

Cabinet  
29 March 2016

**IRVINE, 29 March 2016** - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

**Present**

Willie Gibson, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney, Ruth Maguire, Elizabeth Higton, Mark Fraser (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1 - 7) and Courtney Gemmell and Dara Howie (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Items 1 - 7).

**In Attendance**

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management) and P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit, Risk and Performance) (Finance and Corporate Support); John Butcher, Executive Director, S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools) and A. McClelland, Senior Manager (Education and Youth Employment); C. Hatton, Executive Director and L. Cree, Senior Manager (Property Management and Investment) (Place); I. Colvin, Director (Health and Social Care Partnership), M. Adams, Programme Manager (Early Intervention and Prevention) and M. Inglis, Senior Manager (Intervention Services); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, J. Hutchison, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Chair**

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

**Apologies for Absence**

A. Hill and the Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

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

**2. Minutes**

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **3. INSIGHT School Leavers' Attainment Results 2015**

Submitted report and presentation by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the performance of North Ayrshire schools in the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) examinations of 2015, including the current position in relation to improving attainment in Literacy and Numeracy (Appendix 1); Improving Attainment for All (Appendices 2a - 2c); Attainment vs. Deprivation (Appendices 3a - 3b); Increasing Post-School Participation (Appendix 4); and an Executive Summary of the INSIGHT School Leavers' Attainment Results 2015 (Appendix 5).

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on the following:-

- improving attainment in literacy and numeracy and a focus on these areas within the primary sector;
- the benchmarking methodology used by INSIGHT which is centred on a Virtual Comparator and replaces the group of comparator schools/authorities used in Standard Tables and Charts (STACs) as the main performance evaluation tool;
- key characteristics that make up the virtual school and matches ten leavers from across Scotland to every one of the leavers in each school; and
- circulation of the presentation to all Members of the Council.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the content of the report and the achievements of school leavers in last year's SQA examinations and the measures being taken to improve attainment in keeping with our commitment to the Scottish Attainment Challenge; and (b) that the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) circulate the presentation to all Members of the Council.

### **4. Education and Youth Employment: Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategy and Policy 2016 - 2020**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education & Youth Employment) on (a) the Scottish Government's 10 year Scottish Strategy for Autism; and (b) the development of North Ayrshire's draft Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Strategy and Policy 2016 - 2020 and Action Plan (Appendix 1).

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on the following:-

- work that is being done to roll out training for staff in relation to ASD;
- specialist training that will be provided for those working directly with pupils and children with ASD; and
- support for families that is provided via specialists units and additional support needs schools.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategy and Policy 2016 - 2020, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) that officers continue to work to enhance the ASD provision in Education and Youth Employment.

## **5. North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2016-20**

Submitted report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the development of the North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2016-20: Getting It Right For You, based on the four priorities from the Improving Children's Outcomes survey with the Scottish Government and the Dartington Social Research Unit. The draft Children's Services Plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and contained the Action Plan detailing actions against each promise to indicate what is planned to deliver them.

The Cabinet thanked the staff and young people for the work that had been done in preparing the North Ayrshire Children's Services Plan 2016-20: Getting It Right For You.

Noted.

## **6. Children's Services Change Projects**

Submitted report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the governance arrangements for children's services change projects that included (a) the establishment of a Young People Support Review Board, co-chaired by the Heads of Service from Education and Youth Employment and the Health and Social Care Partnership; and (b) details of the eight change projects being taken forward, as outlined in Appendix 1 to report.

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on projects that may continue for more than one year and the Children's and Young People Support Board that would continue to oversee the delivery of the projects.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the governance and reporting arrangements for the Children's Change Programmes as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **7. Corporate Parenting**

Submitted report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on (a) the work progressing as part of the Corporate Parenting responsibilities of the Health and Social Care Partnership for Looked After Children; (b) the introduction of the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant (2015) to support Scotland's corporate parents in fulfilling their duties to improve the life chances of all of Scotland's care leavers; and (c) areas of improvement in supporting young care leavers towards entering education, employment and training and work that will be done to update the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2014/17 in light of the Children and Young Person Act 2014.

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on the following:-

- Aftercare and Throughcare Programmes that work with young people and Who Cares Scotland; and
- consideration of an event for Members on the work of Who Cares Scotland.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the approach to Corporate Parenting under the new Act; (b) to adopt the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant (2015); and (c) that the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) arrange an event on the work of Who Cares Scotland for Members of the Council.

#### **8. Revenue Budget 2015/16 : Budgetary Control Statement to 31 January 2016**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 31 January 2016; (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 8; (c) detailed the proposed virements at Appendix 9; and (d) detailed the Housing Revenue account budgetary control position at 31 November 2015 at Appendix 10.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report; and (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; and (b) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 9.

#### **9. Capital Monitoring to 31 January 2016**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 31 January 2016, which included (a) actual expenditure to 31 January 2016 and forecast expenditure to 31 March 2016; (b) a projected outturn of £57.568m against a budget of £57.407m and a forecasted projected outturn for HRA of £21.469m against a budget of £21.870m.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1, 2.6, 2.7 and 2.9 of the report; (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure and revised budgets to 30 January 2016; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2016.

#### **10. North Ayrshire HSCP Recovery Plan**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which set out (a) the projected overspend within the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and the action being taken to mitigate further pressures; and (b) the request for additional non-recurring funding of circa £1.255m for the HSCP in 2015/16.

Appendix 1 to the report provided details of the budget Deficit Recovery Plan 2015/16 presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 10 March 2016. The report included a breakdown of each budget with a significant projected budget variance and, where appropriate, the remedial action required was detailed. The Interim Budget 2016/17 report presented to the Integration Joint Board on 10 March 2016 was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Members asked questions, and were provided with further information, on the following:-

- early delivery of future savings through effective transition of service users from Care Home routes to Care at Home through the successful Pavilion 3 rehabilitation initiatives;
- a review of high cost care packages; and
- the circulation to Members of the Care at Home DVD that had recently been presented to the Integration Joint Board.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve a non-recurring contribution to cover the final IJB Social Services overspend of circa £1.255m in 2015/16, noting this can be accommodated within the Council bottom line budget; (b) advise the IJB that additional funding for 2015/16 is on a non-recurring basis with a requirement to ensure service delivery in 2016/17 is contained within the agreed budget; and (c) note that the IJB at its meeting on 10 March 2016 approved a delegated budget for 2016/17 for Social Care Services which meets the current known pressures providing a level of assurance of the non-recurring basis of the current funding request.

## **11. Equity Stake in DBFM Holdco**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which set out (a) changes to the European System of Accounts 2010 rules (ESA10) which have amended the structure of Design Build Finance Maintain (DBFM) model which will be used to deliver the proposed Largs Campus; (b) the formation of DBFM Holdco which will be responsible for the delivery of the Largs Campus; (c) the requirement for the Council to be a 10% equity stakeholder in DBFM Holdco at a value of 10p; and (d) the proposed appointment of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) as a Director of DBFM Holdco and DBFM Co on behalf of the Council.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) grant authority to take a 10% equity stake in the DBFM Holdco set up for the delivery of Largs Campus; and (b) approve the appointment, if required, of the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) as a Director of DBFM Holdco and DBFM Co on behalf of the Council

## **12. Strategic Risk Register 2016/17**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) a review of the Strategic Risk Register undertaken by the Corporate Risk Management Group and Corporate Management Team, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) changes to the risk register and matrix as outlined in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the Strategy Risk Register for 2016/17 as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

## **13. Industrial Property Portfolio**

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) which provided information on a review of the Council's Industrial Property Portfolio undertaken which identified several recommendations in respect of (i) the recovery of service charges; (ii) the condition of vacant units; (iii) marketing activity; (iv) Council occupation of space; (v) under-renting and (vi) the future delivery strategy which was detailed at section 2.6.2 of the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the proposals to implement an alternative service delivery model for the management of the Council's industrial property portfolio; and (b) that a procurement exercise be carried out to appoint a delivery partner for the management of the portfolio.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.