

Cunninghame House,
Irvine.

28 September 2017

North Ayrshire Council

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the above mentioned Committee of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2017** at **2.00 P.M.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

3. Previous Minutes (Page 9)

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2017 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copies enclosed).

4. Provost's Report

The Provost will report.

5. Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council will report.

6. **North Ayrshire Council Minute Volume (issued under separate cover)**
Submit for noting, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 22 June to 26 September 2017.
7. **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 1 June 2017 (Page 32)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board held on 1 June 2017 (copy enclosed).
8. **Appointments to Committees**
In terms of Standing Order 7.2, note the undernoted appointments by political groups:-

Committee	Resignation/Vacancy	Appointment
Appeals Committee	Todd Ferguson	John Glover

9. **Appointments to Outside Bodies**
Consider the undernoted nominations:-

Outside Body	Position	Nominations
Landfill Advisory Fund Panel	Conservative & Unionist/ Independent Member vacancy	Cllr Ronnie McNicol
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee	Substitute representative	Cllr Donald L. Reid

10. **Appointment of Proper Officer (Page 40)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of the Senior Manager, Legal Services as Clerk of North Ayrshire Licensing Board in terms of schedule 1 paragraph 8 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and as Proper Officer in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).
11. **North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (Page 42)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the appointment of a new Director on the Board of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (copy enclosed).
12. **Committee Timetable 2018 (Page 44)**
Submit report by the Chief Executive on the draft committee timetable for 2018 (copy enclosed).
13. **Long Term Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2027/28 (Page 50)**
Submit report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the significant financial challenge that the Council faces over the next 10 years and the approach to respond to this (copy enclosed).

14. Review of Health and Social Care Integration Scheme in North Ayrshire

Submit report by the Interim Director (Health and Social Care Partnership) on the finding of Stage 1 of the Review of the Integration Scheme for North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and on the proposed next steps (copy to follow).

15. Questions

In terms of Standing Order No. 12 submit:-

- (a) A question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

"A recent study by Bath University into the working conditions of Scottish Teachers reported that Teachers working conditions are poor in that they suffer from high levels of demand, poor support from management, at times strained relationships at work, a poor understanding of their role in an organisation and have to deal with constant change to the curriculum.

Furthermore they are exposed to high levels of poor student behaviour with approximately 40% of Primary Staff exposed to negative parental behaviour. The upshot of all of this is that majority of Staff are dissatisfied with the job and over 40% are planning on leaving the job in the next 18 months.

What measures will the Portfolio Holder now implement to improve the working conditions of Teaching Staff to ensure that in 18 months time we do not have a staffing crisis in North Ayrshire?"

- (b) A question by Councillor Davidson to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"I ask the Portfolio Holder for Place what action he has taken regarding public safety at the railway pedestrian tunnel between Pennyburn and Blacklands, and if he will commit to working with me in driving forward improvements to the area including the fitting of CCTV and appropriate lighting, working with network rail on suggestions from the Kilwinning community, and looking at the possibility of re-routing the footpath around the front of the trees as an alternative to the existing path which runs railside behind trees?"

- (c) A question by Councillor Davidson to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Following constituent queries from numerous classroom assistants and teaching staff from across Kilwinning, on behalf of my constituents, I ask the Council leader - do North Ayrshire Labour regard Classroom Assistants in Kilwinning Schools as Quality Support Staff?"

- (d) A question by Councillor Davidson to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"In North Ayrshire Labours manifesto for the council election, they commit to ensuring all our beaches are fully accessible for people with disabilities, something I absolutely welcome. Following a constituent query from a couple in Whitehirst Park who both have physical limitations, I ask the Portfolio Holder for Place if he could provide me with an insight into the plans and timescales for providing disabled access to Irvine, Ardeer and Stevenston beaches and also a description of what the disabled access will consist of?"

(e) A question by Councillor Donald L. Reid to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in the following terms:-

"On Wednesday 30 August Keith Robson, Chief Executive of Age Scotland gave an interview to the press explaining how well Free Personal Care for the Elderly was working in Scotland. This policy is indeed working well throughout Scotland, but North Ayrshire Council Health and Social Care Partnership appears to have implemented a policy to ration Free Personal Care on 15 June 2017, contrary to Scottish Government policy and without consulting the North Ayrshire's Integration Joint Board.

During those 10 weeks of rationing, the waiting list for Free Personal Care, either the non-means tested element of £171 per week or the means tested assisted care, grew to over 100, meaning that the most vulnerable in our community effectively subsidised council by a minimum of £171,000 (£171 x 100 X 10). And as of 13 September 2017, there were still 100 people in North Ayrshire being denied Free Personal Care.

Would the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care explain why such a major policy change, affecting the lives of many families, was not ratified by the Integration Joint Board before it was implemented?"

(f) A question by Councillor Larsen to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"The Labour Party has recently announced that they will no longer use PFI contracts and that they will bring existing contracts back in to the public sector.

It goes without saying that the SNP welcome this and the fact that, as with so many other elements of public policy, Labour have now adopted long standing SNP policy.

Would the Leader of the Council now accept that the North Ayrshire PFI contracts, entered into by previous Labour administrations, have been an extravagant waste of public money?"

(g) A question by Councillor Billings to the Cabinet Member for the Economy in the following terms:-

"The new Arran ferry, Glen Sannox, is scheduled to come in to service in autumn of 2018. There is a commitment for Arran to have a 2-boat service all year, which will not be possible until the new ferry comes in to service. A more comprehensive ferry service has the potential to have a significant positive impact on the lives of the residents of Arran. Could the Council receive an update on the promised redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour and an assurance that the harbour will be ready for the new ferry in Autumn 2018?"

(h) A question by Councillor Reid to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Can the Leader of the Council advise if he has had or plans to have any meetings / discussions with Scottish Government Ministers /officials of which would be of importance to the Council?"

(i) A question by Councillor McNicol to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"Now that the work at Countess Street, Saltcoats is near completion, will the Policyholder for Place inform the Elected Members of the value of the initial contract to refurbish the Street, how much was paid by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company to Land Engineering (up to the point of Land Engineering going into Administration) and what was the value of the work completed at the point of Administration? Will he also provide the final cost payable by North Ayrshire Council to complete the works?"

(j) A question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Due to the change in the Political Party structure of Elected Members after the Local Elections in May, 2017, will the Leader of the Council provide details of the costs for the creation of an additional Members room in the First Floor East within Cunninghame House?"

(k) A question by Councillor McNicol to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"Will the Leader of the Council provide details of all PPP/PFI Contracts entered into by North Ayrshire Council?"

16. Motions

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

(a) a Motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:-

"One of the most important roles that the Council, and indeed Councillors, have is as corporate parents to our young people in care. This Council treats this responsibility with the upmost regard and has taken numerous steps to support our care experienced young people through initiatives such as guaranteed modern apprenticeship places. We acknowledge the financial challenges for young people leaving care including Council Tax. Whilst a number of local authorities in England have exempted care leavers from Council Tax, local authorities in Scotland do not have the delegated powers to do so. This council therefore resolves to lobby the Scottish Government for these powers, either through a change to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 or new council tax exemption regulations. The Council agrees that the Chief Executive shall write to the Scottish Government to seek such powers and thereafter asks officers to bring a report to the Cabinet outlining options for an exemption."

- (b) a Motion by Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:-

"With Universal Credit full service due to be rolled out in North Ayrshire on 27th November 2017 this Council wishes to join third sector organisations and a number of cross party Parliamentarians in calling for the UK Government to halt the roll-out process.

Universal Credit was meant to simplify the UK's social security system but there is growing evidence from bodies such as Citizens Advice that its implementation has pushed many people and families into debt and poverty as they struggle to make ends meet. Evidence from across the initial roll-out areas highlight an increase in rent arrears, a near 87% increase in Crisis Grant applications and a 40-70% increase in families going to food banks for support.

This Council is particularly concerned about the impact of the six week waiting time for new claimants to receive payments with roll-out in North Ayrshire planned in the run up to Christmas. This Council therefore resolves that the Leader writes to the UK Government adding our voice to the calls for the roll-out of Universal Credit to be stopped.

In the interim, Council notes that officers will continue to raise awareness of the scheduled roll-out on the 27th November so that local people are prepared for the changes ahead."

- (c) a Motion by Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Gallagher in the following terms:-

"To congratulate North Ayrshire Council on achieving the 'Council of the Year' award at the annual Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE) awards 2017.

This prestigious award reflects the efforts of all North Ayrshire Staff over a number of years in improving and transforming the way we deliver our services to the people of North Ayrshire.

Also to congratulate the North Ayrshire Council 'Change' team on having won the Best Efficiency and Transformation Initiative at the same event.

These awards, and the many others gained by our staff over recent years, are as a result of the truly excellent achievements of our workforce and reflect great credit on everyone who works within North Ayrshire to serve our communities"

(d) a Motion by Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor Larsen in the following terms:-

"That North Ayrshire Council wishes to recognise the important role that many employees play in being carers; recognises that the policies and support employers have in place helps families to manage their caring requirements; and so North Ayrshire Council resolves to pursue accreditation as a Carer Positive employer; notes that there are three levels of accreditation (engaged, established and exemplary); and instructs officers to work to become recognised as a Carer Positive employer at the highest level to ensure the council maintains its reputation as 'employer of choice' in North Ayrshire.

There are no material cost implications in becoming an accredited Carer Positive employer as the benefits of supported working reduces stress and sickness absence, improves people management and staff morale, and reduces recruitment and training costs."

(e) a Motion by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Cullinane in the following terms:-

"In accordance with Scottish Labour Party policy, agreed in 2015 following a motion by Cunninghame South CLP, this Council agrees to lobby the Scottish Government to end all private finance initiative schemes as a way of funding major public infrastructure projects and calls on them to establish a debt disposal unit aimed at buying back existing PFI, PPP and NPD contracts now that financial regulations have changed. We make this call following the announcement of a similar policy by the UK Labour Party.

Should the Scottish Government fail to act, this Council instructs officers to keep our PPP contracts under review and seek opportunities to buy them back using the PWLB in accordance with the administrations aspirations. We recognise that any such deal will require Scottish Government agreement and note, to date, that the Finance Secretary has failed to give an assurance of his support in correspondence with the Council Leader."

North Ayrshire Council

Sederunt:

Ian Clarkson (Provost)
Robert Barr (Depute Provost)
John Bell
Timothy Billings
Joy Brahim
Marie Burns
Joe Cullinane
Scott Davidson
Anthea Dickson
John Easdale
Todd Ferguson
Robert Foster
Scott Gallacher
Alex Gallagher
Margaret George
John Glover
Tony Gurney
Alan Hill
Christina Larsen
Shaun Macaulay
Jean McClung
Ellen McMaster
Ronnie McNicol
Louise McPhater
Davina McTiernan
Tom Marshall
Jimmy Miller
Jim Montgomerie
Ian Murdoch
Donald Reid
Donald L Reid
Angela Stephen
John Sweeney

Attending:

Apologies:

Meeting Ended:

North Ayrshire Council
28 June 2017

IRVINE, 28 June 2017 - At a Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, John Bell, Timothy Billings, Joy Brahim, Marie Burns, Joe Cullinane, Scott Davidson, Anthea Dickson, John Easdale, Todd Ferguson, Robert Foster, Scott Gallacher, Alex Gallagher, Margaret George, John Glover, Tony Gurney, Alan Hill, Christina Larsen, Shaun Macaulay, Tom Marshall, Ellen McMaster, Ronnie McNicol, Louise McPhater, Davina McTiernan, Jimmy Miller, Jim Montgomerie, Ian Murdoch, Donald Reid, Donald L. Reid, Angela Stephen and John Sweeney.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; C. Hatton, Executive Director (Place); K. Yeomans, Executive Director (Economy and Communities); J. Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); Stephen Brown, Interim Director (Health and Social Care Partnership); M. Hogg, Head of Service (Finance) (Finance and Corporate Support); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Support, C. Andrew, Senior Manager (Legal Services), A. Craig, Team Manager (Litigation), M. Gilmour, Senior Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Provost Clarkson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jean McClung.

1. Apologies

The Provost invited intimation of apologies for absence, which were recorded.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

3. Previous Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2017, was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

4. Provost's Report

The Provost reported on the following matters:-

- attendance at the Opening Session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on 20 May 2017;
- the 10th anniversary celebration on 24 May 2017 of Thistle Help Limited, which was founded in Irvine in 2007 and provides a comprehensive range of assisted living aids that reflects the needs of those who require support for care and mobility;
- a meeting of the Lowland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association in Glasgow on 1 June 2017;
- a visit on 6 June 2017 to Lawthorn Primary School to participate in the selection panel for the Citizenship Award and attendance thereafter at the Prizegiving Ceremony on 23 June 2017;
- an awards ceremony held on 7 June 2017 and hosted by the The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) in the Laurieston Hotel, Ardrossan to help celebrate volunteers and volunteering within North Ayrshire;
- a visit to Auchenharvie Academy on 9 June 2017 for the North Ayrshire Primary Schools Energy Challenge;
- the launch on 13 June 2017 of the North Ayrshire Child Protection Video "Gordy" held in Brisbane Primary School, Largs;
- a service on 14 June 2017 to mark the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War and plans to attend a Falklands conflict and Operation Banner service of commemoration in Edinburgh on 1 July;
- a visit to Fullarton Care Home in Irvine on 14 June 2017 as part of National Care Home Open Day;
- Ardrossan Castle Carnival, which took place on 17 June 2017 and was organised by the Ardrossan Castle Heritage Society;
- attendance at the diamond wedding anniversary celebration of Chrissie and John Brown from Kilwinning;
- a recent visit by Voisins Golf Association to Irvine as part of a one week visit to Scotland;
- the 2017 All-Ayrshire final of the Sir Tom Hunter Enterprise Challenge, which took place at Ayr Racecourse on 19 June 2017;
- the official opening of the Ayrshire Hospice Shop in Largs on 20 June 2017;
- the Children's Panel Awards Ceremony which took place in Greenwood Conference Centre on 21 June 2017 and was attended by all three Ayrshire Provosts;
- the Cash for Kids Ascot Day fundraiser held on 22 June 2017 in the Park Hotel Kilmarnock;
- attendance, together with the Depute Provost and some other Elected Members, at the Armed Forces Day Parade and Church Service in Irvine on 25 June 2017;
- plans to write to the Mayors of Manchester and London to offer North Ayrshire's sincere condolences in light of recent atrocities; and
- a Royal visit to the new Sportscotland facility in Largs attended by the Earl of Wessex.

The Provost concluded by extending an invitation to Members to join him for some refreshments to mark the final meeting of the Council before the summer recess.

5. The Leader's Report

The Leader of the Council reported on the following matters:-

- attendance at the COSLA Leaders' meeting on 26 May 2017 to discuss a range of subjects, which included consideration of a review by the Scottish Government of national health and social care standards, the Education Governance Review, and the creation of a devolved social security agency;
- the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting which took place on 1 June 2017 and included presentations from the HSCP Addiction Services and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Manager;
- the official opening on 12 June 2017 of the Garnock Campus, which was attended by the Deputy First Minister;
- a meeting of the Ardrossan Task Force at the Scottish Parliament on 13 June 2017;
- attendance at the Economic Development and Regeneration Board on 15 June 2017, which included progress on the Ayrshire Growth Deal;
- a Joint Youth Cabinet meeting held Ardrossan Academy on 20 June 2017 and which included questions on how Brexit will impact on the people of North Ayrshire, what the Council is doing to combat climate change, what can be done to prevent bullying, and how can the British and Scottish Governments consider the views of young people on fighting terrorism to keep the country safer;
- recent participation in the Islands Transport Forum to hear reviews on our National Transport Strategy (NTS) and Ferries Policy Review;
- a breastfeeding celebration week event on 23 June 2017 at Fullarton Connexions, hosted by the national charity Breastfeeding Network (BfN);
- attendance at a meeting of the NHS Board on 26 June 2017 as a newly appointed non-Executive Board member of NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and
- the sod cutting ceremony for Kilwinning Academy's new all-weather sports pitch, which took place on 26 June 2017.

The Leader concluded his remarks by wishing Members an enjoyable summer break and expressing his desire to continue working with fellow Elected Members on the delivery of the Council's objectives.

6. North Ayrshire Council Minute Volume

Submitted for noting and approval of any recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of meetings of committees of the Council held in the period 23 May to 20 June 2017.

Noted.

7. Appointments to Committees

- 7.1 In terms of Standing Order 7.2, the Council was invited to note resignations from Committees and subsequent appointments made by the relevant political Groups.

The Council agreed, in respect of the Licensing Committee, to note (i) the resignation of Councillors Davidson, Glover and Miller, (ii) the appointment of Councillors McClung and Stephen and (iii) one outstanding Administration vacancy.

- 7.2 The Council was invited to consider nominations, duly proposed and seconded, in respect of Vice Chair vacancies on the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Local Development Plan Committee and Police and Fire and Rescue Committee.

Councillor McNicol intimated the withdrawal of his nomination to serve as Vice Chair of the Local Development Plan Committee.

The Council agreed to approve the appointment of Councillors George, Marshall and Glover as Vice Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Local Development Plan Committee and Police and Fire and Rescue Committee, respectively.

8. Appointments to Outside Bodies

- 8.1 The Council was invited to note and agree resignations from the Licensing Board and arrangements made under delegated powers to make appointments.

The Council agreed, in respect of the Licensing Board, to note (i) the resignation of Councillors Davidson, Glover and Miller, (ii) that the Chief Executive had exercised her delegated powers to appoint Councillors McClung and Stephen as replacements for Councillors Davidson and Glover, respectively and (iii) one outstanding vacancy.

- 8.2 The Council was invited to note a number of outside body appointments arising as a result of the Member in question's designation as a Portfolio holder or due to the Members' status as local Elected Members for a particular ward.

The Chief Executive advised of a further appointment made in respect of the APSE Scottish Commercialisation Advisory Group.

The Council agreed to note (i) the appointment of Councillor Gallagher, in his capacity as Economy Portfolio holder, to the Business Gateway Governance Board (subject to consideration by COSLA), the Highlands and Islands European Partnership Board, the Highlands and Islands Territorial Committee, the Industrial Communities Alliance and the West of Scotland European Forum, (ii) the appointment of Councillors Gallagher, Hill, Marshall and Murdoch to Millport Economic Forum, in their capacity as Ward 8 Elected Members and (iii) the appointment of Councillor Montgomerie to chair the APSE Commercialisation Advisory Group.

- 8.3 The Council was invited to consider a number of nominations made in respect of current outside body vacancies.

The Council agreed as follows:-

Arran Ferry Committee

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Billings, McMaster and Donald L. Reid to fill the remaining vacancy on the Arran Ferry Committee. The nomination in respect of Councillor Donald L. Reid was withdrawn.

On a division, there voted for the appointment of Councillor Billings 9 and Councillor McMaster 20, and Councillor McMaster was duly appointed.

Ayrshire Educational Trust

A nomination, duly proposed and seconded, was submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillor George to fill the remaining vacancy of Ayrshire Education Trust. There being no further nominations, Councillor George was duly appointed.

Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Glover and Donald L. Reid to fill two of the three remaining vacancies on the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board. A further nomination was intimated in respect of Councillor McClung. There being no further nominations, Councillors Glover, McClung and Donald L. Reid were duly appointed.

Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee

A nomination, duly proposed and seconded, was submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillor Ferguson as Vice Chair of Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Joint Committee. There being no further nominations, Councillor Ferguson was duly appointed.

Glasgow Prestwick Airport Joint Consultative Committee

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Donald L. Reid and Stephen to fill the remaining vacancy on Glasgow Prestwick Airport Joint Consultative Committee. The nomination of Councillor Donald L. Reid was withdrawn on the basis of that Member being appointed instead to fill a remaining substitute representative vacancy on the committee.

There being no further nominations, Councillors Stephen and Donald L. Reid were duly appointed as a representative and substitute representative, respectively.

Industrial Communities Alliance

A nomination, duly proposed and seconded, was submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillor McPhater to fill a substitute representative vacancy on the Industrial Communities Alliance. There being no further nominations, Councillor McPhater was duly appointed.

Landfill Advisory Fund Panel

Discussion took place with regard to the composition of the Panel, which had been the subject of a Cabinet decision in February 2016 and which provided for two Administration representatives and one from the Opposition.

The Council agreed (a) that the Chief Executive liaise with the Leader of the Council with a view to a further report being submitted to the Cabinet to revisit the Panel's composition to better reflect the current political make-up of the Council; and (b) in the meantime, to consider the nominations submitted.

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Montgomerie and Donald Reid as the Administration representatives on the Panel. There being no further Administration nominations, Councillors Montgomerie and Donald Reid were duly appointed.

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were also submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Glover and McNicol to fill an Opposition vacancy on the Panel. A further nomination was intimated in respect of Councillor Hill. Given that the position was reserved in the first instance for an Opposition representative, Councillor Hill was duly appointed.

National Association of Councillors

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Gallacher and Donald L. Reid to fill a substitute representative vacancy on the National Association of Councillors. The nomination in respect of Councillor Donald L. Reid was withdrawn. There being no further nominations, Councillor Gallacher was duly appointed.

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Foster and Donald L. Reid to fill a substitute representative vacancy on the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum. The nomination in respect of Councillor Donald L. Reid was withdrawn. There being no further nominations, Councillor Foster was duly appointed.

Response to Nuclear Decommissioning Steering Group

A nomination, duly proposed and seconded, was submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillor Ferguson to fill a substitute representative vacancy on the Response to Nuclear Decommissioning Steering Group. There being no further nominations, Councillor Ferguson was duly appointed.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors Foster and Gallacher to fill a substitute representative vacancy on Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. The nomination in respect of Councillor Gallagher was withdrawn. There being no further nominations, Councillor Foster was duly appointed.

West of Scotland European Forum

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, were submitted in respect of the appointment of Councillors George and McPhater to fill a substitute representative vacancy on the West of Scotland European Forum. The nomination in respect of Councillor George was withdrawn. There being no further nominations, Councillor McPhater was duly appointed.

9. Unaudited Annual Accounts 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) which provided an overview of the Council's unaudited Annual Accounts for the year to 31 March 2017 and its financial performance for the year, and outlined how the 2016/17 out-turn impacts on the Council's overall financial position.

Members asked questions and received clarification in respect of the following:-

- the use of earmarked funds and the status of projects had such funds been unavailable; and
- the rationale for using an underspend in the roads winter maintenance programme to carry out works to the Arran String Road, rather than address roads defects on the mainland.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report.

As an amendment, Councillor Billings, seconded by Council Marshall, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the sum of £7,920 being diverted from the £300k allocated for public space CCTV.

Following clarification by the Executive Director (Place) that a required annual revenue saving of £40k was contingent upon expenditure of the full £300k on the public space CCTV project, Councillor Billings agreed to withdraw his amendment.

There being no further amendments, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to:-

- (a) approve, subject to audit, the Council's Annual Accounts for 2016/17;
- (b) authorise the Audit and Scrutiny Committee to consider and approve for signature the audited annual accounts within the required timeframe;
- (c) note that Deloitte LLP plan to complete their audit of the Accounts by mid September 2017 and will present their annual audit report to the Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee by 30 September 2017;
- (d) note that Cabinet approval has already been granted to carry forward £1.206m to fund service expenditure in 2017/18;
- (e) approve the carry forward of a further £1.370m to fund service expenditure in 2017/18, as detailed in Appendix 9 to the report;
- (f) note the unaudited General Fund position of break even after allowing for the approved and planned carry forwards, including the earmarking of £2.770m to support the non recurring investment identified as part of the 2017-18 revenue budget;
- (g) note the balance of uncommitted funds of £6.380m on the General Fund (equivalent to 2.0% of annual budgeted expenditure) being held in reserve; (h) note the unaudited Housing Revenue Account (HRA) surplus for the year of £3.554m; and
- (i) note the earmarking and carry forward of the HRA balance as outlined at Section 2.20 of the report.

10. North Ayrshire Charitable Trusts: Unaudited Trustees' Annual Reports 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the unaudited Trustees' Annual Reports for the year to 31 March 2017.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council, as trustees of the North Ayrshire Council charitable trusts, agreed to approve the Trustees' Annual Reports for 2016/17 set out in the appendices to the report, subject to audit.

11. Treasury Management Report 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the Treasury Management Annual Report and Prudential Indicators for 2016/17.

Councillor Cullinane, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that the Council approve the recommendations set out in the report. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Council agreed to note (i) the contents of the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2016/17, set out at Appendix 1 to the report and (ii) the Prudential and Treasury Indicators contained therein.

12. Strategic Planning, Commissioning and Delivery of Health and Social Care Services within Ayrshire and Arran

Submitted report by the Chief Executive which (a) sought approval for a review of the arrangements for the planning, commissioning and delivery of Health and Social Care Services in North Ayrshire; (b) requested a review of the Integration Scheme between North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and (c) specifically considered opportunities for increased integration at a pan-Ayrshire and Arran level, which may include a single Integration Joint Board.

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update, advising that (i) NHS Ayrshire and Arran had considered the proposals on 26 June 2017 and had agreed to the review, (ii) East Ayrshire Council would consider a similar report on 29 June 2017, and (iii) South Ayrshire Council, which was to have considered the proposals on 30 June 2017, had intimated their intention to postpone consideration of the matter for the time being.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to note that (i) NHS Ayrshire and Arran had agreed to participate in the review process and (ii) South Ayrshire Council had postponed consideration of this matter;
- (b) that, subject to the agreement of East Ayrshire Council to undertake a simultaneous review of its Integration Scheme, North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran jointly carry out a review of the North Ayrshire Integration Scheme in terms of section 45(2) of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014;
- (c) to approve the process for the implementation of the review of the North Ayrshire Integration Scheme set out in the report; and
- (d) to receive a future report detailing the outcome of the review.

13. Questions

In terms of Standing Order No. 12 there were submitted the following questions:-

- (a) a question by Councillor McNicol to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"On 30th May, 2017 Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited, the company contracted by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company to develop work at Countess Street, Saltcoats went into Administration. Work to the street was not completed.

Will the Portfolio Holder for Place inform the Elected Members what is being done to complete the unfinished work to the specification agreed in the contract by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, will he provide a date when the work will be completed and will he confirm to Members if Land Engineering (Scotland) Ltd received full payment for the contract prior to going into Administration?"

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"Following our initial response to secure the works and make safe areas of incomplete works we have endeavoured to open as much of the road as possible to avoid further disruption to the public and traders whilst this matter is resolved. Officers have ascertained the works that remain outstanding, the materials available to complete the works and the most effective way to undertake these.

A revised tender package has been issued to one of the contractors who originally tendered for the project and is currently being evaluated. Subject to appropriate evaluation the contractor will be appointed as soon as possible.

The material suppliers only have some of the materials required to complete the works available and in storage as sufficient material to complete the works had not being ordered by Land Engineering. Unfortunately, this means it would not be practical or economical to recommence works with the material available as this would then result in a further period of stoppage and disruption whilst awaiting the remaining material.

The unfortunate consequence of this is that the current target date for recommencement is Monday 4th September. At present we estimate the works will take a further 6 weeks to complete, giving a completion date of 14th October.

Land Engineering have not been paid the full contract value as the works had not been completed. Payment terms for all the Council's construction contracts are structured to ensure that contractors are paid regularly, but only for materials which are on-site and work which have been done."

As a supplementary question, Councillor McNicol asked whether a due diligence credit check process had been followed and by whom; the amount which had been paid to the company; and the estimated cost to the Council of completing the work.

Councillor Montgomerie referred the Member to the information which was available from officers to all Members on this subject.

At the invitation of the Provost, the Executive Director (Place) advised that the project had originally been procured by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company; that the company had not been paid for any works not undertaken; and that officers were currently evaluating prices from alternative contractors for completion of the works. The Executive Director undertook to provide a written update to all Members.

(b) a question by Councillor Davidson to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

"Can you confirm, for each primary and secondary school in North Ayrshire, the number of individual classroom assistants full and part-time, temporary and permanent, employed in each school in August 2016 and how many will be employed in each school in August 2017?"

Councillor Bell thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"The reduction in support hours results from a Decision taken by the Executive Director of Education and Youth employment to re-balance a significant budget overspend of £640,000 and introduce a more fair and equitable allocation model. The corrective action taken by the Executive Director will bring the budget back into a balanced position. The administration were informed in January 2017 of the overspend and further informed of the broad implications of the review by the Executive Director in May 2017. The Administration have not reduced the available budget but recognise the need to work within existing financial frameworks.

Members will note that some schools will have their staffing compliment reduced for the start of the new sessions while others will have it increased. A central holding budget has been created to allow additional staff to be provided within the financial framework, should additional need emerge during the course of the next academic session.

A reduction of 58.51 FTE Grade 4 posts have resulted from the introduction of the new allocation model and the necessity to balance the budget. Some schools have chosen to use some of their devolved Pupil Equity Fund to purchase temporary classroom support in addition to their allocation in order to focus on raising attainment and achievement in their schools. Other schools have chosen to use these funds differently. This will result in a net loss of 31.36 FTE across 59 establishments which equates to 0.53 FTE per establishment. These figures do not include an additional 123 FTE grade 5 posts which remain intact and unaffected by the review. These staff work with our children and young people with the most complex additional support needs.

The new allocation model emerged following consultation with the Unions and Head Teachers. Officers have ensured that any displaced staff will be offered either additional training which will result in jobs being made available to them at a significantly higher grade within the Early Years or ASN sectors. Staff will also be offered full time permanent contracts and therefore longer term job security and employment rights.

Clearly it is regrettable that these measures have to be made to re-balance long standing existing budgets."

Statistical information relating to staffing levels at schools across North Ayrshire, was also circulated at the meeting for Members' information.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Davidson asked whether the Cabinet Member supported his party's manifesto commitment to protect support staff and if he would reverse the cuts which had been made.

Councillor Bell responded to address the issues raised in the Member's preamble in relation to the son of one of his constituents he would ask that Education staff meet with the parent to discuss support. He advised that he totally agreed with the Labour manifesto, referred to education cuts made by the previous SNP Council administration, and advised that he continued to oppose cuts.

(c) a question by Councillor Larsen to the Leader of the Council in the following terms:-

"To ask the Portfolio Holder for Finance what was the pay rise for Council staff for 2017-18?"

Councillor Cullinane thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

"A pay increase for Council staff for 2017-18 is still to be agreed. This is negotiated at a national level and COSLA will advise when this is agreed with any proposals likely to be back dated to the 1st April 2017."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Larsen expressed regret that pay restraint had not been exercised in relation to portfolio holders and asked the Leader to respond to this.

Councillor Cullinane responded by advising that the full Council had agreed on senior councillor posts at the statutory Council meeting; that his decision to take on a portfolio, together with the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition as Chair of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee, had reduced expenditure by bringing down the overall number of senior councillors; and that proposals to increase pay to lower paid workers had been opposed at COSLA by the Conservatives, SNP and independents.

(d) a question by Councillor Burns to the Cabinet Member for Economy in the following terms:-

"In the 2017/18 budget, Council agreed to increase Modern Apprenticeship starts from 85 to 105. In its manifesto for the council elections, the administration committed to further expanding the number of MAs and to the payment of a 'fair wage.' Can the portfolio holder say how many additional starts are planned, how he would define a 'fair wage' and how that would fit into the existing wage structures of the council?"

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

"The Labour administration set out in its manifesto to review the Council's modern apprenticeship programme, to expand it, ensure it provides good quality apprenticeships and that it pays a fair wage. Any decisions around future numbers and definitions would be considered as part of that review.

The administration have already expanded the programme with funding for 20 additional places approved for 17/18 with an additional investment of £200,000. This would see the programme grow from circa 85 starts to 105 starts in 17/18.

The service is already making a number of improvements to the council's programme with

- a more diverse range of apprenticeships on offer and better coordinated support package in place.
- A pre employment apprenticeship training (PEAT) programme has been introduced to provide all new apprentices with 2 weeks of pre-employment training.
- The Pre Exit Mentoring Support (PEMS) programme provides all apprentices with support when they are 3 months from completion of their MA's.
- Training and developing MA buddys across the council. The buddys will support young apprentices to ensure they get the most of the opportunity.

Decisions on future wage levels and the subsequent budget implications would be something that is considered as part of the proposed review. We are aware that raising wage levels within a finite budget could reduce the number of opportunities – and it will be important for the correct balance to be found. We will continue to make the case to Scottish Government for funding to support these aims."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Burns asked whether the Cabinet Member felt it was disingenuous to commit during the elections to the expansion of the programme on the basis of a review which had yet to take place.

Councillor Gallagher reiterated the Labour Administration's commitment to review the programme and expressed the view that it would be of assistance if the Scottish Government would hand over their allocation of the apprenticeship levy to local Councils to administer.

(e) a question by Councillor Marshall to the Cabinet Member for Education in the following terms:-

“How does the Portfolio Holder view the attempts by the SNP Government to roll back 10 years of decline in Scottish Education by offering Head Teachers new Statutory Powers over attainment, staffing, curriculum and funding and by establishing new “regional improvement collaboratives/ boards” which will impact on the powers and functions of Education Authorities”.

Councillor Bell thanked the Member of his question and responded in the following terms:-

“I am concerned about the reduction in democratic accountability that these changes signal, I am also concerned about the increase in workload and responsibility for head teachers, currently we are having difficulty in recruiting head teachers and these changes will not make that easier.

While I believe that more needs to be done to improve education and reduce the attainment gap, in my view the best way the Scottish Government could achieve this would be to stop cutting council budgets and allow councils to invest in education. Over the last five years in Scotland, teacher numbers are down by 4000, class sizes have increased and 2000 support staff have been lost, this has both weakened local authority support for head teachers and significantly reduced the resources available to head teachers within school, particularly in terms of staffing levels.

In my opinion this is the biggest barrier to improving attainment.”

(f) a question by Councillor Brahim to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"Following delays due to an increase in envisaged project costs, I notice the Council's administration has committed itself to delivering the realignment of the B714. I would like to ask the Portfolio Holder for Place what the timescale is for delivery of this project and where funding is anticipated to be drawn from."

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for her question and responded in the following terms:-

“The proposals to improve sections of the B714 will be considered as part of the review of the Council's capital plan later this year. The proposed scheme is at an advanced stage with designs completed ready for the invitation of formal tenders once funding is in place. Whilst a detailed programme will be developed as part of the procurement exercise, it is anticipated that the scheme will take approximately 12 months to complete from award of contract.”

As a supplementary question, Councillor Brahim asked why the Cabinet Member would not commit at this stage spending the extra £2m needed to make necessary improvements to the B714.

Councillor Montgomerie responded by referring to the pursuit of this matter by Councillor Reid over the last several years, advised that all sums were committed and challenged a claim made in Councillor Brahim's election materials that the project had been put on hold.

(g) a question by Councillor Murdoch to the Cabinet Member for Economy in the following terms:-

"As agreed by the previous council has the funding been allocated to progress the work within the Largs Master Plan? Will part of Largs Prom be resurfaced Northwards from the Pier? Will Gallowgate Square be redeveloped? If so will the project be completed by the end of 2017 or by the latest before Easter 2018?"

Councillor Gallagher thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"The current proposals for improvements to Largs Prom and Gallowgate Square emerged from the 2015 Largs Masterplan. Following feedback received at a community consultation event in March 2017 the proposals were revised and subsequently approved by Cabinet on 20th June 2017. The revised proposals will also be presented to the North Coast Locality Planning Partnership on 29th June.

The original budget of £440,000 from the Town Centre Regeneration capital budget and the £126,000 secured from the Largs Car Park Fund will now be spent delivering the revised proposals which are:

- re-surfacing from the ferry terminal, northwards to the RNLI building (£250,000);
- improvements to Gallowgate Square to deliver a flexible events space (£250,000); and
- the refurbishment of two shelters, one on the prom and one at Aubrey Park (£66,000).

The project is expected to be on-site by October 2017 and completed by the end of the financial year (31 March 2018)."

(h) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"To ask the portfolio holder for Place to update the Council on the administration's commitment to deliver more district heating schemes throughout North Ayrshire following the SNP's work on the Irvine scheme."

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"At Cabinet on 20 June 2017, this administration approved the progression of the Irvine District Heating scheme to investment grade business case stage. Resources are therefore currently focused on confirming the deliverability of that scheme through the detailed technical design work and financial modelling that will be undertaken as part of the investment grade business case work over the coming months.

Following successful implementation of the Irvine District Heating scheme, it is envisaged that resources will thereafter be focused on consideration of expansion of that scheme, as well as exploration of other District Heating projects. This sequential approach to delivery is essential in order to optimise the resources available, and to ensure that future district heating projects benefit from the valuable lessons that will be learned from the initial pathfinder project within central Irvine."

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gurney referred to the vague terms used within the Cabinet Member's response and asked for clarification of the term "investment grade business case."

Councillor Montgomerie responded by reassuring the Member that the Labour Administration would work with officers to deliver the plan.

(i) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"To ask the portfolio holder for Place whether he will join me in warmly welcoming the SNP government's commitment of £44 million in funds for new affordable housing; agree that it provides a welcome boost to our plans to deliver sweeping improvements to our housing stock; and further agree that it will be a cornerstone in our aims to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities throughout North Ayrshire.

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"This administration is committed to building a new generation of council housing. It was a Labour administration who introduced North Ayrshire Council's housing strategy in 2011 with a commitment to build 500 new council homes by 2021. Last Autumn, it was our Labour administration, who made it a key priority having replaced the SNP administration that resigned, to increase the building programme to 750 new homes.

I will therefore join the Member in welcoming the guarantee of three years' grant funding for new social housing. This, along with the Council's Housing Revenue Account and our tenants' rents, will help fund the Council's house building programme.

I also agree with Councillor Gurney that new social housing is important in our efforts to tackle poverty and inequality. We therefore look forward to working with RSL partners to build new affordable homes in terms of the housing grant offered - RSLs continue to receive a greater grant. Parity would allow the Council to build more new homes and would go some way to helping us build new social housing, for example, in the Member's ward on Arran."

(j) a question by Councillor Gurney to the Cabinet Member for Place in the following terms:-

"To ask the portfolio holder for Place whether the Council's flatted accommodation in Irvine and Saltcoats have any of the same design flaws, particularly in relation to cladding, that contributed to the tragedy of Grenfell Towers in London; whether he has ordered a survey of the buildings in question; and what assurances he can give to the tenants of those buildings in relation to the safety of the buildings."

Councillor Montgomerie thanked the Member for his question and responded in the following terms:-

"Upon learning of the tragic events at Grenfell, North Ayrshire Council officers immediately began investigations to provide reassurance regarding the safety of our own high rise residential properties. Immediate checks were undertaken to ensure that fire escapes were clear, fire doors were operational and fire-fighting equipment is in place etc. Officers have also been liaising with the Fire Service. Further more detailed checks and surveys are underway to ensure that all appropriate information is reviewed and any actions arising addressed in a timeous manner. An action plan has been put in place to help identify and manage the response to Grenfell as issues emerge.

The main area of focus, at this time, is the cladding system installed at Grenfell, although it is anticipated that further issues may arise as the investigation in to this tragedy progresses.

The cladding used at Grenfell consisted of an aluminium panel with an insulating core. This is completely different from that in place at our high rise flats which are not clad in a panel system. Our flats have been 'render-insulated' whereby a rigid insulation board has been applied direct to the existing building surface; this board is then rendered over. The cladding was carried out in accordance with applicable building standards.

It is also understood that Grenfell Tower had a gas supply. There are no gas services provided to any of our high rise properties.

Our high rise flats are covered by fire and smoke detection systems that are linked to the concierge service enabling 24 hour monitoring. In addition there is an extensive inspection regime in place to ensure that safety standards are maintained.

All residents were written to on the 16th June advising them of the key differences between Grenfell and our high rise flats and reassuring them of the safety of the flats. A further briefing note was issued to all elected members on the 19th June. The Council is also providing information to Scottish Government as they co-ordinate a national response.

Officers have also commenced a feasibility study regarding the retro-fitting of sprinklers in our high rise flats and will be reporting the early findings back to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

As further issues arise throughout the on-going investigation and debate surrounding the Grenfell tragedy we will continue to respond to any relevant matters as a priority."

14. Suspension of Standing Orders

In terms of Standing Order 21, Councillor Billings, seconded by Council Marshall, moved that the Council agree to suspend Standing Order 23 to allow consideration of Motion (e) at Agenda Item 15.

On a show of hands, there voted in favour of the motion 18. Having failed to secure the support of 2/3 of the Members present and voting, the motion fell.

15. Motion

In terms of Standing Order 13, submit:-

- (a) a Motion by Councillor Bell seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:-

"This Council is disappointed that the Scottish Government have ignored the response to their educational governance review consultation and have announced plans for educational regions, with regional educational directors appointed by the Scottish Government, which COSLA state will result in "no meaningful local democratic accountability for Education in Scotland."

The Scottish Government's own consultation report states that "there was widespread support for the current governance system" and they "were not seen as a barrier to improvement".

On educational regions it states "there was strong opposition to the uniform establishment of educational regions" from "local authorities, schools, agencies, parent councils and individuals".

It goes on to state, "specifically, respondents thought that budget cuts and staffing issues were the two key barriers for improvement."

Furthermore the report states "evidence shows that improvement (in education) will not be achieved as a result of changes to structures."

This Council does believe that more needs to be done to improve Scottish education and reduce the attainment gap. However, like the consultation respondents, we believe that the best way to achieve this is by ending austerity, protecting council budgets and providing the necessary funding to invest in education. We are disappointed that the Deputy First Minister failed to mention funding once during his statement to parliament.

This Council believes the Deputy First Minister's announcement is wrongheaded and completely ignores the views expressed by experts, teachers and trade unions during the consultation. We believe that local authorities such as North Ayrshire Council have shown excellent strategic leadership which is reducing the attainment gap and that, with increased funding and resources, further progress can be achieved which enables more collaborative working between teachers, schools and indeed local authorities but maintains local democratic control of our education system within the existing governance system. We contest that the consultation responses support this view. We therefore resolve to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy First Minister to express our view in the strongest possible terms."

As an amendment, Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor Larsen, moved the direct negative.

Members then asked questions of the movers of the motion and amendment.

Following debate and summing up, on a division there voted for the amendment 10 and for the motion 21, and the motion was declared carried.

(b) a Motion by Councillor Gallacher seconded by Councillor Stephen in the following terms:-

"North Ayrshire Council agrees to amend paragraph 4 of the Council's Flag Flying Protocol to provide that on all days not otherwise provided for in the Protocol, the Union Flag and Saltire will be flown".

As an amendment, Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hill, moved the direct negative.

As a further amendment, Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor McPhater, moved as follows:-

"This Council regrets that we are spending time debating flags when our area faces many real challenges. One in three children are being brought up in poverty. Unemployment remains above the national average. Our public services are under threat as a result of austerity. These are all matters that this Council should focus on. Which flag flies on a flagpole outside Cunninghame House on which day will make no difference on any of these issues or make a difference to a single person's life in North Ayrshire. The Council therefore resolves to only fly flags on special occasions, as outlined in the existing policy, with the Provost having discretion to do so above and beyond those dates laid out in the policy, and to reaffirm the Council's commitment to focus on the day job of tackling inequality and poverty".

Clarification was sought, and received, that the terms of the further amendment would mean that outwith special occasions, no flags would be flown.

On a division and roll call vote, and with Councillors Bell, Clarkson, Cullinane, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, McPhater, Miller, Montgomerie, Murdoch, Donald Reid and Sweeney abstaining, there voted for the amendment Councillors Brahim, Burns, Davidson, Dickson, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McMaster and McTiernan and for the motion Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol, Donald L. Reid and Stephen. There being an equality of votes, the Provost was invited to exercise the casting vote, but declined to do so. Following a cut of cards, the motion was declared carried and became the substantive motion.

On a further division and roll call vote, and with Councillors Brahim, Burns, Davidson, Dickson, Gurney, Hill, Larsen, Macaulay, McMaster, McTiernan and Murdoch abstaining, there voted for the further amendment Councillors Bell, Clarkson, Cullinane, Easdale, Foster, Gallagher, McPhater, Miller, Montgomerie, Donald Reid and Sweeney and for the substantive motion Councillors Barr, Billings, Ferguson, Gallacher, George, Glover, Marshall, McNicol, Donald L. Reid and Stephen, and the further amendment was declared carried.

(c) a Motion by Councillor Ferguson seconded by Councillor Gallacher in the following terms:-

"That this Council continues to support the development of Hunterston C Nuclear Power Station. This Council needs to ensure that we will protect over 1200 current jobs and create many new jobs within North Ayrshire by supporting Hunterston C contrary to the Scottish Government position of not allowing the construction of new Nuclear Power Stations in Scotland."

As an amendment, Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hill, moved the direct negative.

Following a question by Councillor Hill on a point of order in relation to the duties and powers of the Provost, the Chief Executive undertook to circulate information to all Members on the relevant provisions within Standing Orders.

As a further amendment, Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Easdale, moved as follows:-

"It is already this Council's policy to support a Hunterston C station given the economic and job benefits to the area. However, we do recognise the Scottish Government's opposition to nuclear new builds is a barrier to that job creation. Council therefore agrees that the development of a mixed use plan for Hunterston is deferred to the Local Development Plan with the aim of ensuring Hunterston regains National Development status."

In terms of standing Order 14.5, Councillor Ferguson and Councillor Gallacher agreed to withdraw the motion in favour of the further amendment.

Following a short recess to allow the Provost to seek officer advice on the application of Standing Orders in this instance, the meeting reconvened with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that, following withdrawal of the original motion, Councillor Burns's amendment became the substantive motion.

On a division, there voted for the amendment 22 and for the motion 10, and the amendment was declared carried.

(d) a Motion by Councillor Bell seconded by Councillor Foster in the following terms:-

"This council believes that the shortage of teachers across Scotland should not be resolved with the introduction of a Scottish "Teach First" programme.

Teachers in our primary and secondary schools are currently well trained and capable of delivering a robust curriculum having completed a high quality qualification and at least 12 months probationary training supervised by an experienced head teacher.

Allowing prospective teachers to deliver curriculum objectives without this level of training, qualification and experience will drive down education quality and leave our children and young people with a sub-standard education experience and impact on any desire to raise the attainment gap.

The "Teach First" programme that is delivered in England and Wales allows participants to deliver 80% of teaching in classrooms with as little as 5 weeks training.

The council agrees with the EIS trade union and we strongly oppose any approach which places delivering education cheaply above guaranteeing quality education provision for all Scotland's young people. We do not support any erosion of that provision nor do we believe that placing unqualified graduates in schools will lead to better or more equal outcomes for those children.

The council asks that the Leader of the council writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Life Long Learning outlining our opposition to the Scottish Government tendering for a "Scottish Teach First" programme or any initiative that will see unqualified teachers delivering a poorer quality curriculum in our classrooms."

As an amendment, Councillor Macaulay, seconded by Councillor Davidson, moved the direct negative.

Members then asked questions the movers of the motion and amendment.

Following debate and summing up, on a division there voted for the amendment 10 and for the motion 12, and the motion was declared carried.

(e) In terms of Item 14 above, the Council did not consider the Motion by Councillor Billings seconded by Councillor Marshall.

(f) a motion by Councillor Gurney seconded by Councillor McMaster in the following terms:-

"This Council warmly congratulates all those involved in the highly successful campaign to retain the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route. The campaign was a shining example of community involvement, demonstrated the passion of our citizens and provides a model for future community participation and action.

The efforts of local people such as Michael McCulloch, Margaret Grey, Nancy MacLeod, and countless others, who contributed incalculable hours of their own time raising awareness, collecting signatures and campaigning for the service's retention are to be highly commended.

Council further resolves to provide a reception for all those involved in the campaign in recognition of their efforts and as a small token of our thanks."

As an amendment, Councillor McNicol, seconded by Councillor Billings, moved that the Council agree to thank all those involved in the campaign but, in light of budget and other consideration, not hold a reception.

Following a suggestion by the Provost that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to draw up plans for a modest reception, in consultation with local Elected Members involved in the campaign, Councillor McNicol and Councillor Billings agreed to withdraw the amendment. There being no further amendments, the motion was declared carried and authority delegated to the Chief Executive to make the necessary arrangements for a reception.

Councillor Murdoch left the meeting during consideration of this item.

16. Provost's Closing Remarks

In closing the meeting, the Provost took the opportunity to pay tribute to Christine Andrew, Senior Manager (Legal Services) who would be retiring from the Council in September. On behalf of Members, the Provost expressed his gratitude to Christine for her contribution to the Council and wished her well in her retirement.

The meeting ended at 5.50 p.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 7

4 October 2017

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of meetings held on 1 June 2017**

Purpose: To submit the minutes of the meeting of the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board held on 1 June 2017

Recommendation: That the Council notes the Minutes contained in Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It was previously agreed that the minutes of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board be submitted to North Ayrshire Council for information. The key matters arising from the minutes have been highlighted for the attention of the Committee and are detailed in Section 2.1.

2. Background

- 2.1 Minutes of the meeting of the CPP Board held on 1 June 2017 are appended. Particular matters for the Council's attention include the following:-

Agenda Item 4

The Board received a presentation on the North Ayrshire Draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan. This included information on the operational priorities and the rationale behind them. Partners agreed to contribute to the consultation on the plan.

Agenda Item 5 Welfare Reform Working Group

An update was given on the work of the Welfare Reform Working Group. The Board heard about plans to train and support a wide range of staff in relation to the roll out of Universal Credit. The group's Action Plan was approved.

Agenda Item 7 Social Impact Pledges

The Board received updates on the previous set of social impact pledges and agreed to three for implementation over the forthcoming 6 months. These are to extend Positive Steps to wider partners, support young people in mental health anti-stigma campaign; and ensure people are informed about the North Ayrshire digital offer and mobilise all CPP partners to empower North Ayrshire residents to be digital.

Agenda Item 8 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The Board agreed the draft Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) for engagement, the consultation and engagement process, and the consultation mandate. It was noted that feedback on the consultation responses and a revised LOIP would be given at its September meeting.

3. Proposals

3.1 That the Council notes the minutes contained in Appendix 1.

4. Implications

Financial:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Human Resources:	There are no human resource implications arising from this report.
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	The CPP activities detailed within this report support the Single Outcome Agreement.
Community Benefits:	here are no community benefit implications arising from this report.

5. Consultation

5.1 No consultations were required.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elma Murray". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Morna Rae on 01294 324177.

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1

Community Planning Partnership Board

Thursday 1 June 2017 at 10:30am
Saltcoats Town Hall



Present

Health and Social Care Partnership

Stephen Brown, Interim Director - Health & Social Care Partnership

JobCentre Plus

Billy Walker, Employment and Partnership Manager

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Lynne McNiven, Public Health Consultant

North Ayrshire Council

Joe Cullinane, Elected Member **(Chair)**

Marie Burns, Elected Member

John Bell, Elected Member

Alex Gallagher, Elected Member

Anthony Gurney, Elected Member

Scott Davidson, Elected Member

Ellen McMaster, Elected Member

Elma Murray, Chief Executive

Scottish Government

Steven Cullum, Business Manager

Scottish Enterprise

Mark Newlands, Location Director

Skills Development Scotland

Katie Hutton, Director

Scottish Fire & Rescue

Jim Scott, Area Manager

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Allan Comrie, Senior Transport Planner

Ayrshire College

Heather Dunk, Principal and Chief Executive

Third Sector Interface

Jim Nichols, Chief Executive Officer

Police Scotland

Paul Main, Divisional Commander

In Attendance

Brian Shaw (PS), Audrey Sutton (NAC), Morna Rae (NAC), Wendy Sharpe (NAC) **(Minutes)**, Peter McArthur (NHS A&A), Greig Robson (NAC), Vicki Yuill (TSI), Councillor Miller (NAC)

Apologies

Catriona Morton (DWP), Alan Hill (NAC), Stephen Gallagher (SG), Gary Higgon (KA), Caitriona McAuley (NAC), Karen Yeomans (NAC), Martin Cheyne (NHS A&A), John Burns (NHS A&A)

Chair: Cllr Joe Cullinane

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Note

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Updates were given and the Action Note was updated.

3. Addictions Services

Peter McArthur gave a presentation on the Health & Social Care Partnership Addiction Services in North Ayrshire.

This presentation included:

- Statistical information – fact or fiction;
- Early intervention and prevention methods;
- Woodland View;
- North Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (NADARS);
- Achievements;
- Challenges and opportunities;
- Priorities; and
- Partnership working

The Chair thanked Peter for his highly informative presentation.

4. Draft North Local Fire and Rescue Plan for North Ayrshire

Councillor Davidson gave a declaration of interest to this agenda item as he works for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Jim Scott gave a presentation on the North Ayrshire Draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan which included key aspects of the review and thought processes behind the new plan.

Six operational priorities were highlighted:

- Priority 1 – Domestic Safety
- Priority 2 – Unintentional Harm and Injury
- Priority 3 – Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 4 – Non Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 5 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 6 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness

Jim advised members that the consultation for the draft plan concludes on 2 July 2017. To contribute prior to this date members can use the following link:

<https://firescotland.citizenspace.com/>

The Chair thanked Jim for the presentation.

Councillor Miller asked a question in relation to the procedures for SFRS gaining access to Caley Court, Stevenston in the event of a fire alarm. Jim Scott advised he would have a discussion with Councillor Miller outwith the CPP Board meeting.

5. North Ayrshire Welfare Reform Working Group

Greig Robson gave an update on the work of the Welfare Reform Working Group and made the following recommendations to the Board:

- Approve the action plan for 17/18 and its re-focus on responding purely to Welfare Reforms;
- Note the research into the cumulative impacts of welfare reform and consider how high impact groups such as lone parents and families with children could be supported;
- Note the work taking place to prepare for full service roll out of Universal Credit in North Ayrshire, including training which will be available to staff across the CPP;
- Note the Housing Benefit reforms now in place for 18-21 year olds and the mitigation approach being funded by Scottish Government; and
- Note the intention to bring a more detailed report on the Better Off North Ayrshire financial inclusion programme to the Board in September.

Jim Nichols welcomed the offer of training to CP partners and advised he would cascade the information to all TSI staff.

Councillor Burns highlighted the benefits of having Elected Members involved in future discussions around groups. Greig welcomed this suggestion.

The Board approved the recommendations.

6. Locality Partnership Update

Audrey Sutton gave an update on three specific areas:

- Local developments –induction sessions for Elected Members will commence on 12 June 2017. An annual Locality Partnership conference is scheduled to take place in September. Audrey emphasised the importance of support for this event.
- National Developments – North Ayrshire Council have been formally asked to host the Improvement Service Lead Practice event in October.
- Participatory Budgeting (PB) – information was given on the successes of the PB events which had already taken place. Updates on future PB work will be brought back to the Board.

Councillor Burns emphasised the good work undertaken to date engaging with the community. She stressed there was still a lot of work to do in finding

a way to make people in the communities voices heard and to break down barriers.

Audrey suggested bringing a presentation that was shown at a recent HMIE visit to a future CPP Board meeting.

Jim Nichols sought clarity on where PB sat with Locality Partnerships. Audrey advised that the PB approach links closely to Locality Partnerships. Work is currently underway on the practicalities of how PB funding is distributed over 2017-18.

Locality Partnership Minutes – Reports for Noting

The Board noted Locality Partnership minutes.

7. Social Impact Pledges

Morna Rae gave a presentation on Social Impact Pledges. Updates were given on the pledges agreed in December 2016. Three new pledges had already been considered by the Strategic Management Team to run from June 2017:

- Extend Positive Steps to wider partners;
- Support young people in mental health anti-stigma campaign; and
- Ensure people are informed about the North Ayrshire digital offer and mobilise all CPP partners to empower North Ayrshire residents to be digital.

The Board agreed the three new pledges.

Councillor Gallagher sought information on how the delivery of these pledges was being driven forward and the extent of partner involvement. Morna advised that an initial meeting of partners from NAC, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the HSCP had started discussions on the mental health campaign. A meeting was scheduled for 1 June between Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the Ayrshire Community Trust and NAC to consider extending Positive Steps to NAC. Elaine Young from NHS is also progressing discussions within the NHS. Audrey Sutton confirmed that she is taking a lead on the digital pledge. Updates will be given to the Strategic Management Team and a future Board meeting.

8. Local Outcome Improvement Plan

Morna Rae highlighted the purpose of the report was to agree an updated plan for developing and agreeing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).

It was proposed that the CPP Board:

- Agree the draft LOIP for engagement;
- Agree the consultation and engagement process;
- Agree the consultation mandate; and
- Receive feedback on the consultation responses and a revised LOIP at its September meeting for sign-off

Paul Main asked for further discussion on the performance indicators in relation to the Safer North Ayrshire section as part of the consultation. Morna agreed to pick this up.

Katie Hutton commended the simplicity of language used in the report.

The Board agreed the proposals.

9. Chairs Reports – Reports for Noting

The Board noted the Chairs reports.

10. Urgent Items and Future Agenda Items

No further items were discussed.

11. Tour of Saltcoats Town Hall

The Board were given a tour of the Town Hall.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **21 September 2017 at 10:30am** within the Fullarton Community Centre, Irvine.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 10

4 October 2017

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Appointment of Proper Officer**

Purpose: To approve the appointment of the Senior Manager, Legal Services as Clerk of North Ayrshire Licensing Board in terms of schedule 1 paragraph 8 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and as Proper Officer in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Recommendation: To approve the appointment of Aileen Craig, Senior Manager, Legal Services as (1) Proper Officer for the authentication and execution of documents on behalf of the Council in terms of Section 193 and 194 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and (2) Clerk of North Ayrshire Licensing Board.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Council approval to nominate the recently appointed Senior Manager, Legal Services as Proper Officer under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and as Clerk to North Ayrshire Licensing Board under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 1.2 On 1 October 2017 Aileen Craig was appointed to the post of Senior Manager, Legal Services, previously occupied by Christine Andrew.

2. Background

- 2.1 In terms of Sections 193 and 194 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 ("the 1973 Act") the Council may authorise designated Officers to execute formal documentation on its behalf. The Council previously authorised the Chief Executive, Head of Democratic Services and Senior Manager, Legal Services as its Proper Officers in terms of the 1973 Act.
- 2.2 Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 the Council requires to appoint a Clerk to the Licensing Board. This post was previously held by Christine Andrew. Following her retiral from the Council on 30 September 2017, a new Clerk requires to be appointed.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Aileen Craig, the newly appointed Senior Manager. Legal Services be appointed as (1) Proper Officer for the execution of documents on behalf of the Council in terms of the 1973 Act, and (2) as Clerk to North Ayrshire Licensing Board.

4. Implications

Financial:	There are none.
Human Resources:	There are none.
Legal:	There is a legal requirement to appoint a Clerk to the Licensing Board.
Equality:	There are no implications for any protected characteristic
Environmental & Sustainability:	There are none.
Key Priorities:	Appointment of a Clerk to the Licensing Board and Proper Officers are key components of effective governance, which in turn support the underpinnings of the Council Plan.
Community Benefits:	There are none.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Chief Executive has been consulted in the preparation of this report.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference : AF/jm

For further information please contact Andrew Fraser, Head of Democratic Services on 01294 324125

Background Papers

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 11

4 October 2017

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **North Ayrshire Ventures Trust**

Purpose: To approve the appointment of a new Director on the Board of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust

Recommendation: That the Council agrees to approve the appointment of Ann Robertson to the Board of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Articles of Association of North Ayrshire Ventures Trust (NAVT) stipulates that there will be five co-opted Directors. One of these Directors, Craig Crosthwaite, has now resigned. At the meeting held on 11th September, 2017 the Directors agreed to appoint Ann Robertson as a co-opted Director.
- 1.2 The Articles of Association for NAVT stipulate that for such an appointment to proceed the identity of the proposed Director be approved in writing by the Council, such approval to be demonstrated by a letter to be signed by the appropriate officer of the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The full Council has approved the appointment of all the co-opted Directors. The present Directors are Louise McPhater, Alan Hill, Elma Murray, Audrey Sutton being Appointed Directors and the co-opted Directors are Billy Kirkwood, Derek McCrindle, Maggie Broadley and Alan Macdonald.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Board has now agreed to appoint Ann Robertson as a co-opted Director. She has held positions on the Pennyburn Tenants' and Residents' Association, Cranberry Moss Community Association, chaired the First Alliance Credit Union, the PRYDE Youth Association and is on the board of Irvine Housing Association. She was awarded an MBE for her community work in North Ayrshire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2010. She has agreed to accept.
- 3.2 This appointment fills the present vacancy and brings the Board up to its full complement of nine allowed in the Articles of Association.

- 3.3 The Council is, therefore, invited to approve the proposed appointment in order that NAVT can comply with their Articles of Association and to authorise the Chief Executive to write to the Board of Directors of NAVT confirming the Council's approval.

4. Implications

Financial:	None arising from this report.
Human Resources:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	The approval of the Council is required so that the Board of Directors of NAVT can legally comply with their Articles of association.
Equality:	None arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	None arising from this report.
Community Benefits:	None arising from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There are no consultations required.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference : CLA

For further information please contact Aileen Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) on 01294 324322

Background Papers

None

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 12

4 October 2017

North Ayrshire Council

Title: **Committee Timetable 2018**

Purpose: To invite the Council to consider a timetable for 2018.

Recommendation: That the Council agrees to:-
a. approve the draft committee timetable set out at Appendix 1; and
b. note that arrangements for Locality Partnership meetings, Integration Joint Board, IJB Performance and Audit Committee, and any ad hoc or Special Meetings will be intimated to Members separately.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In Autumn each year, the Council generally sets a timetable of committee meetings for the following calendar year. The appendix to this report sets out a proposed timetable for 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The proposed timetable of meetings (set out at Appendix 1) incorporates five cycles of meetings of the Cabinet and standing committees of the Council as well as Spring, Summer, October and Winter recess periods. (Cycle three is shortened to seven, rather than eight, weeks, to allow a Council meeting to take place no later than the end of June 2018, at which the unaudited accounts require to be submitted for approval). Arrangements for Pre-Agenda meetings and meetings of the Community Planning Partnership Board are also included for information.
- 2.2 The proposed timetable does not include the following meetings which will be intimated to Members separately:-
- the six Locality Partnerships, which take place in the early evening on a quarterly basis;
 - the Local Development Plan Committee, Staffing and Recruitment Committee, Education Appeal Committee, Appeals Committee and Special Council (Planning) which meet on an ad hoc basis, as required;

- any Special Meetings of the Council and its committees which may be required, including meetings to consider Cabinet Call In requests.
- meetings of the Integration Joint Board and IJB Performance and Audit Committee, as dates for these meetings are still being considered by the IJB.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- approve the draft committee timetable set out at Appendix 1; and
- note that arrangements for Locality Partnership meetings, Integration Joint Board, IJB Performance and Audit Committee, and any ad hoc or Special Meetings will be intimated to Members separately.

4. Implications

Financial:	None arising from this report.
Human Resources:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	None arising from this report.
Equality:	None arising from this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None arising from this report.
Key Priorities:	Not applicable.
Community Benefits:	Not applicable.

5. Consultation

5.1 A copy of the proposed timetable has been circulated to Group Leaders and Independent Members, with no adverse comment received.



ELMA MURRAY
Chief Executive

Reference :

For further information please contact Melanie Anderson, Committee Services team Leader on telephone number 01294 324131.

Background Papers

Correspondence with Group Leaders and Independent Members.

Appendix 1

Draft Committee Timetable Jan-Dec 2018

Meeting Cycle 1

Wk Begin	Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Jan						
8 Jan	1			10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee		
15 Jan	2		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
22 Jan	3		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda 2.30 p.m. Cabinet			
29 Jan	4		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Ctte	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		11.00 a.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte Pre-Agenda (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
5 Feb	5		2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Ctte	10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee		
12 Feb	6		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		2.00 p.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
19 Feb	7		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
26 Feb	8			2.00 p.m. Council		

Meeting Cycle 2

Wk Begin	Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
5 Mar	1			10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee		
12 Mar	2		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		11.00 a.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte Pre-Agenda (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
19 Mar	3		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda 2.30 p.m. Cabinet		CPP Board (for info) (TBC)	
26 Mar	4		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Ctte	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		2.00 p.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
2 April						
9 April						
16 April	5			10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee		
23 April	6		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
30 April	7		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
7 May	8			2.00 p.m. Council		

Meeting Cycle 3

Wk Begin	Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14 May	1		2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Ctte	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee		
21 May	2		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
28 May	3		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda 2.30 p.m. Cabinet	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)	CPP Board (for info) (TBC)	
4 June	4		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Committee	2.00 p.m. Licensing Committee		11.00 a.m.. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte Pre-Agenda (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
11 June	5		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
18 June	6		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		2.00 p.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
25 June	7			2.00 p.m. Council		
2 July						
9 July						
16 July						
23 July						
30 July						
6 August						
13 August						

Meeting Cycle 4

20 August	1		2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Ctte	10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee		11.00 a.m.. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte Pre-Agenda (TBC) (hosted by SAC)
27 August	2		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
3 September	3		2.30 p.m. Cabinet			2.00 p.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
10 September	4			10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
17 September	5		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda	10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee	CPP Board (for info) (TBC)	
24 September	6		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Committee 2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
1 October	7		2.30 p.m. Cabinet (Education)	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
8 October	8			2.00 p.m. Council		
15 October						
22 October						11.00 a.m.. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte Pre-Agenda (TBC) (hosted by SAC)

Meeting Cycle 5

29 October	1			10.a.m. Licensing Committee		
5 November	2		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		2.00 p.m. Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Ctte (TBC) (hosted by EAC)
12 November	3		11.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Pre-Agenda 2.30 p.m. Cabinet			
19 November	4		10.00 a.m. Audit & Scrutiny Ctte 2.00 p.m. Police & Fire & Rescue Ctte	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
26 November	5			10.00 a.m. Licensing Committee	CPP Board (for info) (TBC)	
3 December	6		2.30p.m. Cabinet Pre-Agenda	2.00 p.m. Planning Committee 2.15 p.m. Local Review Body		
10 December	7		2.30 p.m. Cabinet	10.00 a.m. Appeals Ctte (if required)		
17 December	8			2.00 p.m. Council		
24 December						

To be added for informaiton:-

IJB (usually a Thursday)
IJB PAC (usually a Thursday)
Locality Partnerships (evenings)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 13

North Ayrshire Council

4 October 2017

Title: **Long Term Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2027/28**

Purpose: To update Council on the significant financial challenge that the Council faces over the next 10 years and the approach to respond to this.

Recommendation: That Council considers the Long Term Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2027/28, noting the scale of the financial challenge which the Council faces over the next 10 years and approves the approach to respond to this.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Councils are operating in an increasingly challenging environment with public sector funding continuing to reduce against a backdrop of increasing costs, demand for services and public expectations. In this climate it is essential that Councils consider the long term financial outlook, an essential component of the overall financial framework, that sets the context for annual and medium term financial planning and ensures resources are targeted to key priorities. This outlook report relates to the Council's General Fund. The Housing Revenue Account has its own 30 year business plan.
- 1.2 Councils operate in a complex environment and are impacted by local, national and global factors. The long term financial outlook assesses the impact of these on North Ayrshire concluding that these will increase demand for services at a faster rate than available financial resources.
- 1.3 The long term financial outlook will enable the Council to plan its response to these challenges and support future decision making. The outlook report identifies an estimated funding shortfall of £156m over the next ten years which the Council requires to address. £70m of this gap occurs over the next three years. This is based on best estimates with sensitivity analysis highlighting the implications of changes to the underlying assumptions.

- 1.4 The Financial Outlook also considers the assets that support service delivery and the longer term liabilities which the Council may be required to meet. The outlook report shows that the Council is well placed to meet its liabilities with the cost of financing debt reducing over the ten year period and pension contributions being made at the levels recommended by the Pension Fund.
- 1.5 A clear strategy is required to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable over the longer term. This will require the Council to fundamentally review the services which will be delivered, how they will be delivered and who will deliver them. This will be developed more fully as part of the Council Plan refresh.
- 1.6 The Long Term Financial Outlook was considered by Cabinet on 29 September 2017 and remitted to Council for approval.

2. Background

Introduction

- 2.1 The Council's previous financial strategy covering the period 2013-23, was approved by Council on 8 May 2013, this established a sound basis for the development of the medium term financial plans of the Council.
- 2.2 The current financial outlook has been developed to steer the Council through the challenging economic climate and continuing reduction to resources. The primary objective of the financial outlook report is to ensure longer term financial sustainability that provides for appropriate investment in priority services.
- 2.3 The significant risks that the Council faces have been identified in the Council's Strategic Risk Register. These are:
 - the financial environment;
 - inequalities, including poverty, poor health and the impact of ongoing welfare reforms; and
 - the financial sustainability of the Health and Social care Partnership.

Financial Outlook

- 2.4 The Financial Outlook, appended to this report, outlines:
 - the strategic financial framework;
 - global and national economic performance;
 - factors affecting Scottish Government funding and funding for Local Government;

- local and national issues for North Ayrshire including our current and anticipated demographic profile, employment and levels of deprivation and the impact these will have on the Council's income and cost base;
- the financial outlook for North Ayrshire including funding anticipated from Government Grant and Council Tax;
- a review of the Council's balance sheet including assets, debt, future liabilities and reserves;
- the strategic response required by the Council to ensure future financial sustainability.

2.5 The main components of the Financial Outlook are summarised below.

Economic Outlook

- 2.6 In reviewing the Council's long term financial position it is essential to consider the economic outlook and what this might mean for public sector and local government funding.
- 2.7 The world economy, key to UK and Scottish trade, is picking up with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasting global growth moving towards long term average rates. Key risks to the global economy include policy uncertainty, potential US trade protection, Brexit and vulnerabilities in other markets including China.
- 2.8 Since 2014 the UK economy has been one of the strongest performing of the G7 economies. This has been driven by rising household consumption funded through increased borrowing and reduced savings, the sustainability of which is questionable. Levels of uncertainty are unprecedented and the current low growth cycle is expected to continue with considerable downside risk, with growth projections for the UK continuing to be revised downwards.
- 2.9 Although the global outlook should have a positive impact on the Scottish economy, this has yet to be evidenced through increased exports. This is likely to impact on the availability of resources to deliver public services.
- 2.10 The General Election in June 2017 has added to the uncertainty with lack of clarity on long term policy objectives with an expectation that balancing of the budget will take place over a longer time period, possibly into the mid 2020s. The Chancellor has signalled an easing of austerity, the detail of which will become clear in the Autumn Budget.

- 2.11 The Scottish Government is operating in an increasingly complex fiscal environment. The new Fiscal Framework is such that the performance of the Scottish economy relative to the rest of the UK (rUK) is the determinant of whether the Scottish Budget is better or worse off under the new arrangements.

The Scottish Landscape

- 2.12 Outwith the economic challenge significant changes are taking places across the public sector landscape. The most significant issues, including the Programme for Government, published in September 2017, which may impact on the Council and its communities are noted below. The Scottish Budget later this year should provide clarity on funding of policy choices and the extent to which they impact on resources for local government.

Programme for Government

Elements of the Programme for Government which may impact on local government include;

- Climate Change Bill;
- Warm Homes Bill to tackle fuel poverty;
- Increase in modern apprenticeships;
- Proposals to reduce inequalities including; citizen basic income, eradication homeless ness;
- Lifting the 1% public sector pay cap;
- Planned introduction of free personal care for under 65s;
- Education Governance Review;
- Expansion of Early Learning and Child Care;
- Barclay Review of Non Domestic Rates;
- Protection of Health (above inflation) and Police (in line with inflation).

Settlement Conditions

Current Settlement Conditions include; protection of teacher / pupil ratios, cap on council tax increases and partial ring fencing of the health and social care budget. Elements of this create a "gearing" effect on savings delivery impacting more severely on unprotected service areas.

Health and Social Care Partnership

There are a number of significant issues to consider relating to health and social care including; financial sustainability of the current models and range of services and the extent of and resources available to shift the provision of healthcare from acute to primary and community based services.

- 2.13 It is anticipated that the Scottish Draft Budget and Financial Settlement will be published after the UK Autumn Budget in mid December with the Budget Bill being passed towards the end of February.

Financial Outlook for North Ayrshire

- 2.14 In developing the longer term financial outlook an assessment of the significant pressures and income levels anticipated over the next 10 years has been undertaken based on the best available information. The underlying assumptions will be kept under review to ensure the Council continues to plan on a sound and current basis. The model recognises the following significant pressures with an anticipated cost of £135m over the next 10 years:
- Workforce costs including future pay settlements, living wage and workforce resizing;
 - Inflationary uplift for major commodities, contractual commitments and legislative changes only, with no provision for general inflation;
 - Significant socio economic and demographic pressures including:
 - a growing older population;
 - increased demand for support for adults;
 - increased demand for support for vulnerable children and young people;
 - reducing number of children and young people;
 - full roll out of universal credit;
 - support for the capital investment programme.
- 2.15 Given the trend for single year settlements there is a high level of uncertainty about future levels of grant funding. The anticipated 3.5% reduction in the first 2 years of the plan is in line with best information. Reductions in later years of the plan align with the anticipated changes in our demographics. It is anticipated that this will result in a reduction of funding of £36m over the next 10 years.
- 2.16 The model assumes a 3% annual increase to Council Tax generating £18m over the next 10 years.
- 2.17 Sensitivity analysis within the plan outlines a range of scenarios - a 1% change to Government Grant funding equates to about £2.7m and a 1% change to council tax income equates to about £0.520m.
- 2.18 The Council used almost £9m of reserves when it set its budget in 2017/18, more than £3m of which funded recurring expenditure contributing to the funding gap in 2018/19.

- 2.19 The model assumes any new legislative requirements will be funded fully by the Scottish Government and makes no provision for new investment. Future investment in new initiatives will increase the financial gap identified within the model.
- 2.20 The financial gap for the period 2018/19 to 2020/21 is estimated at £70m, profiled as follows; 2018/19 £31m, 2019/20 £24m, 2020/21 £15m.

Reserves Strategy

- 2.21 The Council's reserves are classified as either earmarked or unearmarked. The Council's unearmarked reserves, i.e. those set aside to allow the Council to manage any unanticipated events, are in line with current policy of a minimum of 2% as set by Council on 1 March 2017. Earmarked reserves have been established to meet a range of known commitments, it is anticipated that these will reduce significantly over the next few years.
- 2.22 The level of Council reserves requires to be maintained at the right level to ensure the Council's future financial stability. These will be kept under review and considered annually on the closure of the Council's Account.
- 2.23 To support the next phase of transformation and ensure that resources are targeted to key priorities the level of resources available in the Service Redesign Fund will require to be considered as the Council sets its budget.

Taking a Longer Term View

- 2.24 The reduction in resources noted above is happening at the same time as significant demographic pressures. The scale of the financial challenge together with the change and savings which have been delivered already, £80m between 2010/11 and 2017/18, creates a greater future challenge.
- 2.25 At its meeting on 1 March 2017 the Council set a balanced budget for 2017/18 using almost £9m of reserves. 2017/18 was the third single year Settlement with a further single year Settlement anticipated for 2018/19. This approach makes medium and longer term financial planning more difficult.

- 2.26 The anticipation of continued austerity and longer lead in times to deliver the significant change and transformation require the Council to take a longer term approach to financial planning. The requirement for such an approach is recognised by a number of bodies including CIPFA and Audit Scotland.

The Council's Approach

- 2.27 The Long Term Financial Outlook outlines an approach which can be considered alongside the refresh of the Council Plan and in Partnership with our communities. It recognises the need to redefine;
- What we do;
 - How we do it; and
 - Who does it.
- 2.28 Given the scale of the challenge a robust corporate workforce plan is required to support the scale of change and transformation.

Next Steps

- 2.29 Services have submitted their initial budget submissions covering 2018/19 to 2020/21, these are being scrutinised currently as part of the officer peer review process.
- 2.30 Discussions require to take place with the Health Board and the Integrated Joint Board to ensure a collaborative approach is taken to develop the budget for the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 2.31 Based on current plans community engagement and Members briefings will take place over autumn with Budget Day taking place in February 2018.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That Council considers the Long Term Financial Outlook 2018/19 to 2027/28, noting the scale of the financial challenge which the Council faces over the next 10 years and approves the approach to respond to this.

4. Implications

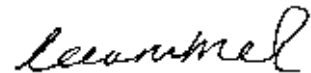
Financial:	The anticipated funding gap over the period 2018/19 to 2027/28 is £156m, £135m from cost pressures, £36m as a result of anticipated grant reduction, an additional £18m from council tax and the need to find a recurring solution to the use of £3m reserves in 2017/18. The medium term gap is £70m, this will be considered as the Council sets its budget for 2018/19 and the subsequent two financial years. Work is in progress to refine the assumptions. Council will require to set a balanced budget for 2018/19 and future years.
Human Resources:	It is anticipated that delivery of savings will impact on the Council's future workforce. The Council will continue to actively manage the size of its permanent work force, vacancies, and temporary contracts together with selective use of voluntary severance and early retirement. Communication and regular consultation will continue to take place with the work force and Trade Unions.
Legal:	The Council requires to set a balanced budget each financial year.
Equality:	An equality impact assessment will be carried out for all options that will assist the Council to make decisions to bridge its funding gap.
Environmental & Sustainability:	No direct consequences.
Key Priorities:	In addressing the financial challenge which the Council faces it will seek to minimise the impact this has on meeting its key priorities.
Community Benefits:	No direct consequences.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Development of the Council's financial outlook is carried out collaboratively across the Executive Leadership Team. The Longer Term Financial Outlook was considered by Cabinet on 29 September 2017.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Council is starting from a strong position in terms of financial planning with a clear understanding of its key strategic risks. Longer term financial planning is critical to ensure sustainability of key Council priorities over the longer term. The Financial Outlook outlines the anticipated funding gap of £156m over the period 2018/19 to 2027/28, with £70m of this occurring over the three years commencing 2018/19. The report outlines the approach required to address the longer term financial challenge. A longer term approach gives sufficient lead in to deliver the change and transformation to bridge the funding gap.



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Reference :

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Background Papers

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