.089	Delayed Discharges - Other Measures	0.000	0.087	0.114	0.027	Other staff costs	0.000	0.615	0.685	0.070	Winter Planning	0.000	0.118	0.000	(0.118)	Other costs	0.311	0.233	0.442	0.209	Offsetting cost reductions	(0.530)	(0.530)	(0.530)	0.000	TOTAL	7.211	7.656	8.508	0.852
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Further information on the elements of the plan are included in previous IJB reports. The most recent changes to estimated costs are in relation to:

- Increased sustainability payments to providers based on more accurate information on the level of claims being made by providers and the extension of transitional arrangements for support to November,
- Winter planning funding being allocated separately outwith the mobilisation plan process; and
- Further information on the costs for care at home capacity over winter to increase capacity and cover Covid related absence.

The next submission is expected to be due in January 2021.

2.12 Covid-19 Funding Position

At the outset of the pandemic there was an assurance that subject to any additional expenditure being fully aligned to local mobilisation plans, including the IJB responses, reasonable funding requirements will be supported. This was on the basis that a process would be developed for these to be accurately and immediately recorded and shared with the Scottish Government. The basis of this reporting was drawn up and agreed with COSLA and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

Previous finance reports to IJB have outlined the chronology of funding through the year and the period 6 finance report outlined that £5.491m of funding was agreed at that time to be allocated for North Ayrshire delegated services. Following this there was a commitment to review the social care allocations in December following the change to the support through provider sustainability payments and also to pick up any potential shortfalls as there had initially been a 50% allocation for social care services due to greater uncertainty over costs (70% of estimated costs for health services were previously funded). In addition, the Health allocations for Primary Care and Mental Health Services were re-visited for HSCPs to remove the NRAC cap on allocations for these two areas, alongside this the North HSCP requested additional resources for capacity in Community Mental Health services and this has also been funded.

The funding allocations are noted below:

	Social Care £000	Health £000	Total North £000
Q1 Allocation	2,579	431	3,010
Q2-Q4 Allocation	1,869	612	2,481
Total allocation by November 2020	4,448	1,043	5,491
Additional Funding December 2020	796	(21)	775
TOTAL FUNDING TO DATE	5,244	1,022	6,266

The Adult Social Care Winter plan outlines a further £112m of investment in the sector to support over winter, including:

- £50 million to support the additional costs of restricting staff movement across care settings;
- £50 million for the Social Care Staff Support Fund and winter sustainability funding, through to the end of March 2021;
- up to £5 million for additional oversight and administration costs associated with responding to the pandemic and outbreak management;
- enhanced infection prevention and control, with £7 million for Health Boards to invest in Nurse Director teams;
- up to £500,000 will be available to all care homes to provide access to digital devices, connectivity and support to help manage conditions from home or connect those receiving care with their loved ones.

A further funding allocation for this additional investment is anticipated during December, it is expected that the full amount will not be allocated as elements of these costs are already included in the mobilisation plan funding requests.

The Scottish Government are continuing to work with Health Boards and IJBs to review and further revise financial assessments and intend to make a further substantive funding allocation in January. This will allow identification of the necessary additional support required, and realignment of funding in line with actual spend incurred with an expectation that an allocation to bring funding up to 100% will be provided.

2.13 Covid – Financial Risk

Overall at this time the financial risk to the IJB has been reduced significantly by the recent funding announcement and subsequent allocation.

The table below summarises the overall estimated Covid-19 costs for the North HSCP alongside the funding received to highlight the potential gap:

	£m
Mobilisation Plan Costs (at November)	8.508
FUNDING TOTAL	(6.266)
Shortfall	2.242
Shortfall (excluding savings)	1.110

The estimated additional costs to March 2021 compared to the funding received to date leaves an estimated balance of £1.110m for which funding has not yet been received or allocated.

In terms of the overall risk of currently unfunded elements of the plan:

- There is increasing confidence that additional costs will be funded based on the recently received and future expected funding allocations, for both health and social care costs only 70% of estimated costs to March have been funded to date, further allocations are expected in January;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we have assumed through our core budget monitoring projections that the delays in savings will not be funded and these are included in financial projections, as noted in this report we are projecting breakeven on that basis; • Offsetting reductions of £0.5m have not been included in the overall funding allocation and also have not been factored into the HSCP financial projections, therefore at this stage these would potentially remain available for North to re-direct to any funding shortfall; • The most significant area of additional Covid costs are the purchase of PPE for social care and sustainability payments for commissioned social care providers (£3.8m in total). Both areas have been implemented with an assurance that the actual costs will be fully reimbursed; • The period 7 position projects an underspend of £0.8m (excluding Covid) and this does not include any assumption re the £1.5m held by the Council towards the IJB debt, this position assumes the debt repayment is made as planned, this position also incorporates estimated delays with savings delivery. <p>The financial position will continue to be reported to the IJB at each meeting, these reports will outline the monthly financial projections and the updated position in relation to estimates for Covid costs. This will include the ongoing consideration of whether a Financial Recovery Plan may be required in the future, at this stage this is not recommended to be considered.</p>
2.14	Provider Sustainability Payments and Care Home Occupancy Payments
	<p>COSLA Leaders and Scottish Government have agreed an approach to supporting the social care sector to ensure that reasonable additional costs will be met.</p> <p>We have been making payments to commissioned social care providers in line with the agreed National principles for sustainability and remobilisation payments to social care providers during COVID 19.</p> <p>Care Home Occupancy Payments - we have engaged with older people's care homes in relation to care home occupancy payments and make regular monthly payments to care home providers with emergency faster payments being made if required. Meetings are being held with each care home to discuss ongoing sustainability and to provide support.</p> <p>Sustainability payments - providers are responsible for submitting a claim for additional support to the Partnership for sustainability payments and this is assessed as to what support is required on a case by case basis based on the supporting evidence provided. Each case is assessed by the same group to ensure equity and consistency across providers.</p> <p>In general, all payment terms have been reduced and once any payment is agreed it is being paid quicker to assist the cash flow position of providers. The assessment of some claims has been difficult due to delays with additional information and supporting evidence being submitted to support claims, hence there are a number of claims that are in process.</p> <p>The sustainability payments are estimated to be a significant cost in our mobilisation plan and the timely submission and assessment of claims is key to ensuring we can accurately estimate the financial cost and ensure the costs are reclaimed from the Scottish Government.</p>

Providers in North Ayrshire are not all strictly adhering to these timescales and we are still receiving claims dating back to the start of the pandemic, the commissioning team are working with providers to support them to submit claims.

The tables below show the support provided to date and the outstanding claims as at the end of October.

PROVIDER SUMMARY	NCHC Care Homes	Other	Total
Total Number of Providers	17	48	65
Number in contact for support	16	27	43
Providers Supported to date	11	21	32

OUTSTANDING CLAIMS	NCHC Care Homes	Other	Total
Total Number of Claims	5	6	11
Value of Claims	£477,887	£95,853	£573,740

SUPPORT PROVIDED	NCHC Care Homes £	Other Services £	TOTAL £
Occupancy Payments *	£1,203,196	n/a	£1,203,196
Staffing	£61,769	£50,860	£112,629
PPE, Infection Control	£92,795	£31,390	£124,185
Other	£11,600	£273	£11,873
TOTAL	£1,369,360	£82,284	£1,451,883

* payments to end of October

A significant level of financial support has been provided to our commissioned providers, in particular older people's care homes.

Due to concerns re the sustainability of the social care sector the Scottish Government agreed to sustain the levels of support in November at the same level as October, i.e. for care homes paying for 50% of vacancies during the month and to continue with a planned care approach. This was agreed on the basis that a review of transitional arrangements was required to provide more targeted support to the sector, this work was undertaken with stakeholders to consider the evidence for a new arrangement from December. The group of stakeholders focussed on three main areas: overall aim of funding support for the sector during the pandemic; clarity around additional costs that may be met; and streamlining the mechanism of payments and ensuring consistency in approach across the country.

Arrangements for support have been agreed alongside guidance which sets out the criteria that need to be met for financial support, the approach for payment for care that can not be delivered, the categories of additional costs which may be met, the approach to evidencing additional costs and key principles for requesting and making payments.

The key principles of this ongoing support include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the reasons why care cannot be delivered, only Covid related impacts can be funded through sustainability payments; The 'planned care' approach of continuing to pay for undelivered care has been removed and providers and HSCPs will be required to explore opportunities for creatively delivering services in a different way, temporarily re-deploy staff into other HSCP services (voluntarily), where this is not possible providers will be required to access national supports in the first place, including the potential to furlough staff; Where payment for undelivered care is agreed as the only option this will be at a reduced level depending on the type of service, for example for care homes subject to the NCHC occupancy payments will be made at 80% of the rate for all vacancies, this is dependant on care homes continuing to admit new residents where it is clinically safe to do so; The Social Care Staff Support Fund will remain in place to ensure all staff receive their full pay during a Covid related absence; and Additional reasonable costs that are incurred as a result of Covid which cannot be covered from other funding sources will be reimbursed, including for example PPE, infection prevention control and additional staffing costs.
3.	PROPOSALS
3.1	<u>Anticipated Outcomes</u>
	<p>Continuing to closely monitor the financial position will allow the IJB to take corrective action where required to ensure the partnership can deliver services in 2020-21 from within the available resource, thereby limiting the financial risk the funding partners, i.e. NAC and NHS AA.</p> <p>The estimated costs and funding in relation to the Covid-19 response also require to be closely monitored to ensure that the IJB can plan for the impact of this and to ensure that the IJB is in the position to re-claim funding to compensate for the additional costs.</p>
3.2	<u>Measuring Impact</u>
	Ongoing updates to the financial position will be reported to the IJB throughout 2020-21.
4.	IMPLICATIONS
Financial:	<p>The financial implications are as outlined in the report.</p> <p>Against the full-year budget of £257.502m there is a projected underspend of £0.807m (0.3%). The report outlines the main variances for individual services.</p> <p>There are a number of assumptions underpinning the projections which could change as we progress through the year. We will continue to work with services to ensure the most accurate and reliable position is reported.</p>

	One of the main areas of risk is the additional costs related to the Covid-19 response and these are detailed in the report together with an updated position in relation to funding.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	None
Equality:	None
Children and Young People	None
Environmental & Sustainability:	None
Key Priorities:	None
Risk Implications:	Within the projected outturn there are various over and underspends including the non-achievement of savings. The greatest financial risk for 2020-21 is the additional costs in relation to Covid-19.
Community Benefits:	None

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to: -	
	1. No Direction Required	
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	√

4.	CONSULTATION
4.1	<p>This report has been produced in consultation with relevant budget holders and the Partnership Senior Management Team.</p> <p>The IJB financial monitoring report is shared with the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Director of Finance and North Ayrshire Council's Head of Finance after the report has been finalised for the IJB.</p>
5.	CONCLUSION
5.1	<p>It is recommended that the IJB:</p> <p>(a) notes the overall integrated financial performance report for the financial year 2020-21 and the overall projected year-end underspend of £0.807m at period 7;</p> <p>(b) notes the updated estimated costs of the Covid mobilisation plan of £8.5m, including savings delays, and the associated funding received to date; and</p> <p>(c) note the financial risks for 2020-21, including the impact of Covid 19, and that there is no recommendation at this time to implement a formal Financial Recovery Plan for the IJB.</p>

For more information please contact:

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2020-21 Budget Monitoring Report–Objective Summary as at 31st October

Appendix A

Partnership Budget - Objective Summary	2020/21 Budget									Over/ (Under) Spend Variance at Period 6 £'000	Movement in projected variance from Period 6 £'000
	Council			Health			TOTAL				
	Budget	Outturn	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance	Budget	Outturn	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance	Budget	Outturn	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH	55,891	54,808	(1,083)	13,482	13,626	144	69,373	68,434	(939)	(973)	34
: Locality Services	23,264	22,842	(422)	4,724	4,794	70	27,988	27,636	(352)	(310)	(42)
: Community Care Service Delivery	27,508	27,289	(219)	0	0	0	27,508	27,289	(219)	(95)	(124)
: Rehabilitation and Reablement	1,958	1,833	(125)	1,555	1,538	(17)	3,513	3,371	(142)	(256)	114
: Long Term Conditions	1,763	1,360	(403)	5,098	5,189	91	6,861	6,549	(312)	(324)	12
: Integrated Island Services	1,398	1,484	86	2,105	2,105	0	3,503	3,589	86	12	74
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	24,793	26,461	1,668	53,134	52,052	(1,082)	77,927	78,513	586	744	(158)
: Learning Disabilities	18,639	20,433	1,794	446	448	2	19,085	20,881	1,796	2,320	(524)
: Community Mental Health	4,689	4,552	(137)	1,681	1,636	(45)	6,370	6,188	(182)	(239)	57
: Addictions	1,465	1,476	11	1,351	1,351	0	2,816	2,827	11	11	0
: Lead Partnership Mental Health NHS Area Wide	0	0	0	49,656	48,617	(1,039)	49,656	48,617	(1,039)	(1,348)	309
CHILDREN & JUSTICE SERVICES	32,178	32,433	255	3,825	3,825	0	36,003	36,258	255	(81)	336
: Irvine, Kilwinning and Three Towns	3,184	3,036	(148)	0	0	0	3,184	3,036	(148)	(157)	9
: Garnock Valley, North Coast and Arran	1,268	1,155	(113)	0	0	0	1,268	1,155	(113)	(116)	3
: Intervention Services	2,035	2,019	(16)	315	315	0	2,350	2,334	(16)	(19)	3
: Looked After and Accommodated Children	17,768	18,242	474	0	0	0	17,768	18,242	474	457	17
: Quality Improvement	4,311	4,375	64	0	0	0	4,311	4,375	64	(237)	301
: Public Protection	651	648	(3)	0	0	0	651	648	(3)	(6)	3
: Justice Services	2,508	2,508	0	0	0	0	2,508	2,508	0	0	0
: Universal Early Years	453	450	(3)	3,120	3,120	0	3,573	3,570	(3)	(3)	0
: Lead Partnership NHS Children's Services	0	0	0	390	390	0	390	390	0	0	0
PRIMARY CARE	0	0	0	51,024	51,024	0	51,024	51,024	0	0	0
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS			0	5,577	5,502	(75)	5,577	5,502	(75)	(75)	0
MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT COSTS	13,116	12,647	(469)	2,427	1,943	(484)	15,543	14,590	(953)	(508)	(445)
COVID - NHS				1,043	1,043	0	1,043	1,043	0	0	0
CHANGE PROGRAMME	1	1	0	1,011	1,011	0	1,012	1,012	0	0	0
OUTTURN ON A MANAGED BASIS	125,979	126,350	371	131,523	130,026	(1,497)	257,502	256,376	(1,126)	(893)	(233)
Return Hosted Over/Underspends East	0	0	0	0	337	337	0	337	337	442	(105)
Return Hosted Over/Underspends South	0	0	0	0	320	320	0	320	320	412	(92)
Receive Hosted Over/Underspends South	0	0	0	0	15	15	0	15	15	15	0
Receive Hosted Over/Underspends East	0	0	0	0	(353)	(353)	0	(353)	(353)	(353)	0
OUTTURN ON AN IJB BASIS	125,979	126,350	371	131,523	130,345	(1,178)	257,502	256,695	(807)	(377)	(430)

2020-21 Budget Monitoring Report – Detailed Variance Analysis

Appendix B

	Budget £000's	Outturn £000's	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance £000's	
COMMUNITY CARE AND HEALTH	69,373	68,434	(939)	
Locality Services	27,988	27,636	(352)	Older People care homes inc respite - underspend of £0.510m based on 746 placements and including an under recovery of income from Charging Orders of £250k. Independent Living Services : * Direct Payment packages- overspend of £0.079m on 62 packages. * Residential Packages - underspend of £0.029m based on 37 packages. * Community Packages (physical disability) - overspend of £0.153m based on 49 packages .
Community Care Service Delivery	27,508	27,289	(219)	Care at Home (inhouse & purchased) - projected to overspend by £0.086m due to increased demand in Inhouse services (projected overspend £302k) which has been funded by an allocation of Covid funding. Direct Payments - underspend £0.135m to year end on 30 packages, including some spend to work towards clearing current waiting list.
Rehabilitation and Reablement	3,513	3,371	(142)	Aids and Adaptations - underspend of £0.150m an adverse movement from P6 of £0.105m based on ability to enter service user's homes to begin assessments and carry out works.
Long Term Conditions	6,861	6,549	(312)	Carers Centre - projected underspend of £0.443m Anam Cara - projected overspend in employee costs of £0.050m due to pilot of temporary post with a view to making longer term savings in bank & casual hours.
Integrated Island Services	3,503	3,589	86	Employee Costs - Montrose House now reported under Arran Servcies with a projected overspend of £0.063m.

	Budget £000's	Outturn £000's	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance £000's	
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	77,927	78,513	586	
Learning Disabilities	19,085	20,881	1,796	Residential Packages- overspend of £0.285m based on 41 current packages. Community Packages (inc direct payments) - overspend of £0.870m based on 32 current packages.
Community Mental Health	6,370	6,188	(182)	Community Packages (inc direct payments) and Residential Packages - underspend of £0.101m based on 96 community packages, 12 Direct Payments and 29 residential placements.
Addictions	2,816	2,827	11	Outwith the threshold for reporting
Lead Partnership (MHS)	49,656	48,617	(1,039)	Adult Community - underspend of £0.143m due to vacancies. Adult Inpatients- overspend of £0.583m due to a delay in closing the Lochranza wards, revised assumptions on redeployed staff and an under recovery of bed sale income. UNPACs - overspend of £0.069m based on current placements and assumed service level agreement costs. Elderly Inpatients - underspend of £0.050m which includes the part year impact of thr £0.934m of unallocated funding following the elderly MH review. CAMHS - underspend of £0.305m due to vacancies. MH Admin - underspend of £0.390m due to vacancies. Psychiatry - underspend of £0.490m due to vacancies. MH Pharmacy - underspend of £0.220m mainly within substitute prescribing. Psychology- underspend of £0.450m due to vacancies.

	Budget £000's	Outturn £000's	Over/ (Under) Spend Variance £000's	
CHILDREN'S AND JUSTICE SERVICES	36,003	36,258	255	
Irvine, Kilwinning and Three Towns	3,184	3,036	(148)	<p>Transports costs - Projected underspend of £0.038m due a reduction in spend in Staff Mileage costs</p> <p>Cornerstone Respite - Projected underspend of £0.065m due to respite services not taking place due to COVID</p>
Garnock Valley, North Coast and Arran	1,268	1,155	(113)	<p>Employee Costs - Projecting £0.059m underspend due to a substantive post being vacant . This will be offsetting an overspend in employee Costs within Quality Improvement.</p> <p>Transports costs - Projected underspend of 0.008m due a reduction in spend in Staff Mileage costs.</p> <p>Cornerstone Respite - Projected underspend of £0.033m due to respite services not taking place due to COVID.</p>
Intervention Services	2,350	2,334	(16)	Outwith the threshold for reporting
Looked After and Accommodated Children	17,768	18,242	474	<p>Looked After Children placements - Projected underspend of £0.129m, favourable movement of £0.006m which is made up of the following:-</p> <p>Kinship - projected underspend of £0.166m. Budget for 370 placements, currently 343 placement but projecting 347 placements by the year end.</p> <p>Adoption - projected overspend of £0.045m. Budget for 69 placements, currently 73 placements.</p> <p>Fostering - projected overspend of £0.112m. Budget for 129 placements, currently 133 placements and projecting 137 placements by the year end. -</p> <p>Fostering Xtra - projected online. Budget for 32 placements, currently 29 placements but projecting 28 placements by the year end.</p> <p>Fostering Respite - Projected underspend of £0.110m which is due to respite services not taking place due to COVID</p> <p>Private fostering - projected underspend of £0.018m. Budget for 10 placements, currently 10 placements.</p> <p>IMPACCT carers - projected online Budget for 2 placements, currently 2 placements.</p> <p>Residential School placements - Projected overspend £0.736m, current number of placements is 15, assumption that 2 ending in January and no further new admissions resulting in 13 placements at the year end. No secure placements</p>
Quality Improvement	4,311	4,375	64	<p>Employee Costs - Projected Overspend £0.114m of which £0.070m relates to employee acting up to Senior Manager which will being offset with her vacant post within the Irvine Locality.</p> <p>Transports costs - Projected underspend of £0.012m due a reduction in spend in Staff Mileage costs, now basing mileage projection on actual spend this year.</p> <p>Community Packages - Projected underspend of £0.074m, 108 Community Packages on establishment list.</p> <p>Direct Payments - Projected Underspend £0.032m Current number of packages in place is 42 and projecting an increase of further 3 packages until end of the year.</p> <p>Children's Residential Placements - Projected underspend of £0.0196m. Currently 10 Residential Placements</p>
Public Protection	651	648	(3)	Outwith the threshold for reporting
Justice Services	2,508	2,508	0	Outwith the threshold for reporting
Universal Early Years	3,573	3,570	(3)	Outwith the threshold for reporting
: Lead Partnership NHS Children's Services	390	390	0	Outwith the threshold for reporting
PRIMARY CARE	51,024	51,024	0	Outwith the threshold for reporting
ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS	5,577	5,502	(75)	Projected underspend in supplies.
MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT	15,543	14,590	(953)	Over recovery of payroll turnover on health services and the allocation of unscheduled care funding.
CHANGE PROGRAMME & CHALLENGE FUND	1,012	1,012	0	Outwith the threshold for reporting
TOTAL	256,459	255,333	(1,126)	

Threshold for reporting is + or - £50,000

2020-21 Savings Tracker

Appendix C

Savings reference number	Description	Deliverability Status at budget setting	Approved Saving 2020/21 £m	Deliverability Status Month 6	Saving Delivered @ Month 6 £m	Projected to Deliver during Year £m	Projected Shortfall £m	Comment
Children, Families & Criminal Justice								
1	Children and Young People - External Residential Placements	Amber	0.583	Amber	-	0.297	0.286	Currently projecting an overspend. Some plans to move children have been impacted by COVID. Expect to have 13 places at the year-end when the original plan was to have 10 places, will impact on savings for 2021-22.
2	Adoption Allowances	Amber	0.074	Red	-	-	0.074	Current projected overspend but outcome of the adoption review still to be implemented
3	Children's Services - Early Intervention and Prevention	Amber	0.050	Green	0.050	-	-	Fully achieved, met through efficiencies across Children's services
4	Fostering - Reduce external placements	Green	0.036	Green	0.036	-	-	An underspend is projected at month 6.
5	Community Support - Children's Care Packages	Amber	0.008	Green	0.008	-	-	Tender delayed, saving can be met through budget underspend for 2020-21. Tender due to be implemented February 2022.
Mental Health and LD Services								
6	LD - Reduction to Sleepover Provision	Amber	0.200	Red	-	-	0.200	Cluster sleepover models centred around core supported accommodation are being considered but will be delayed. The supported accommodation build timescales have slipped due to COVID.
7	Learning Disability Day Services	Amber	0.279	Amber	-	0.050	0.229	The provision of day care is being reviewed to ensure it can be delivered safely. This will include a review of the staffing, a new staffing structure has been planned which will deliver the full year saving in future years but will be delayed until January 2021.
8	Trindlemoss	Green	0.150	Amber	0.150	-	-	Fully achieved but two tenancies still to take up their place and the final tenancy has to be decided.
9	Mental Health - Flexible Intervention Service	Green	0.008	Green	0.008	-	-	Fully achieved, slightly over-delivered (£10k)
Health and Community Care								
10	Roll out of multidisciplinary teams - Community Care and Health	Amber	0.110	Green	-	0.110	-	For 2020-21 only this saving has been added to the vacancy savings target to be met non-recurringly. There are a number of vacancies across Community Care and Health but at this stage the service can not identify posts to be removed on a permanent basis, will be formalised and removed from establishment from 2021-22.
11	Carers Act Funding - Respite in Care Homes	Green	0.273	Green	0.273	-	-	Fully achieved
12	Care at Home - Reablement Investment	Amber	0.300	Green	-	0.300	-	Expect to fully achieve but there is a projected overspend due to additional TUPE costs and an increased level of service.
13	Care at Home - Efficiency and Capacity Improvement	Amber	0.135	Green	-	0.135	-	Expect to fully achieve but there is a projected overspend due to additional TUPE costs and an increased level of service.
14	Day Centres - Older People	Amber	0.038	Amber	-	-	0.038	Day centres are currently closed and staff have been re-deployed, will look for opportunities to release savings when the services re-open.
15	Charging Policy - Montrose House	Amber	0.050	Green	0.025	0.025	-	New charging policy in place and additional income projected to be achieved.
Whole System								
16	Adults - New Supported Accommodation Models	Amber	0.063	Amber	-	0.025	0.038	Project has slipped. Expected completion date is early 2021. Saving was based on 5mths, Assume only 2mths are achieved
17	Adult Community Support - Commissioning of Services	Amber	0.638	Amber	-	0.150	0.488	Implementation of CM2000 was delayed due to Covid, expect to bring system on line for Adult providers from mid February 2021.
18	Charging Policy - Inflationary Increase	Green	0.050	Amber	-	0.025	0.025	Charging has been suspended during COVID 19, with the exception of care homes and community alarms, expect to bring back on line in October.
TOTAL SOCIAL CARE SAVINGS			3.045		0.550	1.117	1.378	

Health:

Savings reference number	Description	Deliverability Status at budget setting	Approved Saving 2020/21 £m	Deliverability Status Month 6	Saving Delivered @ Month 6 £m	Projected to Deliver during Year £m	Projected Shortfall £m	Comment
19	Trindlemoss	Green	0.120	Green	0.120	-	-	Fully achieved
20	Packages of care	Green	0.100	Green	0.100	-	-	Fully achieved
21	Elderly Mental Health inpatients (lead partnership)	Green	0.216	Green	0.216	-	-	Fully achieved
22	MH Payroll Turnover (lead partnership)	Green	0.100	Green	0.100	-	-	Fully achieved
23	North Payroll Turnover	Green	0.280	Green	0.280	-	-	Fully achieved
TOTAL HEALTH SAVINGS			0.816		0.816	0.000	0	
TOTAL NORTH HSCP SAVINGS			3.861		1.366	1.117	1.378	

2020-21 Budget Reconciliation

Appendix D

COUNCIL	Period	Permanent or Temporary	£
Initial Approved Budget			96,963
Rounding error			4
Error in budget			1,299
Resource Transfer			22,769
WAN Circuits Budget Transfer - Kyle Road - New data Connection (Store Costs)	1	P	(1)
British Sign Language funding transferred to Democratic Services	3	P	(5)
Child Abuse Enquiry costs - Budget from Corporate	5	T	58
Corporate Procurement Posts 313490 & 313106	6	P	(76)
COVID funding	7	T	4,448
Unscheduled Care Allocation	7	T	500
Commercial Waste Virement	7	P	20
Budget Reported at Month 7			125,979
HEALTH	Period	Permanent or Temporary	£
Initial Approved Budget			149,830
Resource Transfer			(22,769)
Adjustment to base budget	1	P	(90)
2019/20 Month 10-12 budget adjustments	1	P	3,999
Non recurring Funding 19/20	3	T	(298)
Full Year effect of Part Year Reductions	3	P	(54)
Additional COVID funding	3	T	1,339
Additional living wage funding	3	P	186
V1P Funding 20/21	3	T	105
Primary Care Prescribing - Uplift	3	P	2,060
Primary Care Prescribing - CRES	3	P	(756)
Outcomes Framework - Breast Feeding	3	T	33
South HSCP V1P contribution	3	T	20
ANP Allocation - MIN	3	T	20
Training Grade Funding	3	P	49
Funding transfer to Acute (Medical Records)	3	T	(33)
Public Health Outcomes Bundle	3	T	235
Specialist Pharmacist in Substance Misuse	3	T	12
Prescribing Reduction - COVID	3	T	(540)
Lochransha Discharges to South HSCP	3	P	(170)
Prescribing Reduction	4	P	(1,497)
Training Grade Funding	4	T	36
TEC Contribution	4	T	(53)
Admin posts from South HSCP	4	P	54
Uplift Adjustment	4	P	21
Additional COVID funding	5	T	2,170
Training Grade Funding	5	P	6
Lochransha Discharges to South/East HSCP	5	P	(232)
Arrol Park Discharges to South HSCP	5	P	(107)
Trindlemoss resource transfer adjustment	5	P	(248)
Training Grade Funding	6	P	9
Diabetes Prevention Psychologist Post NR	6	T	11
Re-parent Parkinson Nurse Nth to Sth	6	P	(109)
Arrol Park Discharges to South HSCP	6	P	(24)
Medical Pay Award - Junior Doctors	6	P	31
COVID funding	7	T	(4,448)
Training Grade Funding	7	P	19
Tranche 4 Social Care Covid	7	T	939
ADP Funding 20/21	7	T	212
Trauma Network Funding	7	P	263
NMAHP Clinical Lead	7	T	16
Anticipated Action 15 increase	7	T	414
Perinatal Funding 20/21	7	T	196
Multiple Sclerosis Nrs fr Acute	7	P	123
Unscheduled care allocation	7	T	(500)
COVID funding - NHS	7	P	1,043
Budget Reported at Month 7			131,523
COMBINED BUDGET			257,502

Mobilisation Submission – November 2020

Consolidated HSCP costs	Revenue												Revenue	Capital
	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	2020/21	2020/21
Additional Hospital Bed Capacity/Costs - Maintaining Surge Capacity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delayed Discharge Reduction- Additional Care Home Beds	82,102	78,564	78,564	78,564	78,564	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	396,358	-
Delayed Discharge Reduction- Additional Care at Home Packages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delayed Discharge Reduction- Other measures	65,604	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	4,362	113,586	-
Personal protective equipment	185,330	185,330	199,650	173,716	204,565	188,626	97,704	92,665	92,665	92,665	92,665	92,665	1,698,247	-
Deep cleans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COVID-19 screening and testing for virus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estates & Facilities cost including impact of physical distancing measures	-	-	8,339	391	132	392	9,497	-	-	-	-	-	18,750	-
Additional staff Overtime and Enhancements	70,596	43,682	47,882	19,489	57,510	34,153	37,027	33,269	33,269	33,269	33,269	33,269	476,684	-
Additional temporary staff spend - Student Nurses & AHP	-	-	369,226	101,111	139,650	74,733	29,395	-	-	-	-	-	714,114	-
Additional temporary staff spend - Health and Support Care Workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional temporary staff spend - All Other	-	-	41,206	45,673	253,332	35,198	59,693	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	685,103	-
Social Care Provider Sustainability Payments	-	-	265,244	223,944	314,525	313,608	288,857	247,300	112,500	112,500	112,500	112,500	2,103,478	-
Social Care Support Fund- Costs for Children & Families Services (where delegated to HSCP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other external provider costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional costs to support carers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental Health Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,328	40,328	40,328	40,329	161,313	-
Additional payments to FHS contractors	-	-	-	28,370	4,820	-	6,742	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	64,932	-
Additional FHS Prescribing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Hubs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other community care costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loss of income	88,500	88,500	88,500	88,500	88,500	88,500	44,250	-	-	-	-	-	575,250	-
Staff Accommodation Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Travel Costs	-	-	5,857	1,755	1,567	1,028	1,019	-	-	-	-	-	11,226	-
Digital, IT & Telephony Costs	-	-	937	(877)	16,810	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	16,882	-
Communications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment & Sundries	-	59,055	16,479	22,141	(10,294)	1,033	3,290	-	-	-	-	-	91,704	-
Homelessness and Criminal Justice Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Children and Family Services	6,952	12,166	20,856	34,760	34,760	34,760	29,546	29,546	29,546	17,380	17,380	17,380	285,032	-
Prison Healthcare Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospice - Loss of income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staffing support, including training & staff wellbeing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Resumption & redesign of primary care/contractor services to support access to urgent care in hours and OOH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs associated with new ways of working- collaborative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Planning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	38,845	38,845	38,845	38,845	38,845	31,649	31,649	31,649	31,649	31,649	31,649	31,649	415,768	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	13,555	7,673	7,673	7,673	7,673	-	-	-	-	-	-	44,247	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600	33,000	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Please update narrative	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offsetting cost reductions - HSCP	(108,007)	(108,007)	(108,007)	(68,583)	(68,583)	(68,583)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(529,770)	-
Total	429,922	416,052	1,085,613	799,832	1,166,738	747,138	643,037	500,391	405,919	393,753	393,753	393,754	7,375,903	-
Subtotal													7,375,903	-
Expected underachievement of savings (HSCP)	141,500	141,500	141,500	141,500	141,500	141,500	47,167	47,167	47,167	47,167	47,167	47,167	1,132,000	-
Total	571,422	557,552	1,227,113	941,332	1,308,238	888,638	690,204	547,558	453,086	440,920	440,920	440,921	8,507,903	-
Total													8,507,903	-

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021
Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet agrees to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 30 November 2020; and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The General Services Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2027/28 was approved by Council on 5 March 2020. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 sits within the updated HRA Business Plan and was approved by Council on 18 December 2019.
- 1.2 This report identifies the current programme for 2020/21, taking account of adjustments made to the initial budgets. The report presents the revised budgets at 31 August 2020 and forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.
- 1.3 At Period 8 the General Fund is forecasting a projected outturn of £42.606m against a revised budget of £42.521m, an overspend of £0.085m. The HRA is forecasting a projected outturn of £47.215m, against a revised budget of £47.126m, an overspend of £0.089m.
- 1.4 Within the General Fund, adjustments to funding have resulted in increases to the overall capital programme of £1.955m. Further reviews of individual project plans, including the impact of ongoing restrictions, has identified a number of adjustments to the current profiles. As a result, £11.140m has been reprofiled for delivery in 2021/22. This has been partly offset by the acceleration of £6.386m of anticipated expenditure from future years.
- 1.5 Within the HRA, a review of delivery timescales has identified a requirement to re-profile £0.734m of works for delivery in 2021/22 and beyond. This has been offset by the acceleration of £1.046m from future years.

- 1.6 The major risk to the forecast position is the uncertainty around the progress of the Covid-19 pandemic. The position presented includes the revised completion timescales for projects based on the available information prior to the additional restrictions announced over the festive period. The impact of these additional restrictions are being assessed to identify any further requirement to rephase future planned expenditure.

2. Background

General Fund

- 2.1 The following table outlines the movements in the 2020/21 General Services budget:

	2020/21 £m
Budget approved as at 31 August 2020	45.320
a) Changes to Funding	1.459
b) Other Revisions to the Programme	0.496
Revised Budget	47.275
c) Alterations to phasing of projects:- 2020/21 to 2021/22	(11.140)
2021/22 to 2020/21	6.386
Budget as at 30 November 2020	42.521

2.2 (a) Changes to Funding

The capital programme has been updated to reflect the following changes to funding:

Funding Body	Amount	Comments
Scottish Government	£0.507m	Town Centre Regeneration Fund
	£0.075m	Improvements to Gypsy/Traveller Sites
SPT	(£0.150m)	Revisions to Cumbrae Ferry & Bus Stop Grant
	£0.100m	Bus Route Congestion Measures
Sustrans	£0.029m	Bridges Infrastructure
	£0.424m	Lochshore
Land Trust	£0.050m	Lochshore
Historic Environment Scotland	(£0.076m)	Revisions to the Millport CARS Grant
NAVT	£0.500m	Agreed contribution to Annickbank Phase 3
Total	£1.459m	

2.3 (b) Other Revisions to the Programme

The programme has been revised for £0.496m of other adjustments relating CFCR and other minor adjustments to available funding:

Project	Amount	Comments
Annickbank Phase 3	£0.250m	Approve Investment Fund contribution
Marress House	£0.232m	Additional CFCR
Vehicle Replacement	£0.014m	Income from sales / insurance recoveries
Total	£0.496m	

2.4 (c) Alterations to the Phasing of Projects

A review of individual project plans has identified a requirement to re-profile the following budget lines for delivery in 2021/22 and beyond. In addition, an analysis of historic expenditure trends has identified a requirement for a corporate phasing adjustment to reflect the degree of uncertainty in the total expenditure projections:

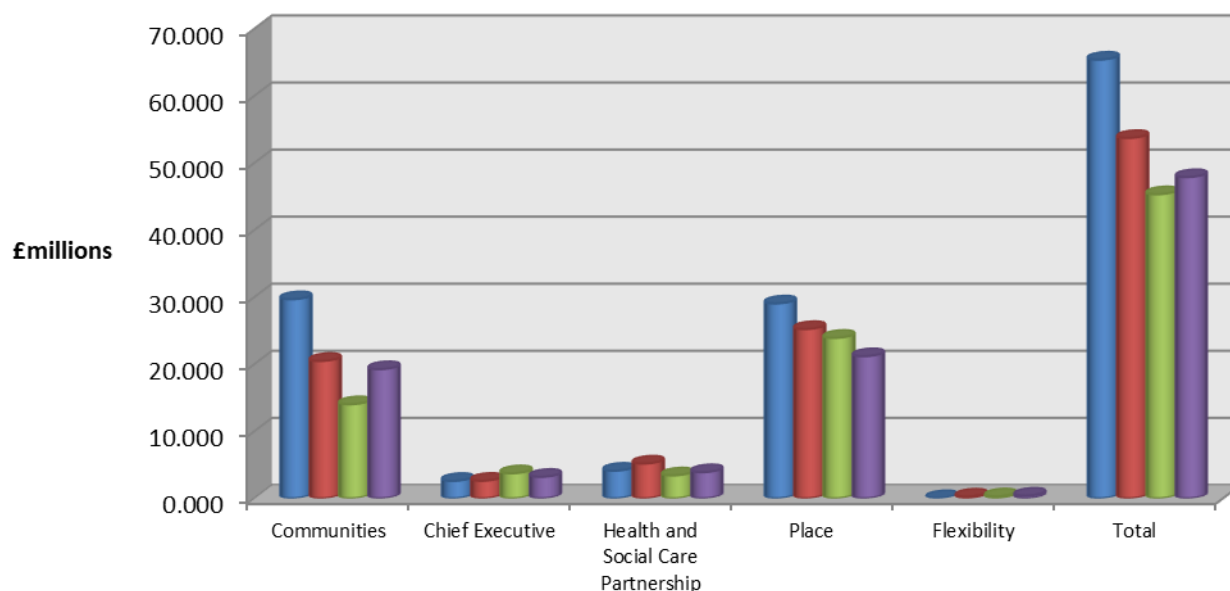
Service	Amount	Project / Comments
Communities	(£0.211m)	Early Years Expansion
	(£0.250m)	Moorpark Primary School
	(£0.200m)	Ayrshire College Partnership
	(£0.661m)	
Chief Executive	(£0.351m)	Ayrshire Growth Deal
	(£0.050m)	Irvine Enterprise Area
	(£0.409m)	i3 Irvine Enterprise
	(£0.176m)	ICT Investment Fund
	(£0.228m)	WAN / Telephony Projects
	(£1.214m)	
HSCP	(£0.032m)	Home Care System
	(£0.100m)	Improvement Grants
	(£0.132m)	
Place	(£0.029m)	Bridges Infrastructure
	(£1.339m)	Upper Garnock Flood Protection Scheme
	(£0.204m)	Cemeteries Works
	(£0.060m)	Access Paths Programme
	(£0.893m)	Town Centre Regeneration
	(£0.451m)	Lochshore
	(£0.806m)	Annickbank Phase 3
	(£3.782m)	
Corporate	(£5.351m)	Uncertainty / Sensitivity Adjustment
	(£5.351m)	
Total	(£11.140m)	

This has been partly offset by the acceleration of a number of projects, including:

Service	Amount	Project / Comments
Communities	£5.624m	Lockhart Campus
	£0.010m	Kilwinning Learning Environment
	£5.634m	
Chief Executive	£0.041m	Ardrossan Harbour Interchange
	£0.041m	
HSCP	£0.711m	Residential & Respite Unit
	£0.711m	
Total	£6.386m	

2.5 These adjustments have resulted in a revised 2020/21 budget at 30 November 2020 of £42.521m.

2.6 The following graph illustrates the movement in each programme on a service basis compared to the revised programme:



Approved Programme	29.664	2.583	4.101	29.040	-	65.388
Programme @ P3	20.469	2.600	5.170	25.225	0.245	53.709
Programme @ P5	14.015	3.718	3.404	23.908	0.275	45.320
Programme @ P8	19.243	3.190	3.883	21.174	0.382	47.872
Movement	(10.421)	0.607	(0.218)	(7.866)	0.382	(17.516)

2.7 The impact on budgeted funding, elements of which are related to the profile of expenditure reported above, is a reduction of £4.754m from the revised budget, including:

Category	Amount	Comments
Capital Grants	£1.739m	Rephased drawdown of VDLT, ELC Expansion and Town Centre Regeneration grants
CFCR & Reserves	£0.473m	Rephased drawdown of reserves contribution for Marress House, Annickbank and Carefirst system
Other Grants	£0.660m	Rephased drawdown of NAVT, SPT and Sustrans grants and contributions
Receipts	£0.025m	Reduced income from sale of land & buildings
Borrowing	£1.857m	Reduced requirement aligned to projected expenditure
Total	£4.754m	

2.8 Capital Expenditure to 31 March 2021

The projections are summarised by service in the following table:

	Approved Budget 2020/21	Budget Revisions	Carry Forwards and Adjustments	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projected Expenditure / Income to 31 March 2021	Projected Variance Over / (Under)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure						
Communities	14,015	255	4,973	19,243	19,311	68
Chief Executive	3,718	70	(598)	3,190	3,190	-
Health and Social Care Partnership	3,404	(100)	579	3,883	3,894	11
Place	23,908	1,623	(4,357)	21,174	21,180	6
Other including Flexibility	275	107	(5,351)	(4,969)	(4,969)	-
Total Expenditure	45,320	1,955	(4,754)	42,521	42,606	85
Income						
General Capital Grant	(27,521)	-	-	(27,521)	(27,521)	-
Specific Capital Grant	(8,492)	(573)	1,739	(7,326)	(7,326)	-
Use of Reserve Funds	(1,440)	-	(18)	(1,458)	(1,458)	-
Capital Funded from Current Revenue	-	(491)	491	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	(638)	(14)	25	(627)	(627)	-
Other Grants & Contributions	(3,221)	(877)	660	(3,438)	(3,438)	-
Prudential Borrowing	(4,008)	-	1,857	(2,151)	(2,236)	(85)
Total Income	(45,320)	(1,955)	4,754	(42,521)	(42,606)	(85)

Information on the progress of all projects can be found in Appendix 1.

- 2.9 Additional costs of £0.085m related to the Covid-19 lockdown requirements across a number of projects, including :

Service	Amount	Project / Comments
Communities	£0.043m	Lockhart Campus
	£0.025m	Early Learning and Childcare Programme
	£0.068m	
HSCP	£0.011m	Young Persons Residential and Respite Unit
	£0.011m	
Place	£0.006m	Redburn Community Centre
	£0.006m	
Total	£0.085m	

Further areas of cost risks as a consequence of Covid-19, associated with works delays and contractor inflation, are subject to ongoing discussions. There is currently no legal obligation for the Council to meet these costs. However, the situation continues to be assessed and any additional costs identified will be addressed as part of the review of the 10 year capital investment programme being undertaken during 2020/21.

Housing Revenue Account

- 2.10 The following table outlines the movements in the 2020/21 HRA Capital budget:

	2020/21 £m
Budget approved as at 31 August 2020	46.814
a) Alterations to phasing of projects:-	
2020/21 to 2021/22	(0.734)
2021/22 to 2020/21	1.046
Budget as at 30 November 2020	47.126

- 2.11 (a) Alterations to the Phasing of Projects

A review of the timescale for delivery of capital projects has identified a requirement to re-profile £0.734m of works for delivery in 2021/22 and beyond, including:

Category	Amount	Project / Comments
New Builds	(£0.458m)	Caley Court
	(£0.458m)	
Refurbishments	(£0.041m)	Friars Lawn
	(£0.041m)	
Other Capital	(£0.235m)	Solar Panels
	(£0.235m)	
Total	(£0.734m)	

This has been offset by the acceleration of £1.046m of projects for delivery during 2020/21, including:

Category	Amount	Project / Comments
New Builds	£0.100m	Kinnier Road
	£0.005m	Afton Court
	£0.105m	
Refurbishments	£0.506m	Bathroom Programme
	£0.107m	Kitchen Programme
	£0.328m	Window Replacement – High Flats
	£0.941m	
Total	£1.046m	

2.12 These adjustments have resulted in a revised 2020/21 budget at 30 November 2020 of £47.126m.

2.13 The impact on budgeted funding is an increase of £0.547m from the approved budget, including:

Category	Amount	Comments
Capital Grants	£1.245m	Reduced contribution from the House Building Fund
Borrowing	(£1.557m)	Additional requirement aligned to project acceleration
Total	(£0.312m)	

2.14 Capital Expenditure to 31 March 2021

The projections are summarised in the following table:

	Approved Budget 2020/21	Carry Forwards and Adjustments	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projected Expenditure / Income to 31 March 2021	Projected Variance Over / (Under)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Service					
Expenditure					
Housing Revenue Account	46,814	312	47,126	47,215	89
Total Expenditure	46,814	312	47,126	47,215	89
Income					
CFCR	(11,467)	-	(11,467)	(11,467)	-
Capital Grants	(21,777)	1,245	(20,532)	(20,532)	-
Use of Reserves	(2,227)	-	(2,227)	(2,227)	-
Affordable Housing Contribution	(1,290)	-	(1,290)	(1,290)	-
Prudential Borrowing	(10,053)	(1,557)	(11,610)	(11,699)	(89)
Total Income	(46,814)	(312)	(47,126)	(47,215)	(89)

A variance of £0.089m is projected within the HRA capital programme for 2020/21 arising from additional costs identified in relation to Watt Court. These will be offset by an additional Prudential Borrowing requirement.

Further cost risk caused by the impact of COVID-19 through work delays and contract inflation continue to be monitored and a review of the potential impact on the Business plan and Capital plan will be undertaken to address any additional cost pressures. Further Information on the progress of all projects can be found in Appendix 2.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet agrees to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 November 2020; and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The financial implications are as outlined in the report. Expenditure will continue to be closely monitored to ensure early action is taken regarding any projected underspends or overspends.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None.

Legal

- 4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 None.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 None.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 This report directly supports the Council Plan 2019 to 2024 by maximising resources and providing value for money to support financially sustainable delivery models.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 None.

5. Consultation

5.1 Progress as outlined in this report has been approved by Executive Directors.

Mark Boyd
Head of Finance

For further information please contact **David Forbes, Senior Manager (Strategic Business Partner)**, on **01294 324551**.

Background Papers

Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021 – Cabinet 10 November 2020

North Ayrshire Council Capital Statement 2020/21
Year Ended 31st March 2021

Period 8

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				CURRENT YEAR 2020/21								
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to date Variance 2020/21	Projected Expenditure to 31st March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 2020/21	True Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE													
Communities													
Nursery Education	15,598,237	7,900,862	15,623,237	25,000	4,682,040	(211,425)	4,470,615	1,839,417	1,738,383	(102,814)	4,495,615	25,000	25,000
Primary Schools	20,792,911	424,215	20,792,911	0	716,587	(250,000)	466,587	41,969	46,269	4,300	466,587	0	0
Secondary Schools	34,595,435	1,540,434	34,595,435	0	1,777,169	(189,713)	1,587,456	39,090	168,632	129,542	1,587,456	0	0
Special Education	25,603,692	14,575,073	25,603,692	0	7,013,225	5,624,030	12,637,255	7,730,392	6,233,767	(1,496,625)	12,680,455	43,200	43,200
Information & Culture	146,758	9,171	146,758	0	2,609	0	2,609	0	2,609	2,609	2,609	0	0
Completed Projects	87,869,877	87,557,749	87,869,877	0	78,069	0	78,069	0	(234,060)	(234,060)	78,069	0	0
SUB TOTAL	184,606,909	112,007,503	184,631,909	25,000	14,269,699	4,972,892	19,242,591	9,650,868	7,955,600	(1,697,048)	19,310,791	68,200	68,200
Chief Executive													
Information Technology	412,007	362,071	412,007	0	0	0	0	0	65	65	0	0	0
Council IT Strategy	6,628,377	2,073,701	6,628,377	0	2,375,448	(403,570)	1,971,878	608,146	767,019	158,873	1,971,878	0	0
Ayrshire Growth Deal	50,000,000	335,349	50,000,000	0	936,268	(350,843)	585,425	0	176,618	176,618	585,425	0	0
Other Growth & Investment	17,011,597	298,829	17,011,597	0	1,051,507	(418,790)	632,717	88,174	68,000	(20,174)	632,717	0	0
SUB TOTAL	74,051,979	3,069,951	74,051,979	0	4,363,223	(1,173,203)	3,190,020	696,320	1,011,702	315,382	3,190,020	0	0
Health & Social Care													
Management & Support	1,054,596	475,749	1,054,596	0	178,847	(31,789)	147,058	0	0	0	147,058	0	0
Housing Non HRA	607,518	223,717	607,518	0	607,518	(100,000)	507,518	152,631	223,717	71,086	507,518	0	0
Adults	5,479,198	5,323,443	5,479,198	0	130,799	0	130,799	0	(24,956)	(24,956)	130,799	0	0
Young People	5,720,000	2,663,369	5,730,800	10,800	2,386,775	711,242	3,098,017	2,830,166	1,418,802	(1,411,364)	3,108,817	10,800	10,800
SUB TOTAL	12,861,313	8,686,278	12,872,113	10,800	3,303,939	579,453	3,883,392	2,982,797	1,617,563	(1,365,234)	3,894,192	10,800	10,800
Place													
Roads	53,064,948	9,412,979	53,064,948	0	11,010,533	(1,368,073)	9,642,460	7,226,679	4,443,009	(2,783,670)	9,642,460	0	0
Streetscene	2,330,954	1,130,832	2,330,954	0	829,701	(203,973)	625,728	47,880	224,132	176,252	625,728	0	0
Transport	2,452,139	1,807,442	2,452,139	0	2,452,139	0	2,452,139	1,577,570	1,807,442	229,872	2,452,139	0	0
Waste Services	14,737,871	14,547,294	14,737,871	0	48,528	0	48,528	27,280	7,951	(19,329)	48,528	0	0
Renewable Energy	1,120,001	852,536	1,120,001	0	0	0	0	0	(124,721)	(124,721)	0	0	0
Office Accommodation	1,061,691	398,584	1,067,691	6,000	1,066,691	0	1,066,691	555,208	401,838	(153,370)	1,072,691	6,000	6,000
Other Property	172,203	48,398	172,203	0	149,582	0	149,582	19,157	25,776	6,619	149,582	0	0
Other Housing	74,528	0	74,528	0	74,528	0	74,528	0	0	0	74,528	0	0
Regeneration	25,997,709	11,398,485	25,997,709	0	6,013,501	(2,149,989)	3,863,512	1,739,717	370,394	(1,369,323)	3,863,512	0	0
Strategic Planning & Infrastructure	3,126,853	7,126,205	3,126,853	0	2,576,846	(60,000)	2,516,846	254,368	434,644	180,276	2,516,846	0	0
Completed Projects	19,984,982	19,225,566	19,984,982	0	733,551	0	733,551	51,885	(25,865)	(77,750)	733,551	0	0
SUB TOTAL	124,123,879	65,948,321	124,129,879	6,000	24,955,600	(3,782,035)	21,173,565	11,499,744	7,564,600	(3,935,144)	21,179,565	6,000	6,000
Other													
Other	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	0	0	382,537	0	0
SUB TOTAL	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	0	0	382,537	0	0
Uncertainty / Sensitivity Adjustment*						(5,350,719)	(5,350,719)	0	0	0	(5,350,719)	0	0
Total Project Expenditure	396,026,617	189,712,053	396,068,417	41,800	47,274,998	(4,753,612)	42,521,386	24,829,729	18,149,465	(6,682,044)	42,606,386	85,000	85,000
Total Project Income					(47,274,998)	4,753,612	(42,521,386)	(31,243,004)	(31,243,004)	0	(42,606,386)	(85,000)	(85,000)
Total Net Expenditure					0	0	0	(6,413,275)	(13,093,539)	(6,682,044)	0	0	0

* Sennsitivity adjustment of 10% or 25% based on source and reliability of expenditure projections

The following classifications have been used to highlight financial performance against budget



On Target (+0.5% of budget)



Slightly off target (+ 0.5% to 2% of budget, or £0.125m, whichever is less)



Significantly off target (+2% or more of budget, or £0.500m, whichever is less)

The following classifications have been used to highlight delivery performance against original timescales set



On Target (up to 5% delay of original timescales)



Slightly off target (+ 5% to 10% of original timescales)



Significantly off target (+10% or more of original timescales)

Capital Programme Funding 2020/21

Funding Description	20/21 Budget at Capital Refresh Mar 2020	Carry Forward from 2019/20	Changes after Capital Refresh Mar 2020	Approved budget at Period 1 used as revised starting point 2020/21	Changes in Year	Revised Budget 20/21	Actual Income to 30 November 2020	Projected Income to 31st March 2021	Variance
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
CAPITAL BORROWING									
Prudential Borrowing	25,336,158	2,401,774	(607,234)	27,130,698	(23,122,591)	4,008,107	0	7,587,125	3,579,018
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FUNDING									
Specific Capital Grants									
Early Learning & Childcare	5,175,610	359,280		5,534,890	(2,546,048)	2,988,842	6,854,249	3,009,656	
Cycling / Walking /Safer Streets	595,000	44,966	172,000	811,966		811,966	(9,580)	811,966	
Vacant & Derelict Land Funding	1,954,070	1,093,196	915,028	3,962,294	(1,163,183)	2,799,111	3,633,118	2,022,900	
Lochshore - Garnock Community Visitor Hub					90,000	90,000	0	0	
Town Centre Regeneration		220,233	968,000	1,188,233	407,000	1,595,233	1,695,233	701,950	
Training Station				0	142,150	142,150	0	142,150	
Gaelic Unit Whitehirst Park Primary School		26,872		26,872		26,872	26,391	26,872	
Gypsy/Traveller Sites					74,528	74,528	74,528	74,528	
Digital Exclusion				0	535,596	535,596	0	535,596	
Capital Grants									
Flooding	17,554,000			17,554,000		17,554,000	0	17,554,000	
General Capital Grant	10,011,000		(44,000)	9,967,000		9,967,000	18,347,336	9,967,000	
SUB TOTAL	35,289,680	1,744,547	2,011,028	39,045,255	(2,459,957)	36,585,298	30,621,275	34,846,618	(1,738,680)
OTHER INCOME TO PROGRAMME									
Use of Funds :-									
Capital Fund	1,374,000	(12,888)	0	1,361,112	0	1,361,112	0	1,411,112	50,000
Change & Service Redesign Fund	0	52,789	26,058	78,847	0	78,847	0	47,058	(31,789)
CFCR	0	0	600,000	600,000	(108,761)	491,239	241,239	0	(491,239)
Grants & Contributions	100,599	221,042	903,751	1,225,392	2,872,903	4,098,295	247,098	3,437,795	(660,500)
Capital Receipts	3,287,851	370,755	75,000	3,733,606	(3,081,506)	652,100	133,392	627,397	(24,703)
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING	65,388,288	4,778,019	3,008,603	73,174,910	(25,899,912)	47,274,998	31,243,004	47,957,105	682,107

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/(Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£				
Nursery Education																	
Early Years Programme																	
EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE FUTURE PROJECTS	474,026	4,073	474,026	0	(2,075)	0	0	0	0	0	2,075		2,075			Budget to be moved to individual projects once costed and approved. Anticipated that the overall funding will be required to deliver all ELC Projects	
GLENCAIRN PS NURSERY ADAPTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		0				
ST BRIDGETS EARLY YEARS	639,676	47,658	639,676	0	274,042	18,298	19,991	1,693	254,051	274,042	0		0			01/05/2021 Revised Completion Date	
SPRINGSIDE EARLY YEARS	540,983	398,341	540,983	0	508,694	201,870	366,052	164,182	142,642	508,694	0		0			13/11/2020 Revised Completion Date	
KILMORY EARLY YEARS	46,290	26,290	46,290	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0			Works hoped to be undertaken summer 2021	
ST PETERS EARLY YEARS	1,198,660	869,764	1,222,660	24,000	707,232	98,434	394,449	296,015	336,783	731,232	24,000	24,000	0			18/12/2020 Revised Completion Date Securing site for lockdown & regular security visits	
ST JOHN OGILVIE EARLY YEARS	172,157	53,393	172,157	0	170,537	2,470	51,773	49,303	118,764	170,537	0		0			18/12/2020 Revised Completion Date	
MAYFIELD PS EARLY YEARS	147,574	10,099	147,574	0	11,014	1,014	2,253	1,239	8,761	11,014	0		0				
BEITH PS EARLY YEARS	321,169	13,073	321,169	0	188,099	5,402	5,402	(0)	182,697	188,099	0		0			Mid April 2021 Revised Completion Date	
SKELMORLIE PS EARLY YEARS	306,087	9,666	306,087	0	23,891	3,624	3,867	243	20,024	23,891	0		0			19/02/2021 Revised Completion Date	
WEST KILBRIDE EARLY EARLY YEARS	162,171	11,332	162,171	0	149,594	3,369	3,970	601	154,184	158,154	8,560		8,560			29/01/2021 Revised Completion Date	
GATESIDE EARLY YEARS	417,944	235,133	417,944	0	385,600	82,084	211,227	129,143	193,908	405,135	19,535		19,535			04/12/2020 Revised Completion Date	
GARNOCK CAMPUS EARLY YEARS	57,426	1,240	57,426	0	57,086	641	900	259	56,186	57,086	0		0				
FAIRLIE EARLY YEARS	163,008	950	163,008	0	97,805	0	950	950	96,855	97,805	0		0			16/04/2021 Revised Completion Date	
ELDERBANK EARLY YEARS	968	375	968	0	968	375	375	0	593	968	0		0			16/04/2021 Revised Completion Date	
DREGHORN EARLY YEARS	117,545	1,780	117,545	0	117,545	0	1,780	0	115,765	117,545	0		0			26/02/2021 Revised Completion Date	
CUMBRAE EARLY YEARS	60,864	342	60,864	0	60,864	0	342	342	52,342	52,684	(8,180)		(8,180)			27/11/2020 Revised Completion Date	
LARGS CAMPUS EARLY YEARS	38,000	0	38,000	0	38,000	0	0	0	38,000	38,000	0		0				
MOORPARK EARLY YEARS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				
WINTON EARLY YEARS	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0		0			14/08/2020 Revised Completion Date	
PIRNMILL EARLY YEARS	51,755	0	51,755	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				
SHISKINE EARLY YEARS	53,420	0	53,420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				
CORRIE EARLY YEARS	25,700	0	25,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				
LAMLASH EARLY YEARS	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0				
MARRESS HOUSE	3,335,394	359,577	3,335,394	0	498,134	23,071	24,295	1,224	241,315	265,610	(232,524)		(232,524)			Feb 22 Revised Completion Date, review needed	
Completed Nursery Education									0								
GLENCAIRN / LOUDON MONTGOMERY EARLY YEARS	170,414	170,414	170,414	0	31	31	31	0	(0)	31	0		0	Complete	Complete		
ARDEER EARLY YEARS	217,667	206,592	217,667	0	6,445	0	(4,630)	(4,630)	10,175	5,545	(900)		(900)	Complete	Complete		
ST JOHNS EARLY YEARS	283,277	283,130	283,277	0	147	0	0	0	0	0	(147)		(147)	Complete	Complete		
STANLEY EARLY YEARS	27,514	27,514	27,514	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete		
KILWINNING (PENNYBURN SCHOOL) EARLY YEARS	646,374	641,374	646,374	0	5,239	0	239	239	5,000	5,239	0		0	Complete	Complete		
DALRY EARLY YEARS CENTRE	56,920	56,920	56,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete		
SPRINGVALE EARLY YEARS	104,401	104,557	104,401	0	97	253	253	(0)	0	253	156		156	Complete	Complete		
ABBAY / ST LUKES PRIMARY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS	64,614	64,615	64,614	0	31	31	31	0	(0)	31	0		0	Complete	Complete		
ST LUKES EARLY YEARS	1,896	1,896	1,896	0	253	253	253	(0)	0	253	0		0	Complete	Complete		
CASTLEPARK EARLY YEARS	218,608	218,608	218,608	0	277	277	277	0	(0)	277	0		0	Complete	Complete		
LAWTHORN EARLY YEARS	195,851	195,687	195,851	0	20,775	9,090	20,611	11,521	164	20,775	0		0	Complete	Complete		
HAYOCKS EARLY YEARS	244,108	242,626	244,108	0	1,482	0	0	0	1,482	1,482	0		0	Complete	Complete		
WOODLANDS EARLY YEARS	180,348	176,437	180,348	0	3,911	0	0	0	3,911	3,911	0		0	Complete	Complete		
CORSEHILL EARLY YEARS	522,631	503,651	522,631	0	7,876	0	(11,105)	(11,105)	18,981	7,876	0		0	Complete	Complete		
CALEDONIA EARLY YEARS	254,088	246,166	254,088	0	3,727	0	(4,195)	(4,195)	7,922	3,727	0		0	Complete	Complete		
BLACKLANDS EARLY YEARS	204,865	194,315	204,865	0	6,487	0	(4,063)	(4,063)	10,550	6,487	0		0	Complete	Complete		
ST MARKS EARLY YEARS	352,429	342,066	352,429	0	0	0	(10,363)	(10,363)	10,363	0	0		0	Complete	Complete		
Other Nursery Education																	
ANNICK PRIMARY EXT - EARLY YRS PROVISION	3,201,415	2,181,208	3,202,415	1,000	1,318,232	1,388,830	663,418	(725,412)	655,814	1,319,232	1,000	1,000	0			04/12/2020 Revised Completion Date.Antifungicidal	
Total Nursery Education	15,598,237	7,900,862	15,623,237	25,000	4,682,040	1,839,417	1,738,383	(102,814)	2,757,232	4,495,615	(186,425)	25,000	(211,425)				
Primary Schools																	
MOORPARK PRIMARY	11,099,442	391,614	11,099,442	0	664,715	15,097	20,296	5,199	394,419	414,715	(250,000)		(250,000)			April 2022 Revised Completion Date	
MONTGOMERIE PARK SCHOOL	9,659,968	0	9,659,968	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	0		0				
GAELIC UNIT WHITEHIRST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	33,500	32,601	33,500	0	26,872	26,872	25,972	(900)	900	26,872	0		0				
Total Primary Education	20,792,911	424,215	20,792,911	0	716,587	41,969	46,269	4,300	420,318	466,587	(250,000)	0	(250,000)				

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/(Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
Secondary Schools																	
KILWINNING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	2,805,435	1,434,020	2,805,435	0	915,949	39,090	96,599	57,509	829,637	926,236	10,287		10,287	🟢	🔴	Phase 9 due to complete July 2021	
AYRSHIRE COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	200,000	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	(200,000)		(200,000)	🟢	🟢		
ARDROSSAN NEW BUILD	31,590,000	106,413	31,590,000	0	661,220	0	72,033	72,033	589,187	661,220	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Secondary Education	34,595,435	1,540,434	34,595,435	0	1,777,169	39,090	168,632	129,542	1,418,824	1,587,456	(189,713)	0	(189,713)			Aug 2024 Revised Completion Date	
Special Education																	
LOCKHART CAMPUS	25,603,692	14,575,073	25,603,692	0	7,013,225	7,730,392	6,233,767	(1,496,625)	6,446,688	12,680,455	5,667,230	43,200	5,624,030	🟢	🔴	Revised completion date 7th May 2021. Mainly contractual claim from HubSW and MCS for Covid related issues and additional staff fees	
Total Special Education	25,603,692	14,575,073	25,603,692	0	7,013,225	7,730,392	6,233,767	(1,496,625)	6,446,688	12,680,455	5,667,230	43,200	5,624,030				
Information & Culture																	
CASTLES & HISTORIC MONUMENTS	61,758	2,609	61,758	0	2,609	0	2,609	2,609	0	2,609	0		0	Holding Code	Holding Code		
ABBEY TOWER	85,000	6,563	85,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	On Hold	OnHold		
Total Information & Cultural	146,758	9,171	146,758	0	2,609	0	2,609	2,609	0	2,609	0	0	0				
Completed Projects																	
HAYOCKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY ADAPTS	206,800	206,800	206,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
LOUDON MONT PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY ADAPTS	698,915	698,915	698,915	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
ELDERBANK PS	11,123,543	11,123,543	11,123,543	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
ANNICK PRIMARY SCHOOL	547,422	547,422	547,422	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
ST PALLADIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL	45,386	45,386	45,386	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
ST BRIDGETS PRIMARY SCHOOL	143,178	143,178	143,178	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
LEARNING ACADEMY AUCHENHARVIE	427,292	427,292	427,292	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
LARGS ACADEMY	4,030,447	4,019,435	4,030,447	0	12,027	0	1,015	1,015	11,012	12,027	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
GARNOCK CAMPUS	40,307,259	40,277,925	40,307,259	0	8,632	0	(20,702)	(20,702)	29,334	8,632	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
AUCHENHARVIE SECONDARY ESTATE LEARNING ENVT	3,135,482	3,081,900	3,135,482	0	38,507	0	(15,075)	(15,075)	53,582	38,507	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
AUCHENHARVIE PE WORKS	2,238,259	2,183,113	2,238,259	0	18,903	0	(36,243)	(36,243)	55,146	18,903	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
IRVINE LEISURE CENTRE	22,190,977	22,027,922	22,190,977	0	0	0	(163,054)	(163,054)	163,054	0	0	0	0	Complete	Complete		
Total Completed Projects	87,869,877	87,557,749	87,869,877	0	78,069	0	(234,060)	(234,060)	312,129	78,069	0	0	0				
Total Communities	184,606,909	112,007,503	184,631,909	25,000	14,269,699	9,650,868	7,955,600	(1,697,048)	11,355,191	19,310,791	5,041,092	68,200	4,972,892				

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to Date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/(Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£				
Information Technology																	
PC REPLACEMENT/VIRTUAL DESKTOP *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
DATA RATIONALISATION & STORAGE	412,007	362,007	412,007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
PSN COMPLIANCE *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
AGILE WORKING *	0	65	0	0	0	0	65	65	(65)	0	0		0	✓	✓		
Total Information Technology	412,007	362,071	412,007	0	0	0	65	65	(65)	0	0	0	0				
Council IT Strategy																	
WIRELESS ACCESS IN SCHOOLS	473,615	473,615	473,615	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
MANAGED WAN SERVICES	713,165	713,165	713,165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
SCHOOLS ICT INVESTMENT *	364,414	254,393	364,414	0	364,414	352,000	254,393	(97,607)	110,021	364,414	0		0	✓	✓		
BUSINESS CONTINUITY	948	948	948	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
DIGITAL STRATEGY	25,404	25,404	25,404	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE	93,550	93,550	93,550	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
ICT INVESTMENT FUND	2,266,892	228,886	2,266,892	0	631,250	218,276	228,886	10,610	226,484	455,370	(175,880)		(175,880)	✓	✓		
DIGITAL EXCLUSION	535,596	182,345	535,596	0	535,596	0	182,345	182,345	353,252	535,596	0		0	✓	✓		
WAN	357,100	0	357,100	0	230,690	0	0	0	131,000	131,000	(99,690)		(99,690)	✓	✓		
LAN/WIFI	1,173,000	19,418	1,173,000	0	258,498	0	19,418	19,418	239,080	258,498	0		0	✓	✓		
TELEPHONY	624,693	81,979	624,693	0	355,000	37,870	81,979	44,109	145,021	227,000	(128,000)		(128,000)	✓	✓		
Total IT Strategy	6,628,377	2,073,701	6,628,377	0	2,375,448	608,146	767,019	158,873	1,204,859	1,971,878	(403,570)	0	(403,570)				
Ayrshire Growth Deal																	
AYRSHIRE GROWTH DEAL	163,732	335,349	163,732	0	0	0	171,618	171,618	(171,618)	0	0		0	✓	✓		
AGD - I3 DIGILAB PHASE 1	6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000	✓	✓		
AGD - I3 DIGILAB PHASE 2	(13,457)	0	(13,457)	0	(13,457)	0	0	0	75,918	75,918	89,375		89,375	✓	✓		
AGD - I3 FLEXIBLE BUISNESS SPACE	11,966,357	0	11,966,357	0	466,357	0	0	0	133,697	133,697	(332,660)		(332,660)	✓	✓		
AGD - HUNTERSTON - CENTRE OF LOW CARBON ENERGY	11,459,627	0	11,459,627	0	59,627	0	0	0	66,476	66,476	6,849		6,849	✓	✓		
AGD - IRVINE HARBOURSIDE ARDEER (THE GREAT	13,968,599	0	13,968,599	0	218,599	0	0	0	138,885	138,885	(79,714)		(79,714)	✓	✓		
AGD - ARDROSSAN (IMSE)	(23,550)		(23,550)	0	(23,550)	0	0	0	4,626	4,626	28,176		28,176	✓	✓		
AGD - MARINE TOURISM	6,478,692		6,478,692	0	228,692	0	5,000	5,000	140,823	145,823	(82,869)		(82,869)	✓	✓		
Total Ayrshire Growth Deal	50,000,000	335,349	50,000,000	0	936,268	0	176,618	176,618	408,808	585,425	(350,843)	0	(350,843)				
Growth & Investment																	
ARDROSSAN HARBOUR INTERCHANGE	4,272,044	280,834	4,272,044	0	350,000	65,026	50,005	(15,021)	341,210	391,215	41,215		41,215	✓	●		
IRVINE ENTERPRISE AREA *	10,750,572	4,500	10,750,572	0	70,000	4,500	4,500	0	15,000	19,500	(50,500)		(50,500)	✓	✓		
LOW CARBON HUB	1,372,000	0	1,372,000	0	56,507	9,153	0	(9,153)	56,507	56,507	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - I3 IRVINE ENTERPRISE*	616,981	13,495	616,981	0	575,000	9,495	13,495	4,000	152,000	165,495	(409,505)		(409,505)	✓	●		
Other Growth & Investment	17,011,597	298,829	17,011,597	0	1,051,507	88,174	68,000	(20,174)	564,717	632,717	(418,790)	0	(418,790)				
Total Chief Executive	74,051,979	3,069,951	74,051,979	0	4,363,223	696,320	1,011,702	315,382	2,178,318	3,190,020	(1,173,203)	0	(1,173,203)				

CAPITAL MONITORING 2020/21

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to Date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/(Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£				
Management & Support																	
HOME CARE SYSTEM	433,918	391,129	433,918	0	42,789	0	0	0	11,000	11,000	(31,789)		(31,789)	✓	✓		
CAREFIRST IT SYSTEM	120,678	84,620	120,678	0	36,058	0	0	0	36,058	36,058	0		0	✓	✓		
CAREFIRST REPLACEMENT	500,000	0	500,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0		0	✓	✓		
Total Management & Support	1,054,596	475,749	1,054,596	0	178,847	0	0	0	147,058	147,058	(31,789)	0	(31,789)				
Housing Non HRA																	
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS *	607,518	223,717	607,518	0	607,518	152,631	223,717	71,086	283,801	507,518	(100,000)		(100,000)	✓	✓		
Total Housing Non HRA	607,518	223,717	607,518	0	607,518	152,631	223,717	71,086	283,801	507,518	(100,000)	0	(100,000)				
Adults																	
TRINDLEMOSS	4,608,078	4,452,323	4,608,078	0	129,559	0	(26,196)	(26,196)	155,755	129,559	0		0	✓	✓		
WARRIX AVENUE	871,120	871,121	871,120	0	1,240	0	1,240	1,240	0	1,240	0		0	✓	✓		
Total Older People	5,479,198	5,323,443	5,479,198	0	130,799	0	(24,956)	(24,956)	155,755	130,799	0	0	0				
Young People																	
RESIDENTIAL & RESPITE UNIT	5,720,000	2,663,369	5,730,800	10,800	2,386,775	2,830,166	1,418,802	(1,411,364)	1,690,015	3,108,817	722,042	10,800	711,242	✓	●		
Total Young People	5,720,000	2,663,369	5,730,800	10,800	2,386,775	2,830,166	1,418,802	(1,411,364)	1,690,015	3,108,817	722,042	10,800	711,242				
Total Health & Social Care	12,861,313	8,686,278	12,872,113	10,800	3,303,939	2,982,797	1,617,563	(1,365,234)	2,276,630	3,894,192	590,253	10,800	579,453				

Place

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to Date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/ (Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£				
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT																	
Roads																	
ROADS IMPROVE/RECONSTRUCTION *	3,591,852	3,591,852	3,591,852	0	3,591,852	3,791,852	2,298,900	(1,492,952)	1,292,952	3,591,852	0		0	🟢	🟢		
LIGHTING *	988,367	354,316	988,367	0	988,367	59,827	354,316	294,489	634,051	988,367	0		0	🟢	🟢		
UPPER GARNOCK FPS	17,400,000	4,065,126	17,400,000	0	5,820,372	3,010,000	1,564,383	(1,445,617)	2,916,941	4,481,324	(1,339,048)		(1,339,048)	🟢	🟢	Work is ongoing to identify potential additional	
MILLPORT COASTAL FPS	27,598,000	796,428	27,598,000	0	86,000	105,000	15,500	(89,500)	70,500	86,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
MILLBURN FPS	1,100,000	108,800	1,100,000	0	24,917	20,000	0	(20,000)	24,917	24,917	0		0	🟢	🟢		
MILLPORT PIER	500,000	150,080	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
BRIDGES INFRASTRUCTURE PROG *	429,025	200,005	429,025	0	429,025	240,000	200,005	(39,995)	199,995	400,000	(29,025)		(29,025)	🟢	🟢		
LARGS PROMENADE SEAWALL	1,200,000	91,373	1,200,000	0	10,000	0	9,905	9,905	95	10,000	0		0	🟢	🔴		
PARKING CHARGES & DPE	257,705	55,000	257,705	0	60,000	0	0	0	60,000	60,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Roads	53,064,948	9,412,979	53,064,948	0	11,010,533	7,226,679	4,443,009	(2,783,670)	5,199,451	9,642,460	(1,368,073)		(1,368,073)				
Streetscene																	
CEMETERY EXTNS, WALLS & INFRA *	203,973	1,612	203,973	0	203,973	0	1,612	1,612	(1,612)	0	(203,973)		(203,973)	Holding Code	Holding Code		
LAMLASH CEMETERY EXTENSION	706,165	637,850	706,165	0	167,050	0	98,735	98,735	68,315	167,050	0		0	🟢	🔴	Cemetery now in use.Complete Oct 2020	
ARDROSSAN CEMETERY PLOTS AND WALLS	161,043	143,630	161,043	0	11,048	0	(6,365)	(6,365)	17,413	11,048	0		0	🟢	🔴	Completion date to be confirmed	
KILBIRNIE CEMETERY	23,230	23,230	23,230	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
KILWINNING CEMETERY NEW	609,000	9,448	609,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0		0	🟢	🔴	23/07/2021- Proposed completion date	
KNADGERHILL CEMETERY EXTENSION	490,122	222,534	490,122	0	397,738	47,880	130,150	82,270	267,588	397,738	0		0	🟢	🔴	27/11/2020 Revised completion date	
DALRY CEMETERY EXTENSION	38,623	36,217	38,623	0	2,406	0	0	0	2,406	2,406	0		0	🟢	🟢		
BEITH CEMETERY ROADS	62,330	52,540	62,330	0	9,790	0	0	0	9,790	9,790	0		0	🟢	🟢		
KILBIRINIE CEMETERY ROADS	36,469	3,773	36,469	0	32,696	0	0	0	32,696	32,696	0		0	🟢	🔴		
Total Streetscene	2,330,954	1,130,832	2,330,954	0	829,701	47,880	224,132	176,252	401,596	625,728	(203,973)		(203,973)				
Transport																	
VEHICLES *	2,333,466	1,761,046	2,333,466	0	2,333,466	1,577,570	1,761,046	183,476	572,420	2,333,466	0		0	🟢	🟢		
WORKPLACE CHARGERS	118,673	46,396	118,673	0	118,673	0	46,396	46,396	72,277	118,673	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Transport	2,452,139	1,807,442	2,452,139	0	2,452,139	1,577,570	1,807,442	229,872	644,697	2,452,139	0		0				
Waste Services																	
SHEWALTON LANDFILL	13,422,542	13,272,542	13,422,542	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
WASTE COLLECTION REVIEW	1,315,329	1,274,753	1,315,329	0	48,528	27,280	7,951	(19,329)	40,577	48,528	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Waste Services	14,737,871	14,547,294	14,737,871	0	48,528	27,280	7,951	(19,329)	40,577	48,528	0		0				
Renewable Energy																	
SOLAR PV RETROFIT EXTENSION	120,000	40,845	120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
NON DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME	1,000,000	811,691	1,000,000	0	0	0	(124,721)	(124,721)	124,721	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Renewable Energy	1,120,001	852,536	1,120,001	0	0	0	(124,721)	(124,721)	124,721	0	0		0				
Office Accommodation																	
PROPERTY LIFECYCLE INVESTMENT *	100,263	5,275	100,263	0	100,263	0	5,275	5,275	94,988	100,263	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI CENTRAL AVE STREETSCENE DEPOT*	96,000	825	96,000	0	96,000	96,000	825	(95,175)	95,175	96,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI WEST KILBRIDE VILLAGE HALL*	60,000	27,086	60,000	0	60,000	0	27,086	27,086	32,914	60,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI PORTLAND PLACE*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI WEST BYREHILL DEPOT*					5,000	3,254	3,254	(1)	1,747	5,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI BLACKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL*	3,000	2,944	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	2,944	(56)	56	3,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI DYKESMAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL*	14,227	0	14,227	0	14,227	14,227	0	(14,227)	14,227	14,227	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI ST LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL *	45,779	15,742	45,779	0	45,779	5,779	15,742	9,963	30,037	45,779	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI WEST KILBRIDE PRIMARY*	4,000	3,832	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	3,832	(168)	168	4,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI WHITEHIRST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL *	72,000	2,228	72,000	0	72,000	30,000	2,228	(27,772)	69,772	72,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI AUCHENHARVIE ACADEMY*	5,000	4,526	5,000	0	5,000	4,526	4,526	(0)	474	5,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI IRVINE ROYAL ACADEMY*	150,000	312	150,000	0	150,000	0	312	312	149,688	150,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI KILWINNING ACADEMY*	2,000	451	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	451	(1,549)	1,549	2,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI 6A KILWINNING ROAD*	1,000	116	1,000	0	1,000	0	116	116	884	1,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI GREENWOOD CONFERENCE CTR*	42,158	1,140	42,158	0	42,158	42,158	1,140	(41,018)	41,018	42,158	0		0	🟢	🟢		
PLI REDBURN CC*	390,264	333,723	396,264	6,000	390,264	345,264	333,723	(11,541)	62,541	396,264	6,000	6,000	0	🟢	🟢	Securing site for lockdown	
PLI AUCHENHARVIE GOLF COURSE*	76,000	384	76,000	0	76,000	5,000	384	(4,616)	75,616	76,000	0		0	🟢	🟢		
Total Office Accommodation	1,061,691	398,584	1,067,691	6,000	1,066,691	555,208	401,838	(153,370)	670,853	1,072,691	6,000	6,000	0				

Place

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS										DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to Date Variance 2020/21	Projected to 31/3/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Actual Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	True Over/ (Under) Spend	Brought / Carry Forward to 2021/22	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical		
Other Property																	
INDUSTRIAL PORTFOLIO *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	●		
HOME	24,198	24,198	24,198	0	10,344	10,344	10,344	(0)	0	10,344	0		0				
BUILD	16,005	17,085	16,005	0	8,813	8,813	9,893	1,080	(1,080)	8,813	0		0				
WOODLANDS PRIMARY PLAYINGFIELD DRAINAGE	132,000	7,115	132,000	0	130,425	0	5,540	5,540	124,885	130,425	0		0	✓	●	26/03/2021 Revised Completion Date	
Total Property	172,203	48,398	172,203	0	149,582	19,157	25,776	6,619	123,806	149,582	0	0	0				
Other Housing																	
GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITES	74,528	0	74,528	0	74,528	0	0	0	74,528	74,528	0		0	✓	✓		
ARDROSSAN HOSTEL									0	0							
Total Other Housing	74,528	0	74,528	0	74,528	0	0	0	74,528	74,528	0	0	0				
Regeneration																	
TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION	1,888,247	298,122	1,888,247	0	1,595,233	493,728	105,108	(388,620)	596,842	701,950	(893,283)		(893,283)	✓	✓	Surplus materials, identifying future use	
IRVINE HIGH STREET	3,034,498	2,621,874	3,034,498	0	380,423	0	(32,201)	(32,201)	412,624	380,423	0		0	✓	✓		
IRVINE HIGH STREET - SHOP FRONTS	150,000	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	●		
IRVINE HIGH STREET - PHASE 2	359,429	0	359,429	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	●		
MILLPORT CARS	411,278	61,418	411,278	0	191,879	0	61,418	61,418	130,461	191,879	0		0	✓	●		
MONTGOMERIE PARK MASTERPLAN	6,274,684	1,679,298	6,274,684	0	50,000	0	701	701	49,299	50,000	0		0	✓	●		
LOCHSHORE, KILBIRNIE	3,936,524	115,312	3,936,524	0	1,186,301	147,348	52,460	(94,888)	683,135	735,595	(450,706)		(450,706)	✓	●		
VDLF 20-21 FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0						
VDLF - IRVINE KYLE ROAD SITE PREP*	1,353,202	1,308,097	1,353,202	0	207,208	124,612	162,104	37,492	45,104	207,208	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - ARDROSSAN NORTH SHORE*	1,785,199	206,695	1,785,199	0	1,013,100	962,162	78,227	(883,935)	934,873	1,013,100	0		0	✓	●		
VDLF - ANNICKBANK PH 3*	1,081,000	800	1,081,000	0	830,000	0	0	0	24,000	24,000	(806,000)		(806,000)	✓	●		
VDLF - DEVELOPMENT WORK*	100,000	0	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - HARBOUR MASTERS OFFICE*	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - MAIN ST KILBIRNIE*	53,000	0	53,000	0	53,000	0	0	0	53,000	53,000	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - DALRY RD SALTCOATS*	15,000	125	15,000	0	15,000	0	125	125	14,875	15,000	0		0	✓	✓		
QUARRY ROAD PHASE 2	5,209,497	5,066,033	5,209,497	0	71,031	0	(72,433)	(72,433)	143,464	71,031	0		0	✓	✓		
TRAINING STATION	142,150	11,867	142,150	0	142,150	11,867	11,867	0	130,283	142,150	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - GAS WORKS (DALRY)*	135,962	14,655	135,962	0	123,176	0	1,869	1,869	121,307	123,176	0		0	✓	✓		
VDLF - MCDOWALL PLACE, ARDROSSAN*	18,039	14,189	18,039	0	5,000	0	1,150	1,150	3,850	5,000	0		0	✓	✓		
Total Regeneration	25,997,709	11,398,485	25,997,709	0	6,013,501	1,739,717	370,394	(1,369,323)	3,493,118	3,863,512	(2,149,989)	0	(2,149,989)				
Strategic Planning & Infrastructure				0													
CYCLING/WALKING/SAFER STREETS *	811,966	83,796	811,966	0	811,966	0	0	0	811,966	811,966	0		0	✓	✓	£60k Spaces for People reprofiled based on revised spend	
ACCESS PATH NETWORK PROGRAMME *	1,399,880	6,361,561	1,399,880	0	1,399,880	133,953	303,803	169,850	1,036,077	1,339,880	(60,000)		(60,000)	✓	✓		
PENNYBURN ROUNDABOUT BUS LANE	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	0		0	✓	✓		
STTS MACHRIE ROAD ARRAN	55,000	0	55,000	0	55,000	0	0	0	55,000	55,000	0		0	✓	✓		
CAR PARK STRATEGY	317,179	317,179	317,179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	✓	✓		
ELECTRIC VEHICLES INFRASTRUCTURE	517,828	363,670	517,828	0	285,000	120,415	130,841	10,426	154,159	285,000	0		0	✓	✓		
Total Strategic Planning & Infrastruture	3,126,853	7,126,205	3,126,853	0	2,576,846	254,368	434,644	180,276	2,082,202	2,516,846	(60,000)	0	(60,000)				

Place

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS									DELIVERY STATUS		Comments
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Completed Projects																
CUNNINGHAME HOUSE PHASE 3-4	2,080,639	2,080,639	2,080,639	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
CUNNINGHAME HOUSE PHASE 5	658,463	658,463	658,463	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
SALTCOATS TOWN HALL	3,727,180	3,727,180	3,727,180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
SALTCOATS PUBLIC REALM	891,219	841,219	891,219	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0		0	Complete	Complete	Final Account still to be processed
OLD BARONY CEMETERY WORKS	60,836	60,836	60,836	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
KILWINNING CEMETERY INFRASTRUCTURE	117,845	117,845	117,845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
DREGHORN CEMETERY	22,677	22,677	22,677	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
MILLPORT CEMETERY	35,412	35,412	35,412	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
SKELMORLIE CEMETERY WALL	131,939	131,939	131,939	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
BEITH AULD KIRK	254,793	254,793	254,793	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
HAYLIE BRAE CEMETERY WALLS	175,386	175,386	175,386	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
KNADGERHILL CEMETERY INFRASTRUCTURE	238,549	238,549	238,549	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
WEST KILBRIDE CEMETERY ROADS	141,430	141,430	141,430	0	39,715	39,715	39,715	(0)	0	39,715	0		0	Complete	Complete	
SALTCOATS PARISH ROADS	17,472	17,472	17,472	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
GARDEN WEIR FISH PATH	55,825	55,825	55,825	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
CCTV GENERAL	389,694	386,061	389,694	0	0	0	(3,634)	(3,634)	3,634	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME	51,018	51,018	51,018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
BIOMASS RETROFIT PROGRAMME	3,378,163	3,342,961	3,378,163	0	0	0	(35,203)	(35,203)	35,203	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
PURCHASE OF STRATEGIC ASSETS	1,069,927	1,069,927	1,069,927	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
STONEYHOLM MILL	47,346	47,346	47,346	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
IRVINE ACTIVE TRAVEL HUB	1,382,111	1,382,111	1,382,111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
QUARRY ROAD PHASE 1	2,977,098	2,898,460	2,977,098	0	42,595	0	(36,043)	(36,043)	78,638	42,595	0		0	Complete	Complete	Final Account still to be processed
VDLF - GREENWOOD INTERCHANGE*	105,349	105,349	105,349	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
VDLF - NACCO SITE*	27,182	27,182	27,182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
VDLF - MOORPARK ROAD WEST	465,424	473,483	465,424	0	1,241	0	9,300	9,300	(8,059)	1,241	0		0	Complete	Complete	
VDLF - WINTON PARK	11,708	11,708	11,708	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
KILBIRNIE CARS (KNOX INST)	333,877	333,877	333,877	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
LARGS MASTERPLAN	336,055	336,055	336,055	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
BUS CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	0		0	Complete	Complete	
BUS ROUTE CONGESTION MEASURES	599,956	99,956	599,956	0	500,000	8,420	0	(8,420)	500,000	500,000	0		0	Complete	Complete	
CUMBRAE FERRY & BUS STOP	68,965	18,965	68,965	0	50,000	3,750	0	(3,750)	50,000	50,000	0		0	Complete	Complete	
ST BRIDE'S CHAPEL, ARRAN	81,441	81,441	81,441	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	Complete	Complete	
Total Completed Projects	19,984,982	19,225,566	19,984,982	0	733,551	51,885	(25,865)	(77,750)	759,416	733,551	0	0	0			
Total Place	124,123,879	65,948,321	124,129,879	6,000	24,955,600	11,499,744	7,564,600	(3,935,144)	13,614,965	21,179,565	(3,776,035)	6,000	(3,782,035)			

OTHER BUDGETS

Project Description	TOTAL PROJECT				2020/21 BUDGETS								Comments
	Total Project Budget	Cumulative Expenditure to date	Total Project Forecast	Projected Over/ (Under) Spend	Total Revised Budget 2020/21	Year to Date Budget 2020/21	Actual Expenditure to 30 November 2020	Year to Date Variance 2020/21	Projected Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Corporate Adjustment	Revised Expenditure to 31 March 2021	Over/ (Under) Spend for 20/21	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	-25%	£	£	
FLEXIBILITY / IMPROVEMENT FUND	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	0	0	382,537	(95,634)	286,903	0	
Total Other Budgets	382,537	0	382,537	0	382,537	0	0	0	382,537	(95,634)	286,903	0	

HRA Capital Statement											APPENDIX 2
For Year Ended 31 March 2021											
Description	Approved budget 18 December 2019	Current budget including carry forwards	Approved Revisions to programme	Carry forward (to)/from future years	Revised Budget 2020/21	Actual Spend to 31/10/2020	Year End Projection	True Over / (Under)spend	Delivery Status Financial	Delivery Status Physical	Comments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000			
Council House Build Programme											
Council House Building General	-	1,542	(1,542)	-	-	(4)	-	-	✓	⚠	
Acquisition Of Houses On Open Market	456	808	(1)	-	807	136	807	-	✓	✓	
New Build Dickson Drive Phase 2	-	-	-	-	-	(31)	-	-	⚠	✓	Complete (retention only)
New Build Watt Court	20	691	368	-	1,059	865	1,148	89	⚠	⚠	Final phase due for completion 2020/21.
New Build Corsehillhead	388	379	(369)	-	10	7	10	-	⚠	⚠	Due for completion 22/23 - Delayed Expenditure- Covid Related
New Build Brathwic Terrace	4,193	3,780	(617)	-	3,163	1,277	3,163	-	⚠	⚠	
New Build Flatt Road Phase 1	6,048	6,477	1,409	-	7,886	2,759	7,886	-	✓	⚠	
New Build Towerlands	6,375	5,944	(1,131)	-	4,813	1,353	4,813	-	⚠	⚠	
New Build Tarryholme	-	-	-	-	-	(25)	-	-	⚠	✓	Complete (retention only)
New Build Kinnier Road	-	168	(118)	100	150	52	150	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 21/22 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
New Build Ardrossan Road Seamill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	Project finished - budget should be removed
New Build St Colms	3,590	3,572	(3,322)	-	250	11	250	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 22/23 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
New Build St Michaels Wynd	8,836	9,167	(4,442)	-	4,725	444	4,725	-	⚠	⚠	went to financial close - 22/23 251k covid costs - stage 2 submission,
New Build Harbourside Irvine	6,496	6,496	(4,096)	-	2,400	-	2,400	-	⚠	⚠	Due for completion 22/23 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related,
New Build Afton Court	-	26	(16)	5	15	13	15	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 22/23 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
New Build Caley Court	2,210	2,180	(1,621)	(458)	101	16	101	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 21/22 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
New Build Springvale Saltcoats	1,906	2,079	(996)	-	1,083	126	1,083	-	⚠	⚠	21/22 vacant possession - oct demolition 2020
New Build Dalrymple Place	2,269	2,830	(367)	-	2,463	970	2,463	-	⚠	⚠	Due for completion 21/22
New Build St Beya Millport	2,135	2,016	927	-	2,943	1,213	2,943	-	⚠	⚠	
Garnock Academy Site	2,020	2,020	(1,520)	-	500	11	500	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 23/24 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
Largs police Station	-	(180)	190	-	10	-	10	-	✓	✓	22/23 completion- No delay to programme currently reported
Ayrshire Central Site	200	175	325	-	500	2	500	-	✓	⚠	Spend in relation to acquisition
Bourtrees Hill Village	891	891	(841)	-	50	-	50	-	✓	⚠	Due for completion 23/24 - Delayed Expenditure Covid related
James McFarlane ASN Site	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	✓	⚠	
James Reid ASN school	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	✓	⚠	
Total For Council House Build Programme	48,033	51,061	(17,780)	(353)	32,928	9,227	33,017	89	-		
Improvement to Existing Homes - Building Services											
Window Replacement	155	155	(155)	-	-	-	-	-	✓	⚠	Delayed expenditure due to Covid-19
Bathroom Programme	1,243	1,164	(753)	506	917	152	917	-	✓	⚠	Delayed expenditure due to Covid-19
Kitchen Programme	1,504	1,533	(750)	107	890	29	890	-	✓	⚠	Delayed expenditure due to Covid-19
Window Replacement - High Flats - Saltcoats	2,170	3,560	(2,298)	328	1,590	304	1,590	-	✓	⚠	Delayed expenditure due to Covid-19
Total For Improvements to Existing Homes - Building Services	5,072	6,412	(3,956)	941	3,397	485	3,397	-			
Improvement to Existing Homes - External Contractors											
Central Heating	2,025	2,234	(1,507)	-	727	213	727	-	✓	⚠	Delayed expenditure due to Covid-19
Insulated Re-Rendering	715	1,001	(46)	-	955	441	955	-	✓	⚠	
Electrical Rewiring	539	599	(549)	-	50	45	50	-	✓	⚠	CF - rewiring only happening in void properties, Delayed Expenditure Covid related
Total For Improvements to Existing Homes - External Contractors	3,279	3,834	(2,102)	-	1,732	699	1,732	-			

The following classifications have been used to highlight financial performance against budget		The following classifications have been used to highlight delivery performance against original timescales set	
✔	On Target (+0.5% of budget)		On Target (up to 5% delay of original timescales)
⚠	Slightly off target (+ 0.5% to 2% of budget, or £0.125m, whichever is less)		Slightly off target (+ 5% to 10% of original timescales)
✖	Significantly off target (+2% or more of budget, or £0.500m, whichever is less)		Significantly off target (+10% or more of original timescales)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title: **Supporting North Ayrshire Together – Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report (Council Plan Progress Update – Quarter Two 2020-21)**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet on our response so far to the Covid-19 pandemic and performance against the Council Plan 2019-24 as at Quarter Two 2020-21

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees to: (a) approve the performance of the Council Plan as at 30 September 2020 (b) note our response to the Covid-19 pandemic so far; and (c) submit the report and appendices to Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the next available date.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The “Supporting North Ayrshire Together – Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report” in Appendix One replaces the standard Council Plan 2019-24 Progress Update (Mid-Year 2020-21) as it provides an overview of how the Council has worked alongside partners and communities to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic alongside the impact on progress against our strategic priority outcomes.

2. Background

- 2.1 Within our Quarter Four Council Plan Progress Update there was commitment to provide an update on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives and significantly changed our methods of working, the impact on our day to day services is included, as well as progress in delivering our strategic priorities. As a result, the report provides visibility of the scale and speed of the response and enables effective scrutiny of it and existing services.
- 2.2. This report forms part of our Public Performance Reporting commitments and complements our other reporting activities such as our Annual Performance Report, Local Government Benchmarking Framework reporting and other specific performance reporting.

2.3. Performance Summary






- 2.3.1 In the space of a few days we worked with partners to mobilise an unprecedented response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A culture of empowerment and several years of working alongside partners with shared priorities ensured we could establish support quickly and effectively, much of it on an equal partnership basis. This included Community Hubs, Childcare Hubs and Food Hubs with over 5,700 shielding residents and 690 key worker families supported.
- 2.3.2 We have provided almost 1.26 million meals and nearly 1.5 million items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). We delivered 12,407 prescriptions and 66,753 food parcels. We have administered £24,160,000 of grants to businesses and £312,000 of newly self-employed hardship grants to our residents.
- 2.3.3 The ability to be agile due to previous investment in the digital agenda and promotion of flexible working, meant our office-based teams were able to operate from home very quickly, ensuring core activities continued.
- 2.3.4 We moved significant numbers of services online, however the Contact Centre telephone service was maintained remotely to ensure our vulnerable residents or those not online could still access services.
- 2.3.5 Though many frontline services had to close or move online, we maintained critical services such as our household refuse collection. We were one of only a few councils in Scotland to achieve this.
- 2.3.6 We continued to deliver education remotely to our young people and provided IT equipment and paper-based alternatives for those unable to access the internet. We ensured significant support was available for our vulnerable young people.
- 2.3.7 Work to progress our key strategic priorities continued in many areas. This included:
 - Launching our Community Wealth Building Strategy. It is also embedded in the Recovery and Renewal Strategy, developed in response to the pandemic.
 - Responding to our extremely positive Best Value Assurance Report by Audit Scotland.

2.4. Areas of Focus for the Next Six Months

- Evolve our response to the Covid-19 pandemic to support our residents and businesses.
- Continue with preparations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.
- Embed Community Wealth Building in our own activities and encourage the approach within our partner organisations.
- Implement our Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach.
- Implement our Financial Recovery Plan.
- Engage with communities through our "Fair Say" sessions and finalise the 2021-22 budget.
- Finalise the Ayrshire Growth Deal (this was signed on 19 November 2020, outside the timescales of this report).
- Further develop Community Hubs, looking at new ways of working to support our residents.
- Prepare for the Scottish Parliamentary Election.

2.5. Performance Indicators

- 2.5.1. Appendix 2 details the Performance Indicators (34) from the Council Plan Performance Framework. A summary of indicators against traffic light status is outlined below. Of the 27 indicators that have data and a target, **80.8% are on target** and **3.8% are slightly adrift of target** and **15.4% are significantly adrift of target**. Where an indicator is annual, the 2019-20 annual status is used.

2020-21 Mid-Year Status Summary *	
Traffic Light	Indicators
 On target	21 (80.8%)
 Slightly adrift	1 (3.8%)
 Significantly adrift	4 (15.4%)
 Data Only	1
 Data not available	7

**Of the five indicators adrift of target, two have already been reported within the Council Plan Quarter Four Progress Report. Six indicators have no data available due to expected time lags and one due to a system issue.*

- 2.5.2. Details of performance indicators adrift of target can be found in the exceptions report in Appendix 3.
- 2.5.3. Due to the pandemic some figures are lower than in previous years. This is the result of some services being closed and/or employees being redeployed to other areas to establish and continue key operations. It was expected performance would reduce this year, however we have remained on target for many of our services. This is commendable and a reflection of the dedication of our teams, as even maintaining many of these areas would have been positive in the current circumstances.

2.6. Actions

- 2.6.1 No formal actions have been established for the first six months of this financial year. This is primarily due to the pandemic and the desire for our services to have enough capacity to concentrate on delivering frontline and core services. However, the ongoing response and business as usual activities support our existing priorities of “Aspiring Communities”, “Inspiring Place” and “a Council for the Future” as well as their outcomes.
- 2.6.2 We believe the “Supporting North Ayrshire Together – Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report” contains sufficient detail on our priorities, outcomes and activities to ensure effective scrutiny of our progress against the Council Plan 2019-24.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 Cabinet are requested to (a) approve the performance of the Council Plan as at 30 September 2020 (b) note our response to the Covid-19 pandemic so far; and (c) submit the report and appendices to Audit and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the next available date.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 None.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The report outlines the Council's commitment to fulfilling its statutory duty in terms of Equalities and Socio-economic duties.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The report highlights the Council's commitment to Environmental and Sustainability priorities as outlines in the Council Plan priorities.

Key Priorities

4.6 The report provides information on our performance progress against the key Council Plan priorities.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 None.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Executive Leadership Team discussed and approved "Supporting North Ayrshire Together – Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report" and appendices.

Andrew A Fraser
Head of Democratic Services

For further information please contact **Barry Tudhope, Senior Manager (Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections)** on **01294 324113**.

Background Papers
Council Plan 2019-24



Supporting North Ayrshire Together

Our Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and Progress Report

September 2020



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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This section explores how we have supported our residents, businesses and visitors. It also looks at the impact of the pandemic specifically on our Council operations.

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Delivery of Our Council Plan Pages 20 - 29

This section looks at our progress against the key priorities outlined in our Council Plan 2019-24. It is essential our response to the pandemic is the core priority for all our teams. We also need to maintain and progress key initiatives to support existing needs and ensure we are in a position to make a strong recovery as soon as possible.

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We would welcome your thoughts

You can contact us via:

Email: NorthAyrshirePerforms@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Hashtag: [#NorthAyrshirePerforms](#) on social media

Call: **01294 324648**

Write to us at:

Performance Feedback
Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections Team North Ayrshire Council
1st Floor East
Cunninghame House
Friars Croft
Irvine
KA12 8EE

Welcome

At the beginning of this year none of us could ever have imagined that we would be within a global pandemic and would need to mobilise an immediate response to support our residents and businesses in North Ayrshire. Yet within the space of a few days and even in some cases a few hours, that is exactly what we did. However, none of this would have been achieved in isolation and we are immensely grateful for the help of our communities, volunteers, local businesses, the third sector, our Community Planning Partners and of course our own teams within North Ayrshire Council.

Relationships with our partners have not happened overnight, we are aware that the speed of our collective response was based on many years of collaboration and shared priorities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us, our residents and businesses.

Together we have **supported 5,700 shielding residents** during lockdown. We have received over **9,577 helpline calls**. We have procured and **distributed nearly 1.5 million items of personal protective equipment** - not only to our employees but to care homes and unpaid carers. We have provided **almost 1.26 million meals to families and vulnerable residents, 12,407 prescriptions and 66,753 emergency food deliveries**. We've provided **childcare to 690 families** to ensure that our key workers can continue to respond to this pandemic on the front line and **maintained education for our young people**. We have enabled **businesses to access over £24 million of grants** and **distributed £312,000 to newly self employed residents**. We were one of only a handful of local authorities in Scotland to maintain uninterrupted household waste collections, emptying **over 102,000 household waste bins each week**.

Many of our key response areas, such as Community Hubs, would usually have taken a significant amount of time to organise, yet this was established in a matter of days. This is evidence of our teams feeling empowered to make decisions. We minimised bureaucracy in favour of setting things up quickly based on the facts we had and ensured we came up with innovative solutions while not being afraid of failure. In the current situation doing something and learning as it develops is by far the best option.

We moved many of our services online while ensuring we maintained our Contact Centre remotely to ensure the most vulnerable or those without internet access could still access vital services. We launched our **Community Wealth Building Strategy** live online and made sure there were opportunities for our residents to get involved in discussions around it. At no time has this innovative approach been more important to building a wellbeing economy than now.

As a result of the changing demands on our services, this six-monthly progress report looks a little different. We are concentrating on what has been done in response to the pandemic as well as the impact it continues to have on our day to day priorities. Though Covid-19 is the central focus of all our teams just now, it is important that key areas still progress to ensure we can build back quickly and more strongly once this virus is over and ensure we deliver a North Ayrshire that is Fair For All.



Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader of the Council



Craig Hatton
Chief Executive

Impact on North Ayrshire

This section explores how we have supported our residents, businesses and visitors. It also looks at the impact of the pandemic specifically on our Council operations.

Supporting Our Communities

Community Hubs

Through building on our existing strong relationships, by 24th March we had established a network of six Community Hubs across North Ayrshire, all of them formed as true equal partnerships. The Community Hubs proved a lifeline for many of our residents, providing essential services such as a prescription delivery service, hot meals, befriending and foodbank distribution for those unable to access food due to shielding, self-isolation or financial issues. For those not eligible for free food packages, the hubs provided essential groceries when no other help was available for our residents.



This immediate response was only possible thanks to the well-established relationships with our communities including over 600 current and new volunteers, the third and private sectors and the NHS. In the first week our Community Hubs received 1,789 calls. The Community Hubs are still providing support, as at 30th September the hubs had received 27,387 calls, made 66,753 deliveries of food and 12,407 prescription deliveries. All of this was achieved with the minimal number of our employees and volunteers working onsite on a rota basis due to social distancing regulations. Team members and vehicles were redeployed from other Council services to support our most vulnerable residents.

Many residents contacting the hubs were shielding or self-isolating. Due to this and the volume of calls that were being received, we established a data management system. The key aim of this was to enable front-line workers to be alerted prior to visiting someone who was self-isolating.

We supported the NHS with the provision of transport for patients attending Crosshouse Hospital for treatment, ensuring Covid-19 compliance. We provided transport for key workers and their children to Community and Childcare Hubs.

We provided help and advice on food access including hot food, health including mental health, statutory services, money, isolation, period poverty and offered daily welfare calls. Local bookshops provided almost 10,000 books for those shielding and these were also distributed through the hubs.

Childcare Hubs at a Glance

Opened
Immediately
on 23rd March

16 childcare
Hubs

Up to 196 young
people supported
per day

Over 13,400
school meals
provided in hubs

690 families
supported

Open every weekday until
schools returned on 12th August

Food Hubs

We quickly established food packing and distribution hubs for community food and free school meal packages, from where we distributed the equivalent of almost 1.26 million meals to families as well as the wider community in need of food support. Children of key workers and vulnerable children in our Childcare Hubs across North Ayrshire were provided with over 13,400 nutritious meals as well as snacks.

"Thank you so much for this lifeline and the quick efficient nature that it has been carried out. The weekly pack of food means so much and is making a huge difference for my family in the Three Towns.

The pack is varied and nutritious with no attention or shame being linked to it by your delivery driver or the telephone handler. It meant accessing this service was easy and non-prejudice.

Thank you so much for arranging this so quickly - without this support my family would have really went without. Thank you."

We increased our partnership working with North Ayrshire Foodbank, collaboratively working to develop a process including logistical arrangements to plan and respond to the needs of local vulnerable residents in a food crisis situation.

Childcare Hubs

We opened Childcare Hubs for the children of key workers on 23rd March, initially within our nine secondary schools before moving to six dedicated locations, one in each locality. The Childcare Hubs were operated by volunteers from across the service such as our Education and Library Services. More than 600 teaching and support employees volunteered to support the hubs during term time which enabled key frontline workers to remain at work. The Childcare Hubs continued during the school holidays as Summer Hubs. Our children and young people have spoken positively about their experiences of the Childcare Hubs.

Education

Following the national decision to close all schools from 20th March, classrooms were replaced with living rooms as teachers provided online home learning support to pupils, parents and carers. We provided over 1,000 computers and internet routers to families to support those without internet access or devices. In addition learners unable to access digital platforms were issued with paper-based learning packs.

Impact on North Ayrshire

We established online resources and virtual classrooms through Glow, the Show My Homework App and Microsoft Teams with the ability to complete and submit work and ask for advice.

Throughout the unprecedented disruption to the learning of our young people, their parents and carers were reminded not to put too much pressure on themselves or their children, as supporting everyone's wellbeing remains extremely important. This was supported through regular and sometimes daily contact between our young people and our education and leadership teams.

While schools were closed, our learners eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance continued to be paid as normal.

The new school term began a week earlier than normal in line with national guidance on 12th August. Prior to this considerable work had been carried out to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our learners and school employees. Measures ensuring enhanced personal hygiene and rigorous cleaning regimes are in operation across all establishments. We ensured all catering in schools was cashless at the start of the new term and additional teaching staff were recruited through a Scottish Government education grant.

Our Young People

We worked alongside the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to support and protect our vulnerable children and young people.

Our North Ayrshire Child and Public Protection Committee asked our communities to assist in protecting our vulnerable people by publicising details on how to report concerns about children and adults. On 27th July we launched our "Here to Help" campaign in partnership with the three Ayrshire Councils, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Police Scotland to further publicise the support available to anyone dealing with harm or abuse.

Food Poverty

While schools were closed during term time and the holiday period, food poverty for our young people became an even greater concern. Building on our experience gained through our Holiday Hunger school meals service (Wrap Run and Fun), we ensured all pupils eligible for free school meals or clothing grants would be provided for. However, in considering this we realised that where a young person was eligible, it was very likely the family would be struggling in the current circumstances. As a result, food parcels were based on family need rather than the young person alone.

We received 4,800 eligible household registrations of which 2,300 were eligible for free school meals and 2,500 for community food packages. This meant pooling our resources to meet demand. We redeployed 151 employees and 52 vehicles from other services. Due to practicalities of distribution, £30 food vouchers for local shops were provided within Arran and the Isles of Cumbrae. Mainland distribution hubs were set up at school bases in each locality.

Approximately 80% of items within the parcels included fresh local or Scottish produce. Environmental Health were on hand to ensure food safety guidelines were followed.

Schools also registered for the Eat Out to Help Out Initiative which allowed pupils to benefit from half price meals when they returned to school in August.



We recognise that for some, home is not always as safe as it should be. Our North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee published guidance for our young people who felt unsafe at home. School counsellors were also available to provide support.

We worked with Children's Hearings Scotland and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration to support volunteers within the Children's Hearing system by implementing virtual hearings and the reintroduction of some face-to-face hearings.

During lockdown we visited 5,969 children. This includes 991 visits made to families identified as particularly vulnerable. Over 5,000 telephone calls were made to support families within the same period of time. Many of our HSCP employees were redeployed into critical areas such as: hospital wards, Child Protection teams, Children's Houses and the Summer Hubs (Childcare Hubs). Their flexibility and willingness to do so enabled vital support to be provided at the right time to children and families who required it.

The facilitation of face-to-face family time for Looked After and Accommodated Children and their parents has been a critical area of practice, ensuring their needs are met and the impact of separation from their family lessened. Colleagues from across the service have been engaged to ensure this face-to-face family time is promoted positively. There has been incredible creativity shown such as providing arts and crafts activities for young people and families to enjoy within these supervised visits.

A number of initiatives and interventions were taken forward to limit the impact of inequality and poverty. This ranged from establishing the Get Connected Fund for a number of children and families to enhance participation in learning, through to providing ongoing connections with those offering them essential support. We assisted a further 82 care experienced young people to get connected.

For some of our more vulnerable families we assisted online applications for food provision and electricity cards. We supported access to IT through providing mobile phones, SIM cards, tablets and Wi-Fi dongles.

Applications to the Cash For Kids Emergency Grant Fund provided £10,500 for our most vulnerable families to provide them with essential items during the lockdown period. Individual applications were made on behalf of families resulting in funding for items such as trailers for bicycles which enabled parents to get out for daily exercise with their young child and thus promoted positive mental health.

Donations of toys, games and bicycles to our HSCP were distributed to families, providing them with mobility and outdoor opportunities to enhance their health and wellbeing. Donations of children's clothing were also collected and distributed to families.

Social restrictions and isolation were particularly difficult for our young people. Youth Services moved their activities online. #DigiDrEAM was launched and included Monday Minds, DigiQuiz Wednesday, Fakeaway Friday and Tuesday Tik Tok Challenge. There were new challenges every day which featured a whole range of activities from different services including KA Leisure, Active Schools and our North Ayrshire Ranger Service.

Each day at 11am a programme of events was announced on North Ayrshire Youth Services Facebook page.

Our Family Learning Team provided learning packs for our children which were delivered to their homes. Our Information and Culture team provided our children with a variety of online events including; storytelling, Titanic virtual tour and the MacDougall's music and theatre company.

With most social interaction now taking place online, we published advice on how to stay safe online.

Impact on North Ayrshire

Financial Support

As a result of some of our residents facing financial hardship due to the pandemic, we suspended Council House evictions, except those relating to anti social behaviour, in line with Scottish Government directions. Private tenants with three months of arrears would not face eviction and arrears were extended to six months. Flexibility in Council Tax payments were introduced. All recovery of debt from benefits was suspended.

Our Welfare Reform Advice Team were available via telephone or email for advice and support for residents. Work for Families in partnership with Lennox Partnership was available for families who needed help with debt, childcare, housing or returning to work.

Our Money Matters Team were available online or by phone to provide free, confidential, advice, information and support to residents.

Working from home, our Debt Recovery Team successfully implemented a system which enabled them to continue to offer support to any of our residents experiencing difficulties with the payment of Council Tax or other monies owed to us.

We issued guidance on how to report phishing emails, doorstep callers, phone calls and bogus visitors to protect our residents against fraud.

Trading Standards promoted their “call-blocker” initiative to prevent fraudulent calls.

“I just wanted to thank you very much following on from the installation of the Telephone Blocking System at my mum’s. That’s her had it a week now and what a difference it has made to her already. My sincere thanks to you and your team for the provision of this system.”

We worked with the third sector and our Community Planning Partners (CPP) to secure £1.22m of funding to support local charities, community and voluntary organisations.

Social Interaction

As Community Centres had to close we launched Virtual Community Centres to ensure our communities maintained those crucial social networks and could continue to support each other. As well as tackling social isolation, they provided online information and local community activity updates on a wide range of local services. After lockdown restrictions started to ease, the Virtual Community Centre continued.

With no access to our buildings to use technology or free Wi-Fi, 180 digital devices were made available to eligible adults to allow them to order essentials and keep in touch.



- Child Winter Heating Assistance
- Scottish Child Payment Scheme
- Best Start Grant for new parents
- Best Start Food Scheme
- Best Start School Age Payment
- Free school meals and clothing grants
- Support for young carers
- Kick Start Scheme
- Job Retention Scheme
- Mental health support
- Energy savings advice with Citrus Energy
- Mortgage holidays
- Funeral Support Payment
- Free online financial workshops including maximising income from entitled benefits
- Recovery of unpaid benefits
- PIP appeals
- Reimbursement of arrears
- Pension Credit
- TV Licence Fee changes
- Hardship support
- Migrant rights

Supporting Our Businesses

We immediately published support for our businesses during the first week of lockdown. This included financial advice and support, online business continuity support (including changing production), supply chain mapping and publicising soon to be available business rates relief.

We administered the following national business grants:

- **Phase 1 - Small Business and Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants:** £10k and £25k grants were available to NDR ratepayers.
- **Phase 2 - Multiple Property Small Business and Multiple Property Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants:** £7.5k and £18.75k grants were available.
- **Phase 3 - Tenants who are not the named ratepayer on NDR Bill:** £10k grants were available to non NDR ratepaying tenants.

In total we received 2,484 applications and distributed £24,160,000 of grants to 2,237 businesses across North Ayrshire.

The Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund was launched on Thursday 30th April and enabled newly self-employed residents to claim a taxable grant of 80% of their trading profits

up to a maximum of £2,500. As a result, 147 residents received grants totalling £294,000.

Bed and Breakfasts not previously eligible for other support were able to apply for business grants from Monday 15th June. Six businesses received £3,000 each.

In total we distributed £312,000 of hardship funds to self-employed residents.

In the first week of April, we launched our Business Gateway webinars hosted by our Business Development team. Spread over several weeks, subjects included short term funding and planning, crisis public relations management and remote working. Businesses completing two funding modules were also given access to an online business planning tool, providing a further four modules and ability to download a full financial forecast and business plan template. This support was in addition to the national Business Gateway support provided.

A business support helpline was launched as a joint initiative between North, South and East Ayrshire Councils on 17th June to help local businesses navigate the extensive support and funding opportunities available to them. Callers were automatically routed to advisers in their area. Our Business Development team remained fully contactable for advice and signposting to other services.

£24,160,000 of business grants distributed

One year business rates holidays

£312,000 of newly self employed hardship grants distributed

School Transport contracts paid despite school closures (75% value during closures)

Our supplier invoices paid immediately (changed from 30 days)

Approx 80% of food parcel contents sourced from local or Scottish suppliers

Impact on North Ayrshire

We immediately published support for our The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 adapted licensing protocols to support businesses. This included accepting scanned documents such as driving licences rather than originals and accepting phone payments only. Decisions by the Licensing Committee were suspended though decisions delegated to officers continued.

Licences including liquor and temporary licences for some taxis were extended as renewing a licence is quicker than reapplying for an expired licence, which would have prevented some residents working. We extended the refresher training deadline for Alcohol Personal Licences by 15 months. Relaxations were introduced to support taxi operators.

Our Environmental Health team worked closely with a variety of businesses including takeaways, supermarkets and local stores to ensure food was being handled, stored and produced hygienically and in compliance with legal requirements. In the midst of a global crisis the team wanted to assure residents that the food supply chain in North Ayrshire is well-regulated and safe. Our Trading Standards team offered support to food retailers to ensure they were compliant with regulations

prior to the return of customers. Both teams worked closely with Police Scotland to ensure regulations were complied with.

At the end of March, our Planning Team immediately supported the Scottish Government Chief Planner in relaxing enforcement of public houses and restaurants to enable temporary provision of takeaway services even if their licence did not cover it.

We continued to make decisions on applications. Timescales were longer than usual due to the circumstances. Photographs could be submitted with applications in place of site inspections. Major applications were suspended. Updated guidance was regularly provided on our website.

School transport operators were supported during the school closures, with all contracted providers paid 100% of the contract until 31st March 2020, followed by 75% from 1st April to 30th June 2020 (end of the school term). From April this equated to £753,808, ensuring that employees continued to be paid and businesses remained solvent until the schools reopened in August.

We helped suppliers manage their cash-flow by reducing our payment terms from 30 days to immediate, so payment was cleared as soon as possible.

In May, we urged our residents and businesses to "Keep It Local" in line with our Community Wealth Building Strategy and purchase goods and services from local companies in order to support them and their employees, many of whom are local residents. This included encouraging businesses to review their supply chains to harness local skills and produce.

North Ayrshire Council @North_Ayrshire · 11 Jun

Our Trading Standards Team have been receiving enquiries about what businesses can open during this Phase. Take a look at their quick guide below. If you have any questions you can contact them at tradingstandards@north-ayrshire.gov.uk 🙌

The following retail businesses can be open as long as they have appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures in place for the safety of their customers and staff:

- Takeaway food
- Supermarkets, food shops, newsagents & off licences
- Medical Services and pharmacies
- Bicycle shops
- Homeware & hardware
- Vets & pet shops
- Agricultural shops
- Laundrettes & dry cleaners
- Post offices
- Car rentals
- Car garages and MOT centres
- Banks
- Garden centres

Tradespeople can work in people's homes if they are doing essential repairs and maintenance and follow social distancing and hygiene measures.

This isn't an exhaustive list, if you're unsure please contact us: tradingstandards@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Supporting Tourism



At the beginning of lockdown we became increasingly concerned about the large numbers of residents and visitors gathering at parks, seafronts and other locations across North Ayrshire. As a result, from 23rd March we agreed to close all playparks, Largs Seafront Car Park, all public toilets in our ownership and closely monitored the usage of Eglinton Country Park and Irvine Beach Park.

From 3rd April we took the decision to close car parks at our most popular tourist locations to discourage non-essential travel. The facilities themselves remained open for our residents to walk around while practising safe social distancing measures. However, as soon as it was safe to do so they were reopened in stages from 18th June with all reopened by 3rd July to coincide with the five mile journey restrictions being eased.

Our Island communities are particularly exposed to the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism and hospitality sector. In July we approached the Scottish Government with four asks: that methods of increasing ferry capacity

were explored, journeys were prioritised based on economic and social recovery for the islands, for financial interventions to support the tourism sector and requested the creation of a bespoke Island Fund.

To coincide with this, we commissioned research by the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) at the University of Strathclyde into the disproportionate economic impact of Covid-19 on the island economy. 'The Impact of Covid-19 on the Arran Economy' report published in September, showed that Arran has a unique mix of industries relying on social spending and is particularly exposed to the long-term impact of Covid-19. In cash terms the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the island is estimated to have decreased by £9.3m in the first half of this year compared to 2019 and a large number of businesses remain reliant on government support despite eased lockdown measures at the time the report was written.

We worked with Crown Estate Scotland to identify opportunities for regeneration and investment in our area.

Both organisations share a vision to unlock the potential of North Ayrshire’s unique marine and coastal resources, helping to stimulate the social, economic and environmental regeneration of coastal and other communities.

Many events due to be held in North Ayrshire were cancelled including the Making Waves festival which was launched days prior to lock down. However, as restrictions eased, we continued to support marine tourism including working with the local community and partners in September to re-lay the 54 free visitor moorings at Arran and Cumbrae to provide responsible opportunities for tourism for the remainder of the sailing season. In addition we supported the #RespectTheDestination campaign launched by our partners Sail

Scotland, the Royal Yachting Association Scotland, British Marine Tourism and Wild Scotland.

In September we invited tourism and hospitality businesses to share their thoughts and experiences of Covid-19. We worked with East and South Ayrshire Councils and VisitScotland to conduct a research programme to understand the impact of the pandemic on individual businesses, what extra support the public sector could provide, actions taken and an approach to the recovery of the sector and Ayrshire as a responsible tourism destination. The impact on the sector was discussed at the Ayrshire Regional Partnership meeting that month.



Our Council Operations

Democracy and Leadership

Within days of the pandemic the Emergency Management Team, chaired by the Chief Executive, was established. Our Council and Committee meetings were suspended. Emergency Governance power arrangements allowed our Chief Executive, in consultation with Political Group Leaders and a representative from our Independent Elected Members, the ability to consider and deal with urgent matters.

Emergency Governance arrangements during the pandemic were logged and decisions taken by the Chief Executive reported to Cabinet. We quickly resumed committee meetings by remote means, ensuring the readiness of Elected Members’ devices and providing them with extensive support. This included establishing protocols and software solutions for remote meetings and making arrangements for future hybrid meetings.

Elected Members have been incredibly supportive with many volunteering within our frontline activities such as delivering food parcels to our most vulnerable residents. In response to the pandemic and our focus on Community Wealth Building new Cabinet roles were created for: Green New Deal and Sustainability; Community Wealth Building; Education; Participatory Democracy; Post Covid Renewal; and Health and Social Care Partnership. These will support open decision making that includes wider participation by residents through building on our successful Community Investment Fund and mainstreaming participatory budgeting approach.

Our Legal Services have provided our leadership team with updates on coronavirus legislation, regulations and

guidance, assisting our colleagues with the delivery of services in a compliant manner in difficult circumstances. This also included negotiation on behalf of the three Ayrshires to secure a storage facility at Prestwick Airport.

Informed decision making is key to ensuring effective action and to monitor impact. It is especially challenging during a fast-moving situation such as the current pandemic. Our Corporate Policy, Performance and Elections Team worked in partnership with our Data Team and across all services including the Health and Social Care Partnership to ensure our Emergency Management Team, the Scottish Government, CoSLA and statutory stakeholders had full oversight of the demand for and impact on our services.

Our Workforce

Our investment in our digital agenda, the implementation of Microsoft Office 365 and the promotion of flexible working for many of our teams has proven invaluable during lockdown. It has allowed the majority of our employees to work from home, connect with each other via Microsoft Teams and continue to provide services to our communities and businesses.

We set up methods for all office-based employees now working from home to have access to the materials they needed to work safely including ICT equipment.



We moved from providing remote access to just over 100 users per day to over 1,200. This included employees who had never worked from home before.

The ICT Team introduced virtual handovers enabling our colleagues to collect their new devices safely. Remote connectivity was used to complete the virtual handovers as well as any other support required.

This is a major cultural transformation which would have seemed impossible at the start of the year but only took days to implement. This enabled our core support services to continue, including but not limited to; Human Resources, Payroll, Finance, Procurement, Legal Services, Health and Safety and Communications. All of which are essential to our day to day operations and mobilisation of critical front-line support.

We created and implemented an alternative approach to meetings and developed guidance on a variety of topics including working from home and shielding. We initiated surveys to inform current and future working patterns and environments. The wellbeing of all our teams remains paramount and we ensured employees had access to information, guidance and support which was regularly updated and promoted.

To ensure minimum disruption during the pandemic, we introduced online recruitment interviews. A webinar, video and guide were developed for recruiting managers to ensure the integrity of existing recruitment requirements.

Our Treasury Management service seamlessly managed the Council's cash flow requirements throughout the pandemic to ensure that funds were available to support services at all times. We responded to several legislative changes to the Freedom of Information (FOI) process from the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, adapting to changes and keeping managers updated.

Education

Our senior learners were unable to take their Scottish Qualification Authority Exams. Schools were issued with guidelines on how grades would be calculated based on classwork. Schools submitted these on 28th May and results were issued to pupils on 4th August.

Our plans to increase our Early Years provision to 1,140 hours from August 2020 were put on hold and remained at 600 hours. We are currently looking to review and introduce the 1,140 hours entitlement as soon as the situation permits.

We developed a Local Phasing Delivery Plan and established an Education Recovery Board. Pre-populated education establishment Covid-19 risk assessment templates were created, taking into account:

- Mental health and wellbeing resources provided for headquarters teams working from home.
- Guidance for blended learning contingency plans, online digital learning and the recovery curriculum.
- Established forums for Headteachers to discuss school recovery.

Health and Social Care

Care at Home Service capacity was increased to support individuals getting home from hospital without delay and we completed a risk rating for each case ensuring the most vulnerable service users continued to receive home visits and face-to-face contact through lockdown.



Psychological Therapies continued via telephone and NearMe video call consultations.

As part of the Scottish Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Health and Social Care Partnership were set a target of having no delayed discharges from all acute hospital settings and we have achieved significant reductions in delays.

Our Addiction Services Team continued to support residents relying on prescribed treatment for substance dependence with their mental and physical health and helped with access to medication and care.

Our Sensory Impairment Team provided a video and contact details to publicise that we were still available to assist residents and carers of those who are deaf, blind, hearing or vision impaired, or deaf blind.

On Arran our previously employed healthcare and social care workers were asked to come forward and provide their details for a bank/relief register as part of the pandemic preparations.

We continued with child immunisations and our Universal Early Years service to support children and families through the pandemic.

Health Protection Guidance and NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Infection Control Guidance is adhered to by all staff attending home visits.


Keeping Everyone Informed

The fast-moving nature of the pandemic and its impact means high quality immediate communication with our residents, businesses and employees continues to be essential. Our website was constantly updated with the most recent information. As well as utilising local media, our social media channels saw substantial growth during this period in terms of followers and engagements, reaching as many of our residents as quickly as possible.

Our Council Leader and Chief Executive hosted a live Question and Answer Session on Facebook to deal with questions and concerns from local residents regarding Covid-19, the session was viewed by over 13,000 people.


Our Twitter followers increased to 22,753 and we issued 340 Tweets which were seen over 1.9 million times. We gained over 2,800 new Facebook page likes, bringing our total likes to 7,362. We issued 311 posts which were seen over 3.3 million times.

COVID-19 Q&A


on  LIVE

7PM, Wednesday 8 April


Tune in on the North Ayrshire Council Facebook page to ask our Chief Executive and Council Leader your questions about what we are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic and what it means for you.



Craig Hatton
Chief Executive



Joe Cullinane
Council Leader



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Impact on North Ayrshire

We developed Community Planning Partnership communication channels as a reliable and accessible source of information about support and services in relation to Covid-19. During lockdown over 140 locality updates were provided, community books were developed, and six Locality Partnership Facebook pages were refreshed with posts reaching 8,600 people. Launch of the Community Planning Twitter account received 24,000 impressions in the first month.

During the pandemic, our internal communications reached a record number of employees. The average number of monthly visits to our internal news site during this period was 20,399 compared to 7,065 average monthly visits for the same time period in 2019.

We established a Covid-19 section on our website so all information relating to specific temporary changes in services could be found in one place.

Our frontline Customer Service Centres and Local Offices closed to the public. Our Contact Centre team were able to work from home and maintain our central telephone contact number. A large proportion of our services moved online and due to high volumes of calls we prioritised our most vulnerable residents and encouraged others to use our website where possible report missed bins, fly tipping, lighting and roads faults as well as make Council Tax payments, view Council Tax and Rent accounts and request extracts from our Registration Services.

Our Registration Services remained open by appointment only for death registrations and our residents could still phone and use our online service. Restrictions continue to be in place for funerals, with some of our providers offering online streaming of the funeral ceremony.

We recommenced accepting and processing paperwork for marriages and civil partnerships from 22nd June. Ceremonies continue to have restrictions in place relating to the number of people able to attend.

Following its temporary closure, a phased birth registration service began from 29th June.

"I would like to thank Largs housing department for their phone calls checking up on our welfare during these strange times. Fortunately, we have not needed any help so far but their gesture is much appreciated."

We redeployed eight Housing employees to make welfare calls to our most vulnerable residents. We made 50,000 calls including 13,221 to those in our 26 sheltered housing units.

In response to the national shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), our Procurement team took the lead on setting up a new process to ensure we had the required PPE to protect employees. We worked with service representatives to agree a rationalised product list. A PPE store was established within Building Services and the Procurement team worked with suppliers to secure available PPE at the best price.

1,484,976
items of PPE provided to
care homes, unpaid carers,
care providers and personal
assistants

Our schools donated science goggles and 3D printers to produce face visors to the NHS. Local businesses and residents donated hand sanitiser and face visors, funds to buy PPE for frontline services and infrared thermometers for care homes and Community Hubs.

Our residents who were looking for employment could no longer access our Employability Services in person at our five Employability Hubs. Residents were advised to contact us or CEIS Ayrshire, who specialise in supporting social enterprises, by phone or email for assistance. Job seekers who needed access to digital devices were provided with support to complete online applications. Our Employability Team approached local businesses about the national Kickstart programme which provides funding for employers to create job placements for 16-24 year olds.



Though our buildings were closed, we maintained a library service through a combination of online access to our digital library service offering ebooks, magazines, audio books and music, with the new addition of Bookbug sessions and author talks. We maintained our home delivery service for vulnerable residents through the Community Hubs. Some of our library buildings were repurposed as Community Hubs.



Impact on North Ayrshire

The Harbour Arts Centre's (HAC) online programme continued while the building was closed. They provided their first virtual online art exhibition and looked for households across North Ayrshire to take part in free online drama sessions. The Heritage Centre in Saltcoats embraced Facebook and Twitter to showcase the Titanic exhibition and fascinating local history.

KA Leisure facilities were closed with subscriptions and fees suspended, however some free exercise classes moved online for everyone to use. An online booking system was introduced as services reopened, with most indoor leisure facilities, including swimming pools and gyms available by early September.

"Can I just compliment all the employees at Bartonholm Recycle Centre for their help and assistance. My husband is visually impaired and each time we visit the place, these guys cannot be any more helpful. Well done NAC for employing them."

We prioritised our household waste collection service, and are proud to be one of the few local authorities to continue all those services uninterrupted throughout lockdown, despite significant resource challenges and increased amounts of waste. We increased patrols to deter and reduce incidences of fly-tipping and were one of the first councils to resume our special uplift service, with additional capacity. This eased pressure on households who were unable to access Household Waste Recycling Centres due to the nationwide closure. We successfully re-opened our sites from 1 June onwards, overseeing exceptionally high levels of demand, with extensive traffic management and safety measures in place to protect visitors and our employees.

Our Roads Service continued to attend to dangerous and urgent road defects throughout lockdown. As a result of several flooding incidents in July and August, we worked in partnership with the emergency services and Scottish Water to respond quickly and effectively.

Our Housing Repairs Service was temporarily paused with only emergency repairs provided during the lockdown period. Non-emergency housing repairs restarted on 6th July. Our Homeless and Community Safety Service continued throughout to ensure our homeless residents and those requiring temporary accommodation continued to be safely housed.

In line with most other councils, our grass cutting services focused only on essential areas during lockdown, including junction sightlines and cemeteries. This allowed us to redeploy colleagues from this work to other essential services such as waste collection and food deliveries for vulnerable residents. Following lockdown, teams worked tirelessly over a period of eight weeks to clear the backlog of grounds maintenance work.



Our play parks, tourist car parks and public toilets were closed to discourage visitors to the area. Eglinton Country Park and Irvine Beach Park remained open to allow residents to have socially distanced exercise. The use of the two parks was continually monitored.

Our car parks reopened in phases from 19th June with reminders to our residents to adhere to national guidance. Our play parks reopened on 29th June and our public toilets opened on a phased basis from 11th July. The Tournament Café and toilets at Eglinton Park reopened on 24th July.

We received £100,000 from Sustrans to support the reopening of outdoor recreational spaces and assist residents to exercise in a socially distanced way.

We worked with contractors and the construction supply chain to ensure construction work on our school build and house build projects was appropriately wound down and secured prior to lockdown and that the re-start was achieved in a safe and efficient manner as possible, in line with Government and industry guidelines. Our house build projects resumed in June.

Our Digital Evolution

Due to our investment in rolling out Office 365 during recent years, the majority of our office based workforce could immediately work from home with access to almost all of our systems. This ensured we could help and support our residents and businesses quickly and effectively during the pandemic.

In addition, we maintained our telephone Contact Centre to ensure our most vulnerable residents or those without internet access could still access services and support.

A summary of our digital activities is below:

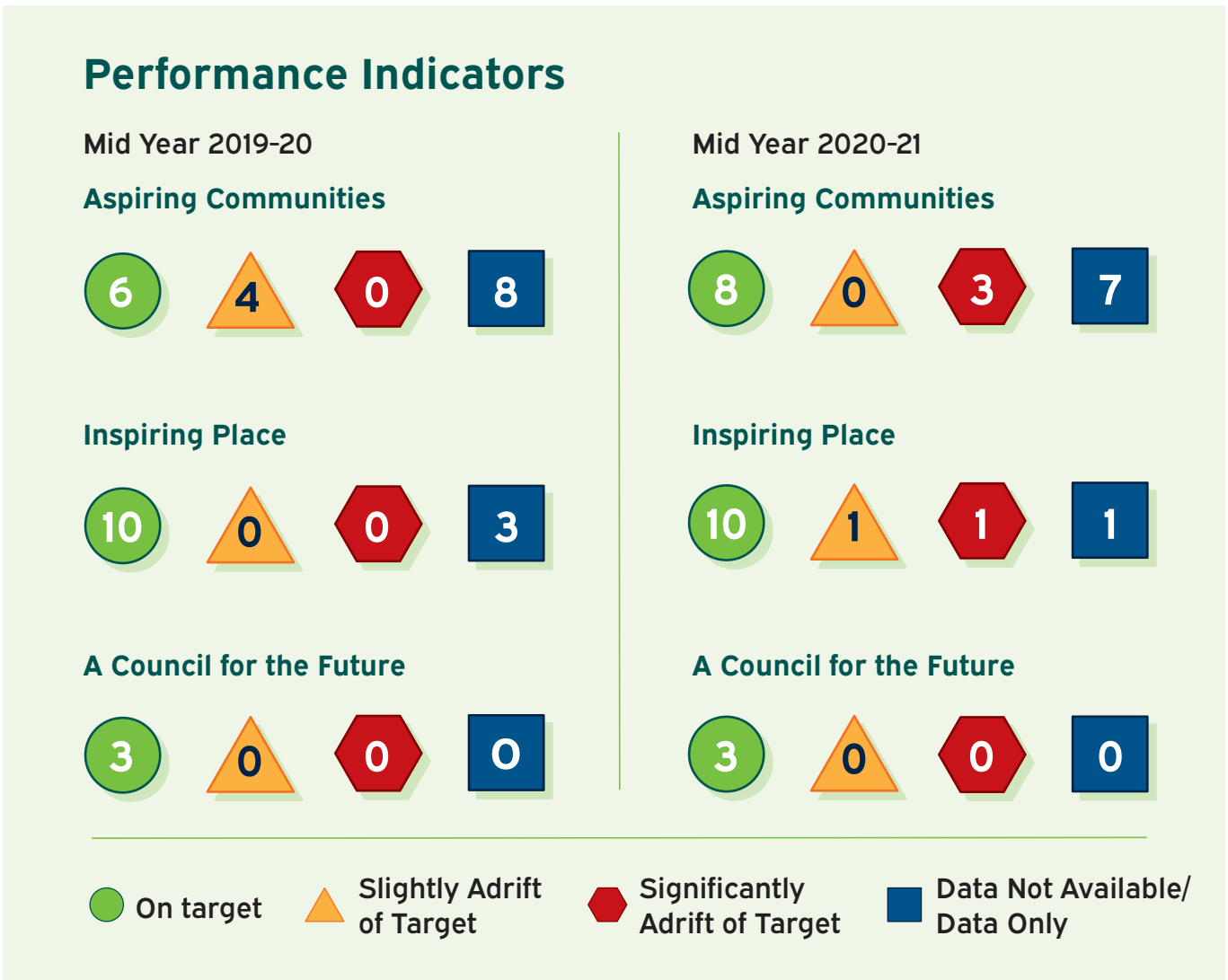
- Online launch of Community Wealth Building Strategy
- Virtual Community Centres on Facebook, one for each locality
- Daily updates to the online Community Books
- Adult learning online – English to Speakers for Other Languages (ESOL)
- #DigiDrEAM – a popular online platform by Youth Services – Drop Everything and Move (online!) The Wednesday night quiz was especially popular

- Active Schools online – via Facebook and Twitter – a range of activities for physical and mental health, including TikTok competitions
- KA Leisure offered online activities and motivational programmes
- More than 1,000 iPads and other devices provided for digitally excluded families, those shielding and care-experienced young people, through Connecting Scotland and third sector partners.
- E-Sgoil and other learning platforms to support remote learning
- Online applications for business grants and hardship funds
- Online recruitment and interviews with guidance for candidates and recruiting managers
- Online registration for weekly food packs including delivery day information
- Licensing accepted scanned documents
- Free waste special uplift online registration
- Closely managed social media presence
- Our website was updated regularly and publicised as support where possible for enquiries, reporting issues or faults and online payments.

Delivery of Our Council Plan

It is essential our response to the pandemic is the core priority for all our teams. We also need to maintain and progress key initiatives to support existing needs and ensure we are in

a position to make a strong recovery as soon as possible. This section looks at our progress against the key priorities outlined in our Council Plan.



The graphic above shows how our performance indicators compare with the same period last year. Due to the pandemic some figures are lower than in previous years. This is the result of some of our frontline facilities being closed and/or employees being redeployed to other areas to establish and continue key operations.

Of the five adrift indicators, two have been previously scrutinised through Quarter Four reporting and a third relates to 2019-20 with data only recently being made available. Of the

two that relate to the first half of this year, both have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

It was expected that performance would reduce this year, however we have remained on target for many of our services. This is commendable and a reflection on the dedication of our teams, as even maintaining many of these areas would have been positive in the current circumstances.

Full details of performance indicators are listed at the end of this report.

Aspiring Communities

North Ayrshire has active and strong communities

Our 'Substance of Our Communities' participatory budgeting event was postponed to June and moved online to allow our communities to take part. Residents were empowered to decide which of the projects, aimed at preventing drug related deaths should be awarded funding. Community projects were able to bid for grants of between £8k and £10k. Six projects were successful.

North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life

Our Children's Services Planning includes our Children's Rights Report and our Child Poverty Action Plan, all of which have been redeveloped for the next three years.

We published our Children's Services Plan 2020-23, outlining our aims and priorities to safeguard, support and promote the well-being of children and to make North Ayrshire the best place in Scotland to grow up

Our Children's Rights Report 2020-23 was finalised which emphasises our commitment to promote and protect children and young people's rights in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Our Child Poverty Action Plan 2020-23 for North Ayrshire was launched, taking account of the initial analysis of the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Key priorities include the establishment of a cross party working group to develop a co-ordinated approach to reduce the cost of the school day, develop early preventative action, support mental and physical health and develop a North Ayrshire Food System.

North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe

In order to meet our statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation for our homeless people, we very quickly created additional temporary furnished flats dispersed across North Ayrshire as a result of the closure of Victoria House hostel. This ensured continuity of service and support provision to homeless residents, a particularly vulnerable client group, during a difficult period.

Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Building Standards continued to work with multiple stakeholders to ensure public health and safety. The service also contributed at a national level through significant involvement with Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS) and both Societies of Chief Officers for Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

Two very positive audits on Protective Services were completed. An internal audit looked at the financial management of the building warrant and planning application process where it was found that 'substantial assurance' was given to the auditors. The second, conducted by the Scottish Government's Building Standards Division stated they were encouraged to see our proactive approach to ensuring our verification service sustained its position as a strong performer.



Delivery of Our Council Plan

North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy



Our Community Wealth Building (CWB) Strategy, the first in Scotland, was formally launched with a Facebook event in May 2020, attracting 276 live viewers and over 10,400 video views. It sets out how we will work in partnership with local communities, businesses and wider regional anchor institutions to create a fairer local economy that tackles poverty and inequality. It will embed a new economic model focused on wellbeing and inclusion.

Key Community Wealth Building highlights in the first six months of this year include:

- Formation of an Expert Advisory Panel.
- We became first Scottish Council to become a member of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.
- A CWB Coordinator started in July with eight related roles starting in September and October.
- Proud to Keep It Local campaign launched to encourage communities to shop local and support local businesses.
- Currently co-producing CWB plans and activities with communities through workshops and developing an Anchor Charter agreement to embed CWB across anchor institutions.

In September our **Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach** was approved by

Cabinet. Our CWB Strategy is central to this new approach. It sits within a suite of key strategies within our Council Plan. It focusses on our priorities of CWB and climate change as well as within these the need to create an inclusive local and regional wellbeing economy.

The transformational **Ayrshire Growth Deal** is continuing to progress, with £251m of business cases developed and strong relationships built to help deliver the ambitious projects. The approach will include the roll out of a new £660,000 Community Wealth Building Business Fund to provide assistance to local business including supporting the development of co-operatives, employee ownership and social enterprises. It will help establish local supply chains, fair employment, digital adoption and the transition to a green economy.

The overall Ayrshire Growth Deal investment in capital projects provides significant leverage in terms of attracting further investment, skills and additional capacity to deliver CWB and Green New Deal objectives. This will be achieved through targeting strategic placemaking and key sectors which will particularly support the economic renewal process, as referenced in our Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach. In addition we are participating in the Covid-19 recovery workstreams through the Ayrshire Economic Partnership. These workstreams are exploring a strategic pan-Ayrshire overview of recovery and renewal processes and will further support partner activity and attract additional resources.

Our Business Development team have developed a locality-based approach and proactive operating model which focuses on the delivery of CWB objectives. CWB staff are now in place and up skilling of advisers is ongoing. We are developing specific mechanisms of support for Green technologies and Digital offers. Our new approach will be rolled out in November.



In the first six months of this year, our supported employment service for residents with a disability 'Equal' has supported 13 residents into employment. This support has been vital during lockdown, with the team developing new ways of engaging with and supporting clients.

We have continued to deliver our Modern Apprenticeship programme this year, receiving 200 applications. We adapted the programme to ensure that it is flexible, providing additional places to services who can still provide support the programme despite pandemic restrictions. As a result we:

- Aim to create the planned 50 apprentice opportunities by the end of this year, with 23 started in September and a further 17 scheduled for October.
- Continue to support disadvantaged groups, with two care experienced and seven young people with disabilities securing apprenticeships.
- We successfully recruited ten, four-year craft apprentices this year, as well as retaining all of our qualifying apprentices in full-time employment. This provides our young people in North Ayrshire with employment and helps to secure the longer-term sustainability of areas such as Building Services by creating our own skill base.



North Ayrshire's residents and communities enjoy good life-long health and well-being

Our move to Trindlemoss House, our new complex needs unit, was delayed until 8 June 2020. It is now operating with five of the six spaces occupied.

One young person has been successfully moved to his own tenancy from one of our Children's Houses and we have submitted a further two housing applications. We are continuing with 'virtual' Fostering Panels and Adoption and Permanency Panels. Since launching our communication campaign 12 foster carers have been approved this year and the number of in-house foster carers has increased to 101.



Delivery of Our Council Plan



Inspiring Place

North Ayrshire is well-connected with effective infrastructure

We signed a formal agreement with Crown Estate Scotland in June which will increase opportunities for regeneration and investment. Particular focus will be given to projects that maximise wider value, deliver sustainable and inclusive economies, promote Community Wealth Building and maximise the impact of our Ayrshire Growth Deal investment alongside other major capital investment programmes.

In addition to our funding commitments, we have secured £1.5M from Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and £500,000 from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for the Lochshore community and leisure hub. This will allow construction of the £3.6M facility to commence in spring 2021. A masterplan is being developed with the local community and partners including Scottish Enterprise, the Green Action Trust and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Sustrans awarded funding of over £400,000 to allow the creation of a new western gateway to the site and to help develop active travel routes within the site. Investment in the wider site will see overall funding commitments of over £5M.

Funding of £1.35M has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund to allow a programme of works within Ardrossan including development of a National Cycle Network route coastal path, electric vehicle charging points and improved public realm links. We are promoting a wider programme of investment of over £150M within the town including the new community campus at Ardrossan North Shore, new housing and commercial developments and the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour. This is one of the largest regeneration programmes in Scotland and will not only transform the local area but also re-establish Ardrossan as one of Scotland's most important coastal destinations.

Funding has been approved to construct new office buildings at Annickbank and as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, £15m has been secured to develop new industrial space to support the expansion of our businesses.

Our plans for the closure of Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and relocation to St Bridget's Primary School Early Years have been agreed.

North Ayrshire has homes that meet residents' needs

Our comprehensive house building programme was delayed due to the virus but resumed in June. Two sustainable demonstrator homes have since been completed which will help reduce carbon emissions and the impact of climate change. These homes include some of the features that could be included in the build of our 1,575 new homes.

We started on site in September to deliver new affordable housing in Kilwinning and are currently building new generation council houses in Irvine, Largs, Millport and Arran.

A preferred bidder has been identified for the sale of land at Montgomerie Park, Irvine for housing development. The process was supported by Scotland's first housing

Simplified Planning Zone. The sale of the site will help to fund a new primary school within the masterplan area.

North Ayrshire is a sustainable environment

We have seen a 48% reduction in overall carbon emissions in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year. This includes the impact on travel and building use due to coronavirus restrictions.

We have established a partnership with the University of Strathclyde to support innovation and climate change action in North Ayrshire. The first action undertaken by the University is to support the development of solar farm proposals by modelling potential energy use scenarios.

We launched our 'Local Green New Deal' to plot the economic recovery from Covid-19 with an investment fund of £8.8M. The deal includes a focus on building a better local economy, fairer and greener in line with our Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach. This will ensure economic, social and environmental justice for our communities moving forward. We are creating a new £500,000 Green Jobs Fund as well as investing another £500,000 in a tree planting programme and exploring ways to create employment and training opportunities for local young people. In turn our investment will create income that we can invest in further local projects.

SEPA verified the household waste recycling performance for the calendar year 2019 as 56.3%, which has increased from 54.6% (+1.7%) compared to the 2018 calendar year performance.

Community consultations continued in relation to our Flood Prevention Schemes. Two options were consulted on with Millport residents to agree a final option. A construction contract was awarded for the £18M Upper Garnock Valley project which will aim to reduce the flood

risk to properties in Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Dalry from the River Garnock, Powgree Burn and Rye Water. We have completed coastal defence works at Pirnmill on Arran.

North Ayrshire is a vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment

Following on from an excellent Local Environmental Audit Management (LEAMS) report from Keep Scotland Beautiful for 2019/20 which gave an average score of 94.6% for street cleanliness, we continue to maintain essential street cleaning throughout the pandemic. The Enforcement Team have issued 239 Fixed Penalty Notices compared to 129 for the same period last year. We increased patrols to deter and reduce incidences of fly-tipping and were one of the first councils to resume our special uplift service, with additional capacity.



Delivery of Our Council Plan

A Council for the Future

The Best Value Assurance Audit considers the Council's compliance with its statutory duty of Best Value as set out in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003. It is the core Council-wide audit by Audit Scotland on behalf of the Accounts Commission.

The Accounts Commission published their extremely positive findings in June. The audit took place prior to the pandemic and found overall, despite significant economic and demographic challenges, we are performing well, sector leading for community empowerment and an early adopter for national pilots.

The key messages were;

- We have a strong culture of continuous improvement. We have significantly improved and continued to make progress since the last Best Value report in 2011. Council priorities, plans, actions, and outcomes are clearly linked. Employees play an active role in identifying and driving improvement and we are delivering improvements for communities and residents.
- There is a strong culture of collaborative working. Elected Members and officers work well together, and we work effectively with a wide range of partners including the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and private business. There is joint ownership of, and commitment to, delivering agreed strategic priorities. The Council Plan, the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans are all clearly aligned and focussed on addressing North Ayrshire's key challenges.
- Our financial planning and management arrangements are good overall and we have significantly improved our asset management and procurement arrangements since the last Best Value

Best Value Assurance Audit

Report. While we have made clear progress with our transformation agenda, including setting aside money to fund projects, our savings plans fall short of the estimated funding gap.

- We are committed to community empowerment and is recognised by the Scottish Government and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) as a sector leader. Our approach is focused on embedding community empowerment in every-day business. We work well with a wide number of communities and groups including young people and tenants.

The four recommendations were:

- Accelerate the scale and pace of transformation ensuring the right resources and skills mix support this and that benefits are tracked
- Fully embed workforce planning
- Clarify intended impacts across all Locality Plans
- Improve North Ayrshire Performs, the online performance data portal, to make it more user friendly and accessible

"The core of this progress has been a good sense of self-awareness: The Council has been clear on how and where it can improve, has a well-defined strategy, and shares with its partners a strong vision for North Ayrshire.

This strategic direction is reinforced by a record of collaboration: between Elected Members and officers; in engaging with staff in improvement; and in the empowering approach taken by the Council in its relationship with its communities."

(The Accounts Commission – North Ayrshire Best Value Assurance Report 2020)

An efficient Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do

With partners, we mobilised an instant response to the pandemic. The flexibility and innovation of our approach is outlined in detail earlier in this report.

An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money

The Accounts Commission published their extremely positive findings from our Best Value Assurance Audit. (See Best Value Assurance Audit feature.)

Despite the restrictions of lockdown, the Financial Services Team successfully completed the preparation of our annual accounts within statutory timescales and received a positive report from our external auditors.

We have completed our Asset Management Plan process regarding illuminated sign units and Non-Road lighting assets. This will allow integration into our maintenance processes and result in improved budgetary planning and control.

A valued workforce that delivers high quality services

Our Welfare Reform Advice Team continue to have a positive impact on tenants' lives. During the first six months of 2020/21 we have helped improve tenants' incomes with overall financial gains of £907,817.20. This is an increase of £74,342.80 (9%) from the same period last year.

We disclosed 558 Freedom of Information and Environmental Information requests

during the first six months of the pandemic with 89% disclosed within the legislative timescales.

A powerful and respected voice

Our final Report on the Feasibility of Citizen's Basic Income Pilots in Scotland was submitted to the Scottish Government and shared with the UK Government in May/June 2020 and we provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Social Security Committee on the report in August 2020. Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Communities described the report as a 'pioneering study'. The concept is based on offering every individual, regardless of existing welfare benefits or earned income, an unconditional, regular payment.

Between April and September we have actively contributed to a Carnegie UK Trust "Covid and Communities" UK-wide research project to capture learning and good practice from the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The report, due to be published in December, aims to identify new ways of working that can help shape future policy, projects and services to ensure community and societal wellbeing.



Areas of Focus

Over the next six months we will be focussing on a range of immediate and longer term actions to support our communities and economic recovery.

Over the next six months we will:

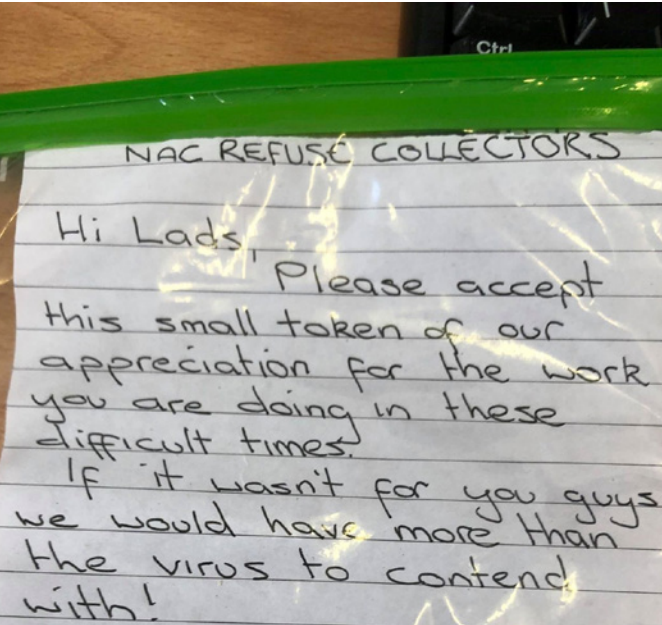
- Evolve our response to the Covid-19 pandemic to support our residents and businesses.
- Continue with preparations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union through our Brexit Working Group.
- Embed Community Wealth Building in our own activities and encourage the approach within our partner organisations.
- Implement our Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach.
- Implement our Financial Recovery Plan.
- Engage with communities through our "Fair Say" sessions and finalise the 2021-22 budget.
- Progress delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, following ratification of implementation and financial arrangements in November 2020.
- Further develop Community Hubs, looking at new ways of working to support our residents.
- Support Community Associations in preparation for letting provision restarting using the newly developed "Restart Toolkit" as restrictions ease.
- Progress the 1140 hours Early Years Childcare expansion programme.
- Progress development of the new Ardrossan school and community campus.
- Consult on the new Montgomerie Park Primary School.
- Progress the New Green Deal to ensure we meet our commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Roll out our new locality-based Business Development approach focussing on Community Wealth Building objectives in November.
- Establish a Better Off Hub, building on our Better Off North Ayrshire approach.
- Conduct an Open Space Audit to identify and address any gaps or deficiencies in the quality or quantity of open spaces across North Ayrshire.
- Review our 2020/21 Capital Programme to identify adjustments to the scope and timing of individual projects and revisit our current Construction Programme, where any delays and potential opportunities for acceleration are being considered.
- Prepare for the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May.
- Progress improvement actions from the Best Value Assurance Audit in terms of workforce planning, transformation, locality plans and access to performance data.

Your Feedback

We continued to receive feedback from our residents throughout the pandemic. Our teams have really appreciated the numerous compliments received through what continues to be an exceptionally challenging time. Comments received are included throughout this report with additional information provided below.

"Pass on thanks for the vital service being provided by the Partnership's care at home staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a fantastic service with personal care support as well as offering emotional support at a time when family are unable to visit."

Resident



We received 5.8% fewer complaints compared to the same period last year. Of the 1,300 complaints received 9% related to changes in policy due to the necessary restrictions brought in due to the pandemic. For example the majority of complaints related to lack of grass cutting which was a direct result of our response to the pandemic. There were a high number of missed bin pull outs however this should be noted in the context of being one of the few local authorities who maintained their waste collection service throughout the pandemic.

We have seen a 26% reduction in the number of compliments received, however it is unlikely this reflects the current situation. Logging of compliments has been necessarily a low priority for many teams as they are delivering frontline services. Anecdotal evidence through social media especially shows that the services we have provided have been exceptionally welcomed by our residents.

"Just wanted to say I think the Council is doing a wonderful job during the lockdown. The specific information on your website about all the services and support available is so comprehensive and helpful. The speed with which you set up the Community Hubs is amazing. The Q and A session held by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive was so comprehensive and helpful too. Thank you so much for all the good work you are all doing."

Resident



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	Land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning
Purpose:	To seek approval for the disposal of undeveloped land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning to Ayrshire College.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the disposal of the undeveloped land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning (detailed within Appendix 1) to Ayrshire College for a nominal consideration of £1 to support the development of the Ayrshire College Future Skills Hub.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Ayrshire College has an ambitious vision to create a sector leading North Ayrshire Future Skills Hub ("the Hub") to deliver an innovative curriculum in Engineering, Construction and SMART Technologies. This will be a new facility which will support educational outcomes and economic regeneration in North Ayrshire.
- 1.2 The College has secured funding of £1,500,000 for the project from a range of partners, including North Ayrshire Council.
- 1.3 The College's preferred option for the Hub requires the transfer of some undeveloped land owned by North Ayrshire Council to the College. The request made is for a transfer of ownership for land at a nominal consideration of £1 to facilitate the delivery of the project and is reflective of the wider economic and education outcomes which will be achieved.

2. Background

- 2.1 Ayrshire College currently has a STEM teaching facility within North Ayrshire at the Nethermains industrial estate, Kilwinning, approximately one mile from the main Kilwinning campus. Ayrshire College inherited the lease on that unit from James Watt College as part of the merger of the colleges network.
- 2.2 The replacement of the Nethermains facility has been a strategic objective for the College since merger, as the facility, cannot offer the range of curriculum opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) that the College wishes.
- 2.3 The College has engaged with key partners including North Ayrshire Council to consider future options for the delivery of the STEM curriculum. The College has identified a

preferred scheme to develop a new purpose-built facility adjacent to the main campus within the town centre.

Vision

- 2.4 For the communities of North Ayrshire to benefit from inclusive growth, the available workforce must be able to access jobs available in the region.
- 2.5 The vision for the new purpose built facility is to create a sector leading North Ayrshire Future Skills Hub (“the Hub”) to deliver an innovative curriculum in Engineering, Construction and SMART Technologies (using new technology in education), which will be one of the cornerstones for economic regeneration in North Ayrshire.
- 2.6 Currently North Ayrshire residents are having to leave the Council area to study the types of courses that will be delivered through The Hub. Of the 297 North Ayrshire residents on an apprenticeship in 2020-2021, 212 (71%) are doing an apprenticeship in engineering or construction.
- 2.7 The Hub will also provide upskilling and re-skilling opportunities for North Ayrshire’s current workforce. As technology changes, the Hub will provide the workforce with the opportunity to increase or change their skillsets and benefit from the new opportunities the development will create.
- 2.8 By providing a range of skills provision from employability through to higher level skills, the College will create the opportunity for North Ayrshire communities to access entry level jobs and to progress to higher level occupations in sectors which are higher value to the economy and workforce. This will help create a virtuous cycle of increasing productivity and prosperity in the area.
- 2.9 The facility will provide a dynamic open learning space which can be adapted to suit the activities that are scheduled. This adaptability will ensure the facility is future proofed for ongoing curriculum demands and innovations.

Economic Regeneration

- 2.10 The College is a signatory to the Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter, and the ambitious new facility has the potential to identify opportunities to provide education and training with links to North Ayrshire Council’s strategic plans including the Community Wealth Building Strategy. The facility will:
 - help identify and provide training to meet local employers and employee needs;
 - help employers to recruit locally and from priority groups, where appropriate;
 - be adaptable to local strategies to embed environmental benefits through, for example, active travel and sustainable energy generation; and,
 - provide training in renewable and future energy technologies.
- 2.11 The Hub will also provide learning opportunities to develop the future skills pipeline to support Ayrshire Growth Deal investments across Ayrshire. It will provide skills training in support of several high-profile projects.

Design Development

- 2.12 The College's original proposal was for The Hub to be built completely within the existing boundaries of its campus; however this would have seen the loss of around 36 car parking spaces.
- 2.13 To the west of the College's campus there is undeveloped land, owned by North Ayrshire Council. Securing this additional land as part of an extended College campus would significantly improve the design of the facility, by providing increased capacity for the development including parking, allowing the Hub to sit back from the main campus road and enable a generous public realm with outdoor seating and a drop off zone to the building's front. A plan of the proposals is attached at Appendix 1. The proposed location of the Hub will also provide space for secure, external yard for storage and deliveries to the west of the facility, and allow the College to achieve a net increase in car parking spaces.
- 2.14 The College's proposed development would only require part of the Council's land in this area, approx. 0.16 ha (0.4 acres). The proposed design gives consideration to the development potential of the retained Council land, and privately owned land at Howgate, should this be required in the future. The proposal will therefore support the development potential of a retained Council asset.
- 2.15 A valuation of the land was carried out in 2020. The valuation indicated that the proposed transfer site at Dalry Road had a market value of approximately £0.030m. Before Ayrshire College can progress their proposal, statutory approvals require to be obtained. Planning and Building Warrant applications are currently being developed.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal to transfer the undeveloped land at nominal consideration of £1 considers the education benefits of the proposal, and the significant capital investment by the College. The development will use land that is currently vacant and the proposals will see improved access to land retained by the Council should that be developed in the future.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the disposal of undeveloped land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning (detailed in Appendix 1) to Ayrshire College for a nominal consideration of £1 to support the development of the Ayrshire College Future Skills Hub.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The Council will forego a potential capital receipt for the land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning. The market value of this land is £0.030m.

The College has secured funding of £1,500,000 for the project from a range of partners, including North Ayrshire Council. The funding organisations and their level of financial support is summarised below:

• Magnox Socio Economic Panel	£499,999
• Ayrshire College	£500,000
• North Ayrshire Council	£200,000 (excluding the value of the land subject of this report)
• Ayrshire College Foundation	£300,000
• Total Funding Package	£1,500,000

Human Resources

- 4.2 None.

Legal

- 4.3 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 places a statutory obligation on the Council to obtain the best price or the best rent when it disposes of any asset by sale or lease, **subject to exceptions** which are set out in the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010. These regulations permit a disposal at less than the best price achievable where either (a) the property is valued at less than £10,000, or (b) the Council has compared the financial cost of transfer against the community benefits and determined that the transfer is reasonable and promotes either economic development or regeneration, health, social well-being or environmental well-being.

Officers have considered the costs and benefits of the proposal and are satisfied that the circumstances set out in the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (criteria (b) above) are satisfied and that a disposal for less than best consideration may take place. Subject to Cabinet approval, Legal Services will be instructed to progress the disposal of the land at Dalry Road, Kilwinning.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The proposal is a significant capital investment for Kilwinning, with positive socio-economic impacts for the town. Access to improved local training and learning facilities within North Ayrshire will improve positive outcomes for young people.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 Any environmental implications of the project will be addressed as part of the relevant regulatory processes.

Key Priorities

4.6 The proposed transaction will contribute to the following Council Plan priorities:

- Children and young people experience the best start in life
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The proposed transaction will support economic and education activity, led by an anchor institution, Ayrshire College who is a signatory to the Community Wealth Building Anchor Charter.

Procurement

The proposed transaction will create construction activity and opportunities for local procurement.

Employment

By providing a range of skills provision from employability skills through to higher level skills, the College will create the opportunity for North Ayrshire communities to access entry level jobs and to progress to higher level occupations in sectors which are higher value to the economy and workforce.

Land and Assets

The proposed transaction will support the transformation of undeveloped land to support the activities of an anchor institution who will deliver an enhanced educational offer.

Financial Power

The proposed transaction will support the retention and development of an enhanced educational offer within North Ayrshire with long-term economic benefits.

5. Consultation

5.1 Ayrshire College delivered a presentation to North Ayrshire Council representatives and local ward members on the development of the project to date on 25th November 2020. This presentation was supported by the architect on behalf of the Project Design Team.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Alex Mackenzie, Development Manager**, on **01294 324788**.

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title: **Solar PV Farm Proposal**

Purpose: To inform Cabinet of the outcome of investigations into the potential and viability of developing ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farms at two Council owned sites and to seek approval for the proposed installation of a solar PV farm at Nethermains former landfill site.

Recommendation: That Cabinet:

- a. Notes the investigations into the viability of constructing ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farms on Council owned land at two former landfill sites at Nethermains and Shewalton;
 - b. Approves the development of a solar PV farm installation at Nethermains former landfill site;
 - c. Notes the Nethermains solar PV farm proposal will require an estimated total initial investment of £6.768m which will be part funded utilising £4.5m of capital funding from the Council's approved £8.8m Investment Fund;
 - d. Agrees that the remaining required funding of £2.268m will be included in the proposed refreshed Capital Investment Plan to be considered by Council in March 2021 as part of the budget setting process;
 - e. Notes the options available for revenue generation from the energy created from the proposed Nethermains solar PV farm and authorises the Executive Director of Place together with the Head of Finance to further investigate and conclude final contractual arrangements;
 - f. Notes the associated community benefits funding that the project will create for disbursement under existing policy and mechanisms;
 - g. Notes that the potential for a Shewalton solar PV farm and other renewable energy opportunities will continue to be investigated and will be reported to a future Cabinet.
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In tackling climate change, North Ayrshire Council has made excellent progress in cutting carbon emissions. In the last five years alone, emissions have reduced by over 28% within the Council's estate following implementation of a wide range of carbon reduction projects.
- 1.2 In 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and announced a target date of 2030 to become carbon 'net-zero'. At its budget setting meeting in March 2020, the Council supported these aspirations by allocating an £8.8m Investment Fund to be utilised to deliver on climate change, sustainable infrastructure investment and Community Wealth Building.
- 1.3 As part of the Council's ongoing journey towards 'net-zero' a number of projects continue to be investigated including the possible use of Council owned land to generate renewable energy. Business cases for the potential installation of solar PV farms at two former landfill sites (Nethermains and Shewalton) were previously carried out which at the time were deemed to be non viable due to the removal of government subsidies, specifically the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme. Reductions in the market value of solar panel infrastructure and associated costs since the original work was carried out in 2015 have created an opportunity for the proposals to be revisited and updated with current market values.
- 1.4 The updated findings indicate both proposed solar PV farm installations are now viable, with the Nethermains site emerging as the most appropriate to progress at this time due to size, energy generation potential, the availability of a more readily accessible grid connection opportunity at Ravenspark substation and the anticipated financial return on investment.
- 1.5 The proposed solar PV farm at Nethermains will:
 - provide a substantial amount of clean, renewable energy to supply the local electricity grid
 - make a further positive contribution to the Council's carbon reduction and contribute to the North Ayrshire Council Climate Emergency declaration commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030
 - provide a localised economic activity and long-term productive use for the former landfill site that would be otherwise difficult to develop
 - contribute to a reduction in fuel poverty through the availability of affordable energy

2. Background

- 2.1 North Ayrshire Council declared a Climate Emergency on 11 June 2019, committing to take action on climate change and has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. Officers are currently developing the third iteration of the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy to progress towards this target and achieve a sustainable environment for future generations. The Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy will be presented to a future Cabinet in Spring 2021 for consideration of approval.

- 2.2 In 2015/16 a study into opportunities for the creation of renewable energy on Council land was undertaken as part of the North Ayrshire Renewable Energy Strategy. This included outline business cases being created for two solar PV farm projects, to be sited at Nethermains and Shewalton former landfill sites. A solar PV farm is a large-scale land application of PV panels which use the sun's energy to generate electricity.
- 2.3 Due to the removal of government subsidies, specifically the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme, the business cases became financially unviable and were therefore not progressed further at that time. However, reductions in the market value of solar PV infrastructure and associated costs since 2015 have created an opportunity for the proposals to be revisited and updated with current market values.
- 2.4 Taking account of the reduced costs and changing market conditions, the two outline business cases have now been refreshed by the original authors, Arcadis Consultancy Ltd. The business cases have also subsequently been analysed and peer reviewed by academics within Strathclyde University.
- 2.5 The refreshed business cases now confirm both sites are viable in the current market and that the Nethermains site is recommended as the most appropriate to progress at this time. The outline business case for Nethermains indicates a larger installation would be possible on this site, with increased energy generation potential and greater financial return on investment. In addition there is a more readily accessible grid connection at Ravenspark substation. The development risk at Nethermains is low in comparison with the potential Shewalton development in terms of available grid connection, capacity and grid infrastructure.
- 2.6 Advanced solar design software has been used to identify the size of the solar farm possible. The site at Nethermains offers a larger solar PV farm opportunity and is considered suitable for a 7.48 MWp solar PV farm installation. (Figure 1 provides a graphical output from the software).

Figure 1 – Solar farm sizing representation using HelioScope software - Nethermains



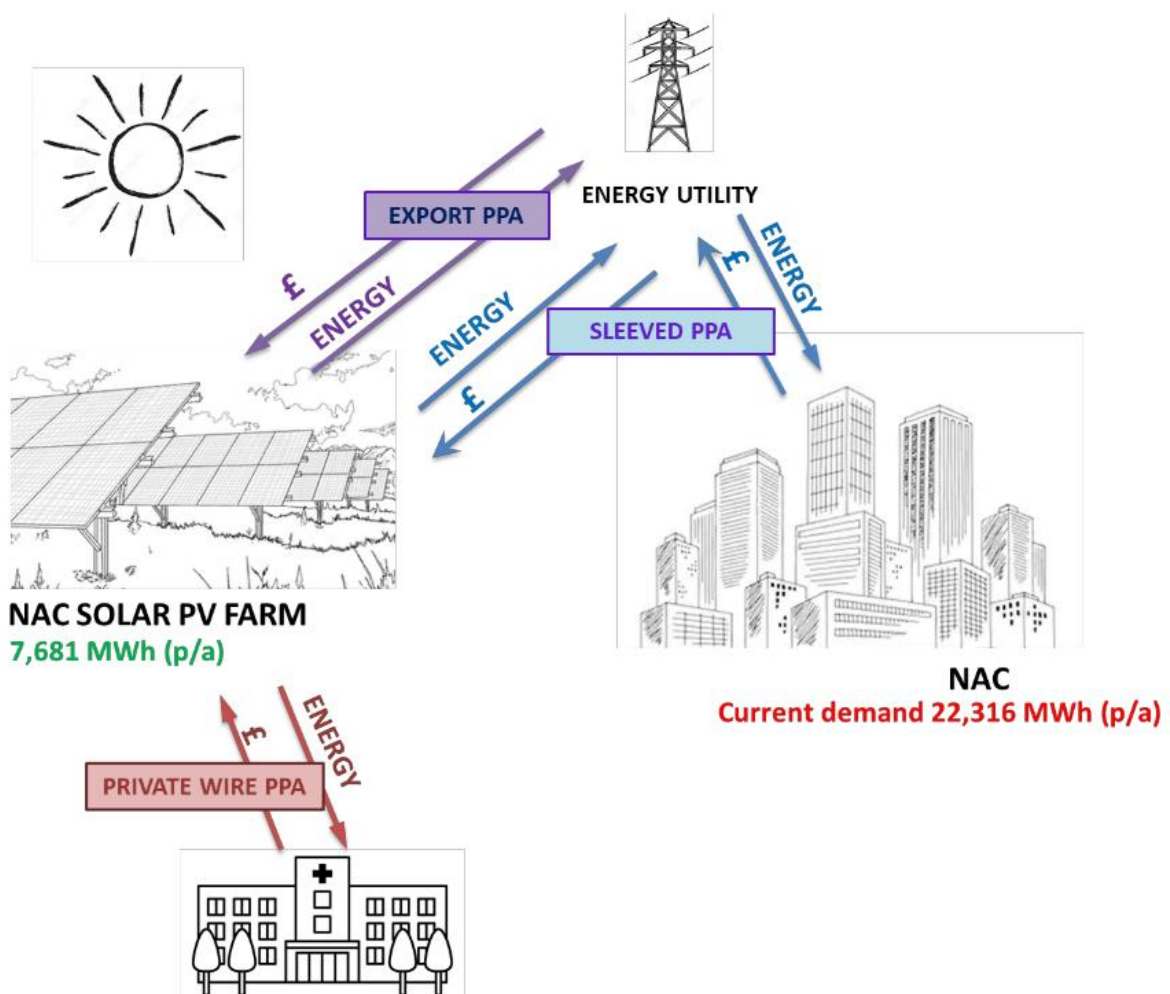
- 2.7 The installation of a solar PV farm at Nethermains provides a number of options for the use and distribution of energy created. The Council's current property estate energy requirements are around 22,316 MWh p/a. The proposed solar PV farm at Nethermains will provide 7,681 MWh p/a which is approximately 34% of the Council's current energy requirements.

2.8 The energy consumption requirements of the Council are currently being reviewed in line with the recovery and renewal response to Covid-19 and our ambitious Transformation agenda. The ongoing review of current working environments and property estate will see changes to the Council's energy needs going forward.

2.9 The investigation of the potential and viability of the two solar PV farm sites has considered the following energy utilisation options:

- Developing a revenue stream to provide electricity for power at Council facilities, reducing overall annual electricity costs over the 20-year life of the asset (via Sleeveing Purchase Power Agreement) - under a sleeving arrangement, power generated by the solar PV farm would be sold back to the Council and a licensed electricity third-party supplier would manage the electricity trading activities for a fee. The advantage to the Council would be that after allowing for fees paid to the third-party supplier, the Council would be paying for power at a lower price / kWh.
- Sale of power to the electricity grid via the wholesale electricity market (via an Export Purchase Power Agreement).
- Sale of power direct via a Private Wire Purchase Power Agreement to a consumer via a direct cabled supply with transformers and switchgear.

Figure 2 – Diagram describing Potential Income sources



2.10 Indications at this stage are that the preferred option which will provide the greatest financial return is to 'sleeve' electricity for use in the Council's own estate (via a Sleeving Purchase Power Agreement). Given the volatility in energy market conditions, ongoing assessment of the most advantageous model will continue to be undertaken and will be agreed and finalised as the overall project progresses in order to maximise any market opportunities that become available. It is requested that the Council's Executive Director of Place together with the Head of Finance be authorised to progress and conclude the most appropriate Power Agreement contractual arrangements.

2.11 It is possible for the proposed solar PV farm installation to qualify for Business Rates relief under the Renewable Energy Generation Relief Scheme. To do so, arrangements would require to be in place for at least one community organisation to be entitled to:

- at least 15% of the annual profit; or
- so much of the annual profit as is attributable to at least 0.5MW of the total installed capacity of the project.

The financial modelling carried out anticipates that the rateable value of the proposed Nethermains installation will be less than £145,000 therefore 100% relief will be achieved, however this will ultimately depend on an Ayrshire Valuation Board assessment of the installed solar PV farm.

2.12 It is estimated that 15% profit from the solar PV farm will equate to approximately £2.27m being allocated to community benefit projects. Disbursement would follow the principles and mechanisms outlined in the current North Ayrshire policy on Community Benefits from Wind Turbines which was approved by Cabinet in March 2016.

2.13 To protect the solar PV installation, an anti-intruder fence and CCTV would be installed. The cost of installing a security system is included in the capital budget estimates. Maintenance costs are also considered within the financial modelling and include the following:

- Annual PV arrays/system inspections (visual and electrical check-up; cabling/wiring; earthing system; check-up / test sample of inverters and meters)
- Labour on replacement parts
- Annual (or biannual) panel cleaning
- Annual thermographic testing

Operational costs are also considered, and include:

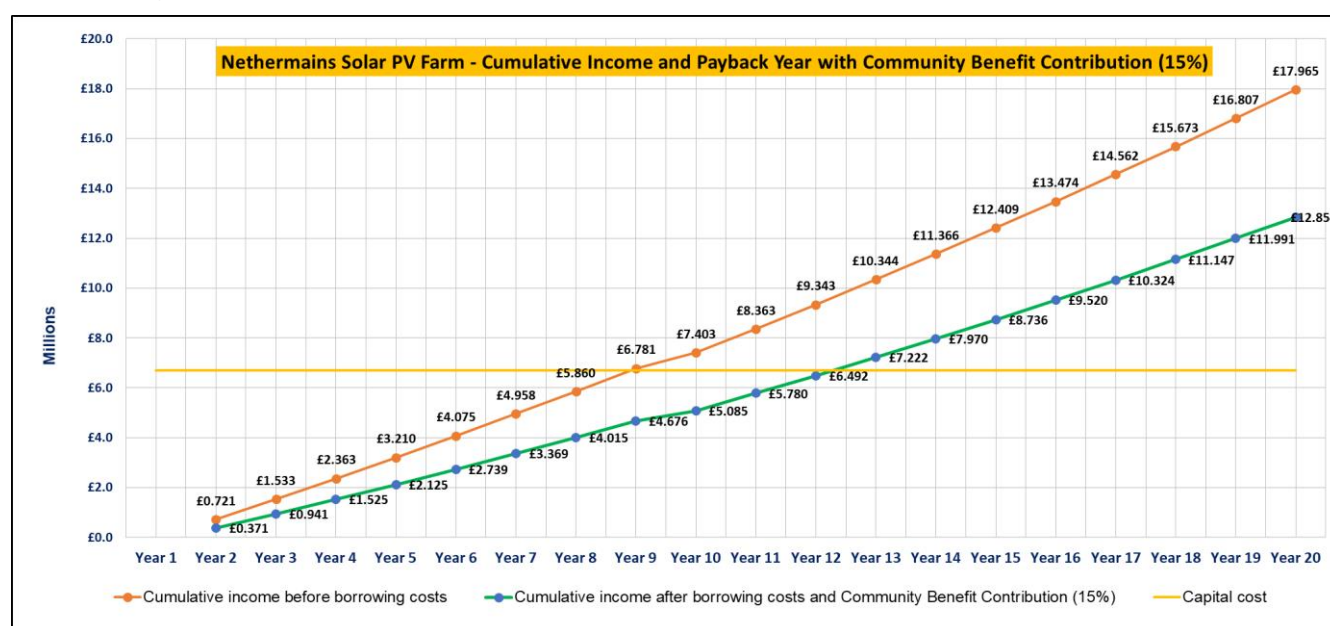
- Labour of operators for the plant and service fee
- 24/7 safety/security measures/security

2.14 Within the financial modelling it is anticipated an average annual income of £750k (after borrowing costs) would be achieved. This considers the financing of the installation being delivered by utilising £4.5m for installation and development costs from the Council's £8.8m Investment Fund with additional borrowing of £2.268m required. Availability of external funding will also be researched and sought, to reduce the

financial burden to the Council. Examples of potential funding opportunities may include Salix, Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme (LCITP), Low Carbon Energy Project Capital Funding, and the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES), subject to eligibility.

- 2.15 Figure 3 below shows the estimated cumulative annual income (over a 20-year period) from investment in Nethermain's solar PV farm, comparing income before and after consideration of borrowing costs and contributing 15% of profit to community benefit projects (estimated to total £2.27million). **The total net income** from this Solar PV Farm over a 20-year period is estimated as **£12,853,886**.

Figure 3: Nethermain's Solar PV Farm – Cumulative Income and Payback Year



- 2.16 The annual reduction in CO₂ emissions is estimated at 501 tonnes of CO₂ per year based on an annual yield of 7,681 MWh.
- 2.17 The anticipated financial and carbon reduction benefits to be achieved by the proposed Nethermain's solar PV farm are summarised in figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Nethermain's Solar PV Farm – summary benefits (with sleeving arrangement)

Nethermain's Solar PV Farm (with sleeving arrangement)					
Project size	Annual Generation	Annual CO ₂ reduction	Capital Cost	Payback (Years)	20-year Net Income (after borrowing costs and contribution to communities less £4.5m Investment Fund contribution)
7.48 MWp	7,681 MWh	501 tCO ₂	£6.768m	12 years	£ 12,853,886

*Note: MWp (megawatt-peak: the rate at which solar PV generates energy at peak performance)
MWh (megawatt-hour: the total amount of electricity the system generates)*

- 2.18 For the purposes of assessing potential return on investment, it should be noted that no financial return is forecast for the first 12-18 months of the project due to the programme of works required prior to operation, i.e. site survey, planning application, grid connection application, procurement, financing and 3-6 month estimated installation requirements. The final business case on energy utilisation/distribution options will also be concluded during this time to determine the most appropriate Power Agreement and contractual arrangements.
- 2.19 Whilst at this time it is proposed to progress with the onsite installation of a solar PV farm at Nethermains, the potential to do so at the former Shewalton landfill site will also continue to be appraised in order to realise further renewable energy opportunities. Grid connection requirements will continue to be explored for Shewalton to mitigate the current risks associated with available grid connections and grid capacity.
- 2.20 A number of further opportunities will also be developed as part of the work taking place to conclude the third iteration of the Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.
- 2.21 Partnership arrangements have been established with the University of Strathclyde via Scotland's Energy Technology Partnership (ETP) within which, officers will continue to investigate creative and ambitious projects to inspire innovation in our Climate Change journey. These will include, but are not limited to:
- assessing other potential renewable energy generation opportunities such as wind power;
 - assessing other emerging energy opportunities such as hydrogen power generation;
 - the potential to utilise battery storage for power generated from the solar PV farm and other renewable sources will also be continually reviewed as new technology develops and becomes available;
 - a review of opportunities to develop further renewable energy infrastructure at the Nethermains solar PV farm to exploit the same infrastructure for financial economies will be undertaken.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed Cabinet:

- a. Notes the investigations into the viability of constructing ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farms on Council owned land at two former landfill sites at Nethermains and Shewalton;
- b. Approves the development of a solar PV farm installation at Nethermains former landfill site;
- c. Notes the Nethermains solar PV farm proposal will require an estimated total initial investment of £6.768m which will be part funded utilising £4.5m of capital funding from the Council's approved £8.8m Investment Fund;
- d. Agrees that the remaining required funding of £2.268m will be included in the proposed refreshed Capital Investment Plan to be considered by Council in March 2021 as part of the budget setting process;
- e. Notes the options available for revenue generation from the energy created from the proposed Nethermains solar PV farm and authorises the Executive Director of Place

- together with the Head of Finance to further investigate and conclude final contractual arrangements;
- f. Notes the associated community benefits funding that the project will create for disbursement under existing policy and mechanisms;
 - g. Notes that the potential for a Shewalton solar PV farm and other renewable energy opportunities will continue to be investigated and will be reported to a future Cabinet.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The financial modelling provided in the report outlines details of anticipated capital costs, income and annual operation and maintenance costs, including borrowing costs, over a 20-year period. The proposed solar PV farm at Nethermain includes a capital investment of £6.768m met from £4.500m from the Council's £8.800m Investment fund with the balance of £2.268m met from borrowing. The required borrowing will be included in the proposed refreshed Capital Investment Plan to be considered by Council in March as part of the budget setting process. The total anticipated return on investment over a 20-year period is £12.854m, which represents a payback of 12 years (inclusive of borrowing costs and a 15% Community Benefit Contribution).

Human Resources

- 4.2 The successful development and delivery of the project will be met from within existing resources from a wide range of different teams within the Council, including Corporate Sustainability; Property Management and Investment; Planning Services; Corporate Procurement Unit; and Finance.

Legal

- 4.3 The procurement process will be progressed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contracts (Scotland). The Council has power to sell electricity under the Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (2010 No.1908): '2. *For the purpose of section 170A(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, a local authority shall be entitled to sell electricity produced from the following sources— (b)solar*'

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The proposed solar PV farm will help reduce fuel poverty and through community benefits associated with the installation, will provide funding for local communities and appropriate projects. The associated community benefits (15% community benefit contribution) will be disbursed in line with existing policy and mechanisms. The project will also serve to increase local renewables knowledge, skills and awareness within the community and will support community learning initiatives once operational.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The solar PV farm proposal aims to:

- make a positive contribution to national carbon reduction targets; and
- contribute to the North Ayrshire Council Climate Emergency declaration commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030
- create renewable energy on a former landfill site thereby making a positive environmental impact.

Key Priorities

4.6 The solar PV farm proposal contained within the report supports the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities;
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy;
- Vibrant and welcoming places;
- A sustainable environment; and
- An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money.

The solar PV farm proposal contributes to delivery of the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS) by reducing carbon emissions, increasing energy security and increasing renewable electricity generation.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The solar PV farm proposal, in addition to creating green employment opportunities, supports the following pillars of community wealth building:

- Procurement: potential for local suppliers and supply chains to benefit from the significant investment through provision of services and materials both during construction and ongoing operational phases;
- Land and Assets: explores alternative use of our land and assets that currently are not productive and re-purposes those assets;
- Financial Power: commits capital investment to support actions to reduce carbon emissions across North Ayrshire and to help achieve carbon neutrality by 2030;
- Plural Ownership: supports the Council's ambitions around municipalisation to safeguard and enhance public services for residents through innovative approaches; and allows the Council to show green economic leadership.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 General consultation has taken place during the ongoing refresh of the Council's Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy (ESCCS) via Consul and an engagement event held in Saltcoats Town Hall during March 2020. Further consultation will be undertaken as the proposals develop. Significant support and engagement with Strathclyde University has assisted in the peer review of the proposal.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Agnes Piatek-Bednarek, Senior Manager, Energy and Sustainability**, on Tel. No. 01294 324807

Background Papers

Arcadis Outline Business Cases – Nethermain's Landfill Solar PV Park and Shewalton Landfill Solar PV Park

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	Estate Based Regeneration Programme: Demolition of low demand housing stock in the Garnock Valley
Purpose:	To advise Cabinet of progress with the proposal to demolish 48 flatted properties across four streets in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie.
Recommendation(s):	That Cabinet notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) progress to date on the proposal and the ongoing tenant engagement and rehousing exercise in place for the affected tenants; and (ii) projects identified which will replace the 48 units within the Garnock Valley.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. In January 2019, Cabinet approved the 2019-2029 Estate Based Regeneration Programme which includes three projects to demolish 48 flatted properties in the Garnock Valley area named as 'Regeneration Projects 4, 5 and 6'. The projects are programmed to commence during 2021/22.
- 1.2. Contact has been made with all tenants of the affected blocks. The displaced tenants have re-housing priority for an area of their choice and will receive a home loss payment. Their new homes will be fully redecorated, including new carpets and window blinds. They will also receive practical assistance with moving arrangements.
- 1.3. Whilst the proposed demolition will reduce the number of homes available for let in the Garnock Valley in the short to medium term, the impact on waiting list applicants in this area will be minimal due to the low demand of these properties.
- 1.4. The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2021-2026 was approved by Cabinet on 10 November 2020. It includes 'Regeneration Projects 1a and 1b', totalling 13 units, in the Beith and Kilbirnie areas. Development of the former Garnock Academy has been increased from 15 to 50 units in the most recent SHIP. These developments will offset the reduction in Council homes in the Garnock Valley as a result of the demolitions.
- 1.5. Sites resulting from the demolition will be used for redevelopment, landscaping and additional parking.

2. Background

- 2.1 North Ayrshire's Local Housing Strategy 2018-2022 (LHS) reflects the Council's commitment to investing and regenerating our communities, enhancing the housing stock to meet the aspirations of our tenants, and improving tenants' quality of life by providing affordable, sustainable and desirable housing. A key consideration in delivering the LHS is evaluating the lifespan of our current housing stock, and whether it reflects our vision for housing.
- 2.2 In January 2019, Cabinet approved the implementation of an Estate Based Regeneration Programme, which included the demolition of flatted properties in various locations across the Garnock Valley. The units are all Council owned, situated in residential streets which are a mix of Council and privately owned family housing (comprising houses, not flats), in the following locations:
- Laburmum Avenue, Beith (12 x 1 bed and 4 x bedsit units, 4 blocks);
 - Acacia Drive, Beith (4 x 1 bed units, 1 block);
 - Baidland Avenue, Dalry (8 x 1 bed units, 2 blocks); and
 - Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie (20 x 1 bed units, 5 blocks).

Identification of the Regeneration Project

- 2.3 In order to develop the Estate Based Regeneration Programme, officers undertook a comprehensive map-based review of all our estates. The mapping work included condition information from our asset management system, local housing officer intelligence, environmental and visual audits, tenant complaints, and ownership details.
- 2.4 This mapping work identified a variety of potential improvements within our estates, including the need for demolition and redevelopment of low demand stock.
- 2.5 For the Garnock Valley project, the following factors were considered, alongside the qualitative information gathered during the mapping process:

Demand Issues

- 2.6 Information on refused offers suggested area perception is an issue. The rate of refusal linked to street / area is 12.5% higher than the North Ayrshire average. Furthermore, many applicants who have refused an offer in the identified streets have referred specifically to the flatted properties (e.g. 'don't want to live near flats at ...').
- 2.7 The rate of voids (or turnover) is also a measure of desirability and suitability. Lower turnover indicates a more settled and adequately housed community. Turnover per unit from 2009-2019 in the flats ranged from two to four times that of the houses across the four areas.
- 2.8 Time a property is empty, or void, was also analysed to determine demand, as it can reflect time to allocate due to refusals. For the period 2009-2019, the

average days to let for the 48 flats was 24.5, compared to 12.3 days for houses in the same streets and 19.7 days for all stock (inclusive of these properties). The flats in Laburnum Avenue have the highest average void period of 33.2 days.

Cost of Retaining Stock

- 2.9 Collectively, the void rent loss for the period 2009-2019 is c.£50k for flats, in comparison to c.£10k for houses in the regeneration areas. This is most significant in Laburnum Avenue, where the void rent loss is over 11 times more in flats than in houses.
- 2.10 Almost £1m in planned maintenance/capital works is due to be spent on the blocks proposed for demolition over the next 10 years, with over half of this spend allocated in years 1-5. Whilst this is a significant investment, there is no indication that it will improve demand for the units

Tenant Rehousing and Engagement

- 2.11 Officers have developed a rehousing strategy which considers the expedient vacation of the 48 flats, the needs of those currently on the North Ayrshire Housing Register and our statutory obligations to meet the housing needs of homeless people. Housing Services has experience of this on a larger scale, with the current programme to relocate tenants in the five multi-storey tower blocks in the Fullarton area of Irvine due to complete in 2021.
- 2.12 Tenants of the flatted properties will be provided with fully redecorated homes, with new carpets and blinds. They will also be entitled to a home loss payment of £1,500. The Council will provide practical assistance with moving arrangements for all tenants, including support to arrange re-direction of utilities and other services.
- 2.13 Tenants were first contacted on 30 October 2020 to advise of the regeneration proposals. The dedicated Regeneration Team quickly made follow up contact to ensure every household has a live application with their specific area preferences logged. Tenants responded to this very quickly and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, both in terms of the rehousing process and package of support provided by the Regeneration Team.
- 2.14 19 of the 48 properties are now empty. Ten of the 29 remaining tenants currently have an offer of housing.
- 2.15 Whilst the demolition of these properties will reduce the number of homes available for let in the Garnock Valley, the impact on waiting list applicants will be minimal. Furthermore, the impact of rehousing displaced tenants in the Garnock Valley on other waiting list applicants should not be significant, as this area has a higher than average void rate.

Regenerating the 'Gap' Sites

2.16 Following demolition, several small 'gap' sites will remain. The intention is to utilise the sites as follows:

- Acacia Drive, Beith: increase parking provision;
- Laburnum Avenue, Beith: develop approximately six new amenity and 'wheelchair' accessible homes (if site levels allow level access);
- Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie: develop approximately seven new amenity and 'wheelchair' accessible homes (if site levels allow level access);
- Baidland Avenue, Dalry: install gateway features to enhance the entrance to Baidland Avenue and increase parking provision.

2.17 The plans for regeneration do not facilitate replacement of the total number of units lost on the same sites. An allowance for these properties is, however, incorporated into the overall housebuilding programme through our Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021-2026 (SHIP). We will seek to maximise densities as far as possible on those locations earmarked for redevelopment, with early calculations indicating a minimum of 13 new homes across the two sites of Laburnum Avenue, Beith and Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie. The existing ground levels and conditions will require further investigation to determine the feasibility of residential development at these sites.

2.18 In addition, the SHIP 2021-2026 includes an increase of 35 units at the former Garnock Academy site in order to replace the remaining units which will be demolished. An additional 49 units (45 homes) have already been completed through the SHIP at Watt Court, Dalry replacing the former 13-unit sheltered housing complex.

2.19 Areas of new parking or gateway features will be included in the demolition contract, to ensure the areas are brought back into use quickly.

Sustainability

2.20 The new homes will meet the Scottish Government's 'Greener Standard'. Innovative approaches to fuel efficient development will be considered on a site by site basis (e.g. biomass boilers, solar photovoltaic panels, smart technologies, etc.).

Costs

2.21 A budget of £0.475m within the approved Estate Based Regeneration Programme will support the demolition and parking/landscaping costs. This budget will also be utilised to enable any wider improvements to the areas.

2.22 Regeneration Projects 1a and 1b in the SHIP have indicative budgets of £1.171m and £1.366m respectively, to redevelop the Laburnum Avenue and Newhouse Drive gap sites. The former Garnock Academy site has an indicative budget of £9.756m for the 50 units included in the SHIP.

- 2.23 The inclusion of these projects in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan offers the opportunity to secure Scottish Government grant funding of £59k per new unit developed (included in the overall project budgets detailed above).

Indicative Timeline

- 2.24 The works at Acacia Drive and Baidland Avenue are currently expected to commence with demolitions in autumn / winter 2022 and complete by autumn / winter 2023.
- 2.25 Regeneration Projects 1a and 1b are currently programmed to commence with demolitions in autumn/winter 2022 and complete during spring 2024, pending completion of the decant process and site investigations. Should the sites be vacated more expediently, there is an opportunity to accelerate the projects.
- 2.26 Works are expected to commence at the former Garnock Academy site during 2021 and complete by spring 2023.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes
- (i) progress to date on the rehousing exercise of the affected tenants: and
 - (ii) projects identified to replace the 48 units within the Garnock Valley.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The costs for redeveloping Newhouse Drive and Laburnum Avenue are included within the £217.842m budget (inclusive of Scottish Government funding) identified to deliver the projects set out within the SHIP 2021-2026 as approved by Cabinet on 10 November 2020. The Estate Based Regeneration Programme budget of £0.475m for these projects will be utilised to support the demolition, parking/landscaping costs and any wider improvements identified as part of the projects.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None.

Legal

- 4.3 The demolition of the flatted properties will involve home loss payments for affected tenants, as set out within the Land Compensation (Scotland) Act 1973. The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, Schedule 1, Part 12, Class 33, as amended, enables local authorities to carry out works, within their district, for the erection of dwellings so long as the development conforms with the Local Development Plan. Where this is the case the Council will obtain a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' from the Council's Planning Service. This will certify that each site has been considered against the full terms of the adopted Local Development Plan.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The provision of new social housing will have a positive impact on those who require specialist accommodation, older people, those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, and those for whom purchasing a home is not an affordable option. The benefits of new build housing in relation to health, wellbeing and educational attainment, are well documented.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 The provision of replacement housing stock would support the principles of the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017-20 in terms of providing sustainable housing stock which has lower running costs for tenants and lower carbon emissions. New housing is more energy efficient, better ventilated, and has higher levels of thermal comfort, which can result in alleviation of the symptoms in a number of medical conditions, for example respiratory and rheumatoid illnesses.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 This project meets the Council's priority of an 'Inspiring Place', specifically the priority outcome 'affordable, modern and well-designed homes that meet residents' needs' by delivering quality new build housing which is affordable, sustainable and accessible. Research undertaken by both the British Research Establishment and Shelter Scotland confirms an evidential link between quality of housing, educational attainment, and health and wellbeing. The provision of new family housing to replace some of the current flatted accommodation would provide modern, accessible housing to improve life outcomes for children and young people.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 Effective use of community benefit clauses in development contracts, and partnership work with colleagues in Economic Development to support our local

construction and supply chain companies to bid for this work, can secure many of these jobs for our local people and support the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultees for the Estate Based Regeneration Programme, which identified this project, included housing professionals, corporate colleagues from across the Council, HSCP and Police Scotland. Extensive engagement with tenants has been undertaken as part of the rehousing process through the Regeneration Team. This has been successful to date, with all remaining tenants having a housing application completed, 19 properties currently empty, and ten of the remaining tenants with an offer of housing.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **Jacqueline Cameron, Senior Manager** on **01294 485652**.

Background Papers

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy
Purpose:	To seek approval of the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' detailed at Appendix 1.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' detailed at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has made excellent progress in tackling carbon emissions in North Ayrshire. In the last five years alone, emissions have reduced by over 28% within the Council's estate following implementation of a wide range of ambitious carbon reduction projects.
- 1.2 In 2019, the Council raised ambitions further by declaring a Climate Emergency and announcing a target date of 2030 to become carbon 'net-zero'. In March 2020, the Council allocated £500,000 from its newly created Investment Fund for tree planting to provide carbon absorption to meet the net-zero aspirations as well as providing a wealth of other benefits.
- 1.3 Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, and in recognition of this important commitment, officers have developed a document entitled 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' (see Appendix 1) and undertaken early work to facilitate initial implementation of a potential pilot first phase of tree planting during the 2020/21 growing season which runs until March 2021.
- 1.4 This paper sets out the background to the proposals, provides an update to the Cabinet on progress so far, and seeks approval of the strategy document at Appendix 1 which includes the intended next steps to deliver the tree planting commitment.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils, and set a target to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest.
- 2.2 The Council has set its own ambitious target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In principle, this means that the Council aims to reduce as much carbon as

possible in the next 10 years and offsetting any remaining emissions through carbon absorption.

- 2.3 In March 2020, the Council allocated £500,000 from its newly created Investment Fund towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of trees as part of our overall approach to becoming net zero.
- 2.4 This commitment will be delivered as part of a large-scale woodland tree planting programme. The afforestation initiative will aim to plant around 108,000 trees, covering over 40 hectares, in order to provide the anticipated level of carbon sequestration required to meet the net-zero ambition.
- 2.5 The increase in trees will help combat climate change as trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. However, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands which align with the Council Plan and which will be delivered as part of the afforestation programme:
- Employment and training opportunities for local people and potential co-operatively owned commercial forestry opportunities as part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy
 - Health, wellbeing and physical activity opportunities
 - Improved habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity and creation of new green corridors
 - Regeneration
 - Community food growing (fruit trees)
 - Sustainable flood risk management
 - Improved air quality
- 2.6 Despite the resource challenges presented by Covid-19, officers have worked collaboratively to create the proposed 'North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy' document, which sets out a route map to delivering the ambitious tree planting commitment. The proposed strategy is provided at Appendix 1 and addresses the following considerations:
- Policy context
 - Objectives
 - Funding
 - Community Engagement
 - Land identification and selection criteria for planting areas
 - Strategic planting sites
 - Potential delivery models
 - Governance and next steps
- 2.7 Alongside development of the strategy, officers have examined opportunities to expedite an initial phase of tree planting for the 2020/21 winter growing season. The objectives of the initial phase are to establish early progress to secure the sustainability and wider benefits as quickly as possible and to learn lessons from initial delivery models for application in future phases.
- 2.8 The recommended approach within the strategy therefore entails two phases; initial pilot projects (during the 2020/2021 tree planting season which runs until end March 2021,

and subject to sapling availability) followed by a larger scale, second phase programme in subsequent planting seasons. It is anticipated that all planting will be completed by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure planting is established well in advance of the net-zero target date of 2030.

- 2.9 Implementation of the first phase is anticipated to be delivered by a combination of projects; some community led, and some delivered by an identified Woodland Trust partner. An update on these two project streams is provided below.

Partnership with FRIENDS

- 2.10 A partnership between the Council and the locally based FRIENDS community environmental group is already well established and has delivered planting of 2,000 trees at Ardeer Quarry during the 2019/20 planting season, just prior to publication of the Council's tree planting commitment. Officers have invited additional proposals from FRIENDS for further planting projects, alongside the provision of advice and support to contribute to delivery. The following potential projects are currently being explored in conjunction with FRIENDS:

Location	Indicative number of trees
Holm Plantation, Saltcoats/Ardrossan	1,000
Elm Park, Ardrossan	500
Stevenston Muir, Stevenston	100
Rec Hill, Stevenston	200
Beach Park, Stevenston	450
Ardeer Quarry Phase 2, Stevenston	1,000
Bourtreehill Estate, Irvine	3,000
Total	6,250

- 2.11 It should be noted that the above proposals are subject to further assessment, funding and, where not already undertaken, public and ward member consultation.
- 2.12 A key benefit of this delivery model is FRIENDS' track record in community consultation, involving local volunteers, fostering civic pride and promoting physical activity and health and wellbeing benefits. The group share the Council's aspirations regarding dignified food provision and the provision of community orchard planting is a key feature of the wider planting proposals.

Partnership with East Ayrshire Woodlands Trust

- 2.13 East Ayrshire Woodlands Trust (EAW) is a long-established woodland creation and management organisation aligned to East Ayrshire Council. The Council has worked with EAW for a number of years on various environmental projects and officers are exploring the potential to work together to deliver an early phase of planting during the 2020/21 growing season.
- 2.14 A key strand of this model is the innovative training and employment opportunities that form part of its delivery. The planting works would be undertaken by local individuals

seeking employment, who benefit from paid employment and training opportunities for the duration of the planting project. EAW has an excellent track record of supporting individuals participating in their programmes into long-term, permanent employment positions in the land management sector.

- 2.15 The following locations are currently under consideration with EAW, one or more of which may be suitable for planting in the coming growing season pending further assessment:

Location	Indicative number of trees
Lochshore, Glengarnock	Up to 25,000
Irvine Enterprise Area	TBC
Upper Garnock Valley Area	TBC

- 2.16 Community engagement will be a central strand to the programme, and future projects will be co-developed with local communities to ensure local aspirations for planting are realised as far as possible. A Communications Plan will be created to help capture the imagination, through use of the '2030 Woodland' strapline, as well as the potential for creation of an online, interactive map to show where planting has taken place.
- 2.17 The strategy will ensure that the type of trees selected will be appropriate to the planting site, and consideration will be given to native species and the opportunity to increase biodiversity and create wildlife corridors, to enhance the green network. Officers will also explore the potential for cultivation of saplings for planting in the programme.
- 2.18 The tree planting programme will give careful consideration to the species, layout and spacing of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to grow and develop to minimise the requirements of future maintenance.
- 2.19 The strategy sets out a series of actions to build on the early progress to date and ensure a pipeline of projects are ready for implementation for subsequent growing seasons in 2021/22 and beyond. This will include further development of the established partnerships noted above as well as exploration of additional models, partners, external funding opportunities (including the potential to partner with other major landowners) and planting locations as outlined in the strategy. This work will be further underpinned by robust community consultation to ensure public involvement in the proposals.

Governance & Next Steps

- 2.20 The strategy sets out the establishment of a programme board chaired by the Head of Commercial Services, supported by three specific task force groups for project delivery, community engagement, and financial management of the programme.
- 2.21 The programme board will consist of officers from Council services including Streetscene, Sustainability, Planning, Regeneration, and Active Travel and Transport, and the Communities Directorate, along with other stakeholders. It is anticipated that over time membership will be expanded to include other CPP partners and community groups.

2.22 Early outputs from the task force groups will be preparation of a programme delivery plan, community engagement plan, and budget plan for implementation of the project from growing season 2021/22 and beyond.

2.23 The projects noted above at paragraphs 2.10 to 2.15 will continue to be developed to identify any candidate site(s) suitable for the first pilot phase of delivery in the 2020/21 growing season.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet approves the attached Tree Planting Strategy to support the tree planting commitment within North Ayrshire.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 The sum of £0.500m has been allocated from the Council's approved £8.8m Investment Fund to support delivery of the tree planting programme. This will be supplemented by the leveraging in of external grants where possible.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils, and sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045 at the latest. The implementation of the tree planting programme will assist in achieving the statutory targets in abating carbon emissions at a national and local level.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 The Tree Planting Strategy assists in meeting our socio-economic duty as set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty. The proposed increase in provision of woodland areas will create employment and training opportunities and provide community access to new open spaces which provide local amenities and opportunities to exercise for health and wellbeing benefits.

4.4.1 This strategy also considers opportunities to plant fruit trees to create orchards, in suitable locations, for community benefit, as part of this commitment.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 The Tree Planting Strategy makes a direct contribution to the Council's environmental and sustainability aspirations by providing the framework for sequestration of carbon emissions. In addition, the Council has a duty through the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to further the conservation of biodiversity, and the objectives of the

Tree Planting Strategy align with the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 - 2031.

4.5.1 As per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, local authorities are required to undertake and consult on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), when a qualifying plan, programme or strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

4.5.2 The Council will therefore submit a screening report summarising the tree planting strategy proposals to the national SEA Gateway to request the views of the statutory consultees on whether a full SEA is required.

Key Priorities

4.6 The Tree Planting Strategy aims to support the Council Plan's Fair For All Strategy and deliver against the key priority in Inspiring Place.

4.6.1 One of the key performance indicators of the Council Plan priority of 'a sustainable environment' is the level of carbon emissions. The proposed large-scale tree planting programme will significantly contribute to achieving this outcome.

4.6.2 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 as set out in the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. A key mechanism for achieving this status is through absorbing emissions, and the tree planting programme will be vital in helping deliver this commitment.

4.6.3 The Tree Planting Strategy will support the aims of the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 - 2031 to help deliver the priorities of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The Tree Planting Strategy aligns with the Council's Community Wealth Building (CWB) overall mission and fair employment pillar through the creation of employment and training opportunities for local people as part of the programme.

4.7.1 The Tree Planting Strategy will also clearly support delivery of the CWB Land and Assets pillar of 'supporting the wider regeneration of our communities by maximising all of our land and assets including through alternative uses for community and business benefit.'

4.7.2 The Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach and North Ayrshire Green New Deal prioritises building back better, fairer and greener. The Tree Planting Strategy will help to meet the priority of a green economic recovery focused on achieving our net zero carbon ambitions through the creation of environmental regeneration projects and creating fair jobs.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultation has taken place internally between relevant Council Services including Streetscene, Sustainability, Planning, Employability, Economic Development and

Regeneration. Public consultation has already been undertaken on several of the specific projects noted at paragraph 2.10. Further engagement will take place as projects continue to be developed, particularly with local partners, schools and local communities.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON
Executive Director (Place)

For further information please contact **David Hammond, Interim Head of Commercial Services**, on **01294 324570**.

Background Papers

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Appendix 1

North Ayrshire's 2030 Woodland: A Tree Planting Strategy

1.0 Executive Summary

North Ayrshire Council has made excellent progress in reducing carbon emissions, with reductions in emissions from the Council's estate of over 28% in the last five years alone. The Council raised its ambitions further through the declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019, along with the announcement of a 2030 target date to achieve 'net-zero' carbon emissions.

A key element of meeting that target is the strategy for absorption of any residual carbon emissions to achieve net-zero status. Tree planting is a tried and tested, effective carbon sequestration method that brings a multitude of wider social and economic benefits.

At a meeting on 5 March 2020, the Council approved a £500,000 fund to support tree planting across North Ayrshire with a view to creating a 2030 woodland resource that, together with carbon reduction actions within the wider Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy, achieves our net-zero ambitions.

This strategy sets out the key considerations and a route map for planting of the 108,000 trees that require to be planted to meet the net-zero goal. The strategy considers the national and local policy context, planting objectives, funding arrangements, community engagement approach, site selection criteria and potential delivery models to provide a comprehensive delivery framework. The strategy will be implemented through a programme board with individual project plans developed and delivered through three specific task forces.

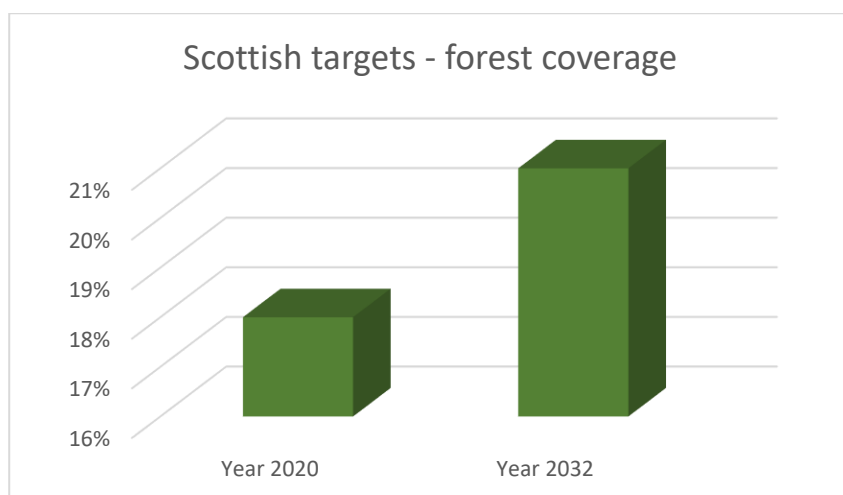
Our ambition is to complete all the tree planting activities by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure that saplings are well on their way to maturity by the 2030 target.

2.0 Policy Context

2.1 National Level

In 2009, the Scottish Government set out its rationale to encourage the creation of an additional 10,000 hectares of new woodland in Scotland every year. This planting target has been increased to 15,000 hectares of new woodland to take effect from 2024/25. Forestry is a national priority and is part of Scotland's climate change commitments.

Scotland's forests cover 18.7% of the total land mass area and the ambition contained in the national forestry strategy is to increase this to 21 % by 2032.



Across Ayrshire as a whole, it is estimated that around 23% of Ayrshire's land mass comprises of trees and woodland, therefore this region is already making a significant contribution to national aspirations.

2.1.1 The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019

National legislation around climate change is a key driver to reduce carbon emissions at a national level.

The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040, from a 1990 baseline. The Act places climate change duties on Scottish public bodies, including Councils.

2.1.2 Forest Strategy 2019 - 2029

In April 2019, the devolution of forestry to Scottish ministers was concluded. The existing Forestry Commission Scotland was replaced by the new Scottish Forestry body.

Scotland's Forest Strategy sets out the 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands and is supplemented by a framework for action and implementation plan over a 10 year timescale.

This long-term Strategy lays out Scottish Forestry's approach to protecting, enhancing and expanding the forests and woodlands across Scotland to help deliver greater social, economic and environmental benefits.

As Scotland recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, priority will be given to the actions that support the forestry sector to restart and respond through a Covid-19 Forestry Sector Restart and Resilience Plan. This plan will cover a timeline of two years and will be periodically reviewed through the recovery process.

2.1.3 Scotland's Biodiversity Route Map

The 2020 challenge for Scotland's biodiversity sets out the targets and actions required to improve nature and increase biodiversity in Scotland.

Within the route map, there are commitments for new native woodland creation, with the aim of further increasing new woodland planting through priority projects.

2.2 *Local Level*

2.2.1 North Ayrshire Council Plan

North Ayrshire Council's Plan for 2019 – 2024 sets out the vision that North Ayrshire is a Council that is 'Fair for All'.

Creating woodlands across North Ayrshire links into the Council Plan's aims of Aspiring Communities and Inspiring Places through the following Council priorities:

- Active and strong communities
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy
- People enjoy good life-long health and well-being
- Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places
- A sustainable environment

2.2.2 Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy

Key policies within the Council link directly to the objectives of tree planting including North Ayrshire Council's Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. This Strategy supports action on the Council's Climate Emergency declaration and ambition to achieve net zero carbon status by 2030. It contains a specific action to investigate ways to absorb carbon emissions from the atmosphere through tree planting, which is fulfilled by this Tree Planting Strategy document.

The Council's Tree and Woodland Management Policy is currently being updated for 2020 onwards. The aim of this policy to set out how the Council will effectively manage trees and woodlands for which it is responsible ensuring that they positively contribute to the area and achievement of the corporate priorities of the Council whilst meeting legal obligations.

2.2.3 Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is a key strategic priority for North Ayrshire Council and a commitment within the Council Plan. The Council launched Scotland's first Community Wealth Building Strategy in May 2020.

The tree planting programme aligns with the overall CWB mission and specific fair employment and land and asset pillars through the creation of forestry related employment and training opportunities for local people and bringing vacant and derelict land assets back into productive use and making a positive environmental, social and in some cases economic benefit to communities. There is scope under the strategy for the establishment of a community co-operative in relation to commercial forestry opportunities.

2.2.4 Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2014

This Strategy brought together a range of organisations across Ayrshire to develop a plan of action to enable the Ayrshire Councils, landowners, communities and forest bodies to unlock the potential for woodland creation, development, design and management across the Ayrshire region.

2.2.5 North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2019 - 2031

The Council recently published a North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for 2019 – 2031.

One of the key actions identified in the LBAP is to implement priority actions from the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2014 (see paragraph 2.2.3), ensuring that woodland expansion proposals are appropriate, with reference to the policy document, The Right Tree in the Right Place (Forestry Commission Scotland, 2010).

3.0 Tree Planting Strategy Objectives

In 2019, new climate change legislation was introduced which updated Scotland's Climate Change Plan to reflect the new targets set in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

The new target to be achieved across Scotland is to move to net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045.

North Ayrshire has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero carbon by 2030. In principle, this means that the Council aims to reduce as much carbon as possible by this date, and to implement a large-scale woodland tree planting programme under this strategy to sequester residual carbon emissions.

The afforestation programme aims to plant 108,000 trees which will cover over 40 hectares of North Ayrshire (or around 60 football pitches). This represents the indicative number of trees required to absorb any residual carbon emissions by 2030.

Planting trees helps to sequester carbon emissions. The increase in planting will therefore help fight climate change as the trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide, water and light to produce oxygen which is released into the atmosphere. By ensuring that the trees planted are mostly native species will help to protect and preserve the local environment and biodiversity.

Along with the Council's aspirations of planting trees to help support the net zero carbon aspirations, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands.

What is best for the land will vary greatly from place to place, and it is vital that along with the reduction in carbon emissions, other benefits are factored in to the tree planting process such as the production of food or timber or biomass, and the role trees play in biodiversity, water quality, flood management, air quality, health and wellbeing, recreation and public health.

The following sections outline the wider objectives of the tree planting beyond carbon sequestration.

3.1 *Community Wealth Building*

The tree planting programme aligns with the overall CWB mission and specific fair employment and land and asset pillars through the creation of forestry related employment and training opportunities for local people and bringing vacant and derelict land assets back into productive use and making a positive environmental, social and in some cases economic benefit to communities. There is scope under the strategy for the establishment of a community co-operative in relation to commercial forestry opportunities.

The Council's Economic Recovery and Renewal Approach outlines our proposals to build back the local economy better, fairer and greener. As part of the economic recovery plan from the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an opportunity to create new green jobs to stimulate the economy and enable people to live sustainably whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Youth employment and the new Kickstart schemes available also provide a platform for the Council to create forestry job placements and training opportunities for young people as part of the implementation of the tree planting strategy.

3.2 *Physical activity, health and wellbeing*

Scottish Forestry research has shown that regular contact with trees and woodland spaces is linked to better health, reduced levels of chronic stress, reductions in obesity and improved concentration.

Being connected with nature and the environment through woodland areas can have a positive impact on the overall public health of our communities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, people were utilising their local woodland and greenspace areas for a range of health and wellbeing reasons. It is hoped that communities will continue to embrace the positive impact that this connection with trees has on their health and wellbeing.

Woodlands provide the ideal setting to promote health and physical activity. These outdoor settings are conducive to people leading more healthy lifestyles. By being more physically active through activities such as walking, running and cycling, overall physical health can improve and reduces the risk of serious health conditions.

Woodlands enable people to connect with nature and can enhance mental health by creating a positive mood and having a restorative and calming effect from stress and mental fatigue. Some of the areas planted under the strategy will therefore include clearings for seating to allow people to rest and enjoy the surroundings.

Local woodlands provide social benefits by providing a focal point for people to meet leading to increased social interaction. A strong sense of place and improved perception of a local area can also reduce inequalities within communities.

3.3 *Biodiversity*

Biodiversity is a shortened form of the term 'biological diversity', as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Biodiversity means the richness and variety of all forms of life on Earth and includes plant life such as trees, amongst many other forms of nature.

Trees are a vital landscape and habitat resource by providing carbon storage, air purification, protection against river erosion, ecological niches for a wide range of species, shelter as well as providing wood fuel and building materials. New woodland creation can also help create 'green corridors'.

A change of land use to woodland areas may have an impact on biodiversity. It is therefore important that the tree planting project actively seeks to achieve biodiversity net gain through forest plans along with optimal carbon sequestration.

3.4 Sustainable Flood Risk Management

Climate projections suggest that there will be greater frequency of extreme weather events, with more frequent and severe flooding. Trees and woodland can form a vital role in flood protection through natural processes.

In the Woodland Trust's 2014 'Stemming the flow' paper, natural approaches to flood risk are outlined and can offer significant benefits to those seeking to manage flood risk and the communities they are trying to protect. It is therefore important that the right type of trees are planted in the most beneficial riparian locations, to help with flooding before it happens.

Planting trees can be effective in increasing water infiltration, reducing local peak flows and slowing runoff further down in the catchment area. Woodland located on floodplains can mitigate large flood events by absorbing and delaying the water's progress as it travels downstream.

Trees can also play an important role in lowering the risk of surface water flooding caused by extreme rainfall amounts. Trees intercept the rain and help alleviate the capacity of water flowing into the drainage system.

3.5 Air quality

Trees can directly and indirectly improve local and regional air quality by altering the atmospheric environment. Some ways in which trees affect air quality are through removal of air pollutants, temperature reduction and other microclimatic effects. The Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy 2015 encourages mitigation measures, such as planting blocks of trees to create microclimates that would allow vehicle fumes to dissipate.

3.6 Food Growing

The provision of community food opportunities, in a dignified way, is a central underlying tenet of the Council Plan. The Tree Planting Strategy offers opportunity for areas of orchard planting to provide seasonal fresh fruit for community picking in the right locations.

Already, an orchard plantation at Ardeer Quarry is well used by local community members who are able to take advantage of the annual fruit crop. The strategy will help build on such successful examples and widen the availability of produce to more people.

3.7 *Regeneration*

Tree planting schemes delivered under this strategy will be provided in a variety of formats from large to small scale plantations, which comprise different species for different purposes.

A further opportunity is the contribution planting schemes could have to the built environment, including through:

- Greening of vacant and derelict land
- Planting schemes forming part of new private and affordable housing projects, including via the Council's own Strategic Housing Investment Plan
- Structure planting for new Local Development Plan housing allocations

The Tree Planting Strategy will therefore be an essential consideration in the implementation of the Council's Land & Assets Renewal programme to ensure planting schemes are considered in any land and property decisions.

4.0 Funding

This programme has £500,000 earmarked from the Council's new Investment Fund to tree planting in recognition of the importance of this as part of the Council's overall approach to becoming net zero.

A task force will be established to oversee the budget and consider project funding opportunity business cases, including any long-term maintenance costs associated with the new areas of woodland created.

This task force will also be responsible for considering further options for accessing other external grant and funding streams. Depending on the capital and maintenance costs for the tree planting programme it may be necessary to leverage the allocated £500,000 and apply for match funding and/or grants to enhance this programme and further the aims.

There are various financial mechanisms available to the Council to plant trees, with national funds to support delivery of the strategic targets.

National organisations such as Scottish Forestry and the Woodland Trust not only have funding streams available but also a wealth of knowledge, expertise and advice to assist in the process.

Scottish Forestry is responsible for delivering the government's forestry policy, legislation, technical advice on forestry issues along with grants.

The Forestry Grant Scheme offers financial support for the creation of new woodland and the sustainable management of existing woodland. Full scheme guidance is available on the complex process and covers aspects such as how to apply, scoring requirements, criteria, inspections and contractual obligations.

Forestry agents provide services across Scotland and can assist in undertaking grant applications and/or implement the programme.

The 'Woodlands in and Around Towns' (WIAT) grant is also administered by Scottish Forestry can be incorporated along with woodland creation grants. This grant scheme is designed

specifically for urban woodlands to increase access and amenity value to high population areas.

The Woodland Trust provides a range of advisors to assist organisations achieve large scale planting goals, by providing trees, grants and funding schemes.

The vacant and derelict land fund is currently available for five local authorities (one of which is North Ayrshire) across Scotland to access. For 2020/21, North Ayrshire Council was allocated £1.3 million and future year allocations present opportunities to undertake regeneration projects using this fund which incorporate tree planting.

The Green Action Trust presents an opportunity to support projects that enhance the natural environment and improve access to high quality green space.

Lastly, there is also the potential for local transport funds to support large scale tree planting along key routes to promote active travel to employment.

5.0 Community Engagement

At the heart of the tree planting programme is a desire to collaborate with local communities so that they are co-partners in the identification, development and delivery of as many planting schemes as possible.

Community involvement helps to achieve the Council's mission 'to improve the lives of North Ayrshire people and develop stronger communities' and the approach to community wealth building links communities with the benefits of local economic development.

It is imperative that a wide range of engagement methods are utilised, including both traditional and more modern, digital engagement methods to ensure many people are reached.

We also recognise the contribution which volunteers make in complementing the work of Council employees within North Ayrshire Council. A significant opportunity is presented by the strategy to engage both existing and new community volunteers to help with planting efforts- either as part of a planned scheme or through their own individual planting efforts which can all count to meeting our 2030 net-zero ambitions.

A community engagement plan will be prepared as an early action of the Community Engagement Task Force established to deliver the Tree Planting Strategy (see Section 8). This will include the potential to create an interactive online map to record where planting has taken place which can be promoted via social media platforms in order to get as many people involved as possible.

There is a particular opportunity to involve young people, including via the eco-schools programme, to get involved in planting schemes and potentially plant trees in suitable parts of the school estate which would also deliver outdoor learning opportunities.

The programme will require a framework in place to support the current network of volunteers and grow and expand the network of volunteers in a sustainable way.

6.0 Land Identification and selection criteria for planting

As stated in Scottish Forestry's Strategy, it is imperative that the right tree is planted in the right place.

To assist in the land identification and selection criteria for the new areas of woodland, close reference should be made to the Ayrshire and Arran Forest and Woodland Strategy 2014. A task force will be established to oversee the decision-making process on identifying and selecting appropriate land and projects to contribute to this initiative. This group will have responsibility for seeking specialist external advice from relevant consultants, in fields such as soil science and land contamination, if required.

A range of considerations such as ownership agreements, ground conditions, existing and current land use must be thoroughly assessed to ensure that the locations identified for this tree planting programme results in sustainable and healthy woodland areas.

Land ownership and competing land use are often barriers to woodland creation, however a better understanding of forest and land economics should enable productive areas to be secured for this programme.

As well as the overall aim of absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, the planting of trees in each location must also incorporate future associated aims at each site, such as the potential for providing amenity value for local communities or timber production to yield future economic return.

Within North Ayrshire Council's land ownership portfolio, areas should be selected in conjunction with land and property renewal workstreams.

At this stage, from an initial review of Council land assets, it is anticipated that an indicative target of 80% of planting would take place on Council owned land, with around 20% on privately owned land or other public agency land subject to landowner and any other permissions required.

It is therefore likely that the majority of tree planting sites will be located on existing open space owned by the Council. North Ayrshire Council's Open Space Strategy and Asset Management Plan sets out the Council's approach for the management and maintenance of all open space assets, and aims to ensure that 'any open space which provides, or has the potential to provide, environmental, social and/or economic benefits to communities, whether direct or indirect, within and around urban areas.'

The tree planting programme will give careful consideration to the species, layout and spacing of trees to ensure they have sufficient room to grow and develop to minimise the requirements of future maintenance, and opportunities for local sapling cultivation will be explored.

In addition, the Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy will influence the areas in North Ayrshire that can be planted upon open space. As stated in Action 2 of the Strategy, any new investment proposals will first consider vacant and derelict land. The strategy has been developed alongside an online 'story map' that provides information on each site for potential regeneration.

Alongside North Ayrshire Council's land and open space assets, as noted above, there is also scope to partner with other public sector landowners, via the CPP, to encourage planting on their estate.

Private estate owners may also be interested in utilising part of their land to create a woodland area. There are benefits of tree planting for farm managers and private landowners as they can work alongside existing forms of production by increasing biodiversity, preventing soil erosion, flood protection and providing shelter.

Volunteering groups and community organisations interested in planting trees will also be a valuable resource in providing areas suitable for tree planting across North Ayrshire. Local communities have important local knowledge.

A task force will be established to take forward land assessment and selection work to deliver the planting programme.

6.1 Key Sites

There are several key sites across North Ayrshire that have already been earmarked for wider regeneration or other development projects which could incorporate a significant volume of tree planting. These sites are detailed below and if approved, could together account for around 45% of the target planting area under the programme. It must be recognised that a tree planting programme of this scale will require several larger planting sites to fulfil the requirement along with smaller planting locations. The benefit of these key sites is that they have detailed design proposals and could deliver a large part of this planting commitment in the early part of the implementation period.

The land use task force will review all sites currently in the development stage across Council services to ensure that all relevant sites are given due consideration.

6.1.1 Irvine Enterprise Area

North Ayrshire Council has ownership of land at the strategic investment campus at Irvine's i3 Enterprise Area. There is the potential for up to 10 hectares of land at this site to be developed through this tree planting project. A masterplan for the area is in development and will highlight the potential area of land available for tree planting proposals. Any identified opportunity will be fully appraised to determine its appropriateness in terms of land use and net zero contributions and in the context of other development opportunities for the site.

6.1.2 Lochshore, Kilbirnie

The current masterplan at the Lochshore development in Kilbirnie includes extensive tree planting proposals. Site investigations were conducted during 2019 to inform suitable planting locations.

There is the potential to create up to 10 hectares of broadleaf and conifer woodland areas as part of the Lochshore development.

6.1.3 Upper Garnock Natural Flood Management Study

To further reduce flood risk to the Upper Garnock catchments, the Council commissioned a Natural Flood Management Study for the catchments. This is ongoing and aims to reduce

the flood risk to Kilbirnie and Glengarnock by identifying mitigation measures which hold back surface water to the upper catchments. This can be potentially achieved with improving land and soil management practices, woodland creations, non-flood plain wetland creations and overland sediment traps.

7.0 Delivery Models

A tree planting programme of this scale needs to consider how the target of planting 108,000 trees can be successfully achieved and by the desired timescale and within budget using a variety of delivery models.

To give an indication of scale, as per North Ayrshire Council's Tree and Woodland Management Policy, the Council is responsible for and currently occupies approximately 275 hectares of woodlands, comprising of many thousands of trees.

Therefore, the target of 44 hectares is a further 16% increase on the current amount of Council woodland, if all the new trees as part of this woodland creation programme were planted on North Ayrshire Council owned land. This increase will have an impact on the current level of staff resource and time required for the ongoing maintenance and inspections of woodland areas and should be considered accordingly as part of this proposal.

7.1 *Options Appraisal*

With regards to the actual delivery and implementation of the tree planting programme, an initial four different types of delivery models have been presented that are available to the Council. It is likely that the most sustainable and efficient method will be a blend of the different models identified as each has different strengths.

For each individual delivery model, an options appraisal has been carried out and presented in a series of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analyses below.

The options have been considered in relation to the objectives and capacity of the programme.

Option 1: NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (in-house)

Approach: Cross-service working across North Ayrshire Council to manage, co-ordinate and plant the trees using in-house resources.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Single point of delivery ➤ All trees planted on North Ayrshire Council land ➤ Interconnect various North Ayrshire Council services ➤ Best practice shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact on resources ▪ Access expertise, knowledge and information from other organisations ▪ Limits land selection for planting as only North Ayrshire Council owned sites utilised
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Future income generation of end product e.g. timber / biomass ○ Link to North Ayrshire Council's Volunteering Policy ○ Creation of jobs/apprenticeships/work experience ○ Reduction in overall areas of vacant and derelict land sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited community involvement unless blended with Option 4
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Option 2: CONTRACTORS (North Ayrshire Council Arboricultural Framework)

Approach: Utilise the services of professional Arboricultural contractors. The contractors identified are all on the current Council framework to ensure the procurement of these services offers best value, reliability and high standard of work.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contractors identified through the Corporate Procurement Unit ➤ High level of expertise ➤ Professional organisations covering insurance and risk assessments ➤ Established and experienced in specific arboricultural services ➤ Ability to plant large number of trees over a shorter period of time ➤ Results on the ground quicker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially higher cost than other models
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintenance and reporting included as part of the contract agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conflicting timescales ● Availability of contractors ● Impact on resources through contract management

Option 3: CO-OPERATIVES/TRUSTS (local enterprises)

Approach: Delivery through co-operatives and trusts such as the Woodland Trust and East Ayrshire Woodlands or establishment of a new/linked co-operative.

East Ayrshire Woodlands was set up over 20 years ago as a co-operative arrangement. This local initiative operates as a partnership programme to support landowners and communities to enhance and expand the woodland network across Ayrshire.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strongest alignment with CWB objectives ➤ High level of expertise ➤ Area based with local geographical knowledge ➤ Focussed on social outcomes as well as economic and environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource ▪ Availability ▪ Cross management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Professional organisations covering insurance and risk assessments ➤ Access to funding streams ➤ Established and experienced ➤ Provide advisers 	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ability to plant in quicker time ○ Potential to unlock other areas to plant ○ Employment and training opportunities ○ Community involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conflicting timescales ● Impact on resources through contract management

Option 4: VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITIES (Organisations and Individuals)

Approach: Community led approach to tree planting relying on existing groups to undertake planting as part of wider environmental improvement projects.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community involvement and empowerment – strong links to Council Plan and aims ➤ Volunteer workforce reduces staff cost and time ➤ Volunteer Engagement Strategy fulfilled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scale of project and numbers of volunteers required ▪ Organisation ▪ Training ▪ Monitoring of trees planted due to high number of different volunteers / individuals
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community engagement and empowerment ○ Formation of Community Woodlands ○ The transfer of local authority woodlands will provide new opportunities for social enterprises, including co-operatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability of volunteers ● Risk and insurance considerations ● Future maintenance

7.2 Pilot Phase

Alongside consideration and development of the above delivery models, it is recognised that there is an opportunity to progress some early pilot project work in the forthcoming 2020/21 planting season which runs from November- March 2021.

This would provide welcome early progress in meeting the target, as well as provide learning for the task force groups to use to develop further schemes for planting season 21/22 and beyond.

Officers are currently working with both community groups and a trusted woodland delivery partner to identify several pilot sites for potential planting on Council owned land by end March 2021.

8.0 Governance and Next Steps

The successful implementation of this tree planting programme requires the options for delivery to be assessed and analysed, consulted upon, and planting schemes to be delivered with appropriate maintenance, monitoring and reporting methods in place.

The approach to delivery should capitalise on the strengths and opportunities created by each delivery model, therefore a co-ordinated approach and partnership working is essential for the success of this programme.

In terms of programme management and governance, a Programme Board will be established to oversee implementation and drive forward identification, development, funding and delivery of individual planting schemes.

This group will comprise officers from relevant Council services, including Streetscene, Sustainability, Communities, Planning, Regeneration, and Active Travel and Transport, along with other stakeholders. It is anticipated that over time membership may be expanded to include other CPP partners and community groups.

Three key task forces will also be established alongside the Programme Board to provide pace to the key delivery considerations as follows:

Task force – Project Delivery

A task force will be set up to oversee the decision-making process on identifying and selecting appropriate land and projects to contribute to this initiative.

This group will prioritise land use opportunities and select areas that are suitable for planting. This group would carry out desk-based exercises and follow up with site visits to analyse key sites to determine high quality planting and design works, scope out appropriate tree species and suppliers, preparatory land works, engineering and landscaping works required.

This group will also have responsibility for ensuring the objectives of each scheme developed are optimised in accordance with the objectives identified at Section 3.0 of this document.

An early output of this task force will be preparation of a detailed action plan for planting scheme delivery for the 21/22 and subsequent growing seasons.

Task force – Funding

This task force will monitor the financial elements of the programme, including analysis of scheme business cases, identification of, and application to, external grant funding sources, as well as budgetary control monitoring of the £500,000 fund itself.

This task force will include representatives with expertise in procurement, finance and experience of applying for grants and funding schemes available to support the core funding of £500,000 allocated by the Council.

An early output of this task force will be the preparation of a detailed action plan for expenditure and leveraging of match funded external grant.

Task force – Community Engagement

Co-development with local communities is an essential strand of the programme. A task force will be set up to establish a community engagement and communications strategy, oversee community consultations, empower communities, scope out volunteering opportunities and generally support local groups who wish to participate.

An early output of this task force will be preparation of a community engagement and wider communications plan for programme delivery.

The final element of governance will be annual reporting to the Council's Cabinet regarding progress on implementation of the strategy.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy
Purpose:	To seek Cabinet approval of a North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy and associated action plan.
Recommendation:	That Cabinet approves the proposed Food Growing Strategy and action plan at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The provision of food, with dignity, is a central component of the North Ayrshire Council Plan. Similarly, the Fair for All Commission, Youth Commission, Child Poverty Action Plan and Covid-19 pandemic have all highlighted the need to increase food security in North Ayrshire for vulnerable people. The Council supports a wide range of food initiatives and aims to strengthen the development of sustainable, local food production which complements and adds to local community food provision.
- 1.2 The wider benefits of local food growing are also recognised, for example reducing social isolation and improving physical and mental health, providing outdoor learning opportunities, reducing our carbon footprint and potential for linkages with the Ayrshire food and drink sector.
- 1.3 The proposed North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy and the supporting action plan (attached as Appendix 1), sets out the strategic framework for the Council and its partners to support and increase the opportunities for community food growing across North Ayrshire, with the aims of addressing poverty, increasing sustainability and empowering communities.
- 1.4 It has been developed by considering relevant legislation, national guidance and reviewing national and local priorities for food growing and shaped by local consultation including via the North Ayrshire Food Forum.
- 1.5 Cabinet approval is sought for the proposed North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy and associated action plan at Appendix 1.

2. Background

- 2.1 North Ayrshire has a longstanding commitment to supporting local people to grow food. Council support for a number of growing and allotments groups has increased steadily over the years. Community allotments provide opportunities for local people to take

ownership of local land and brings physical and mental health benefits. The provision of food, with dignity, is a central component of the North Ayrshire Council Plan, as encouraging the development of local food growing networks has social, environmental and economic benefits. The Fair for All Commission, Youth Commission, Child Poverty Action Plan and Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for greater food security. Increasing local food production, whether it is commercial, or community contributes to the climate change emergency through a reduction in “food miles”. The Food Growing Strategy sets out the range of activity and an action plan to develop closer links between food growing and community food provision through the North Ayrshire Food Forum.

2.2 Officers, together with the North Ayrshire Food Forum have prepared the proposed Food Growing Strategy and action plan, which is attached as Appendix 1, taking consideration of the following:

- A partnership approach to preparing local food growing strategies;
- Delivery partners and advisory bodies;
- Land and planning;
- Grow-your-own initiatives; and
- Assistance to local community groups.

2.3 The main aims of the food growing strategy are to:

- Strengthen and increase food growing in North Ayrshire
- Support community managed allotment sites
- Develop further allotment sites in partnership with communities
- Identify and facilitate alternative land suitable for food growing, such as community gardens and raised beds.

2.4 The intention of the strategy is to outline the steps and actions through which the partners will support and increase the opportunities for community food growing across North Ayrshire. It identifies how this can contribute to the North Ayrshire Food System, which provides food with dignity in local communities.

2.5 North Ayrshire Council’s approach to community empowerment is sector-leading. Allotments are all led by community organisations, and support from the Council through locality teams, Community Asset Transfers and the Community Investment Fund have enabled allotments to flourish. As part of the Council’s Open Space Strategy and Allotments Policy, we monitor demand for allotments and actively seek to identify new sites for food growing where required. We also encourage and support communities to take part in food growing.

2.6 The North Ayrshire Food System was set up in response to the learning from the Covid-19 pandemic. It builds on work of community organisations, like Fullarton Community Hub and Whitlees Community Association and others, who have been exploring new models of providing food with dignity beyond emergency foodbanks. These models include community fridge, larders and co-operatives. The potential to develop partnerships between community food needs and food growers are the focus of the action plan. This enhances the well established approach already in place in schools, and in some cases food is grown in local schools, prepared, cooked and eaten with school meals as an enjoyable and educational experience and there is a desire to build on this approach further.

- 2.7 The Council has also established a Fairer Food initiative. The aim of the initiative is to map out community food provision, focus support to alleviate food insecurity and explore developments to strengthen community food provision such as Sustainable Food Cities.
- 2.8 In 2018, the Council provided communities across North Ayrshire with an opportunity to influence and shape local grounds maintenance arrangements. The initiative saw local people involved in workshops, garden competitions and community-based planting. Poppy seeds and orchard trees were planted in suitable locations and since then, new sites for growing has been actively embraced. The increase in planting fruit trees and vegetable planters has been driven by local demand and there is the potential to utilise further areas to turn them into community food growing spaces for fruit, vegetables and herbs in the right locations.
- 2.9 In 2019, North Ayrshire Council declared a Climate Emergency, and in March 2020 the Council committed £500,000 'towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of this as part of the Council's overall approach to becoming net zero.' Relevant Council policies, plans, and strategies will be considered to scope out opportunities to plant trees and will include fruit trees to create orchards, in suitable locations, for community benefit, as part of this commitment.
- 2.10 The physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits of gardening and growing your own food are well researched and documented. Horticultural therapy activities can relieve the symptoms of serious illnesses, prevent the development of some conditions, and introduce people to a way of life that can help them to improve their well-being in the longer term. Growing food can also offer education and training opportunities, not only in horticulture skills but life skills, literacy and numeracy. In turn these can lead to improvements in confidence, pride, quality of life and self-esteem, as well as reduced social isolation.
- 2.11 Volunteering and employability skills development opportunities can be created which align with the Council's Community Wealth Building strategy. Unused land and assets can be repurposed and brought to new life in communities thorough community asset transfer to allotment and community growers. Such opportunities, together with those afforded by the work being carried out by the Regional Economic Partnership workstream on Food & Drink will also be examined.
- 2.12 A summary of the key actions within the North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy at Appendix 1 is provided as follows:
- To support the North Ayrshire Food Forum to develop as an independent, constituted body;
 - Work with community growers and locality teams to develop systems to share surplus produce through the North Ayrshire Food System;
 - Establish a process to register new requests for allotments;
 - Seek to identify land suitable for food growing through the Council's Local Development Plan, Regeneration Strategy, and Land & Property renewal workstream;
 - Work with local businesses in the food and drink sector to explore partnership opportunities for employment, skills development, and food based social enterprise or community co-operative opportunities, in line with the Council's Community Wealth Building approach; and
 - Work with local schools to promote food growing within the school estate.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the current level of work being undertaken within North Ayrshire to support community food growing options.
- 3.2 That Cabinet approves the proposed North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan attached as Appendix 1.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 None.

Human Resources

- 4.2 The newly-created Fair For All Development Officer includes responsibility for Food With Dignity initiatives and localities teams will continue to support local community organisations active in allotments, growing and food initiatives.

Legal

- 4.3 The legislative framework relating to allotments and the statutory requirement for Scottish local authorities to prepare a Food Growing Strategy is set out in Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan assists us to meet the Council's socio-economic duty set out in the Fairer Scotland Duty and the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

The actions contained in the Strategy and Action Plan in Appendix 1, are intended to support the Fairer Food Initiative, reduce food poverty and increase the amount of, and access to, locally grown food available to all across North Ayrshire.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 The proposed North Ayrshire Food Growing Strategy contributes to the Council's sustainability agenda by reducing our carbon footprint and promoting sustainable growth of food produce.

As per the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, local authorities are required to undertake and consult on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), when a qualifying plan, programme or strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Officers have deemed the Food Growing Strategy to be exempt from a SEA, as it is considered that this Strategy will have only a positive effect on the environment.

A pre-screening exemption briefing note will be submitted to notify the government SEA Gateway of the Council's intention of the above.

Key Priorities

4.6 The actions accompanying the Food Growing Strategy aim to support the Council Plan's Fair For All Strategy and deliver against the key priorities in Aspiring Communities and Inspiring Places:

- The Council's priority of 'North Ayrshire has active and strong communities' is supported through the provision of empowering opportunities for community groups to participate in local food growing and a North Ayrshire food system.
- To enable children to have access to appropriate food support and deliver against the Council's priority of ensuring that 'North Ayrshire's children and young people experience the best start in life'.
- The local food growing initiatives will help deliver against the Council's priority of 'North Ayrshire is vibrant, welcoming and attractive environment' by working with communities to improve the quality of the local environment through a participatory approach.
- As part of Public Health Reform, North Ayrshire Council is a leader in implementing Public Health Priority 6 – 'A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.'

Community Wealth Building

4.7 The Food Growing Strategy aligns with the Council's Community Wealth Building mission of 'Enhancing local wealth and the creation of fair jobs and maximising the potential of all our places through working in partnership with our communities and businesses'.

The Food Growing Strategy will support delivery of the Land and Assets objective by 'supporting the wider regeneration of our communities by maximising all of our land and assets including through alternative uses for community and business benefit.'

The Food Growing Strategy will support the procurement of local food in partnership with local growers.

Volunteering and skills development opportunities will also be created through this Strategy.

5. Consultation

5.1 The proposed Food Growing Strategy has been developed to align with national guidance and to allow the Council to meet the statutory requirements of the Community Empowerment 2015 (Scotland) Act.

Consultation has taken place between Streetscene, Connected Communities and the wider North Ayrshire Food Forum.

A public consultation was carried out in August 2018 on all aspects of the national allotment's guidance for local authorities. This has informed the draft strategy and the developing partnership with the Food Forum and growing organisations.

RUSSELL McCUTCHEON / AUDREY SUTTON
Executive Director (Place) / Interim Executive Director (Communities)

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Background Papers

North Ayrshire Council Growing Strategy – Appendix 1

North Ayrshire Council – Food Growing Strategy

Introduction

The provision of food, with dignity, is a central component of the North Ayrshire Council Plan, as encouraging the development of local food growing networks has social, environmental and economic benefits. The Fair for All Commission, Youth Commission, Child Poverty Action Plan and Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted the need for greater food security. Increasing local food production contributes to the climate change emergency through a reduction in “food miles”. Community allotments provide opportunities for local people to take ownership of local land and brings physical and mental health benefits. The Food Growing Strategy sets out the range of activity and an action plan to develop closer links between food growing and community food provision through the North Ayrshire Food Forum.

The intention of the strategy is to outline the steps and actions through which the partners will support and increase the opportunities for community food growing across North Ayrshire. It identifies how this can contribute to the North Ayrshire Food System and help to provide food with dignity in local communities.

1.0 Strategic Context

North Ayrshire Council recognises the importance of allotments and food growing, with active support for the community managed sites focused through the North Ayrshire Locality Teams and North Ayrshire Food Forum.

North Ayrshire Council's approach to community empowerment is sector leading. Allotments are all led by community organisations, and support from the Council through locality teams, Community Asset Transfers and the Community Investment Fund have enabled allotments to flourish. The Council is monitoring demand for allotments and will actively seek to identify new sites for food growing. We will also encourage and support communities to take part in food growing.

In the right environment, food growing can become a powerful tool in addressing food poverty, promoting healthy lifestyles and bringing people together to reduce social isolation in communities.

There are a number of community groups and projects in North Ayrshire actively engaged in carrying out a range of innovative and valuable food-based initiatives. It is through these partnerships that the Food Growing Strategy has developed and will provide many benefits including:

- Supporting the development of sustainable, local food production which complements and adds to local community food provision, supporting the Fair for All Strategy and Child Poverty Action Plan; and
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles through the regular physical activity of community gardening, or tending an allotment, to link with the Council Plan, Active Communities Strategy and the Public Health priorities;
- Bringing communities of all ages together, to share skills and learn together, linking to the North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan;

- Encouraging volunteering, skills development opportunities and pathways to work, supporting the Council Plan;
- Looking after the environment, linking to the Council Plan, North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Development Plan 2, Allotment Policy, Open Space Strategy and Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy;
- Building civic pride, sense of place, self-confidence, self-esteem and linking to the Council Plan and Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan.

2.0 Key Drivers

2.1 National Level

The Scottish Government's aspiration is for the country to become a 'Good Food Nation'; a land of food and drink, not only in what we produce but also in what we buy, serve and eat and for this to be underpinned by community food growing.

North Ayrshire Council developed the Food Growing Strategy in partnership with the North Ayrshire Food Forum, taking account of national guidance.

2.2. Local Level

2.2.1 North Ayrshire Council Plan

North Ayrshire Council's vision is a North Ayrshire that is Fair for All. Encouraging food growing strongly supports the Council Plan priorities of Aspiring Communities and Inspiring Places, as follows:

- Active and strong communities;
- Children and young people experience the best start in life;
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy;
- People enjoy good long-term health and wellbeing;
- Vibrant, welcoming and attractive places; and
- A sustainable environment.

2.3 Key North Ayrshire Policies and Strategies

Key strategies, plans and policies within the Council link directly to the objectives of community food growing including:

- Fair for All Strategy;
- Child Poverty Action Plan;
- Community Wealth Building Strategy;
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy;
- North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Public Health Priorities – Early Adopter of Priority 6, Diet and Healthy Weight;
- Active Communities Strategy;
- Local Development Plan 2;
- Regeneration Strategy;
- Open Space Strategy;
- Allotment Policy; and

- North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan.

2.3.1 Fair For All

Food poverty or food insecurity is embedded as one of North Ayrshire's Fair for All themes, as part of the inequalities strategy and forms a strategic pledge:

'To enhance the well-being of individuals and communities through access to good food and specifically to engage with partners to improve and increase activities related to the production and distribution of good food.'

North Ayrshire Council's approach to the Food Growing Strategy is in the context of the Child Poverty Action Plan, Climate Change Strategy and Public Health Reform. Key partners include the Community Planning Partnership, KA Leisure, the Green Health Partnership, Team North Ayrshire, who include the local business community partners, and the North Ayrshire Food Forum, consisting of representatives of community growing organisations, allotments, food producers and the North Ayrshire Foodbank.

2.3.2 Child Poverty

High levels of inequality, particularly poverty, exist in North Ayrshire. The last Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) highlighted continuing levels of deprivation in North Ayrshire and significantly higher levels than the Scottish average. The North Ayrshire Joint Child Poverty Action Plan Report 2018/19 highlighted the fact that 26.59% of children are living in poverty, after housing costs. Concerns about food insecurity were highlighted by the Youth Commission, Child Poverty Action Plan and through the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.3.3 Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is a key driver of the Council Plan, which has fairness and equity at its heart. In this context, there are many opportunities to increase food growing and develop diversity in ownership of the local food economy.

Volunteering and employability skills development opportunities can be created which align with the Council's Community Wealth Building strategy. Unused land and assets can be repurposed and brought to new life in communities through community asset transfer to allotment and community growers.

2.3.4 Climate Change

In 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and increased its efforts towards environmental sustainability, including food provenance and maximising the use of locally grown food. A commitment to use the natural and built assets sustainably, for example through increased local food production, encouraging biodiversity and balanced land use policy is the high-level vision within the North Ayrshire Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy 2017-2020.

2.3.4 Public Health Priorities

As part of Public Health Reform, North Ayrshire Council is a leader in implementing Public Health Priority 6 – 'A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.'

As an early adopter of a whole system approach to diet and maintaining a healthy weight along with access to nutritious and affordable food is fundamental to the success of this strategy.

3.0 North Ayrshire Food System

Food poverty and access to good, healthy and nutritious food is something which, sadly, affects many families and individuals across the UK, impacting negatively on their health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

The importance of food was highlighted in the recent response to the emergency phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council worked closely with its own services and community partners to establish a North Ayrshire Food System.

The North Ayrshire Food System was set up in response to the learning from the Covid-19 pandemic. It builds on work of community organisations, like Fullarton Community Hub and others, who have been exploring new models of providing food with dignity beyond emergency foodbanks. These models include community fridge, larders and co-operatives.

The Food System provided a variety of support mechanisms for vulnerable people with food requirements due to the pandemic. The North Ayrshire Food System is being developed during the pandemic recovery phase and through a multi-layered community food network aims to embed food growing, local supply and production.

The Food Forum, North Ayrshire community organisations, partners in local businesses and the third and voluntary sector are being supported by North Ayrshire Council to establish new and more dignified ways of accessing community food.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, community food provision was in high demand and the innovative introduction of community fridges and pantries emerged to complement the high-volume community and free school meal bags. There is a natural link to food growing and, as progress into the recovery phase is made, discussions about building new community-based sharing of surplus produce through the Food System will be progressed.

The potential to develop partnerships between community food needs and food growers are the focus of the action plan, along with exploring linkages with the Ayrshire food and drink sector.

4.0 North Ayrshire Food Forum

The North Ayrshire Food Forum was developed from the 'Fair For All' Strategy in 2017. They have been key partners in the development of the Food Growing Strategy. Its membership is drawn from North Ayrshire Council services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran services, Pennyburn Community Association, Saltcoats Link Up, Be Inspired, Beith & District Community Council, Irvine Youth Forum, The Conservation Volunteers, Café Solace, Ayrshire Community Trust (Third Sector Interface), NHS Public Health and NHS Dietetic Health Promotion, The Conservation Volunteers, Eglinton Growers, Eglinton Community Gardens, Organic Growers of Fairlie, Pryde, North Ayrshire Ranger Service, Scottish Allotments and Gardens and the Three Towns Growers.

As part of the fairer food consultation and research, the People's Panel posed questions to a cross-section of residents about access to food and participation in food growing in order to assess food insecurity. The People's Panel provided data for the first time in relation to what

people think about food in North Ayrshire. This covered food access, cooking, consumption and growing. Over 1,300 responses were received. The food growing element relates to the support to allotment groups and community growers over the years.

The Food Forum is currently developing its governance in order to establish itself as an independent organisation with ideas to pursue, which include:

- Libraries - expanding summer/holiday programmes, community growing and rolling out the model of the Largs Seed Library;
- Garden sharing - Green space that residents are not able to maintain; and
- Mentorship – supporting what is already happening naturally and encouraging intergenerational learning.

5.0 Fairer Food Initiative

The Council has established a Fairer Food initiative. This has been working over a three-year period to map community food provision, focus support to alleviate food insecurity, investigate developments like Sustainable Food Cities and develop a Food Strategy.

The Fairer Food initiative has achieved the following:

- Food Forum established for North Ayrshire with 27 organisations and 58 individuals participating;
- Embedded questions about food in the People's Panel survey to gather evidence – this has established that 85% feel they have access to good food and 12% of people are active in growing food they eat;
- 102 community food opportunities have been mapped;
- Data has been added to the Open Data Portal about access to food and allotments; and
- Developed and delivered the participatory budgeting event dedicated to food development.

5.1 Fairer Food Participatory Budgeting

The Council has used its funding to stimulate thinking differently about food through a Fairer Food Participatory Budgeting event, with funding of £20,000. In June 2019, over 400 people attended, and 338 people voted at Eglinton Park Racquet Hall, for the local initiatives they elected to receive funding to improve food access in North Ayrshire. The range of successful groups show a diversity of interest in food growing or dignified food provision.

6.0 Community Growing Opportunities

There are a range of options available to communities to enable them to grow produce such as fruits, vegetables and herbs for eating.

6.1 Allotments

Allotments are plots of land at a specific site assigned to individuals or groups for growing food. This is a well-established means of community growing in a managed way. The plots of land in North Ayrshire are generally leased from allotment organisations / associations,

aligning with the Council's community empowerment approaches. North Ayrshire Council's role is to:

- maintain an allotment waiting list;
- when certain trigger points of demand are reached, a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure:
 - that the number of people on their waiting list for an allotment does not exceed half the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority; and
 - that a person on the list does not wait more than five years for an allotment;
- a requirement to make allotment site regulations;
- a duty to produce an allotments report for its area each year - this includes such matters as the location and size of each allotment site and the number of allotments on each site; and
- a duty to include the identification of land for allotments and other community growing and how the authority will meet demand for such land.

6.1.2 Allotment sites

North Ayrshire Council does not own or manage allotments. The Council works in partnership with local, self-managed community allotment organisations through the Council's Locality Co-ordinators and Officers. Communities have been empowered through Community Asset Transfers and the Community Investment Fund and this has enabled allotments to flourish.

The community allotment organisations and associations operate in the following locations across North Ayrshire:

- The Arran Community Land Initiative (Whiting Bay);
- Eglinton Growers - allotment society for Irvine, Kilwinning and surrounding villages (borders Eglinton Country Park, Irvine);
- Organic Growers of Fairlie (Pier Road, Fairlie);
- Garnock Valley Allotments (near Sersley Drive, Kilbirnie);
- Three Towns Growers - allotment and community garden site (Elm Park, Ardrossan); and
- West Kilbride Allotments (Ballees Farm near Dalry Road, West Kilbride).

Individuals and community groups can find their nearest community managed allotment site through North Ayrshire Council's Open Data Portal.

The Council's Connected Communities Service delivers awareness training to encourage uptake of allotments through the Community Leadership Collective, based at Redburn, Irvine.

Demand for allotments can be monitored through interest in this programme. Close partnership working with participants, community allotments and the Food Forum will provide pathways for interested parties to access guidance, advice, information about external funding and a network of contacts.

In the context of food growing, the Council is working to enable and empower community organisations and allotments to flourish. The Council is monitoring demand for allotments and will actively seek to identify new sites for food growing and support communities to take part in food growing.

6.1.3 New allotment sites

The growing communities in North Ayrshire have a high public profile locally and while no unfulfilled demand has been identified, there may be latent need. Communities who are interested in allotments can register their interest on the Council's website or contact local organisations directly.

The Council's priority is to establish demand across the area and work with interested parties and established organisations to meet this or to increase capacity in line with obligations under the legislation.

North Ayrshire's post-industrial context means a legacy of land which is not always suitable for growing and contaminated land is identified in the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2).

LDP2 sets out the context for land use and development and includes a commitment to support alternative solutions which would improve the amenity or economic outlook of the surrounding area such as 'greening' solutions, which includes allotments.

Work will continue between the Food Forum, community allotments and planners to identify vacant and derelict land which is suitable for growing. Opportunities will also be identified from the public consultation on the Council's Regeneration Strategy. This will be integrated in the Council's current review of land and property assets as part of its transformation programme.

The Climate Change emergency, sustainability and biodiversity helps to frame the way in which new sites are viewed. This includes looking at gap sites, under-utilised and derelict land which provide opportunities for attractive, urban environments for wildlife, community growing, tree planting and reducing the carbon footprint.

In responding to deprivation and food poverty challenges, an allotment is not always the best solution. There are often difficulties about the size, scale and commitment to maintain them. While many community groups are experienced in providing support and access to equipment, often there are alternative options for growing on a smaller scale so that all participation is valued, encouraged and supported. This is not to diminish the need for access to allotments, or to reduce the size of plots to increase allotment activity. It recognises that for many people raised beds, community gardening or managing tomatoes in the local library provides an amount of community participation and nurture which they are happy with.

6.2 Community Gardens

Community gardens are often classed as a single piece of land that is collectively tended and cultivated by a group of people.

Community gardens provide individual or shared plots on private or public land to enable fruits, vegetables and herbs to be produced.

Case Studies

Largs Community Gardens provides opportunities for volunteers to get involved in growing.

The Council owned **Eglinton Country Park** contains a community garden as well as gardens maintained by special groups of volunteers for horticultural therapy.

The Ayrshire Community Trust created a flagship **Demonstration Community Food Garden** in the grounds of Eglinton Country Park. The Garden complements and adds additional opportunities for other voluntary groups such as the Eglinton Growers, Breaking Ground, Enable and the Castle Developments and provides a range of activities for community use.

It provides all members of the community with learning opportunities related to gardening, growing food and cooking and provides the community and volunteers with the opportunity to learn new skills, tools and coping mechanisms and promote positive changes in health, diet and lifestyle and fitness. The Countryside Ranger service is continuing to support the work started by the Ayrshire Community Trust.

The **Breaking Ground Garden Project** is a social and therapeutic horticultural service for people living within North Ayrshire. Based within Eglinton Country Park, it offers support, training and recovery for individuals who would like to improve their mental health. As a green prescription therapy, individuals are referred to the project from health service organisations. By taking part in outdoor gardening and conservation projects, you can work together in a group towards enhancing the park grounds to:

- encourage wildlife;
- provide enjoyment; and;
- provide a resource for the public, schools and other organisations.

Participants take part in a nine-month calendar of gardening activities. They will experience growing throughout the changing seasons and learn about plant care, propagation and garden maintenance. If you, or someone you know, is struggling with temporary mental ill health and could benefit from the therapeutic benefits of horticulture.

6.3 Schools

The Council provides support and encouragement to schools and early years facilities in North Ayrshire, to offer significant opportunities for food growing in school grounds. This may be linked to sustainability such as ecological initiatives, intergenerational learning or improving health and wellbeing through improved understanding of nutritious food and family cooking.

The Food Growing Strategy enhances the Food for Life approach already in place in schools, where food can be grown in local schools, prepared, cooked and eaten with school meals as an enjoyable and educational experience. The importance of developing food-handling, hygiene and cooking skills is recognised through initiatives like 'Meal in a Can'.

Food and the Environment is one of the topics in the Eco-Schools Scotland Programme run by Keep Scotland Beautiful. It encourages educational establishments to consider all aspects of food growing within the environment as part of the green flag programme.

Case Study

Mayfield Primary School in Ardrossan opened its polytunnel in 2014. This heralded a cohort of young learners growing carrots, parsnips and potatoes. They then worked with the Council's catering team to turn the produce into carrot jelly, soup and potato scones.

6.4 Wider Opportunities

A wide range of community facilities such as libraries, community halls, centres and community hubs being developed in new housing developments, all offer opportunities to growing food.

The Council's libraries developed a project to grow food including potatoes, lettuce and carrots in their surrounding grounds or tomatoes, peppers and strawberries in their windows.

This has the potential to be extended to community halls, centres, schools and the community hubs being developed in new housing developments. Planning for gardening and growing has been integrated with care and attention so that food growing potential and intergenerational, community learning can take place. Fullarton Community Hub is a recent community asset transfer by the local community association who have secured funding, completed a new-build community centre and created a community garden in central Irvine.

7.0 Green Health

The physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits of gardening and growing your own food are well researched and documented. Horticultural therapy activities can relieve the symptoms of serious illnesses, prevent the development of some conditions, and introduce people to a way of life that can help them to improve their well-being in the longer term. Growing food can also offer education and training opportunities, not only in horticulture skills but life skills, literacy and numeracy. In turn these can lead to improvements in confidence, pride, quality of life and self-esteem, as well as reduced social isolation.

KA Leisure, the Council's partner, recognises the health and physical activities on green health and promotes gardening and recognises that by taking part in outdoor gardening and conservation projects communities can:

- develop new skills;
- enjoy a weekly routine with goal orientated activities;
- meet and socialise with others;
- improve general health and wellbeing;
- gain self-confidence and self-esteem;
- learn about plants, natural history and conservation;
- improve the local community;
- produce nutritious food; and
- help preserve green spaces.

7.1 Green Health Partnership

Close partnership working has been built up with the Green Health Partnership, established to encourage better use of the green spaces around NHS facilities, maximise green resources and encourage outdoor exercise.

8.0 Grounds Maintenance Participatory Budgeting

During 2017 and 2018, the Council's Streetscene and Connected Communities services worked together to deliver a participatory approach to grounds maintenance. The Council approved part of the grounds maintenance budget be reserved to implement participatory budgeting. The aim was to provide communities across North Ayrshire with an opportunity to influence and shape how a portion of the grounds maintenance budget is delivered. The concept of grounds maintenance participatory budgeting was initially trialled as a pilot programme in the Three Towns locality of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston.

The programme was branded and marketed under the 'Shaping North Ayrshire' banner and 'Your Environment, You Decide.' The initiative saw local people involved in the first Ayrshire Potato Day, workshops, garden competitions and community-based planting. Poppy seeds and orchard trees were planted in suitable locations and since then, new sites for growing has

been actively embraced. The increase in planting fruit trees and vegetable planters has been driven by local demand and the unique Grow North Ayrshire project with intergenerational food production within the grounds of libraries. These initiatives are supported by the expertise of the community growers, within the umbrella of the North Ayrshire Food Forum.

As the initiative is rolled out across the other five North Ayrshire localities, there is the potential to utilise existing flower bed areas, in the right locations, to turn them into community food growing spaces for fruit, vegetables and herbs, subject to consultation, ground work preparations and maintenance agreements. The Council recognises the challenges of the successful transition from traditional planting to food-growing and the importance of the community participation in the selection of bed locations and the type of produce. This will ensure that there is no unintentional negative aesthetic impact and food production is welcomed, tended and integrated into the North Ayrshire Food System.

8.1 Climate Change

In 2019, North Ayrshire Council declared a Climate Emergency. At a special Council meeting on 5 March 2020, the elected members approved a single Investment Fund that consolidated the Climate, Infrastructure and Community Wealth Funds.

At this meeting, the members allocated £500,000 from the new Investment Fund 'towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of this as part of the Council's overall approach to becoming net zero.'

Relevant Council policies plans, and strategies will be considered to scope out opportunities to plant trees and will include fruit trees to create orchards, in suitable locations, as part of this commitment.

9.0 Funding and support

The Council can offer financial support to community growers through its community funding, which is distributed via a participatory budgeting approach in its six localities.

The Locality Officers can be contacted via the Council website for information and advice on applying for funding from local and national funding sources, and the Connected Communities' Funding Officer provides further specialist assistance and knowledge.

The members of the Food Forum are also supportive of new organisations and willing to offer the benefit of their experience and share their growing expertise.

The Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) toolkit and team can provide a pathway should any organisation be interested in developing its own allotments. The CAT option provides a variety of models including leases and full ownership.

10.0 Commercial context of food growing in North Ayrshire

Locally in North Ayrshire there are about 450 businesses in the food and drink sector, and these cover dairy and meat production and manufacturing of beef, lamb, venison, eggs, fruit and vegetables. The Ayrshire Regional Economic Strategy includes a workstream on food and drink and there are employment opportunities for community growers as well as contributing to local supply chains.

Of the 450 businesses, the Business Growth Team directly engage with about half of these, many of whom are family businesses. The general food production supply chain in North Ayrshire can cover – chocolate; ice cream; dairy; cheese; fruit and vegetables; confectionary; gin; spirits; lager; whisky; chicken; lamb; beef; shellfish; and salmon.

Access to local support and expertise through the mature food and drink network; community wealth building approaches; and opportunities for employment provide partnership opportunities for social enterprises and community co-operatives which will be explored as part of the strategy action plan. Opportunities from the work being carried out by the Regional Economic Partnership workstream on Food & Drink will also be examined.

11.0 Action Plan

An Action Plan is set out in Appendix 1 and will be updated annually by action owners so that progress is kept on track and to assist with reporting and promotion of growing to new communities.

11.1 Monitoring

North Ayrshire Council's Place Directorate will be responsible for collating information regarding food growing on Council owned land and for updating the Scottish Government, with the support of Connected Communities Services.

11.2 Review

The North Ayrshire Council Food Growing Strategy will be reviewed in 2026 and every five years thereafter.

Useful resources and further reading

<http://www.growyourownsotland.info/allotments/>

<https://www.greenspacesotland.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/resources>

<http://www.sags.org.uk/index.php>

<http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/ScotPlotGuide.pdf>

Appendix 1

Draft North Ayrshire Food Growing Action Plan:			
Aim: Flourishing allotments supported by enabled and empowered community organisations			
No.	Action	Lead Owner	Timescale
1	Support the Food Forum to develop as an independent, constituted body	Connected Communities	Ongoing
2	Work with community growers and locality teams to develop systems to share surplus produce through the North Ayrshire Food System	Connected Communities	Ongoing
3	Establish a process to register new requests for allotments	Commercial Services	June 2021
4	Monitor demand for allotments and respond according to the national guidance	Commercial Services	Ongoing

5	Establish best practice in the event of a requirement for regulations to be developed	Commercial Services	June 2021
6	Continue to promote uptake of allotments through the Council and CPP websites, Food Forum and Locality Partnerships	Connected Communities	Ongoing
7	Develop and deliver awareness training through the Community Leadership Collective	Connected Communities	June 2021
8	Provide advice and support to individuals and groups setting up allotments or community growing organisations	Connected Communities	June 2021
9	Continue to support the Three Towns Growers development plans	Connected Communities	Ongoing
10	Work in locality teams to support the aspirations of community growers and allotments through the provision of funding advice; guidance on leases, governance models or community asset transfer; coordination of council services; and access to networking opportunities	Connected Communities	Ongoing
11	Work with local businesses and the Community Wealth Building team to explore partnership opportunities for employment, skills development, social enterprises and community co-operatives as well as examining opportunities arising from the Regional Economic Partnership workstream on Food&Drink.	Economic Development & Regeneration	Ongoing
12	Actively seek to identify land suitable for food growing through the Council's Local Development Planning process; Regeneration Strategy; and Land and Property Transformation Programme	Economic Development & Regeneration/Physical Environment	Dec 2021
13	Continue to work with Planning Team in order to identify land suitable for food growing as part of Local Development Plan 3	Economic Development & Regeneration	Ongoing
14	Seek opportunities to contribute to food growing, for example, planting fruit trees as part of the Climate Change commitment	Commercial Services	Dec 2021
15	Continue to gather information through the People's Panel Forum	Community Planning Partnership	Ongoing
16	Encourage food growing, food preparation and cooking skills through intergenerational learning activities in schools and communities	Education	Ongoing
17	Review the Food Growing Strategy	Commercial Services	Sept 2025

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

26 January 2021

Cabinet

Title:	Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure
Purpose:	To determine an application by the Three Towns Locality Partnership to allocate CIF funding to proposed projects.
Recommendation:	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Three Towns Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; andb) Approves the CIF application in relation to Ardrossan Community Sports Hub

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided a funding allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All strategy.
- 1.2 Locality Partnerships have subsequently continued to work on their local action plans and are refining proposals for expenditure in line with their locally identified needs. This is a challenging process, and it is a testament to the dedication of the Locality Partnerships and their community partners that proposals are now emerging to provide creative approaches to addressing local challenges.
- 1.3 This report brings forward a proposal, which responds to the specific need of the local community and which has been developed based on local circumstances and opportunities.
- 1.4 This proposal has been approved to be submitted to Cabinet through a process of collaboration and consensus by the Locality Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 Within its budget for 2017-18, North Ayrshire Council provided an allocation for the creation of an innovative fund to enable communities to address the priorities they have identified through Locality Planning Partnerships and within the context of North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's Fair for All Strategy, to be distributed among Localities as follows:

Locality	Population	Value
Irvine	29%	£754,000
Kilwinning	11%	£286,000
3 Towns	23%	£598,000
Garnock Valley	15%	£390,000
North Coast	18%	£468,000
Arran	4%	£104,000

- 2.2 It was agreed that the CIF will support proposals and projects that connect with:

- The North Ayrshire Fair for All Strategy;
- The Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
- North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities and business objectives.
- The Community Wealth Building Strategy;
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

- 2.3 The proposal development and application process has been agreed as follows:

- Locality Partnerships should continue to engage with their communities and stimulate interest in the CIF. Each Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round.'
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.

- 2.4 The enclosed application has been developed by community partners and North Ayrshire Council officers and is now recommended for approval by Cabinet. The proposal is as follows:

The Three Towns Locality Partnership

The Three Towns Locality Partnership CIF allocation	£598 000
Ardrossan Community Development Trust	£25,000
Three Towns Growers	£100,000
The Training Station	£50,000
Ardrossan Castle Heritage Hub	£17,912
Raise Your Voice With Ardeer	£100,000
Balance	£305,088

Proposal: Community Gym – Ardrossan Community Sports Hub: £43,320 (Appendix 1)

Ardrossan Community Sports Hub (ACSH) aim to take the former Maximum Potential community gym assets and facilities, within the grounds of the derelict Seafield School site, into community ownership to operate it as a community gym. As well as weights and general fitness equipment, the community gym will offer youth and adult sports training on astro turf, including football and yoga.

ACSH has agreed, in principle, a rolling lease for the property and the gym equipment contained within it with the landlord and has developed a coaching infrastructure to manage it which will involve both staff and volunteers.

ACSH want to deliver a cost-effective gym membership for the whole community within Ardrossan and the wider 3 Towns with qualified coaches and a structure of volunteers (which is already in place), offering commercial style/quality gym facilities at a fraction of the cost to ensure access for local people. There is no other existing gym facility within Ardrossan and therefore, as a community gym, this would not be duplicating or displacing other existing provision.

The funding will support (i) the wages of a full time Gym Manager for one full year from February 2021; and (ii) a part-time Gym Instructor over the same period by which time the business will be self-sustainable.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Reviews the enclosed application from the Three Towns Locality Partnership in line with CIF criteria; and
- b) Approves the CIF application in relation to Ardrossan Community Sports Hub.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 CIF funding is allocated within existing resources. Projects frequently attract additional investment from external funding partners or matched funding

Human Resources

- 4.2 The funding will support (i) the wages of a full time Gym Manager for one full year from February 2021; and (ii) a part-time Gym Instructor over the same period by which time the business will be self-sustainable. There would be coaching skills development and volunteering opportunities.

Legal

- 4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The purpose of Locality Planning is to reduce inequalities, increase community cohesion and advance community empowerment. Each of the CIF proposals is tested against that purpose before being presented to Cabinet. The Ardrossan Community Gym offers low-cost, pay-as-you-go access to health and fitness in Ardrossan without the need for travel to nearby towns.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 None.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposal contained within the report supports the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities;
- Inclusive, growing and enterprising local economy;
- People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing; and
- Vibrant and welcoming places.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 The application supports the following pillars of community wealth building:

- Creates employment opportunities and volunteering and skills development opportunities; and
- The Ardrossan Community Gym would see the transfer of local assets from its previous owners, a Community Interest Company, which has ceased trading, into community ownership.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposal contained within this report has been developed by the Three Towns Locality Partnership and through wider consultation with local people carried out by the group. This included leasing a building in Glasgow Street to raise the profile of the organisation and take feedback into account in the plans. In developing this project, the group has engaged with a Working Group of members of the former gym. School pupils at Winton Primary School have also been consulted, with each child registered with Ardrossan Community Sports Hub to enough fitness and physical activity.

Audrey Sutton
Interim Executive Director of Communities

For further information please contact **Rhona Arthur, Interim Head of Connect Communities**, on **01294 324415**.

Background Papers

Appendix :1 CIF Application: Community Gym – Ardrossan Community Sports Hub

Appendix 2: Community Investment Fund: Proposal to Cabinet

Organisation name	<i>Ardrossan Community Gym</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>Ardrossan Winton Rovers Football Club (AWRFC) has been a major part of Ardrossan infrastructure for the last 117 Years. Ardrossan Winton Community Sports Club (AWCSC) was established in 2005 to manage the grounds and to assist with the activities promoted by the football club within the “Our Place” project in Ardrossan, funded by the Big Lottery, and this was a game-changer.</p> <p>In the context of the current climate of austerity and the lack of progress in moving Ardrossan out of the top 5% SIMD disadvantaged areas in Scotland, the Trustees wanted to do more for their community. Provision of sport and leisure facilities were listed as key priorities by the community during the <i>Our Place</i> consultations, with addressing a gap in local infrastructure perceived as key to addressing other social issues such as loneliness, crime, and physical as well as mental wellbeing, particularly among children and young people. With all of this in mind the Trustees decided to re-form AWCSC and following legal advice it became Ardrossan Community Sports Hub (ACSH) – a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.</p> <p>ACSH’s aim is to advance public participation in sport through developing and maintaining sporting and other facilities in Ardrossan for the use of the community, with the aim of improving health and wellbeing. Following community consultation and feasibility work in 2017 and 2018, ACSH are working on proposals for the creation a Community Sports Hub in Ardrossan which is essentially a collective of progressive sport clubs working together in a local community.</p>
Locality	Three Towns
Amount requested from CIF	£43,320
Brief overview of proposal	<p>Ardrossan Community Sports Hub (ACSH) aim to take the former Maximum Potential community gym assets and facilities, within the grounds of the derelict Seafield School site, into community ownership to operate it as a community gym.</p> <p>The gym facility consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free weights area for strength training and equipment • Racks & benches • Med balls and general fitness equipment • 50% of overall area astro turfed for classes • A grassed external area which will be utilised for Youth & Adult football training as well as Summer Boot Camps and Yoga, etc.

ACSH has agreed, in principle, a rolling lease for the property and the gym equipment contained within it with the landlord and has developed a coaching infrastructure to manage it which will involve both staff and volunteers.

ACSH want to deliver a cost-effective gym membership for the whole community within Ardrossan and the wider Three Towns with qualified coaches and a structure of volunteers (which is already in place), offering commercial style/quality gym facilities at a fraction of the cost to ensure access for local people. There is no other existing gym facility within Ardrossan and therefore, as a community gym, this would not be duplicating or displacing other existing provision.

In creating a community gym within Ardrossan ACSH aim to provide a high quality and affordable facility which promotes wide participation and inclusion in fitness activity, active lifestyles and health and well-being. The key outcomes include:

- Increasing participation in sports, health and fitness activities across all age groups, genders and disadvantaged groups within Ardrossan;
- Fewer local residents having sedentary and inactive lifestyles;
- Improved health for at risk groups within the community such as:
 - pre/Type 2 diabetics;
 - those who are overweight;
 - GP referrals;
 - low income households; and
 - more older people engaging in and enjoying health and fitness activity
 - those with mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and stress for whom exercise is recognised as having a significant positive impact;
- Creation of employment, volunteering and personal development opportunities for local people to contribute to their local community; and
- Increase the level of community engagement with ACSH and establish a reputation for quality and good practice services.

A community gym is a valuable mechanism to address local health inequalities, with a commitment to target groups underrepresented in using health and fitness facilities and whose health could be substantially improved by accessing innovative, welcoming, and low/no cost services.

The CIF funding of £43,320 will provide a:

- *Full-time Gym Manager costs for one full year from February 2021*
- *Part-time Gym Instructor over the same period.*

This will allow the pay-as-you-go model in the business plan to be established so that the business is sustainable.

ACSH secured a lease on premises within Glasgow Street from Cunninghame Housing Association and fitted this out to use as a drop in venue for local people to come along, hear more about the plans and share the type of sports and fitness facilities and services they would like to see developed for them and their families in the area. This has been very successful, enabling ACSH to engage with people of all ages and from all sections of the local community.

	Other engagement includes a Working Group of members of the former CIC gym, a number of whom have agreed to take up volunteer positions to help manage and develop the gym. All Winton Primary School children have been signed up by the school as ACSH members, with the school paying their membership fees. The children produced drawings relating to the sporting activities they wish to have in their local community. Ardrossan Accies Rugby Club has expressed their interest in using the gym for training purposes.
<i>Timescales</i>	From February 2021
<i>Contact details</i>	Shirley Morgan smorgan@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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