



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 9 December – 2
February 2020

The attached report gives a summary and brief details to Council, of meetings and events attended by the Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Councillor Joe Cullinane.

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF MONTGOMERIE VIEW, SEAMILL, 16 December

On 16 December, I was delighted to attend the official opening of Montgomerie View in Seamill, which provides a further 31 new homes for our residents in North Ayrshire. These first class, high-quality, energy-efficient homes form part of a wider 124 private development by Hope Homes and The Wee House Company. The homes have been specifically built for 21st century living and are at the cutting edge of inclusive living, providing sustainable, high-quality homes in areas where people need new housing.

These houses take us one step closer to our target of building 1,575 new homes across North Ayrshire by 2025 - one of the most ambitious Council house building projects not only in Scotland but in the whole of the UK.

I would like to congratulate The Wee House Company and Hope Homes for their innovative design and building work. A special thanks to our Housing Service for their dedication and continued hard work on delivering on our promise of new, increased social housing.

1st TIER JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE & CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUP, 18 December

On 18 December, I chaired the 1st Tier Joint Consultative Committee and Corporate Health and Safety Group held in Cunninghame House. Attendees heard updates on the health and safety plans from our PLACE, Communities and HSCP directorates. There was also a presentation from our Livewell team on our Healthy Working Lives Programme which covers Livewell and Sustrans activities that promote the wellbeing of our employees. This included a summary of some of the key findings from the "Our Voice Survey" and an overview of the Wellbeing Retreat.

The Wellbeing Retreat was held on 1 October in Cunninghame House and a range of providers were able to offer staff short sessions. These included a Zen Room looking at Yoga and mindfulness, a market stall encompassing KA Leisure, mini blood-pressure check, mini massages, information on Employee Perks, Scotwest Credit Union and much more. Due to the success of the event the Livewell team will consider repeating the event and possibly rolling out a version of the retreat across North Ayrshire.

“FAIR SAY” STAFF ENGAGEMENT SESSION, 16 January

On 16 January, together with North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, I took part in the staff engagement FAIR SAY event held in Largs Campus. This was the last staff engagement event which has proved successful in giving North Ayrshire Council employees the opportunity to put any questions to myself and our Chief Executive on Council related matters, specifically in relation to our new Council Plan.

NORTH AYRSHIRE SUMMIT ON DRUGS RELATED DEATHS, 21 January

It has been well documented on media channels that we are experiencing an unprecedented continued rise in drug related deaths in North Ayrshire. Therefore, I was pleased to attend the North Ayrshire Summit on Drugs Related Deaths held in Saltcoats Town Hall on 21 January. It was a timely and useful event hosted by Paul Main, Chair of the North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Stephen Brown, Director of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. It brought key partners, stakeholders and members of the community together to explore what is being carried out locally and nationally to tackle the Scotland-wide trend which is having a devastating impact on so many peoples' lives.

I would like to commend my colleague and fellow Cabinet Member for Communities, Councillor Louise McPhater, for speaking so passionately from her own personal experience which led North Ayrshire Council to declare a drugs deaths emergency last year. I am encouraged that we are now taking some positive steps in the right direction at addressing this issue and further encouraged that more of our Council workers will be trained and equipped to use naloxone, which can help prevent overdose deaths.

KILWINNING LOCALITY MEETING, 21 January

Also on 21 January, I attended the Kilwinning Locality meeting held at Ayrshire College, Kilwinning Campus. The Agenda included presentations from our Planning team on our Local Development Plan and an update on Community Wealth Building from our Senior Economic Manager, Julie McLachlan. Locality members also considered a further three applications from local organisations for Community Investment Funding, including Kilwinning Rangers, Onside Ayrshire and Ayrshire Communities Education and Sport (ACES).

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING COMMISSION, 22 January

On 22 January, the Community Wealth Building (CWB) mission met for the second time to drive forward our community wealth building agenda for North Ayrshire. A key priority within the Commission's remit is to support the implementation of a Community Wealth Building Strategy and to recommend to Cabinet and the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) the approval of a Community Wealth Building Strategy. Another priority for the Commission is to ensure that there is engagement with our communities regarding our community wealth building work.

In terms of wider engagement, presentations on CWB were given by each of the Locality Partnerships at their January round of meetings. We are also using CONSUL (Your Voice, Your View) to put a range of CWB discussion questions on this platform to reach a wider audience. There has also been feedback on some of the CWB pillars gained through the Council's Fair Say budget engagement sessions within localities. The NAC Staff Leadership Conference in November 2019 focused on CWB and senior leaders put forward a range of ideas on how we become a CWB Council and work in partnership to achieve this. Furthermore, the CPP/CWB Commission Procurement Workshop put forward some key actions regarding how we can better jointly support our local business base through our procurement spend.

Our CWB work continues to develop and strengthen and I am excited about the positive outcomes this work can have for the benefit of everyone in North Ayrshire.

POLICY ADVISORY PANEL, 23 January

I attended the first half of the Policy Advisory Panel on 23 January here in Cunninghame House. Attendees heard several presentations which included a presentation from the Chief Executive of KA Leisure on the medium-term financial outlook of KA Leisure; a presentation from North Ayrshire Council Chief Executive, Craig Hatton, on the forthcoming Best Value Audit and there was also an update on our capital programme from our Executive Director for Finance and Corporate Support, Laura Friel.

FAIR FOR ALL COMMISSIONER MEETING, 23 January

On 23 January, I attended the Fair For All Commissioner meeting held at Fullarton Connexions. There are now seven Community Commissioners who volunteer their time to attend the Fair For All Commission and are representative of communities that are struggling against poverty and insecurity. FFA Commissioners will continue to meet until May 2020 before a report will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

AYRSHIRE SHARED SERVICES MEETING, 24 January

I chaired the first part of the Ayrshire Shared Services Meeting held here in Cunninghame House on 24 January where discussion focused on the 2019/2020 Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team (ACCT) Work Plan. The ACCT continues to meet quarterly with the three Ayrshire Steering Group comprising the Head of Service from each Council with the responsibility for civil contingencies. This provides an opportunity for monitoring and scrutiny on all civil contingency matters. There are also routine meetings scheduled on a one-to-one basis with each of the Steering Group members; these meetings allow for more detailed discussion relative to the respective Local Authority. The ACCT works closely with local emergency services and NHS partners who form the core membership of the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership (ALRP).

VISIT TO MEADOWCROFT, 30 January

Together with my colleague and Cabinet Member for the Health and Social Care Partnership, Councillor Robert Foster, I visited the new Throughcare premises based at Meadowcroft in Irvine following their relocation after the closure of the former offices at Kinnier Road. Staff from some of the following teams will be based in the new premises: Rosemount, Programme Approach Team, Throughcare/Aftercare Teams, Residential SW Team and Family Functional Therapy. The visit provided the opportunity to meet and chat with some of the young people and members of staff from some of these teams.

When I first became Leader of North Ayrshire Council, one of the first visits I made was to the Throughcare team. The team do amazing work supporting care-experienced young people and I am glad to see that they now have a better working environment in which they can operate and continue to provide the first-class support to our care experienced young people.



North Ayrshire Council Leader Joe Cullinane, with Stephen Brown, Director of North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Councillor Robert Foster, Cabinet Member for Health and Social care and two of the young people they met at Meadowcroft

COSLA LEADERS, 31 January

I attended COSLA Leaders in Edinburgh on 31 January for a meeting to discuss a range of subjects including the Local Government Spending Review, COSLA Priorities Update, UK exit from the EU, Replacement of EU Funds and Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme.

COSLA has continued to engage with the Scottish Government on the Scottish Budget writing to both the UK Chancellor Sajid Javid and to the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Derek Mackay to once again outline COSLA's concerns around Budget delay. Subsequently, Mr Mackay announced his intention to publish a Scottish Budget on 6 February 2020 in order to conclude stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Budget Bill before the end of the financial year. All Stages of the Scottish Budget will be complete by 5 March with the budget announced on 6 March.

LEADER'S REPORT



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Cullinane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council