

Cabinet
15 March 2016

ARRAN, 15 March 2016 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Willie Gibson, Alan Hill, John Bruce, Marie Burns, Anthea Dickson and Ruth Maguire.

Also Present

Robert Barr and Tom Marshall (Agenda Items 1-4, inclusive)

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; L. Friel, Executive Director and A. Lyndon, Team Manager (Corporate Procurement) (Finance and Corporate Support); John Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment); K. Yeomans, Executive Director, A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities) and A. Laurenson, Team Manager (Regeneration) (Economy and Communities); C. Hatton, Executive Director; Y. Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment) and C. Dempster, Team Manager (Network Management) (Place); and M. Sugden, Communications Officer (Media and Internal Communications) and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Councillor Gibson in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Tony Gurney

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2016 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Locality Partnership in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the proposed implementation of Locality Partnerships within North Ayrshire. The consultation document and consultation mandate were set out at Appendices 1 and 2, respectively, to the report. Appendices 3 and 4 presented the proposed Locality Partnership Terms of Reference and Council arrangements, respectively.

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

- the mechanism for the appointing Locality Partnership Chairs;
- anticipated arrangements for Elected Members whose wards cover more than one Locality Partnership area;
- the benefits of a 'participation by experience' approach;
- the role of the Partnerships in delivering more local democracy;
- positive feedback received on the establishment of a locality area for Arran;
- the anticipated roll out of initial Partnership meetings during May and June 2016;
- the importance of taking into account budgeting considerations when setting dates for future meetings of the Partnerships; and
- local GP support for the locality arrangements.

Members congratulated officers on the conduct of the consultation exercise, which had received both Consultation Institute best practice accreditation as well as positive feedback from stakeholders.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the outcome of the recent consultation on the proposals for Locality Partnerships and the best practice accreditation awarded by The Consultation Institute; (b) approve the proposed Locality Partnership Terms of Reference (Appendix 3) which have been revised to reflect the views of stakeholders; (c) recommend to Council that the work of Area Committees is subsumed into Locality Partnerships and the Council's Scheme of Administration amended accordingly; (d) commend to Council that the Locality Partnership arrangements shall be the North Ayrshire Decentralisation Scheme in terms of section 23 of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994; (e) recommend that a report is submitted to Council seeking appointment of Chairs of each of the six partnerships; (f) recommend that a report is submitted to North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership seeking agreement (i) that the six localities are the North Ayrshire localities designated under section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and (ii) to the locality planning arrangements detailed in this paper; and (g) to receive a further progress report within one year of the establishment of the proposed locality partnerships.

4. Community Benefit from Windfarms

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the feedback obtained through the consultation process on the draft Community Benefit from Windfarms policy. Appendix 1 to the report summarised the consultation responses received and the Draft Policy for Community Benefit from Wind Turbines was provided at Appendix 2.

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

- the guiding principles set out in the draft policy document;
- estimated income and the point at which the appointment of an officer would proceed;
- whether the officer appointment could go ahead without further Cabinet approval;
- the perceived use of private funding to meet the cost of appointing an officer;
- the rationale for holding drop-in consultation sessions in Ardrossan and Dalry Libraries; and
- the role of the proposed officer in seeking to maximise revenue, achieve match funding for projects and work with community groups on local projects.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note (i) the consultation process which was undertaken and (ii) the feedback obtained through the consultation process; and (b) approve the Draft Policy for Community Benefit from Wind Turbines set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Councillors Barr and Marshall left the meeting at this point.

5. Vacant and Derelict Land Funding

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the award of Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Funding. The criteria by which the funds may be allocated were contained at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- public access to the register of vacant and derelict land;
- the other tools available to the Council in terms of encouraging land owners to improve vacant sites;
- the anticipated role of Locality Partnerships in seeking to address smaller parcels of vacant and derelict land; and
- the expected impact of legislation to discourage land banking.

The Team Manager (Regeneration) undertook to publish the register of sites referred to at Section 3.3 of the report.

Members acknowledged the role of officers in achieving access to funding to tackle vacant and derelict land.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the principles of the expenditure of Vacant and Derelict Land Funding in 2016/17, as set out in the report.

6. Council House Building: Fencedyke, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on proposed revisions to the budget for the proposed new Housing development at Fencedyke, Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the increase in the Fencedyke development budget, from £4.250m to £4.575m, to be funded from the £431k increase in Scottish Government subsidy and a further contribution of £12k from the Affordable Housing Account, offset by a £118k reduction in prudential borrowing.

7. Road Maintenance Programme 2016/17

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed Structural Roads and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme for 2016/17. The proposed Roads Maintenance Programme 2016/17 was set out at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report. Details of how condition assessments are carried out and how roads and lighting locations are prioritised for inclusion on the Council's Roads and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme were given at Appendix 2.

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

- consultation arrangements in respect of roads projects on Arran; and
- whether officers would continue to pursue external funding opportunities for Arran roads projects

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the approach taken to determining the asset maintenance programme for roads and street lighting; (b) to approve the maintenance programme for 2016/17, as shown at Appendix 1a and 1b to the report; and (c) that the programme be presented to Locality Partnerships for consideration.

8. Sale of land at Corsehillhead, Weirston Road, Kilwinning

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the proposed disposal of the Council's heritable interest in the land at Corsehillhead, Weirston Road, Kilwinning. A location plan of the site was provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the disposal of the site at Corsehillhead, Weirston Road, Kilwinning to Cunninghame Housing Association for the sum of £800,000 subject to a maximum capped deduction of £50,000 for any abnormal costs identified from site investigations, plus legal and estates fees amounting to £11,250 (1.5% of the purchase price).

9. Award of Contract - Debt Collection and Diligence Services

Submitted report by the Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the provision of Debt Collection and Diligence Services.

Members welcomed the range of community benefits associated with this and other recent tender exercises.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the Debt Collection and Diligence Services contract to Stirling Park LLP from 1 April 2016 for a period of three years with an option to extend for up to two further years, at a cost £577,000 (including any possible extensions).

10. Award of Contract - Council House Build at Cheviot Head, Fencedyke, Irvine

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Construction of the 35 Unit (34 Homes) Residential Development at Cheviot Head, Fencedyke, Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the construction contract in respect of the Council House Build at Cheviot Head, Fencedyke, Irvine, to Cruden Building and Renewals Ltd at a cost of £4,133,228.94, including client options and all associated design fees and construction costs.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.