

Cabinet
23 June 2015

Irvine, 23 June 2015 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, Marie Burns, John Bruce and Tony Gurney.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director, G. Macgregor, Head of Customer, People and Corporate Support and T. Reaney, Procurement Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities), C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and A. Hume, Senior Development Management Officer (Economy and Communities); D. Rowland, Head of Services (Health and Community Care and J. McCaig, Senior Manager (Learning Disability) (North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership); J. Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); C. Hatton, Executive Director, R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial Services), J. Smith, Senior Manager (Roads and Transportation) and C. Nelson, Divisional Manager (Place); M. Davison, Senior Manager (Democratic Services); A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, R. Moore, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Also In Attendance

H. McPhee, Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer.

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Anthea Dickson and Ruth Maguire.

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 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015 were confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Individual Electoral Registration

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on progress on Individual Electoral Registration (IER) since implementation on the 19 September 2014. A presentation was provided by the Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer and provided information on:-

- the individual electoral registration timeline;
- initial processes;
- matching processes;
- the process for unmatched electors;
- complexities of the canvass and the processes;
- postal voting;
- legislation developments; and
- additional costs for individual electoral registration.

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

- the data matching process for unmatched electors that will be undertaken if the secondary legislation in respect of the removal of all non-IER registered electors is implemented in December 2015; and
- checks that are made with other authorities when electors move between local authority areas.

Noted.

4. Council Plan and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA): 14/15 Q4 Progress Report

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on progress in terms of the two Action Plans, namely (a) the Council Plan; and (b) the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the progress made in implementing the two Action Plans for the Council Plan and SOA; and (ii) that detailed progress on the Council Plan indicators will be incorporated into the Public Performance Reporting report to Cabinet on 29 September 2015; and (b) refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

5. Service Plan 2014/15 Year - end Performance Reports

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which provided an update on the performance of all Council Services as at 31 March 2015, with Appendices 1-6 of the report setting out the six Service Plans.

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

Education and Youth Employment

- work that is being done at St. Matthew's Academy in respect of the Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work Programme.

Place

- a future report to Cabinet on the Renewable Energy Strategy.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the performance of all Services as at 31 March 2015 against the objectives, key performance indicators and actions in the 2014/15 Service Plans; and (b) refer the Service Plan 2014/15 Progress Reports to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

6. Performance Management Update

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Performance Management arrangements that included (a) detailed progress on the Performance Management Forum Workplan (Appendix 1); (b) the Workplan for 2015/16 (Appendix 2); and (c) an update on progress of the Corporate PSIF Improvement Plan (Appendix 3).

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note (i) the progress with the Performance Management Forum Work Plan; and (ii) the PMF work plan for 15/16; and (iii) the progress with the Corporate PSIF Improvement Plan and Recognised for Excellence; and (b) to refer the report to the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee for its consideration.

7. Response to the Commission on Local Tax Reform

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the call for evidence from the Commission on Local Tax Reform set up to identify and examine alternatives for a fairer system of local taxation to support the funding of services delivered by local government; and (b) the proposed North Ayrshire Council response, as outlined in the Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to submit the response to the Commission on Local Tax Reform as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

8. Approval of an application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the development of land at Quarry Road in Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the proposals for the development of land at Quarry Road in support of the Irvine Vision; (b) the outline masterplan for the development, as illustrated in Appendix 1 to the report; and (c) details of North Ayrshire applications for Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the principle of the development of land at Quarry Road, Irvine for an employment, sports and leisure development, subject to a successful funding application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

9. Participatory Budgeting in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the proposed introduction of participatory budgeting in North Ayrshire.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the recommendation to hold six participatory budgeting events in late 2015/early 2016 (one per neighbourhood); and (b) receive a further report to evaluate progress and to agree future approaches.

10. North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Plan 2015-18

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 that require the publication of a three year North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) to establish a Strategic North Ayrshire CLD Planning Group to prepare and publish a Strategic North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Plan 2015–18; (b) remit to officers to continue to work with the six Neighbourhood CLD Planning groups in the formulation and production of six operational local Community Learning and Development Plans, specific to the needs and requirements of the residents within each geographic location; and (c) remit to officers to consult with key stakeholders in the development and review of the operational CLD plan over the period 2015-18

11. Employability and Skills

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the current position with employability and skills related services; and (b) key actions to inform the future development of services within the Council and across the Community Planning Partnership.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the update provided on current Council employability and skills service provision; and (b) approve the key principles that will guide the roll out of new delivery.

12. Community Benefit from Windfarms

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the draft policy on community benefit from wind turbines, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) proposals to consult with local stakeholders and communities on the draft policy. Further information was provided in relation to the Renewables Obligation that will close for onshore wind in 2016

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the draft policy on community benefit from windfarms; (b) remit to officers to proceed to consultation on the policy; (c) receive a further report on community benefit from windfarms subsequent to the consultation; and (d) the appointment of a Windfarm Community Benefits Officer, funded by community benefits from wind turbines, when the policy is agreed and when sufficient funding is available.

13. Planning Performance Framework

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the proposed Planning Performance Framework 4 (Appendix 1) that outlines a range of achievements and identifies specific areas for improvements.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the content of the Planning Performance Framework, as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report; and (b) approve the document's publication and submission to Scottish Government.

14. 2 Wilson Street and 4/6/8 Wilson Street, Beith

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) actions to remedy a number of amenity matters relating to the properties at 2 Wilson Street and 4/6/8 Wilson Street, Beith; and (b) proposals to acquire the properties.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to negotiations with the owners of the properties at both 2 Wilson Street and 4/6/8 Wilson Street, Beith to acquire the properties by agreement; and (b) in principle, the initiation of proceedings for Compulsory Purchase Orders in the event that agreement cannot be reached and subject to future approval of a Compulsory Purchase Order resolution by Council.

15. Building Services Phase 2 Improvements

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) the progress with ongoing transformational change in Building Services; (b) the development of a phase 2 improvement programme and 5 Year Business Plan for Building Services; and (c) proposals to develop a partnership with a third party supplier for a materials supply and stores management service.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the progress being made with the ongoing transformational change programme; (b) the development of phase 2 improvements and 5 year Business Plan within Building Services as set out within the report; and (c) a procurement exercise to provide a materials supply and stores management service across the Place Directorate.

16. Lamlash Bay Coastal Erosion

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) a study to evaluate the condition of the coastal defences at Lamlash Bay; and (b) an assessment of a range of remedial options available, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the findings of the study; and (b) that Option 1 is the most appropriate intervention at this time supported by annual monitoring of the rate of erosion in this area.

17. Gypsy/Traveller - Unauthorised Encampments

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on (a) unauthorised Gypsy/Traveller encampments across North Ayrshire in 2014; (b) actions by other agencies and authorities to prevent unauthorised encampments; (c) a review that is underway by the Scottish Government Guidance in respect of gypsy travellers; and (d) the proposal to identify a location for a short stay gypsy/traveller site.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the action taken by the Council on managing unauthorised encampments; and (ii) the complexities involved in promoting a byelaw in relation to prohibiting unauthorised encampments; and (b) undertake an exercise to identify a potential transitory site.

18. Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates Write off 2014-15

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) on the write-off of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates debts during 2014-15, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, respectively.

The Cabinet agreed to homologate the write-off of Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates for 2013-14, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

19. Revision to the Domestic Abuse Policy - Support for Employees

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate) on revisions to the Council's existing Domestic Abuse Policy to incorporate recent guidance from COSLA.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the revised Domestic Abuse Policy.

20. New Learning Disability Day Centre

Submitted report by the Director (Health & Social Care Partnership) on progress in relation to the proposed new Learning Disability Day Centre in North Ayrshire, including early stakeholder engagement and site selection.

The Cabinet agreed that the preferred location for the new Learning Disability Day Centre is the site adjacent to Auchenhavrie Academy

21. Roll-out of Superfast fibre Optic Broadband in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on (a) the progress with the roll-out of the Scottish Government's Superfast Broadband Programme across North Ayrshire; and (b) planned phasing of the roll-out programme to increase broadband coverage.

Noted.

22. Procurement Overview

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which (a) provided an update on national and local procurement issues; and (b) reported on the Council's procurement performance.

The Cabinet commended the work that had been done by the Procurement Team.

Noted.

23. Maximising Attendance Performance – 2014/15 year end summary

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on (a) the year end summary of sickness absence for 2014/15; and (b) a breakdown by service of sickness absence, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Noted.

24. Tender for Business Support Services Consultancy Framework

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the proposal to tender for a framework for provision of various consultancy services to North Ayrshire Council businesses supported by Business and Business Growth Teams within the Economic Development Service.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the requirement for the tender for provision of various Council funded or part-funded consultancy services to businesses within North Ayrshire; and (ii) that the anticipated contract value is above EU Public Procurement Threshold for Services; and (b) approve North Ayrshire Corporate Procurement to tender this requirement.

25. Award of Contract - Pan-Ayrshire Contract for Provision of Staff Occupational Health and Welfare Services

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for a Pan-Ayrshire Contract for Provision of Staff Occupational Health and Welfare Services.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Optima Health at a total fixed cost of £2,047,633.

26. Award of Framework – Employability and Skills Pipeline (Multi-Lot)

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Employability and Skills Pipeline Framework.

The Cabinet agreed that the following companies be appointed to the Framework:-

- Lot 1: Engagement and barrier removal – Ceisayrshire, The Wise Group, The Lennox Partnership and The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT);
- Lot 2: Vocational Training/transitional employment opportunities – Ceisayrshire, The Wise Group, Employment Enterprise, Essentials Plus and Workers Educational Association (WEA);
- Lot 3: Employer engagement/job brokerage/ aftercare – Ceisayrshire, The Wise Group and Employment Enterprise; and
- Lot 4: Modern apprenticeship programme – West College Scotland.

27. Award of Contract - Pan-Ayrshire Contract for Provision of Self Directed Support, Information and Advice

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for a Pan-Ayrshire Contract for Provision of Self Directed Support, Information and Advice.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Ayrshire Independent Living Network at a cost of £488,670.

28. Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 21 April 2015

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the minutes of the Physical Environment Advisory Panel held on 21 April 2015.

Noted.

29. 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 items of business on the grounds indicated in terms of Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

29.1 Social Work Complaints Review Committee: Complaint by Mr and Mrs G

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the findings and recommendations arising from the Social Work Complaints Review Committee meeting held on 22 May 2015.

The Cabinet agreed to accept the Committee's recommendation not to uphold any part of the complaint.

The meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.