

Cabinet
8 December 2015

IRVINE, 8 December 2015 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson, Tony Gurney, Very Reverend Matthew Canon McManus, E. Highton, M. Fraser (Church Representatives) (Agenda Item 3); and G. Smith (Teaching Representative) (Agenda Item 3).

Also Present

Donald Reid (Agenda Items 7, 8 and 9).

In Attendance

Elma Murray, Chief Executive; J. Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); L. Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support); C. Hatton, Executive Director and P. Rowley, Structural Engineer (Place); C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth), G. Hunter, Town Centre Manager and R. Campbell, Business Manager (Economy and Communities); A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, D. Walkinshaw and M. Lacy, Project Managers, A. Todd, Senior Policy and Performance Officer, J. Hutchison, Communications Officer and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

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 accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Strategic Review of Educational Services - Final Report

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) on the final report of the Strategic Review of Educational Services and detailing the Directorate Strategy on the four key areas of the research by the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- how the review links with the attainment challenge;
- the continued focus in relation to the small outstanding level of absenteeism in our schools;
- the need to improve facilities and raise the profile of special needs education facilities;
- making the curriculum more attractive to young people to ensure engagement from Primary through to Secondary education.

Members further commended the work on the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence, work with external partners to develop opportunities within schools and the care and nurturing provided to support the health and well-being of pupils.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve (i) the content of the Final Report; and (ii) the proposals contained within Section 3 of the report; and (b) receive updates on the activities and actions contained within the report.

4. Consultation on Provisions for Future Islands Bill

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the response to the Scottish Government Consultation on Provisions for a Future Islands Bill, detailed at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed the consultation response on Provisions for a Future Islands Bill as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

5. Corporate Awards and our 'Good to Great' Journey

This item was subject to the call-in procedure per the Council's Scheme of Administration and will be considered at a meeting of the Scrutiny and Petitions Committee on 22 december 2015.

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the developing approach to award nominations, the importance in relation to continuous improvement and outlining the contribution to the Council's aim of being recognised as a 'Great' Council. The Council's Corporate Awards Framework, outlining the operational approach, was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members commented on the positive impact of the awards excellence recognition work in relation to (i) staff attitudes and performance; and (ii) raising the profile of North Ayrshire as a place to invest and do business.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the submission of awards as part of the Council's Good to Great journey; and (b) note the Corporate Awards Framework, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

6. Irvine High Street Public Realm

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on progress with proposals for improvements to the public realm at Irvine High Street and seeking approval of the preferred design solution as detailed in the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information on the design solution finance costs in relation to the fabric of the road and the materials required.

The Cabinet agreed to approve (a) the principle of maintaining the status quo in terms of traffic movement; (b) the principles of the proposed design solution to allow a detailed design to be developed; and (c) a programme of engagement with the community and businesses.

7. West of Scotland Loan Fund

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the proposed replacement of the West of Scotland Loan Fund (WSLF) with Business Loans Scotland (BLS).

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- there being no negative impact on the market from the transfer of existing North Ayrshire Council funds to BLS;
- the 5 Scottish Local Authorities who are currently discussing non-participatory membership of the BLS which will enable them to sign up but not commence lending straight away; and
- any potential to transfer unused funds back to North Ayrshire Council for business support activity.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the transfer to BLS of the existing North Ayrshire Council funds held within WSLF; (b) approve the participation of North Ayrshire Council in BLS; and (c) note the rationale for WSLF exiting regulated Consumer Credit Lending.

8. All Ayrshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – List of Prioritised Measures

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the development and completion of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy and detailing a list of prioritised measures, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information on:-

- the Brodick Lamlash Flood Protection Study within the List of Prioritised Measures; and
- the areas of North Ayrshire identified by SEPA as requiring more detailed study in relation to surface water management planning.

The Executive Director (Place) undertook to provide information to Members in relation to the works undertaken over the weekend to address flooded areas, including at Towerlands Road, Bourtreehill.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) approve the Ayrshire Local Plan District Flood Risk Management Strategy and the List of Prioritised Measures for North Ayrshire, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) note the progress to date in developing flood risk management plans for key areas within North Ayrshire to enable the submission of a Local Flood Risk Management Plan to the Scottish Government by 22 June 2016; and (c) note that progression of the list of prioritised measures will require the identification and securing of appropriate funding.

9. Award of Contract - Construction of Roundabout, Access Road, Gated Entrance and associated SUDS Pond at Long Drive, Irvine

Submitted report by Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the construction of roundabout, access road, gated entrance and associated SUDS pond at Long Drive, Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to award the contract to Robertson Construction Group Ltd.

The meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.