

Cabinet
14 May 2019

IRVINE, 14 May 2019 - At a Meeting of the Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Joe Cullinane, John Bell, Robert Foster, Alex Gallagher, Louise McPhater and Jim Montgomerie; Elizabeth Highton and Babs Mowat (Church Representatives); and Jaymie Haswell and Elle Greenan (Youth Representatives) (Agenda Items 1-4).

Also Present

Donald L Reid

In Attendance

L. Friel, Executive Director, A. Lyndon, Team Manager (Corporate Procurement) and J. Smillie, Senior Manager (Finance and Corporate Support); A. Sutton, Head of Service (Connected Communities), C. McAuley, Head of Service (Economic Growth) and N. McIlvanney, Manager (Economy and Communities); C. Amos, Head of Service (Inclusion) and A. McClelland, Head of Service (Schools) (Education and Youth Employment); R. McCutcheon, Head of Service (Commercial) and D. Hammond Senior Manager (Energy and Sustainability) (Place); and A. Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, L. Cameron, Policy Officer, N. Sugden, Policy and Performance Officer, M. Shields, Leader's Office Co-ordinator, M. Sugden, Communications Officer and H. Clancy, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Chair

Joe Cullinane in the Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor McPhater as an employee of Vineburgh Community Centre declared an interest in Agenda Item 8. Councillor McPhater agreed to take no part in the decision for Fullarton Community Association Community Investment Fund Application and agreed to withdraw from the meeting for this item consideration of the application.

2. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 April 2019 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. School Attainment Results 2018

Submitted report and received presentation by Head of Service (Schools) on the overall performance of the 2018 North Ayrshire Council school leavers as highlighted in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool and Curriculum for Excellence attainment levels in literacy and numeracy for 2018. Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy charts were set out at Appendix 1, Improving attainment for all charts were set out at Appendix 2 and Attainment vs. Deprivation charts were set out at Appendix 3 to the report.

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

- Children within our Care to be included in future reports;
- the Council's performance over the past 5 years and the trends that are moving in an upwards direction;
- the fact that North Ayrshire school leavers' performance is better than learners from similar areas at the national level, when taking deprivation into account; and
- the gap between the attainment of leavers from the 20% most SIMD deprived areas and the rest of the SIMD areas which continues to reduce and is smaller than the gap at a national level.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) note the (i) content of the report, (ii) the progress being made by learners, specifically in literacy and numeracy, (iii) and the achievements of school leavers in last year's SQA examinations; and (b) approve the measures being taken to make further improvements to attainment and achievement levels across all schools.

4. Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Inclusion) on the outcome of the statutory consultation on the early learning and childcare expansion programme. The statutory consultation report was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with clarification that a full consultation with parents and staff would be undertaken.

The Cabinet agreed to close Garnock Valley Early Years Centre and relocate the provision for 2 – 3-year olds to newly refurbished provision within St Bridget's Primary School Early Years Class in August 2020.

5. Local Government Benchmarking Framework

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the results of the LGBF indicators for 2017/18. The priorities identified by Directorates were set out at Appendix 1 and a comparison of the Council Plan against the National Performance Framework was set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Members asked a question and were provided with further information in relation to Education and Youth Employment performance being calculated differently to North Ayrshire School Attainment results.

The Cabinet agreed to (a) continue work within Directorates to identify improvement activity in the priority areas; and (b) that the report be submitted to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Commercial Services) on the proposed next steps in the development of the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to note the work carried out which includes extensive engagement, and which has helped to develop community support for the proposed Scheme; (b) to note the mostly positive feedback on the preferred option following the engagement process; (c) that a final non-statutory engagement event will take place in August 2019; (d) to receive a further progress report in early 2020 with the intention of considering formally notifying the Scheme at that time; and (e) note the outline Scheme delivery timeline detailed at section 2.15 to the report.

7. North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031

Submitted report by the Head of Service (Physical Environment) on the publication and implementation of the North Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031. The draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan was set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to approve the draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2031 set out at Appendix 1 to the report; (b) to instruct officers to include biodiversity within the scope of their future declaration of a climate emergency given the interconnection between biodiversity and climate change; (c) that biodiversity questions be included in the Council's climate emergency engagement process which will lead to a refresh of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy; and (d) following the engagement process, that a LBAP update to be published to ensure alignment with the refreshed Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

8. Proposals for Community Investment Fund (CIF) Expenditure

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the applications by the Locality Partnerships to allocate Community Investment Fund (CIF) funding to a range of proposed projects. The applications were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the enclosed application from the Garnock Valley Locality Partnerships set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor McPhater left the meeting at this point.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the enclosed application from the Irvine Locality Partnerships set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor McPhater re-joined the meeting at this point.

9. Town Centre Fund

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the approach being developed for the new Scottish Government Town Centre Fund.

The Head of Service (Economic Growth) undertook to write to the Scottish Government to seek clarification for future years funding on the Town Centre Fund.

The Cabinet agreed (a) to the development and implementation of a strategic regeneration programme in Stevenston and Dalry; (b) to the creation of a fund to support a programme of town centre minor improvements, asset acquisition, environmental works or development of community capacity; (c) to the creation of a temporary town centre officer post for 1 year to support the development and implementation of projects; (d) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Economic Growth to progress projects following engagement with the Portfolio Lead for Economic Growth and ward Members whose ward contained proposals relating to the Fund.

10. Kyle Road Phase 2

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for Phase 2, Kyle Road, Irvine – building of an Industrial Unit.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the Contract to Robinsons Scotland Ltd.

11. Proposed Extension and M&E upgrade - Annick Primary School

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support) on the result of the tender exercise for the Proposed Extension and Mechanical & Electrical Upgrade to Annick Primary School, Irvine.

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Emtec Group Limited.

12. Award of Contract - Pan Ayrshire Occupational Health

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

The Cabinet agreed to approve the award of the contract to Working on Wellbeing trading as Optima Health.

The Meeting ended at 3.35 p.m.