

Cabinet
27 January 2015

Irvine, 27 January 2015 - At a meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

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

Also Present

Alex Gallagher.

In Attendance

L. Friel, Executive Director, L. Aird, Head of Finance, M. Hogg, Senior Manager (Financial Management), T. Reaney, Procurement Manager and P. Doak, Senior Manager (Internal Audit and Risk Management) (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director; Y. Baulk, Head of Physical Environment (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and S. McKenzie, Senior Manager (Protective Services) (Economy and Communities); D. Carracher, Senior Manager (Inclusion) (Education and Youth Employment); M. Adams, Programme Manager (Early Intervention and Prevention) and I. Kelly, Team Manager (Money Matters) (Social Services and Health); M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

L. Cairns, Chief Executive; L. Barrie, C. Glencorse and L. Campbell (North Ayrshire Leisure Limited).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 16 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor Burns, as a North Ayrshire Leisure Limited Board Members declared an indirect, non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 3.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting held on 9 December 2014 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; and (ii) the special meeting held on 16 December 2014 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, subject to the following amendment in respect of Item 7 - Provision of Schools Meals During Holidays.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that a holiday meals service, including the fund activities programme, be provided for the Easter, Summer (3 days a week), October and Festive holidays each year at the **10 hub** schools detailed in section 3.1 of the report; (b) that the service be **extended to all primary school children in North Ayrshire**; (c) **that the meals** provided will be free of charge to those children entitled to a free school meal and at the costs of a standard school meal to other children; and (d) that school meals will be provided free of charge to the Church of Nazarene as part of the holiday meals service to accommodate pupils of Winton Primary and Ardeer Primary who will be able to attend the Church of Nazarene "Making a Meal of it" community meals service.

3. KA Leisure Annual Progress Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the North Ayrshire Leisure Limited (NALL) Business/Service Plan incorporating Budget 2015-16 and Progress Report, December 2014, progress in terms of performance and financial projections and the current status of specific company commitments. The Cabinet also received a presentation by the Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Leisure Limited.

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

- programmes developed for groups and individuals, including older people, in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran predominately based around the development and maintenance of referral pathways from GPs and hospitals, including a weight management programme, an exercise referral programme and fall prevention programme;
- the use of customer forums and feedback mechanisms to develop services and products;
- targeted investment and programmed maintenance of the Magnum Leisure Centre and Garnock Pool; and
- the free summer swim programme delivered in partnership with North Ayrshire Library Service and the "Make your Mark" project that rewards children and their families for accessing and taking part in a range of leisure activities over the summer holiday period.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the NALL Progress Report on the Business/Service Plan at December 2014 and Budget for 2015/16 as set out in the appendix to the report.

4. Revenue Budget 2014/15 : Budgetary Control Statement to 30 November 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) set out the revenue budgetary control position for the Council at 30 November 2014; and (b) provided a brief explanation of Services' major variances at Appendices 1 - 9.

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

- a contamination payment to contractors as a result of the treatment of excessive contamination being presented in blue bins; and
- an ongoing campaign to inform residents of the range of recyclable items that can be put in the blue bin in order to reduce contamination of recyclable items.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the information and financial projections outlined in the report; (b) note the action being taken by the Health and Social Care Partnership to reduce the current projected overspend; (c) approve the virements detailed in Appendix 10; and (d) approve the new carry forwards identified at 2.19 of the report.

5. Capital Monitoring to 30 November 2014

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme as at 30 November 2014; (b) information on the progress of all projects, with explanations for the carry forwards detailed in Appendix 1; and (c) information on the programme for the Housing Revenue Account, as detailed in Appendix 2

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to an underspend of £0.428m projected within the capital expenditure programme that requires to be carried forward to 2015/16.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined at Sections 2.1 and 2.7 - 2.10 of the report; and (b) note (i) the actual General Services and HRA expenditure to 30 November 2014; and (ii) the forecast of expenditure to 31 March 2015.

6. Codes of Financial Practice: Amendment

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on a routine VAT inspection by HM Revenue and Customs and their recommendation that the Code of Financial Practice be amended to provide appropriate resource for services encountering tax issues.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the amendment to the Codes of Financial Practice, as detailed at Page 15 of Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Scottish Maritime Museum Trust - Pension Fund Liability

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposal that the Council acts as guarantor for the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust in respect of its Strathclyde Pension Fund Liability and, if required, take a security over the Trust's assets to the value of the outstanding deficit.

The Cabinet agreed to support the Scottish Maritime Museum Trust by acting as guarantor for its Pension Fund liability, with appropriate security over Trust assets being put in place.

8. Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided information on (a) a proposed new 'Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy' for the Council; (b) five key steps in managing its approach to tackling fraud and corruption; (c) and a triple-track response to any instances of fraud or corruption which are found to be proven; and (d) a range of related policies and procedures which staff and elected members are required to adhere to.

The Cabinet approved the new Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

9. Review of Education Services Additional Support Needs (ASN)

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the proposals for the development of educational provision for pupils with significant Additional Support Needs that included (i) the decision of the former Education Executive in respect of the closure of Stanecastle school by 2018; and (ii) consultation with parents, carers, young people, staff and other stakeholders on the future provision of specialist education and care for pupils with ASN, including the option of developing new facilities for the education and care of children and young people with complex additional support needs.

The Cabinet agreed that the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) (i) consult on the future of provision for pupils with Additional Support Needs; and (ii) report to a future meeting on the outcome of those consultations, with recommendations about future provision.

10. Child Poverty

Submitted report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on (a) the levels of child poverty in North Ayrshire and activity to address them; (b) the impact of child poverty; (c) definitions of child poverty; (d) the child Poverty Strategy for Scotland: Our Approach 2014-17 and the Government's commitment to tackle child poverty; and (e) a Members' seminar that will be held on 10 February 2015 to consider the strategy for tackling poverty and identify key priorities.

Members discussed the range of information provided at 2.1 and 2.2 of the report and whether this information could be further broken down to the towns in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed (a) that the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) investigate whether a further breakdown of data by towns in North Ayrshire could be made available to Members; (b) to consider further action on child poverty at the seminar to be held on 10 February 2015; and (c) to otherwise note the report.

11. Food Information for Consumers Legislation

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) new European legislation which introduced new requirements regarding the provision of information on allergens; (b) the support being offered by the Council to facilitate business compliance with the new Food Information for Consumers legislation; and (c) the proposed graduated approach to enforcement.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the West of Scotland Food Liaison Group that consists of representatives from 10 local authorities and work that has been done by this group to devise a common Communications Strategy to deliver and promote the new legislation.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) endorse the use of a graduated approach to enforcement, provided public health is safeguarded; and (b) note the support mechanisms in place to aid business compliance.

12. Leadership Development

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposed contracts for the delivery of the High Impact Leadership Programme using the negotiated tendering process.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the request to undertake contract negotiations with the Keil Centre, to (i) extend the contract for delivery of the Leadership Development Programme until the programme ends in 2018, and (ii) to extend the requirements for Chief Officer and Senior Manager Assessment Centres until the same date.

13. Minutes of the Economic Development & Regeneration Board

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board held on 10 December 2014.

Noted.

14. Minutes of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the minutes of the meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership held on 17 December 2014.

Noted.

15. Minutes of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the meeting of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 15 December 2014.

Noted.

16.1 Social Work Complaint Review Committee: Complaint by Mr R.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting held on 28 November 2014.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to accept the Committee's decision not to uphold the complaint; and (b) that the Social Work Complaints Review Committee's recommendations, outlined at 3 (b) and (c) of the report, related to operational matters and should therefore be referred to the Director (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership) for consideration.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.