

Cabinet (Education)

23 March 2021

At a Meeting of the Cabinet (Education) of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m. involving participation by remote electronic means.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative), Andrew Bruce, and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-6).

In Attendance

C. Hatton, Chief Executive, M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance), A. Fraser, Head of Service (Democratic Services) and D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Strategic Business Partner) (Finance) (Chief Executive's Service); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), C. Dempster, Senior Manager (Network), and L. Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration Services) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director, C. Amos, Head of Service (Education), R. Arthur, (Interim) Head of Service (Connected Communities), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education), A. Morrell, Senior Manager (Community Learning and Development), and D. Anderson, Youth Participation and Democracy Officer (Communities and Education); E. Currie, Senior Manager (Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, and E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Also In Attendance

A. McDonald and E. Nix, MSYPs.

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

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 of the Cabinet held on 23 February 2021 was confirmed and the Minutes authorised to be signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

A presentation was given by local MSYPs on the strategy which set out a number of points, including:

- highlights from the 2015-19 strategy, the outcomes which had been achieved through its implementation and a number of priority areas which would continue to feature in the renewed strategy;
- how the strategy would impact the lives of young people living in North Ayrshire;
- a focus on youth inclusion and engagement and climate change; and
- the next steps, including a call for decision makers to pledge to engage with young people and take their views into account when setting policy.

Members discussed the actions that they would pledge and asked the young people in attendance for their views on how the Cabinet could best support the strategy.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the progress made through the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2015-2019; (b) approve the North Ayrshire Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy 2021-2025; and (c) sign a pledge to (i) participate in Joint Cabinet meetings, including the use of virtual meetings to engage with more schools, (ii) hold regular meetings with MSYPs, and (iii) organise question time sessions for young people.

4. Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on developments in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the registration processes for 2021/22 and the proportion of children being placed in their first choice ELC establishment.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note the plan for full delivery of 1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare in North Ayrshire Council and funded provider establishments in North Ayrshire.

5. Pupil Equity Funding in North Ayrshire – Progress Report

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) on the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) in North Ayrshire. A summary of the level PEF each school would receive was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, data on key measures in reducing attainment gap at Appendix 2 and a number of case studies on how the funding had been used at Appendix 3.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the data used to measure the progress in reducing the attainment gap in literacy, how this compared to the trend of overall attainment levels and whether comparisons with other authorities were available.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note (i) the use of Pupil Equity Funding investment during session 2019-20 (ii) the year to date spend for 2020-21 and (iii) the initial indications of the impact of Covid-19 on PEF use for session 2020-21.

6. Cost of the School Day

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities and Education) which set out the findings and recommendations of the Short-Life Working Group on Reducing the Cost of the School Day. The proposed policy and action plan were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the North Ayrshire Council Cost of the School Day policy and draft action plan; and (b) receive annual updates on the progress of the action plan.

7. Revenue Budget 2020/21: Financial Performance to 31 January 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the financial performance for the Council at 31 January 2021. Budget reports for each service and the Housing Revenue Account were set out at Appendices 1-6 to the report and an overview of the IJB's financial performance as at Period 10 at Appendix 7.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the earmarking of £0.598m identified at Section 2.6 of the report to meet future year commitments; and (b) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership at Section 2.7 of the report.

8. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of Service (Finance) on the progress in delivering the Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report. The HRA Capital Statement was set out at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the revisions to budgets outlined in the report; and (b) note (i) the General Services and HRA revised budgets at 31 January 2021 and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.

9. Regeneration Delivery Plan

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Regeneration Delivery Plan. The draft plan was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to derelict properties in Gallowgate Square, Largs, whether the proposed plan would have any impact on these properties and the process for proposing new sites to be included in the plan.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to approve the proposed Regeneration Delivery Plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

10. Strategic Transport Update

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on strategic transport in North Ayrshire and a consultation response on the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2). The proposed consultation response was set out at Appendix 1 to the report and a STPR2 option sifting briefing note at Appendix 2.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the proposed consultation response to the STPR2 consultation; and (b) note (i) the update on the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2, (ii) the current position on the Ayrshire Regional Transport Appraisal; and (iii) the progress of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Regional Transport Strategy.

11. Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme 2021/22

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report. The Condition Assessment and Prioritisation Process was set out at Appendix 2 to the report, the assessment matrix used for scoring and ranking footways for inclusion in the footway resurfacing programme at Appendix 3 and the assessment matrix used for scoring and ranking structures for inclusion in the Structures Maintenance Programme is attached in Appendix 4.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the possibility of accelerating core infrastructure funding to facilitate additional maintenance works in 2021/22.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the maintenance programme for 2021/22 as set out at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report; (b) request that a report be submitted to the next meeting on options for the acceleration of core infrastructure funding and potential works which this could be used to fund; and (c) note (i) the approach taken to determine the asset maintenance programme for roads, structures and street lighting and (ii) that the programme would be issued to the Locality Planning Partnerships for information.

12. i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project, Irvine

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space Project, Irvine. Images of the proposed design of the Digital Processing Manufacturing Centre and the proposed Phase 1 of Advanced Manufacturing Space were set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) support the delivery of the first phase of the programme; (b) approve an allocation of £200,000 towards the development of the first phase in advance of approval of the Outline Business Case; and (c) note progress with the i3 Advanced Manufacturing Space programme at i3, Irvine Enterprise Area.

The Meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.