

North Ayrshire Council
14 September 2016

IRVINE, 14 September 2016 - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Matthew Brown, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, John Ferguson, Alex Gallagher, Willie Gibson, Tony Gurney, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, John Hunter, Catherine McMillan, Peter McNamara, Louise McPhater, Tom Marshall, Jim Montgomerie, Alan Munro, Irene Oldfather, David O'Neill, Donald Reid, Robert Steel and Joan Sturgeon.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); J. Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director (Economy and Communities); T. Bowers, Head of Service (Mental Health) (Health and Social Care Partnership); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Support, C. Andrew, Senior Manager (Legal Services), M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer and A. Beveridge, Communications Support Officer (Media and Internal Communications), and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson

Apologies for Absence

Elizabeth McLardy, Grace McLean and Ronnie McNicol.

1. Past Provost Medal

The Provost presented a Provost Medal to Past Provost, Councillor Joan Sturgeon, in recognition of her service as Provost of the Council.

In accepting the Provost Medal, Councillor Sturgeon spoke of the honour and privilege of serving in the role and expressed her thanks to all, particularly to Council staff, for helping to raise some £120,000 in aid of charitable causes during her tenure. She concluded by offering her best wishes to Councillor Clarkson as her successor.

2. Provost's Remarks

The Provost advised of his intention to allow consideration of an item of urgent business in terms of Agenda Item 13 (Urgent Items).

3. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

5. Previous Minutes

The Chief Executive advised that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 30 August 2016 contained within the Agenda had been amended from the version previously circulated, to address the omission at paragraph 9 of Item 9(a) Motions of the agreed appointment to the Economic Development and Regeneration Board.

Thereafter, the accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 June, (ii) the Special Council (Planning) (Pre-Determination Hearings) held on 8 August, (iii) the Special Council (Planning) (Determination) held on 8 August and (iv) the Special Meeting of Council held on 30 August 2016, was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

6. Provost's Report

The Provost, having expressed his gratitude at being appointed to the role and his appreciation of the work undertaken by former Provost, Councillor Joan Sturgeon, assured Members of his commitment to represent North Ayrshire to the best of his ability and, thereafter, reported on the following matters:-

- his intention to continue to support charitable causes, but also to seek to strengthen links within our community, particularly by visiting schools and early learning centres, as well as sheltered housing units and day care centres;
- a recent visit to Irvine's twin town of Voisins, France, and the opportunities presented to unlock partnership potential between the two towns;
- meeting pupils at Beith Primary School during a visit by Beith Juniors Football Club, which won the Scottish Junior Cup;
- Saltcoats War Memorial, which came joint first in the Royal British Legion's 'Best Kept War Memorial' award, and the work of the Council's Streetscene service in keeping the memorial in such good condition;
- congratulations to the staff and Members involved in making Largs Viking Festival a great success this year; and
- ongoing work taking place in the Fullarton area, with the previous community centre now having been demolished and the new Fullarton Hub soon to breathe new life into the area.

7. The Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council, having formally welcomed the newly elected Councillor for Irvine West, Louise McPhater, reported on the following matters:-

- the priority of the new Labour Administration to reduce inequality, an aim supported by the delivery of tribunal representation by the Money Matters team;
- recent senior prize giving ceremonies at Greenwood, Irvine Royal and Kilwinning Academies;
- attendance at a meeting of the Ayrshire Economic Meeting on 7 September 2016, which focused on the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the collaborative work being undertaken by the three Ayrshire Authorities on a strategic regional level;
- a meeting of the COSLA Resources and Capacity Executive Group held on 8 September 2016, which included discussion on the Scottish Government's Consultation Paper on the future of Social Security in Scotland;
- a recent letter to Scottish Government Ministers to state the Council's interest in having the Scottish Government's new Scottish Benefits Agency based in North Ayrshire; and
- congratulations to the Council staff who were finalists in several categories of this year's APSE awards and for being winners in the category of 'Best Innovation or Demand Management Initiative'.

8. North Ayrshire Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting and approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 16 June to 31 August 2016.

9. Questions

In terms of Standing Order No. 12 there were submitted:-

- (a) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"Would the Member care to reaffirm this Council's regard for the work done by our partner housing associations and assure the chamber that this productive partnership will be fully supported by the new administration?"

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"North Ayrshire Council, as the Strategic Housing Authority, has strong working relationships in place with our local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and appreciates the contribution our partners make in ensuring all of our residents have safe, warm and affordable homes.

I can confirm that this Administration is fully committed to continuing to work with our RSL partners, particularly as we develop the new Local Housing Strategy and Strategic Housing Investment Plan, and address the implications of the Housing Scotland Act 2014 over the coming year."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gurney asked whether, given the close partnership between the Council and the RSLs, if the Cabinet Member could advise how he regards the possible recategorisation by the Office for National Statistics

(ONS) of the RSLs following the English model, give his view of the potential ramifications were this to take place, and indicate how he intended to address the issue, giving particular attention to the Council's partnership with the Scottish Government and the numerous legislative and financial issues surrounding the potential approaches.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by indicating that the new Administration wished to be even bolder in terms of Council housing than the Opposition and was engaging with officers to refresh the Council's Housing Strategy over the coming months.

(b) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"Would the Administration care to confirm that they will continue to hold regular Physical Environment Advisory Board meetings?"

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the affirmative.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gurney asked whether, given Councillor Montgomerie's record of attending just one meeting out of a total of nine over the last two years and submitting formal apologies for just two of the meetings not attended, the Cabinet Member intended to be a more regular attendee of the Advisory Panel in future.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by expressing the view that the Elected Member's own attendance was now technically 100% negative given his resignation from his former role.

(c) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Employment in the following terms:-

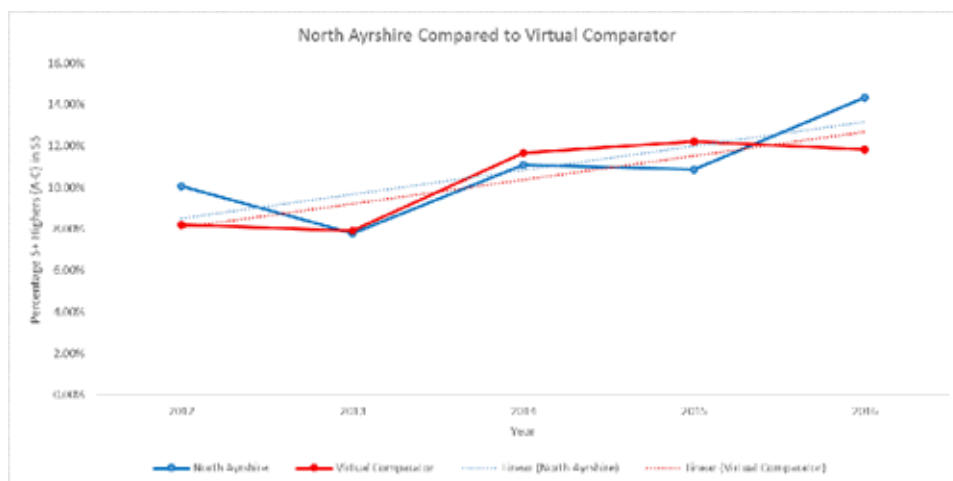
"Noting that the Gold Standard for a pupil is the achievement of 5 or more Higher passes would you please list for each Secondary School in North Ayrshire for each of the past 5 years the percentage of Fifth Year pupils achieving 5 or more Higher passes at grades A-C and comment on any trends?"

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"As requested, the percentages of S5 pupils gaining 5 or more Highers at A-C over the last 5 years are listed in the table below. The source of this data is the Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool, "Insight" (released on Friday 9 September). The following graph shows that the trendline for North Ayrshire is a positive one. It should also be noted that in 2016 our figure for 5+ Highers in S5 is our highest yet. When compared with our Virtual Comparator of young people with similar needs and socio-economic factors from other areas of Scotland (see graph), North Ayrshire is also performing better than this group.

SQA Higher Awards at A - C (INSIGHT)
2012-2016
S5

	%Achieved A-C passes in 5 or more Highers in S5									
	North Ayrshire	Androsian Academy	Arran High School	Auchenharvie Academy	Garnock Academy	Greenwood Academy	Irvine Royal Academy	Kilwinning Academy	Largs Academy	St. Matthew's Academy
2012	10.06%	11.67%	18.52%	6.77%	4.49%	6.93%	3.60%	8.21%	23.35%	11.11%
2013	7.80%	6.04%	7.69%	3.59%	4.00%	6.98%	3.70%	7.56%	19.49%	8.71%
2014	11.10%	11.61%	10.91%	3.01%	8.96%	9.82%	4.88%	11.39%	25.71%	8.79%
2015	10.86%	8.13%	12.28%	2.46%	13.47%	8.16%	5.50%	7.53%	23.71%	11.95%
2016	14.35%	9.64%	15.00%	10.34%	11.05%	12.41%	5.66%	15.89%	31.09%	13.53%



It is important to note that this is only one indicator of attainment and achievement for our young people. Our attainment levels have also consistently improved in almost all measures in S5, including a rise in those achieving at least one Higher in S5 from 40.77% in 2012 to 52.11% in 2016. Similarly, those young people achieving at least three Highers in S5 has risen from 22.69% in 2012 to 32.22% in 2016.

Our Senior Phase curriculum increasingly focuses on providing opportunities for our young people to achieve at a range of levels from S4-S6, depending on their individual needs. We have been very conscious to ensure that a broadening of options within the senior phase does not happen at the expense of Higher attainment, but rather that it complements it. These figures reflect the fact that our curriculum is increasingly meeting the needs of a larger number of our young people than ever before, while demonstrating that the achievement of our most able young people also continues to increase.

We do not necessarily agree that "the gold standard for a pupil is the achievement of five or more Higher passes". Our vision in Education and Youth Employment is to contribute to building brighter futures for our young people and encouraging them to excel at the level which is right for them at the time which is right for them. We are increasingly supporting a broader range of qualifications in the Senior Phase than the more "traditional" Higher options. This could result in a range of qualifications at different levels (including National 4&5, Highers, Advanced Highers, Foundation Apprenticeships, National Certificates etc). We would consider any combination of this range of qualifications to be equally valid indicators of success for a young person."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall welcomed the improving trend and

asked if the Cabinet Member felt the Scottish Government's desire to give schools more autonomy was likely to be positive, or if he was concerned at the potentially negative effect of the introduction of education regions.

Councillor Bell expressed concern about a move to regional education boards, expressing the view that other examples of joint boards had neither saved money or proved to be more efficient, and that local authorities were best placed to administer education services.

(d) a question by Councillor Hill to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Does the Leader of the Council believe that money used to support health and social care is 'lost' ?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for his question and responded in the negative.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Hill asked whether it was the Administration's intention to seek to recover monies from the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Councillor Cullinane advised that there was no intention to seek to recover the funds and expressed doubt as to whether there was, in any event, a mechanism to recover capital funding. Councillor Cullinane referred to meetings which had taken place with officers over the past few weeks and which he anticipated would produce good news in respect of school improvement works.

(e) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:-

"The United Kingdom Supreme Court found on 28 July 2016 that the sharing of Private information in Part 4 of the Children' and Young People (Scotland)Act 2104 (Named Persons) to be incompatible with the right to a private and family life, in terms of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and therefore " not within the competence of the Scottish Parliament.

At present what categories of data are held by North Ayrshire Council on children and young persons and with whom is this shared?"

Councillor McNamara thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"At present, within Education and Youth employment hold information on all of our children and young people, some of which we consider to be **sensitive and some non-sensitive**.

Non Sensitive

We hold a good deal of non-sensitive data (i.e. Demographics, name address and

contacts) within our **SEEMIS** system. This system is used to record attendance, tracking and monitoring of achievement and attainment and **SQA** data as appropriate. This information is not shared with others outwith the establishment. The **SEEMIS** system is double password protected and secure.

Within **SEEMIS**, we also hold data relating to the **CHILD'S plan**. We have a statutory obligation to plan appropriately for pupils where an additional support need has been identified. Within the information held (known as the **WELLBEING APPLICATION**), there would be an assessment of wellbeing (conducted by the Head teacher in a primary school or member of the pastoral care team in secondary establishments) and a plan of appropriate support. The Wellbeing assessment is conducted using the **SHANARRI** indicators (Safe/Healthy/Active/Nurtured/Achieving/Respected/Responsible / Included).

and is completed in partnership with the parents and with the child's views considered. This is not, as a matter of course, shared with others without the consent of the parents. These assessments and plan may form part of the information used at review meetings and planning with teams around the child.

Additionally **non sensitive** information may be shared on a “need to know” basis” upon consent from parents with:-

- the team around the child
- the voluntary sector if appropriate,
- the Reporter.

Sensitive

Sensitive data on Children and young people is held within schools, also within **SEEMIS**. This includes:-

- information on Looked after and accommodated children
- information about children on the child protection register
- medical information
- other personal and sensitive information pertinent to a child for whom we have concerns

Other information concerning referrals to the reporter, notes from multiagency meetings and information held within the child's plan is also held in schools. This is shared with social services and other agencies (i.e. police) when children and potentially at risk or harm (Child protection) but may also be shared, by agreement and as appropriate, through **AYRSHARE** with the Health and Social care partnership. This system is confidential and password protected and anyone who is not connected to a child, and not a named contact **CANNOT SEE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO A CHILD NOT KNOWN TO THEM**. Permissions are very tight and the system robust.

Psychological services

Sensitive Information on a small number of Young People is held and shared with a

few relevant professionals, to support decision making of the authority Inclusion Group. This is decision making forum held jointly with social work. Schools send paperwork securely.

The psychological service holds files for all young people (roughly 800) it is currently working with. The service only works directly with families when parents have given consent. Parents can, and do request access to the files. This are held securely in Cunninghame House and access is limited to the service and Head of Service."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Marshall asked whether the Cabinet Member was confident that the Council held and shared data secured and in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, and that all parents were aware of the data held.

Councillor McNamara responded by indicating that these matters had been addressed by the Audit Committee and that parents could be safe in the knowledge that the Council would not share data without the consent of the child/parent.

(f) a question by Councillor Burns to the Cabinet Member for Economy in the following terms:-

"Can the portfolio holder reassure members that the work carried out by the previous administration in developing an Ayrshire Growth Deal bid will continue to be a priority and can he set out how this will be progressed?"

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

"The work and plans associated with the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) will continue to be a priority for the new administration. A report will be presented to Cabinet in September to seek approval of the Strategic Business Case that is to be submitted to government in early October. This will be the first opportunity that the new Cabinet has had to consider the AGD programme proposals.

In addition, the Council Leader has attended a recent Ayrshire Economic Partnership meeting and provided his support for the work underway to develop the deal. He will shortly be meeting with the Scottish Government Minister and making the case for Ayrshire. I look forward to shaping this important work as the new portfolio lead with the Leader and my cabinet colleagues."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Burns asked whether, in light of the importance of securing the Scottish Government's support for the AGD bid, the Cabinet Member would now consider a more measured and mature approach to working with the Scottish Government than that suggested by his recent social media statements.

Councillor Gallagher responded by stating that he did not recognise this portrait of himself.

10. Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies

The Council considered nominations received in respect of committees and outside body vacancies.

The Council agreed (a) to appoint (i) Councillors O'Neill, Munro, Easdale, Hill, McMillan and Marshall to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, (ii) Councillor Steel to the Licensing Committee and Licensing Board, (iii) Councillor Burns as a main representative on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee, with Councillor Hill serving as her named substitute; (iv) Councillor McNamara as Councillor Cullinane's named substitute on the Staffing and Recruitment Committee, (v) Councillor Reid as Councillor Cullinane's replacement on North Ayrshire CCTV Limited, and (vi) Councillor McPhater as Councillor Cullinane's replacement on the North Ayrshire Violence Against Women Forum; and (b) that, as a consequence of (a)(iii) above, the Scheme of Administration be amended to reflect that Main Opposition appointments to the Staffing and Recruitment Committee can consist of its Leader and another Member of the Opposition, rather than the Opposition's Leader and Depute Leader.

11. Financial Outlook and Medium Term Financial Planning

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the current assessment of the medium term financial outlook and the potential funding gap for 2017/18 to 2019/20.

This report outlined the issues and plans to support the Council in developing its next medium term financial plan, including the state of the economy and likely effect on public sector funding, the anticipated timing of the Financial Statement, changes to Council Tax from 1 April 2017, financial risk being faced by the Council, the financial implications of the budget decisions taken in February 2016, and an update of the development of the long term financial strategy and Transformation 2.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the estimated cost of PPP indexation and whether new schools built under NPD would also be subject to indexation;
- the potential Council Tax increase referred to within the report and whether the Council was obliged to implement an increase;
- the suggestion within a recent Fraser of Allander Institute report that there would be ongoing cuts in funding between now and 2020, compared with the assumptions set out at Section 2.8.5 of the report;
- whether the teacher/pupil ratio had been achieved under the previous Administration and the penalty for any shortfall;
- whether reference was being made to overall teacher numbers or the teacher/pupil ratio; and
- the likelihood of more Council Tax payment defaults in the light of potentially significant increases in charges for Council Tax Bands E-H, and the availability of support for those householders without the means to pay.

The Council agreed to note (i) the current factors affecting future funding levels, (ii) the likely timing of the Financial Settlement, (iii) the potential funding gap for the Council over the period 2017/18 to 2019/20, (iv) the approach to updating the current

capital investment programme, (v) that this information will form the basis of discussion with all political groups, (vi) the approach to community engagement and (vii) timescales for further reports to the Cabinet/Council.

12. Committee Timetable - September to December 2016

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a revised committee timetable for the remainder of 2016 following the creation of Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The revised timetable was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question, and received clarification, on a change to the start time of two meetings (a meeting of the Cabinet and a Cabinet Pre-Agenda meeting) since the issue of the proposed timetable.

The Council agreed to approve the revised timetable set out at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to an amendment to reflect a change to the start time of the meetings referred to above.

13. Motions

- (a) a motion by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Hill in the following terms:-

"The previous SNP Administration worked with the Chief Executive to have live broadcasting facilities installed in our new Council Chamber.

As SNP Councillors we have always held a strong belief that the people who voted for us should have the ability to see what we do in carrying out our duties in representing them and in this regard members of the public can already attend Council and Cabinet Meetings.

However, given that we now have the ability to stream live internet broadcasting from this Chamber, the SNP Group can see no reason why anyone would deny members of the Public, many of whom may have difficulties in attending daytime meetings in Irvine, the opportunity to view our meetings.

We are elected to serve the public and therefore should not fear public scrutiny. We also believe that the broadcasting of meetings should be adopted as a principled approach rather than offered on a piecemeal basis as proposed at the last meeting of the Full Council.

North Ayrshire Council supports the building of open and visible democracy in Local Government and in doing so supports the expansion of public interest which in turn will serve dispel the fear of public scrutiny.

North Ayrshire Council therefore resolves to commence the live internet broadcasting of all Public Political Meetings from this Chamber and instructs Offices to deliver this as soon as possible."

As an amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as

follows:-

"North Ayrshire Council agrees that meetings of Council and its Committees should be as open and transparent as possible. It is important that our communities know about the services we deliver, and the challenges we face. This supports Communities to have a meaningful role in the setting of Council priorities and the way that services are delivered. That is why agenda item 10 introduces new proposals for community engagement on the budget, with the aim in the medium term to have full consultation with residents and partners.

Webcasting of meetings supports such open and transparent meetings and is particularly helpful for press colleagues. As the motion recognises, it is important that webcasting is done in a principled manner, not on a piecemeal approach. It is not simply a matter of turning the cameras on, leaving hours of unstructured data which cannot be searched. As Council is already aware, webcasting costs £23,500 per year.

When setting the budget on 17 February 2016, Council unanimously agreed to prioritise public toilets over webcasting. Accordingly there is no budget currently available to immediately introduce webcasting.

Webcasting of Council meetings is still important. Therefore Council agrees that a revenue growth item for webcasting costs should again be included in the 2017/18 budget papers. This will enable Members to fully consider webcasting against all the other budget pressures and options."

As a further amendment, Councillor Steel, seconded by Council Marshall, moved that the Council support live coverage of Council meetings, with the funding for webcasting considered as part of the normal budget setting process, and that, in the meantime, the press be permitted to film proceedings of the Council and its committees, should they so wish.

On a point of order, Councillor Gallagher queried the competence of the motion given that it failed to quantify the cost of webcasting or a funding source to meet that cost. The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that, subject to the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) advising on budget availability or, failing which, the mover of the motion identifying funding, the motion was competent. The Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) advised that there was no recurring course of funding, and that this would require to be identified. Councillor Gibson proposed that funding for 2016/17 be found from reserves and, thereafter, be included as a budget growth items in the 2017/18 budget.

On a further point of order, Councillor Hill requested, and received, clarification that Administration's amendment represented a commitment to webcasting.

Members then asked questions of officers and of the movers of the motion and amendments.

The Provost then agreed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 10 minutes to allow Members to consider the motion and amendments. The meeting reconvened at 3.40

p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

Councillor Steel advised that he wished to withdraw his motion.

Thereafter, the Chief Executive advised that Councillors Gibson and Cullinane had intimated withdrawal of their motion and amendment, respectively, in favour of a revised motion, proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Cullinane, that, in view of the Council's overwhelming wish to implement webcasting, it agree on a one-off basis to fund the implementation of webcasting as soon as practicable for the remainder of the current financial year from in-year underspend, with a base budget adjustment for funding future years' costs.

The Council agreed to approve the terms of the revised motion.

Councillor Highgate left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

- (b) a motion by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Hill in the following terms:-

"Hazeldene Horticulture has been an enormous success story within North Ayrshire providing training and supported employment opportunities to local people for a number of years. The previous SNP Administration saved it from closure and established a new working relationship with Cunninghame Housing Association with the creation of a new Public Social Partnership to take the business forward

Council instructs officers to bring a report to the next meeting of North Ayrshire Council confirming the arrangements that are in place with our partners to sustain this business together with confirmation that the necessary funding has been provided to Cunninghame Housing Association to enable them to continue with this successful and much needed initiative."

As an amendment, Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as follows:-

"Hazeldene Horticulture has been an enormous success story within North Ayrshire, providing training and supported employment opportunities to local people for a number of years, supported by the Kilwinning ward members and the previous Leader of the Council.

Council acknowledges that Enable Scotland withdrew the service in March 2016 and praises the work of Council officers in supporting the staff into alternative employment.

Furthermore, we note the work undertaken by officers, again supported by the ward members and the previous Leader of the Council, to establish a new Public Social Partnership model for the service in partnership with Cunninghame Housing Association.

Council instructs officers to bring a report to a future meeting of the Cabinet, confirming the arrangements that are in place with our partners to sustain this

business, together with confirmation that the necessary funding has been provided to enable the continuation of this successful and much needed initiative."

Councillor Gibson asked whether Councillor Cullinane and Bell would be prepared to remove the reference to Kilwinning Ward Members and the previous Leader of the Council in paragraphs one and three of the amendment. Councillors Cullinane and Bell so agreed and Councillor Gibson then agreed to accept the terms of the amendment, which was approved by the Council.

14. Urgent Item

The Provost agreed that the undernoted be considered as an urgent item to allow Members to receive an update on the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's fifth review of ward boundaries.

14.1 Outcome of Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements Determining Councillor Numbers

The Chief Executive advised that Scottish Ministers had approved all but five of the changes to Local Government ward boundaries recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, resulting in changes to 25 out of 32 Council areas in Scotland, including North Ayrshire. Given the existing commitment to an Islands Bill this Parliamentary year, Ministers did not accept recommendations to make changes to the three island authorities.

The changes for North Ayrshire Council will result in a total of 33 Elected Members over 10 Wards, as follows-

Ward 1 (Irvine West) - 4 Members
Ward 2 (Irvine East) - 3 Members
Ward 3 (Kilwinning) - 4 Members
Ward 4 (Stevenston) - 3 Members
Ward 5 (Ardrossan and Arran) - 3 Members
Ward 6 (Dalry and West Kilbride) - 3 Members
Ward 7 (Kilbirnie and Beith) - 3 Members
Ward 8 (North Coast and Cumbraes) - 4 Members
Ward 9 (Saltcoats) - 3 Members
Ward 10 (Irvine South) - 3 Members

The Irvine wards referred to above align closely with the Irvine Locality Partnership area, as does the Kilwinning ward with regard to its Locality Partnership. However, the remaining wards differ from their respective Locality Partnership areas.

The Chief Executive undertook to provide a more detailed briefing to Members in due course.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

