



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 7 May – 16 June 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.

# LEADER'S REPORT

For the period covering: 7 May – 16 June 2019

## ***ISLANDS TRANSPORT FORUM – 9 May***

On 9 May, I took part in the Islands Transport Forum, chaired by the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Paul Wheelhouse. Attendees heard updates on progress of the National Transport Strategy and Strategic Projects Review and where the Forum are on the establishment of regional working groups. There was also an update on the consultation exercise for the Islands Plan and an update on the islands impact assessments.

## ***BREAKFAST MEETING WITH MINISTER PAUL WHEELHOUSE, 16 May***

Prior to the All Energy Conference held on 16 May at the Scottish Exhibition Centre (SEC) in Glasgow, I attended a breakfast meeting with the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands, Mr Paul Wheelhouse, our Executive Director for Growth and Investment, Karen Yeomans and Hamish Scott from Peelports. Representatives from Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult and Strathclyde University were also in attendance.

The meeting provided the platform to brief the Minister on the “£50 from floating” innovation programme for Hunterston Port and Resource Centre, in advance of it being announced later that day at the Conference. This programme will use funding from the Ayrshire Growth Deal (AGD) to research and design a commercial scale solution that will look to achieve a Levelised Cost of Energy from floating offshore wind of £50/MW hr.

## ***COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD, 16 May***

Community Planning Partners (CPP) met on 16 May at Fullarton Connexions and heard interesting presentations on the Child Poverty Action Plan and an update on some of the work from the Ayrshire Growth Deal. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 has introduced a new requirement for local authorities and its relevant Health Board to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Report. North Ayrshire's report is being developed in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Community Planning Partners. This is following engagement sessions and workshops with CPP Partners and engagement with the Fair For All Steering Group and CPP Senior Officers Group.

The report recognises the significant level of work currently being carried out in North Ayrshire to combat the effects of child poverty and reduce levels of poverty in the future. This is in line with our Fair For All Strategy and our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

CPP Partners will meet again on 19 September.

### ***NORTH AYRSHIRE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 23 May***

On 23 May I was delighted to be asked along to the North Ayrshire Primary school sport championships held at St Matthews's Academy in Saltcoats. Taking part in track and field events were pupils from 24 primary schools from across North Ayrshire. It was great to see the young people enjoying themselves through the medium of sport. Of course, none of this would be possible without those who were involved in organising the event. A huge congratulations to the North Ayrshire Active Schools team, North Ayrshire Athletics Club, KA Leisure and to the volunteers on making it such a great day. And a massive well done to all the schools that took part.

### ***COSLA LEADERS, 31 May***

I attended COSLA Leaders in Edinburgh on 31 May for a meeting to discuss a range of subjects including Devolved School Management Guidelines, Fiscal Empowerment, Digital Transformation, Mental Health and the Government's Commitment to Counselling in Schools.

I am proud to lead a Council that was the first in Scotland to introduce Counsellors in our secondary schools almost two years ago. Since their introduction, our pupils and teaching staff have benefitted enormously from having access to this much needed support. Their impact has helped pupils who have experienced a range of issues such as anxiety and low mood. I look forward to the Scottish Government working with COSLA to rolling out more Counselling in our schools throughout Scotland.

### ***JOINT YOUTH CABINET MEETING, 4 June***

On 4 June, together with my colleagues in Cabinet, we held another successful Joint Youth Cabinet meeting at Largs Academy. Informative and useful discussions were held with pupils on a range of subjects including, youth participation, mental health, community activities, local transport and their school experience.

This was another successful engagement with our young people and I am always interested in hearing their views about the issues that really matter to them. We are a child-centred Council therefore it is important to listen to our young people and take on board their opinions as we plan



and shape our Council for the future. Thanks again to our Youth Services team for organising these events and to our pupils and young people who took part.

### ***LAUNCH OF KILWINNING ACADEMY WELLBEING HUB, 5 June***

I was delighted to attend the launch of the Wellbeing Hub at Kilwinning Academy on 5 June. The hub, which was formally launched by former pupil Courtney Gemmell, will provide pupils with self-care and self-help strategies. There will also be guidance and support provided by staff from local charity Beautiful Inside and Out, Barnardo's, school chaplains and peer mentors trained in Scottish Mental Health First Aid.

The room itself was furnished through an £800 grant from North Ayrshire Council's Youth Participatory Budget scheme following an application by the school's Parent Council, with the Parent Council also providing funding to set up a wellbeing library.

Thanks to all those involved in bringing this innovative project to fruition. It will prove invaluable in providing support to the pupils at Kilwinning Academy.



Council Leader Joe Cullinane, Courtney Gemmell, Head Teacher Tim Swan

### ***“ROCK OF AGES” KILWINNING ACADEMY, 5 June***

Later on 5 June, I was back at Kilwinning Academy to see pupils perform in the “Rock of Ages” school show. It was an outstanding performance and once again, I am proud to see our young people working together with enthusiasm and passion to deliver some first-class entertainment.

### ***PAN AYRSHIRE REGIONAL ECONOMIC JOINT COMMITTEE, 6 June***

On 6 June, the second pan-Ayrshire Regional Economic Joint Committee was held at East Ayrshire Council Headquarters in Kilmarnock. The meeting was attended by Council Leaders, Chief Executives, other Elected Members and senior officers and enabled stakeholders to build on the previous meeting and discussion of how we will work together on building a successful Regional Economic Strategy, incorporating work from partners, the private sector and national agencies.

## ***NORTH AYRSHIRE SPORTS ACADEMY GRADUATION, 6 June***

I was delighted to attend the second North Ayrshire Sports Academy Graduation on 6 June held at Saltcoats Town Hall. I was asked to present various awards, concluding with the Special Recognition Awards. The first one was awarded to Kilwinning Academy NASA Group for their continued hard work throughout the year and for being exceptional role models to their peers. The second Special Recognition awards was to Eilidh Hamill for her outstanding work in delivering weekly sessions to primary schools over in Arran.

Our North Ayrshire Sports Academy is a Coach Education, Leadership and Personal Development Course aimed at senior pupils. All students on the course completed several workshops, NGB courses and leadership opportunities. They have also worked closely with their Active Schools Co-ordinator and school staff to promote, deliver and provide opportunities for younger pupils to participate in sport and physical activity in their school and local community.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who have been involved in delivering the courses and workshops and to pass on my congratulations to all our Sports Academy graduates.

## ***COMMUNITY GROUP VISITS, 7 June***

On 7 June I visited some of our community groups who have recently benefitted from our Community Investment Fund. Together with the Provost I visited the following groups and found out more about some of the great work they are doing and their aspirations for the future.

- ***Iain Cassidy, Stevenston Beach***
- ***Three Town Growers, Ardrossan***
- ***Ardrossan Community Development Trust***





Jean Frew, Iain Cassidy, Council Leader Joe Cullinane and Provost Ian Clarkson on Stevenston beach



Council Leader Joe Cullinane with some of the Three Town Growers





Left to right: Michael, Amanda, Scott and John from the Ardrossan Community Development Trust with Provost Clarkson, Shirley Morgan (NAC) and Council Leader, Joe Cullinane

### ***KILWINNING LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 10 June***

On the evening of 10 June, I attended the meeting of the Kilwinning Locality Partnership at Kilwinning Fire Station to discuss our ambitious community-led plan for Kilwinning. Over the past few weeks there have been hundreds of ideas and comments from residents on how to shape the future of Kilwinning. These will be further discussed with a view to developing some of them at drop-in events in June (20 June at Kilwinning Academy and 21 June at Kilwinning Library).

## **JOINT PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT/KILWINNING ACADEMY WORKING SESSION, 12 June**

I went along to the first ever Physical Environment joint working session with Kilwinning Academy on 12 June. This was an excellent, informative, interactive session delivered by Yvonne Baulk (Head of Physical Environment) and some of her senior Managers. The session showcased some of the extensive areas of work the Physical Environment department are involved in and North Ayrshire Council staff explained to pupils how they began work in the Council and more about their individual roles.

This session raises the profile of the work within the Council and will hopefully make pupils think about the Council as a positive work destination in the future.



Council Leader Joe Cullinane speaking with S3 Pupils at Kilwinning Academy. Physical Environment Managers form part of the panel.

### ***KILWINNING ACADEMY CAPITAL INVESTMENT, 12 June***

Also, on 12 June, Tim Swan, Head Teacher at Kilwinning Academy, kindly showed me round the projects in the school that have benefitted from our capital investment. I am delighted to say that the money has been spent refurbishing some of the classrooms into modern, fresh, open plan learning environments which the pupils will be able to use in the coming weeks. Some of the investment has also gone into the nurture areas to improve the facilities there.

### ***FAIR FOR ALL COMMISSIONER MEETING, 13 June***

On 13 June, I attended my first Fair For All Commissioner meeting at Fullarton Connexions. Our Fair For All Commissioners heard some of the true-life stories from our Community Commissioners, providing them with an insight into the hardships they had endured and had led them into the position they found themselves in. These stories are profound but are true life for so many people. FFA Commissioners will continue to meet until May 2020 before a report will be submitted to the Scottish Government.

### ***KILWINING ACADEMY JUNIOR AWARDS, 13 June***

I was delighted to go along to Abbey Church on 13 June to see some of the junior pupils from Kilwinning Academy receive their Awards for their outstanding contributions to the school both academically and practically, including those who have excelled in their field in the wider community. Congratulations to all the pupils on their fantastic achievements.

### ***FINALLY***

Finally, may I wish you all an enjoyable and well-deserved summer break with your families and loved ones. I would like to thank all the staff here in North Ayrshire Council who go over and beyond in their day-to-day work. It does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by myself and my colleagues in Cabinet.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cullinane'. The script is fluid and cursive.

Councillor Joe Cullinane  
**Leader North Ayrshire Council**