



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 19 March - 6 May 2019

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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MODERN APPRENTICE RECRUITMENT SUPPORT DAY – 27 March

On 27 March, I was invited along to the Modern Apprentice Recruitment Support Day over at Saltcoats Town Hall. This event encourages young people to look at some of the job opportunities available to them over a range of services within the Council and gives our young people the opportunity to learn new skills by gaining a qualification and on the job experience. This is invaluable life experience which stands them in good stead for their future working careers.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING, 28 March

Community Planning Partners met on 28 March at the Fullarton Community Hub and heard interesting presentations from Developing the Young Workforce Ayrshire and the Public Health Reform. The Board also heard more about the work undertaken by the “Positive Steps” partnership which is an organisation employed by The Ayrshire Charity Trust and funded by North Ayrshire Council and European Social Funding which looks at ways of helping those that are currently unemployed get back into employment.

Positive Steps begins with a six-week training course involving life coaching, mindfulness and an introduction to volunteering (amongst other things) and then looks at helping individuals get on a three to six-month work placement in an area that suits them best; this could be in retail, community, gardening, care, working with animals or hospitality. The idea behind this is to use a person-centered approach while at the same time encouraging participants to make positive lifestyle changes and help them make new links within the community. This is another fine example of partnership working at its best to deliver results.

COSLA CONVENTION AND SPECIAL LEADERS' MEETING, 29 March

I attended the COSLA Convention and Special Leaders meeting held in Brunton Hall, Musselburgh on Friday 29 March. A packed agenda included discussion on the National Performance Framework (NPF) which was co-signed and jointly launched by the Scottish Government and COSLA in June 2018 and which details the indicators that are used to measure progress. Leaders also heard an update on the progress of the 28 recommendations following the Strategic Review between 2015 and 2017 and noted that many of these have already been

incorporated into the COSLA Plan 2017-2022 although some changes may be required in due course to COSLA's Constitution.

Leaders also received an update on COSLA's work and meetings about Brexit, as well as requests for funding. The main additional point of interest is that the Committee of the Regions has agreed to launch a joint committee with the UK, to continue sub-national dialogue and cooperation. This will involve COSLA.

FOOD WORKSHOP, 9 April

On the 9 April, I was invited along to the Food Workshop held in Cunninghame House. This was an interesting event that encapsulated the work currently being done in North Ayrshire around dignified work provision. The event also provided the opportunity to look at what else could be implemented, looking at potential models for new free/low cost community food provision.

Attendees heard presentations on some existing models such as "The Pantry", "Real Junk Food" and the "Social Supermarket" and then undertook discussion about these and other possible options. I look forward to future workshops and to expanding this area of work as part of our greater community wealth building plan.

ARDROSSAN TASK FORCE MEETING, 23 April

I attended a meeting of the Ardrossan Task Force in the Scottish Parliament on 23 April chaired by the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Paul Wheelhouse. The preferred option was approved which would ensure:

- the berth at Arran is retained and reconfigured accordingly
- secure best operational capacity, flexibility and resilience
- provides a future proofed port, ferry and terminal operations at Ardrossan to support the continuation of life line services
- best meets the requirements set out in the Sponsors Requirements Statement (SRS)

The next stage is to undertake more detailed design work, finalise funding arrangements and carry out further consultation.

PAN AYRSHIRE REGIONAL ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 24 April

On 24 April, there was a pan-Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee held in Dumfries House, East Ayrshire. Attended by Council Leaders, Chief Executives, other Elected Members and senior officers this was the first meeting held following the signing of the Heads of Terms of our Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) earlier this year.

The meeting enabled us to look at what successful partnership working should be able to achieve, how it was important to have a coherent 'one Ayrshire voice' to ensure Ayrshire's interests and opportunities are heard at a national and international level. A successful partnership will work together on issues beyond the AGD including a new Regional Economic Strategy, skills, transport and digital. To achieve this, it is important to widen the partnership working to include national agencies and regional partners as well as from the private sector.

For Ayrshire to transform, we will all need to learn to work at becoming more adaptable, innovative with our ideas and resilient in times of change to become a leading authority in the future economy in areas such as digital and low carbon.

CHARLIE PROGRAMME SHOW, 25 April

I was delighted to pop in to see the latest Charlie Programme Exhibition on its opening night held on 25 April at Bridgegate and hosted by our wonderful Young Persons Support Team. This year, young people shared their feelings through the arts and pieces of creative writing. I am always inspired by how these pieces of work can interpret feelings and say so much.

Well done to all those young people who contributed to such a great exhibition and to Claire McGill and the rest of the support team for their great work and continued support to so many others.

KYLESHILL COURT OPENING, 29 April

On 29 April, I attended the official opening of the Kyleshill Court housing development in Saltcoats. North Ayrshire Council's £7.1million investment into redeveloping Kyleshill Court provides our residents with sustainable, fully accessible, level access homes which have also been designed with future adaptation in mind - where it's needed.



The 36, one and two bedroom, sheltered housing units are specifically designed to allow any residents with limited mobility to live as independently as possible. All homes at Kyleshill Court meet the Scottish Government's 'Greener Standard', meaning they have a low carbon footprint – helping the Council continue to be as environmentally friendly as possible. The development includes sustainable features such as:

- solar panels,
- energy efficient boilers,
- low energy lighting,
- internal recycling bins, and
- high levels of insulation.

Our aim is to keep our tenants' energy bills as low as possible, at the same time as being protective of our environment. The development includes a community hub, which will be operated by the Health and Social Care Partnership. The hub will promote social inclusion for the residents and the surrounding community through a range of activities e.g. Zumba and lunch clubs. In addition, a visiting services room allows services such as hairdressing, optometry and podiatry to operate from the complex. The building design has a pivotal role in ensuring the hub is used as a vibrant social space by the community.

I have said many times before how proud I am of our ambitious and innovative housing programme and Kyleshill Court is a fine example of why we are leading the way and providing for the needs of our local residents.

Congratulations to all those involved in this excellent work, in particular our Housing Development and Strategy teams and of course all those involved in the construction and building works: Ashleigh Construction and Hub South West.



Provost Clarkson with some of the residents at Kyleshill Court, Saltcoats.



**Councillor Joe Cullinane
Leader North Ayrshire Council**

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