

Cabinet (Education)
10 November 2020

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

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; and Jacqui MacKenzie (Teaching Representative), Andrew Bruce, and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-5).

In Attendance

C. Hatton (Chief Executive), M. Boyd, Head of Service (Finance), D. Forbes, Senior Manager (Financial Management); F. Walker, Head of Service (People and ICT), E. Nixon, Senior Manager (Customer Services) and (Chief Executive's); R. McCutcheon, Executive Director, D. Hammond, Head of Service (Commercial); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration); J. Cameron, Senior Manager (Housing Strategy and Development); A. Laurenson (Senior Manager (Regeneration), and M. Lavery, Team Manager (Housing Strategy) (Place); A. Sutton, Executive Director (Interim), A. McClelland, Head of Service (Education) and R. Arthur, Head of Service (Interim) (Connected Communities) (Communities); K. Yeomans, Director (Growth and Investment); C. Cameron, Head of Service (HSCP Finance and Transformation) and D. MacRitchie, Senior Manager (Children, Families and Justice (HSCP); and M. McColm, Senior Manager (Communications), J. Hutcheson, Senior Communications Officer, E. Gray and A. Little, Committee Services Officers (Democratic Services).

Apologies for Absence

Iain Haining

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 6 October 2020 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. Scottish Attainment Challenge in North Ayrshire – Progress Report

Submitted a report and received a presentation by the Executive Director (Communities) on the impact of the Scottish Attainment Challenge on improved outcomes for learners in North Ayrshire. A Data & Impact Overview for 2019-2020 was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The presentation provided details on primary attainment levels in literacy and numeracy as well as a focus on the attainment levels of those pupils living in the areas of highest deprivation within North Ayrshire. Comparisons were also shown between the attainment level locally and nationally.

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

- whether it would be possible to include the 2019/20 academic year in future data trends given the interruption to classroom learning amid the Covid-19 pandemic;
- what plans are in place to provide assistance to those pupils who struggled to learn at home and may have fallen behind as a result;
- the process for setting up a remote learning model should a school be forced to shut and the lessons learned from the first lockdown; and
- whether there had been any reports of reduced socialization among pupils following the period of remote learning.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the progress made to date; and (b) receive a further progress report in one year.

4. South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) Annual Plan 2020

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) on the priorities and content of the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) Annual Plan 2020 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the future of the collaboration and whether funding will be available beyond the current academic year.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the SWEIC Annual Plan 2020; and (b) note the progress to date.

5. Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan (Revised)

The Cabinet was advised that, following a recent Scottish Government update, the report on the Local Education Phasing Delivery Plan would need to be amended to reflect the latest guidance. Assurance was provided that the latest requirements and advice within the updates had been implemented locally.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to continue consideration the item to the next meeting to allow the updates to be incorporated into the report.

6. Revenue Budget 2020/21: Financial Performance to 31 August 2020

Submitted a report by the Head of Finance on the financial performance for the Council at 31 August 2020. Budget reports for each service and the Housing Revenue Account were set out at Appendices 1-7 of the report, a summary of virement/budget adjustment requests at Appendix 8 and an overview of the IJB's financial performance as at Period 3 at Appendix 9.

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

- the timeline for the 2020/21 budget setting process; and
- the continued impact of the pandemic upon financial projections

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note (i) the information and financial projections outlined in the report and (ii) the current financial projection for the Health and Social Care Partnership; and (b) approve (i) the earmarking of £1.720m to meet future year commitments and (ii) the virements detailed in Appendix 8 of the report.

7. Capital Programme Performance to 31 March 2021

Submitted a report by the Head of 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.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to the anticipated impact of construction inflation attributable to the pandemic on the cost of projects detailed in the Capital Investment Programme.

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 August 2020 and (ii) the forecast expenditure to 31 March 2021.

8. Treasury Management & Investment Mid-Year Report

Submitted a report by the Head of Finance on Treasury Management update for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020. The Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) endorse the contents of the Treasury Management and Investment Mid-Year Report for 2020/21; and (b) note the Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

9. myaccount – Customer Authentication for Online Services

Submitted a report by the Head of People and ICT on myaccount and the benefits of using this as the authentication method for North Ayrshire Council online services.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed that (a) the Council use myaccount for authentication for online services on the new Customer Relationship Management system; (b) the Yoti app be used for level 3 verification, linked with myaccount; and (c) no existing online customer data or case data be migrated to the new Customer Relationship Management System.

10. Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021 - 2026

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021 - 2026 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2021-2026 for submission to Scottish Government; and (b) give delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) and the Cabinet Member for the Green New Deal and Sustainability to liaise directly with the Scottish Government in agreeing the North Ayrshire development programme and the rescheduling of projects as required.

11. Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2020-21

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2020/21 as set out at Appendix 2 to the report. The Winter Preparation Action Plan 2020/21 was set out at Appendix 1.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the Roads Winter Service and Weather Emergencies Plan 2020/21; and (b) note the preparations and developments contained in the Winter Preparation Action Plan.

12. Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme - Final Scheme

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on final confirmation of the scheme and the proposed next steps. The objections received to the project were collated and set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Having considered the contents of the objections to the project, the Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve (i) the scheme without modification; and (ii) the commencement of the final design of the scheme; and (b) note the indicative project timescale as detailed in Section 2.14 of the report.

13. Millburn Flood Protection Scheme - Isle of Cumbrae

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the development of the Millburn Flood Protection Scheme. A summary of the community consultation process was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the feedback from the recent community consultations on the scheme options; and (b) approve the preferred scheme option and submission.

Councillor McPhater left the meeting at this point.

14. Lochshore Regeneration Project

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the delivery of the strategic regeneration of Lochshore.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) approve the transfer of land owned by Scottish Enterprise to the Council at nil value to facilitate the wider regeneration proposals; and (b) note (i) the significant progress made in securing £3.45m of the required £3.6m funding required to deliver the proposed Garnock Visitor & Community Hub, (ii) the proposed implementation of early phase projects including the Garnock Visitor and Community Hub and proposed access improvements, play facilities and planting which will contribute to the regeneration of the area and (iii) the intention to utilise the Lochshore site as a key location for tree planting as part of the Council's net-zero aspirations.

15. Proposals for Street Naming

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Communities) seeking approval for a street name within the residential development on land which was formerly St Brendan's RC Church in Corrie Crescent, Saltcoats. The Council's street naming and numbering guidance was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, location plans at Appendix 2 and Cunninghame Housing Association's supporting statement at Appendix 3.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to (a) note the exceptional circumstances; and (b) approve the street name recommended by the Three Towns Locality Partnership, namely 'Janet Strang Court'.

16. Ayrshire Growth Deal Update

Submitted a report by the Director (Growth and Investment) on the progress of North Ayrshire Council's Ayrshire Growth Deal Projects.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note the progress made in developing the suite of projects forming part of North Ayrshire Council's Ayrshire Growth Deal portfolio.

17. Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report

Submitted a report by the Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the Chief Social Worker's annual report as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to note and endorse the Chief Social Worker's annual report.

18. Exclusion of the Public

The Cabinet resolved in terms of Section 50(A)4 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for the following item of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Chair noted that confirmation had been received that the webcast of the meeting had been terminated at this point.

18.1 Lease of Gateway Building 13 Irvine Enterprise Area

Submitted a report by the Executive Director (Place) on letting of the Gateway Building in i3, Irvine Enterprise Area.

The Cabinet unanimously agreed to the recommendations as set out in the report.